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4um.me

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Project Treatment

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Project Summary

4um.me is a web forum that will allow users to interact, create, and moderate multiple discussion forums with a single login. Through a simple sign up process users will be able to view and post on existing forums, as well as create a forum of their own without hosting, licensing, or a domain name.

Concept Overview

Forums can be a powerful tool for sharing information, or seeking help related to a topic of interest. However, locating and accessing the many forums available is an extensive process. Just by signing up users will have the ability to view, post, and comment on any forum hosted on the site. Through a few easy steps any user can also create, customize, and moderate a forum of their own free of charge. Once created a user has full control of the theme, content, and information shared on their discussion forum. The user can also appoint moderators and ban certain users from commenting on the discussions in the case of inappropriate content. The goal is to create one location for peer to peer information sharing on anything from homework help, to do-it-yourself auto repairs.

Key Ideas

Create

Users create a personal discussion forum that is not only free but provides them simple tools to customize, and moderate the information.

Browse

With a single login users can view and interact with any discussion forum hosted on the site.

Search

Ability to search a specific forum, or the entire site for topics that may be of interest.

Latest Forums

When a new forum is created it will be featured in the latest forums section of the main site homepage to promote interest, and generate new discussions.
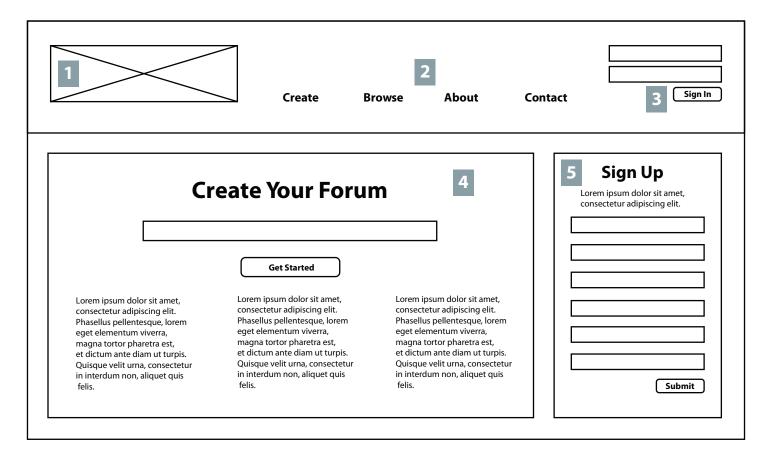
Admin

A basic admin panel will be available to the user when they create a personal forum, this will allow for simple setup, customization, and moderation.

Back End

The back end will be powered by the open source Garden php frame- work developed for use with vanillaforums.org. This will handle all of the database creation, and simple installation for a forum.

Home Page Concept

1 Site logo

2 Site Navigation, Create will become Admin for logged in users who have created a forum.

3 Sign In for existing users, will display the user name and links to public profile, and logout.

4 Create forum section to provide users with simple instructions and a place to begin the setup of a forum. This will become a featured content section once a user logs in.

5 One step sign up field to encourage new users, and keep signing up simple. Will become latest forums display field when a user logs in.

Additional Concepts

Future Plans

To help cover the cost of hosting, ads will be displayed on all free personal forums. However, an option to purchase a premium account will be available to users as well. Some of the benefits include:

- Ad Removal
- Custom URL
- Privacy Settings
- Enhanced Customization

Favorites option to allow bookmarking of a users most visited forums.

Global Banning if a user continually posts inappropriate conduct they can be banned from all forums on the site.

Ability to upload custom themes