



Social Networking Website

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Introduction:

Not quite long ago, I decided to develop my own social networking website. When I started, I did not have an idea that this work could stretch to this limit. Well it was quite fun and challenge to work on such a wonderful idea. However when I showed the demo to one of my friends he suggested that it is good that I added lot of features. However he also added that including this many features could confuse user and I should provide some means so that anybody could find it easy to navigate and use the features thus provided.

This document thus provides the description of features along with how to use them.

Requirement:

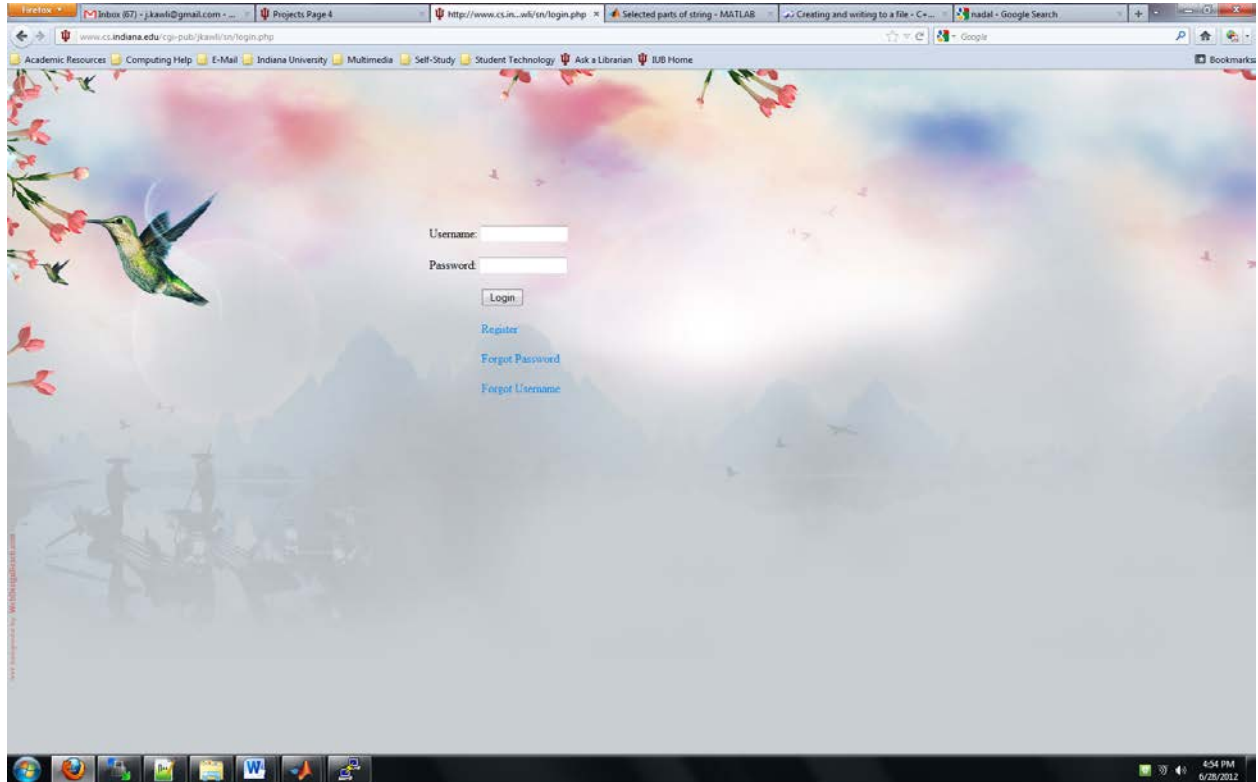
This website works best with Google Chrome and that is what I used throughout its development lifecycle. However when tested with Mozilla Firefox it gave decent results but frankly not all the features were working in it. For best experience with user interface, use either if these browsers.

Security:

Although security is added in terms to bypass slashes, single and double quotes and other malicious elements which could possibly cause SQL injection attack. However cannot guarantee 100% against more sophisticated attack of this kind. Site can protect itself against simplest form of cross side scripting attack.

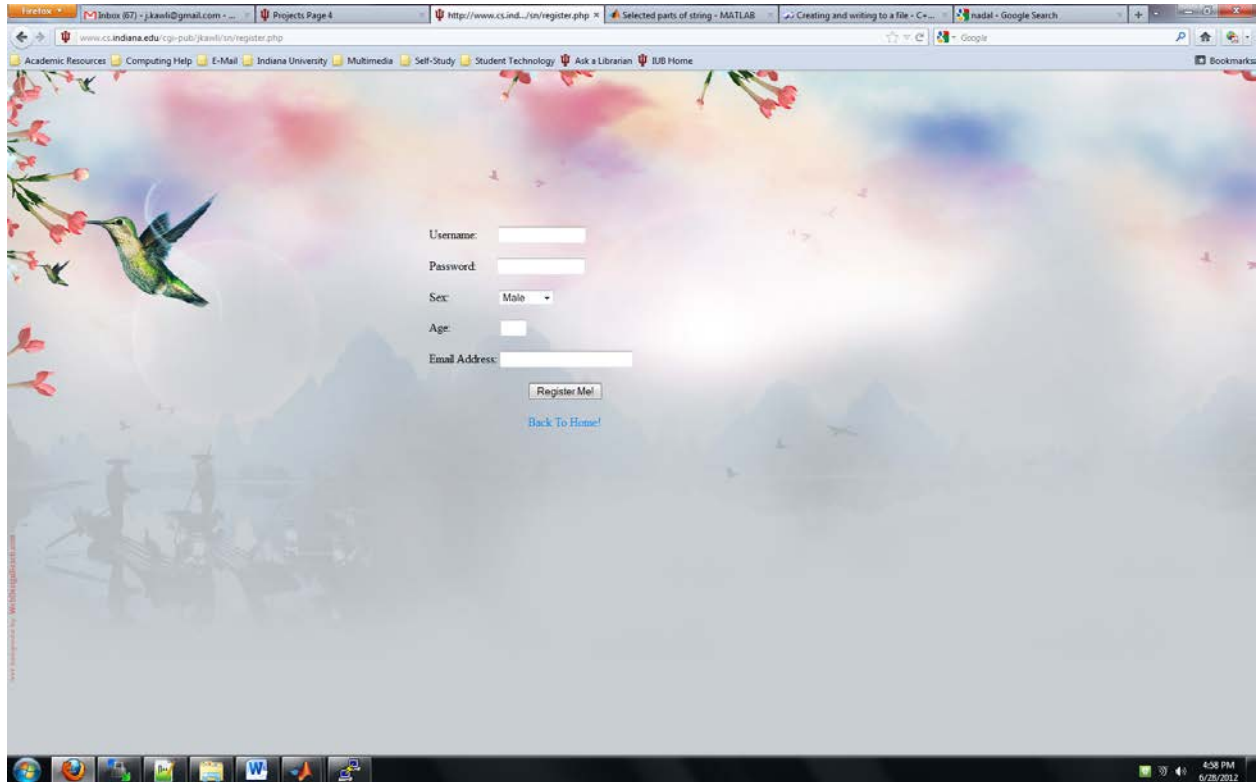
Features:

Login page:



On the login page, other than logging in there are 3 options.

- A. Register – In case you are visiting this website for the first time and not yet registered use this option.



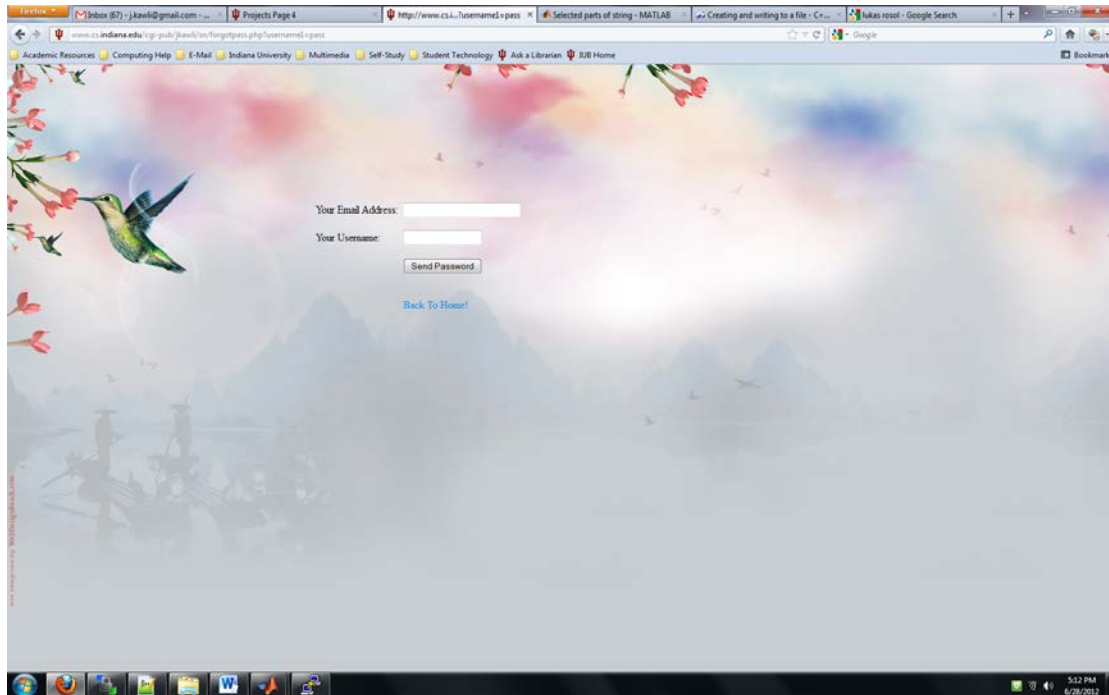
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.cs.indiana.edu/cgi-pub/jkavli/uv/register.php>. The page features a decorative background with a hummingbird and cherry blossoms. The registration form includes the following fields and options:

- Username:
- Password:
- Sex:
- Age:
- Email Address:

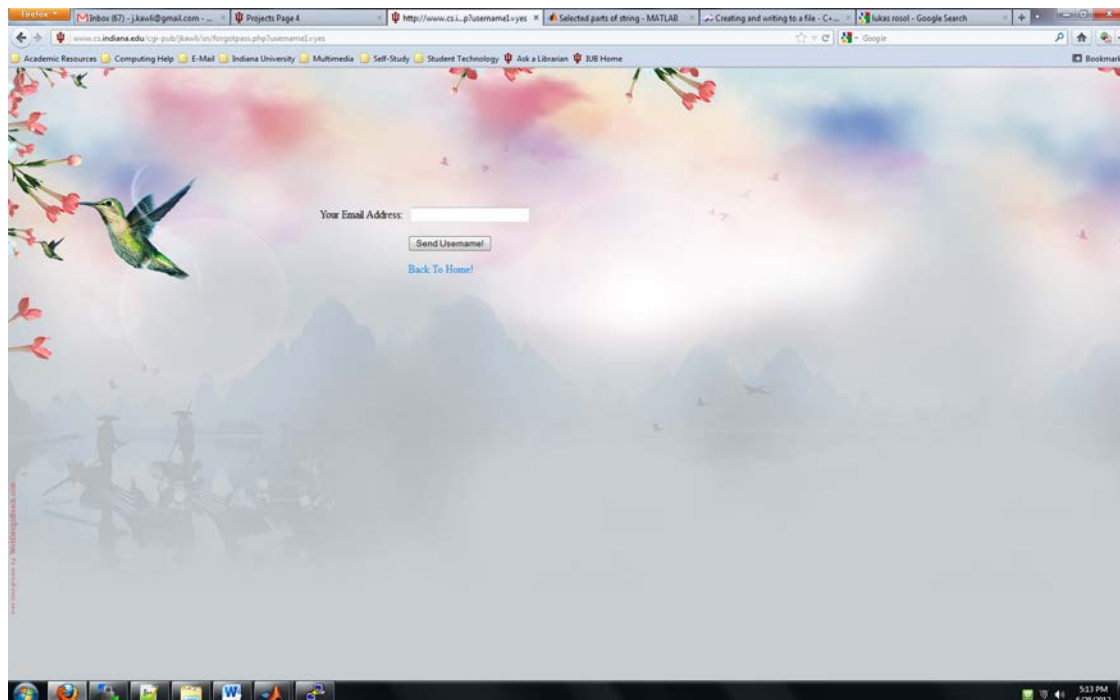
Below the form, there is a "Register Me!" button and a [Back To Home!](#) link. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top, and the Windows taskbar is at the bottom.

Though while registering there are only few input field for the user. You can change them after registering and logging into user account through edit profile option.

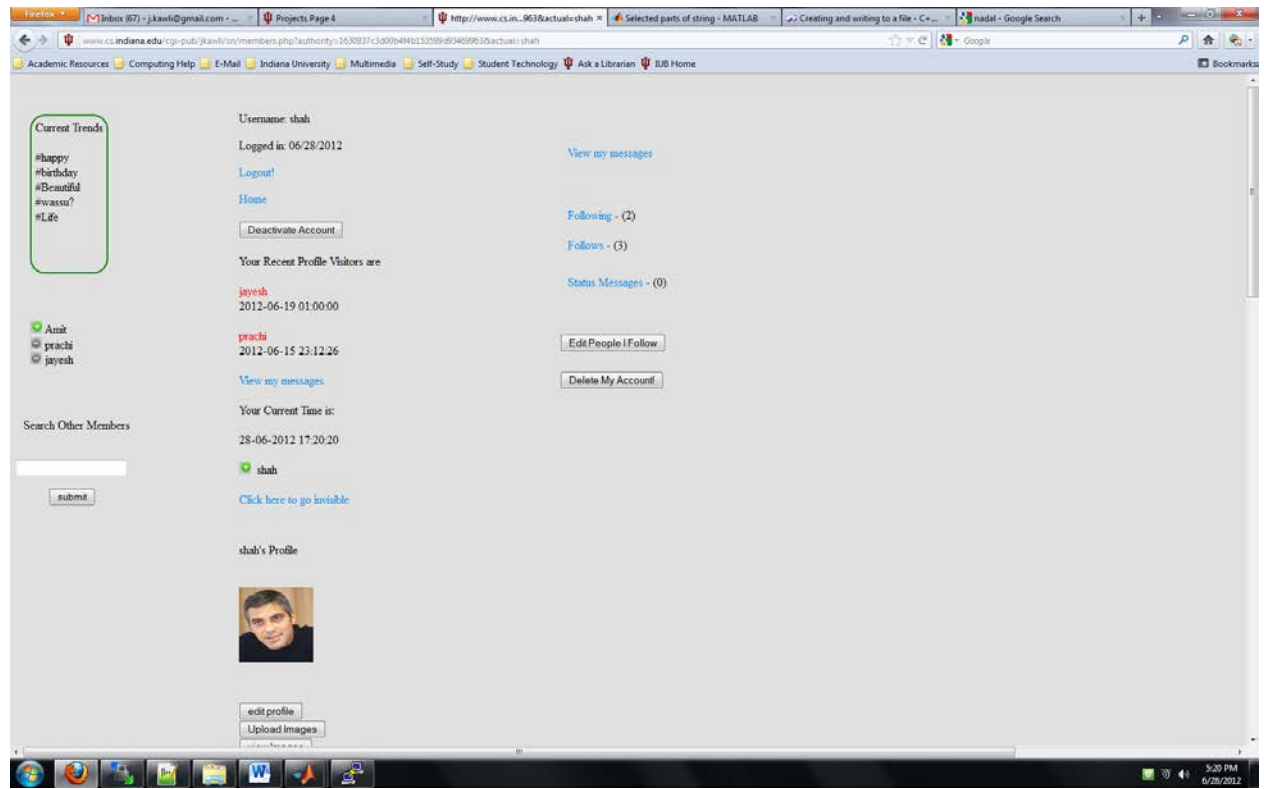
- B. Forgot Password – In case you have forgotten password, recover it by going to this page. You need to provide registered username and email address. Password will be sent to your email address directly



- C. Forgot username – In case of forgotten username, just provide your registered email address. Username will be directly delivered to that address.



User Home page:



- A. User search: Logged in user can find other user through search box provided on left bottom corner of Home Page. Search feature is designed using AJAX. Where user need not type entire query string but partially typing gives auto suggestion which user can utilize to search other users more easily.

For some unknown reason this feature does not work in Mozilla Firefox. But works perfectly on IE and Google Chrome. Blocked users will not appear in search result page.

- B. User online: User can see the list of users currently online with the user status indicator in middle section on left hand side of home page. Clicking on green light will make chat window pop in the foreground. Users are advised to disable pop up blocker from their browser in case they wish to use this feature.
- C. Going invisible: If the user wants to stay online but simple doesn't want to notify its own online presence, just click on Invisible link. Status can be restored by clicking visible link at the same place. Users can still use the chat facility when they are invisible.
- D. Current Trends: This feature gives the high level overview about what users are talking about. This result is derived by iterating over the set of the entire status messages user

posted on their own and other's profile. To avoid false positives, program considers only those words which satisfy minimum length requirement.

The appearance of Border surrounding current trends feature changes in IE this is because rounded corner feature which is introduced by CSS3 is not yet supported by IE. This problem does not appear while browsing with Mozilla Firefox (FF) or Google Chrome (GC).

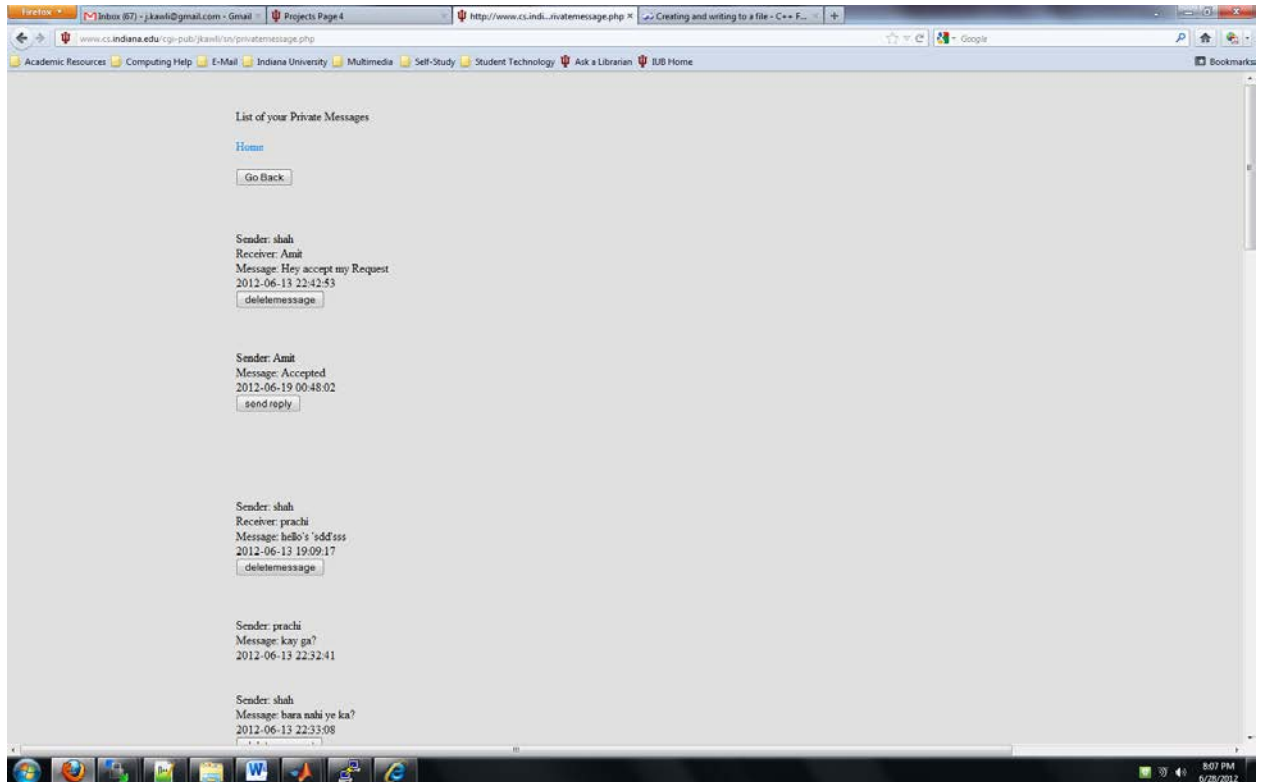
- E. **Current Time:** Shows the current time of the user currently logged in the account. This time is based upon the user's current time zone. Default time zone is United States of America (Bloomington, Indiana). User can change default time zone using edit profile option.
- F. **Profile Visitors:** Website also logs the user visiting your profile. This information is displayed directly to the user home page with date and time of visit. Number of profile visitors is limited to only 5 users.
- G. **Deactivate Account:** In case user does not want to remain active in the social network, he can choose this option. Deactivating account does not delete your account but deactivates temporarily. Deactivated user does not appear in profile searches although his earlier private messages can be seen by the message recipient.

Account can be reactivates by simply logging into account. Message will be shown that indicates user has reactivated his account.

- H. **Delete Account:** Account can be deleted permanently with Delete My Account option. Once deleted, account cannot be recovered back. Please use this option carefully.

- I. View my Messages: This feature allows user to send and view the private messages to other user. Unlike Status message, nobody but only sender and recipient can read respective messages. User can reply to the message thus sent directly using reply button. Root message can only be deleted by original sender. User can delete their respective replies.

Messages are displayed with additional information such as sender and receiver as well as Date and Time at which message/replies were sent.



- J. Edit profile: Allows user to add extended information unlike the registration page. Registration page is purposely made this way for user's convenience. This Feature allows editing following elements in user's profile.

1. Profile Photo
2. Password
3. Email address
4. General Personal details
5. Birthdate
6. Time zone

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `http://www.cs.indiana.edu/cgi/pub/jkavli/uploadform.php`. The page has a navigation bar with links like 'Academic Resources', 'Computing Help', 'E-Mail', 'Indiana University', 'Multimedia', 'Self-Study', 'Student Technology', 'Ask a Librarian', and 'JIB Home'. The main content area is titled 'Edit Profile' and includes the following sections:

- Profile Photo:** A small profile picture is shown. Below it are input fields for 'Profile Photo', a 'Browse...' button, and buttons for 'Change photo', 'Remove image', and 'Submit Request'.
- Change Password:** Input fields for 'Old password', 'New password', and 'Re Type New password', followed by a 'Submit Request' button.
- Change Email:** Input fields for 'New email' and 'Re Type New email', followed by a 'Submit Request Email' button.
- Change Personal Details:** Input fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Country', 'City', 'Personal Website', and 'Your age', followed by a 'Submit Profile Change Request' button.

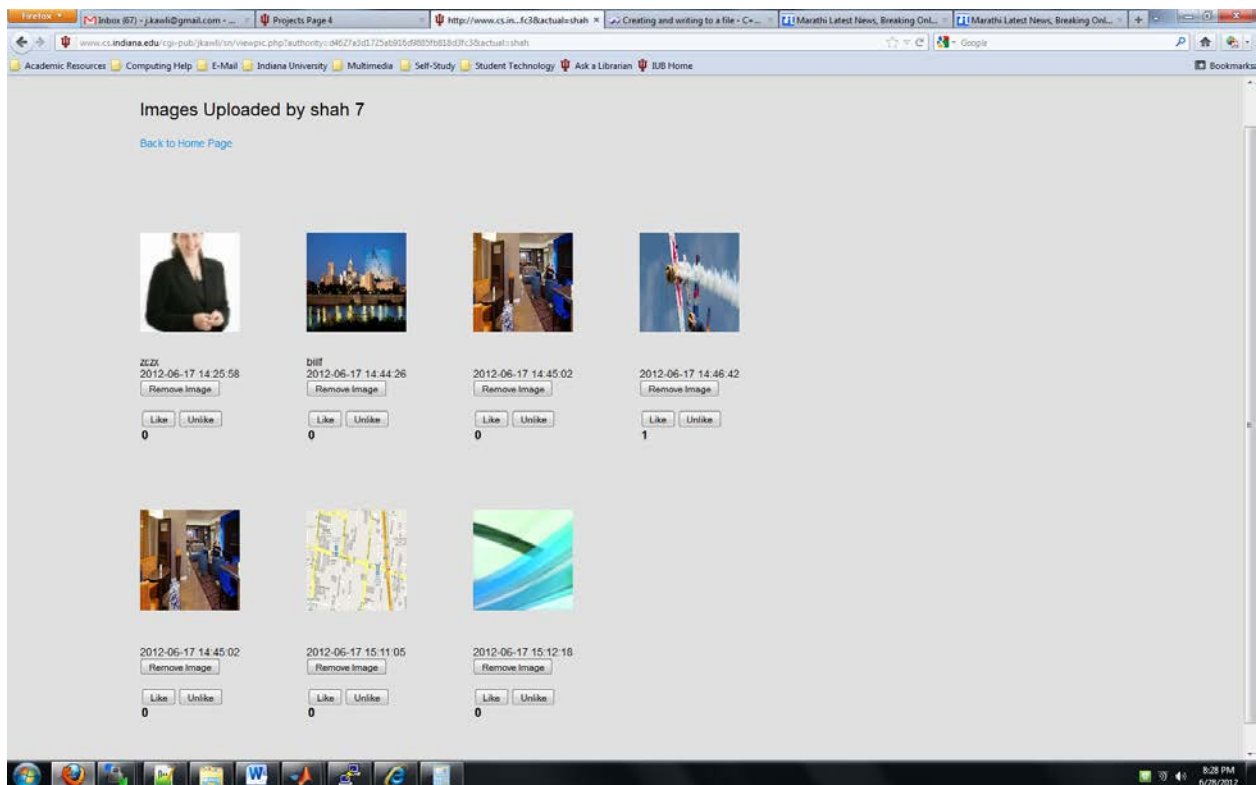
At the bottom, there is a section for 'Enter Birthdate' with a date picker (Date: 1, Month: Jan, Year: 19) and a 'Select your timezone' dropdown menu set to 'America'. A 'Submit Profile Change Request' button is also present.

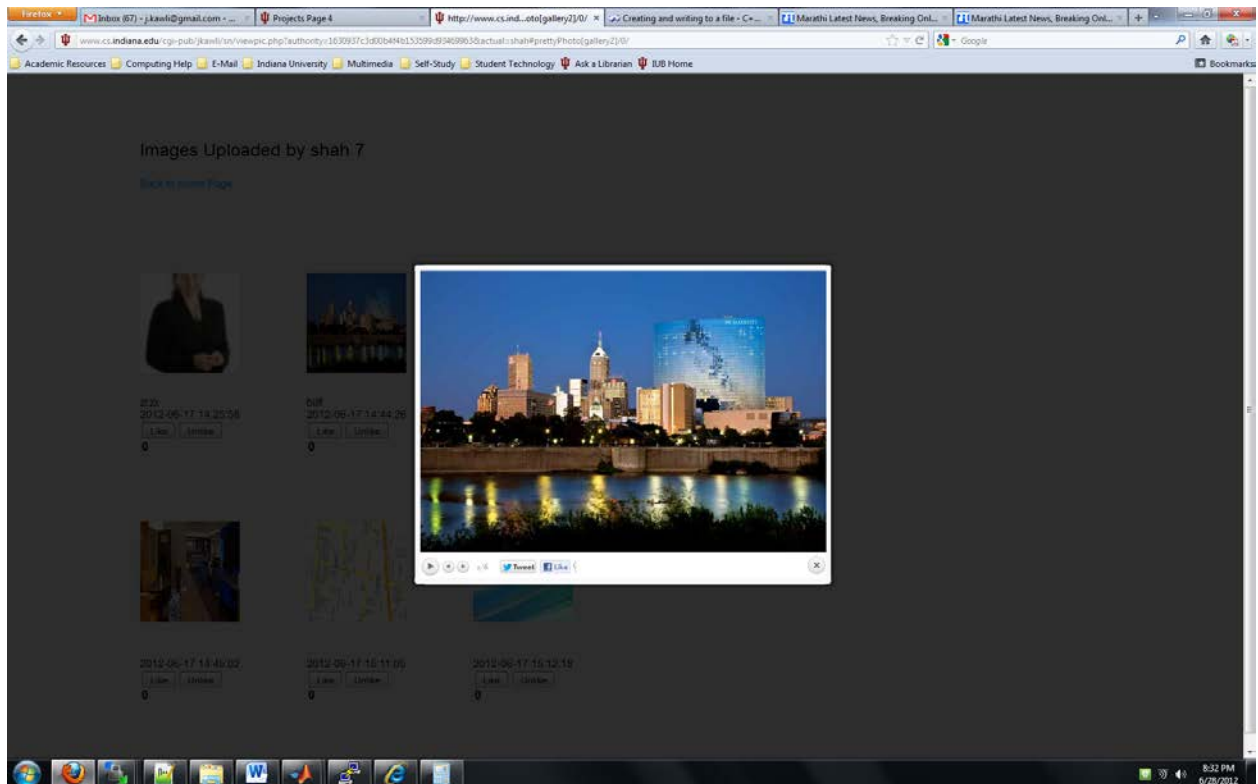
Warning: Size of profile photo should not exceed 50Kb.

Upload images: Allows user to upload images on the server. Currently supports only most used picture format for security purpose. There is no limit on image size though, be careful regarding size. It would slow your machine while browsing the site.

While uploading, user can specify how many images to upload. At the single time user can upload maximum of 5 images.

View images: Images thus uploaded can be viewed with this option. If user is visiting other's profile, their images can only be seen if the other user is being followed by current user.





Images can be removed by its owner. Also there is feature of optional 'Like' or 'Unlike' for the images thus uploaded by other users.

- K. View Profile: Allows users to see each other's profile. Currently there is no restriction on this feature and each user can view any user's profile.
- L. Submitting Status: User can submit the status by entering it in the text box provided on main profile page. Other users can view this status only if they are following you. User can write on other person's wall provided other person is following the user. User has the authority to delete all the status messages on his wall.

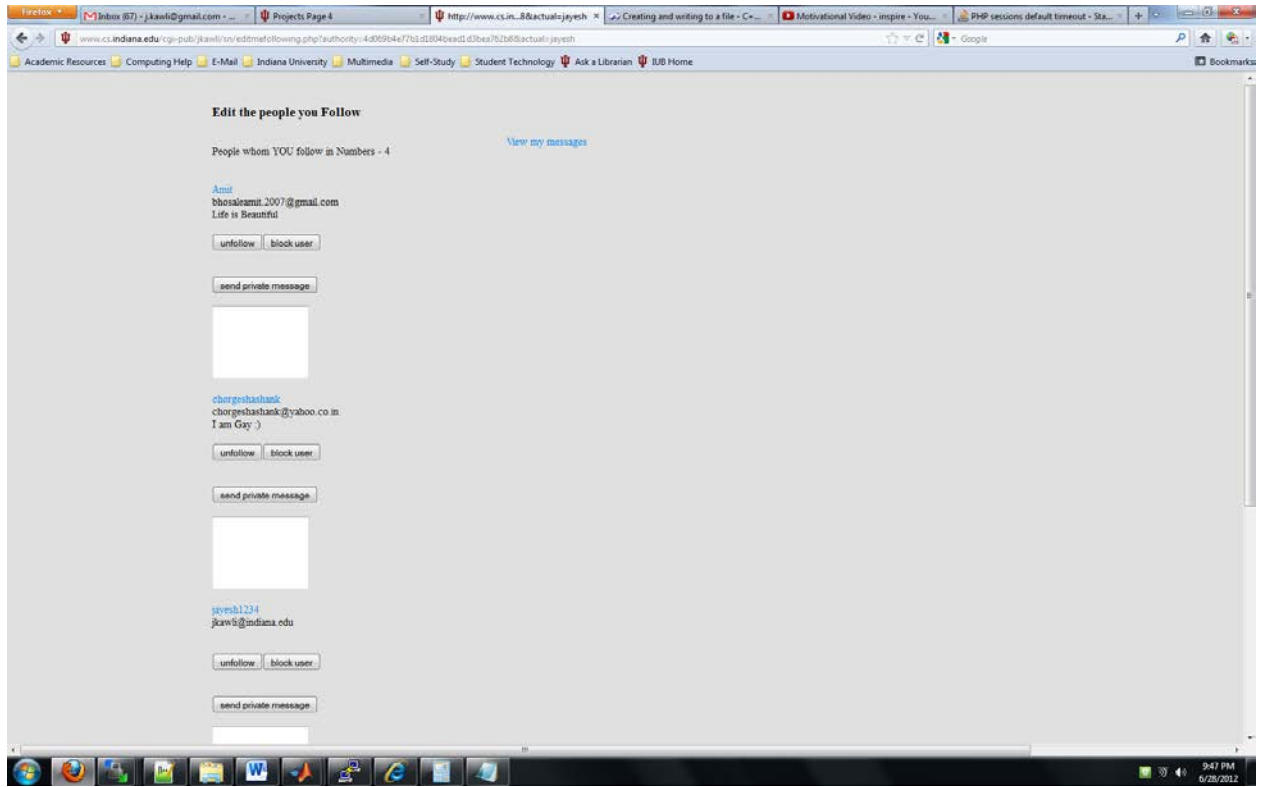
These status messages are displayed information such as how many old the status is, date, time and creator of status message. Unlike private messages Status message is not completely private to users.

- M. Status of other users: On the main page, it follows the Twitter pattern where it displays all the status messages on user's wall along with the messages of the people to whom currently logged in user is following.

There is also a feature which allows the user to view the updates of the people following him. Choice of this feature is user dependent.

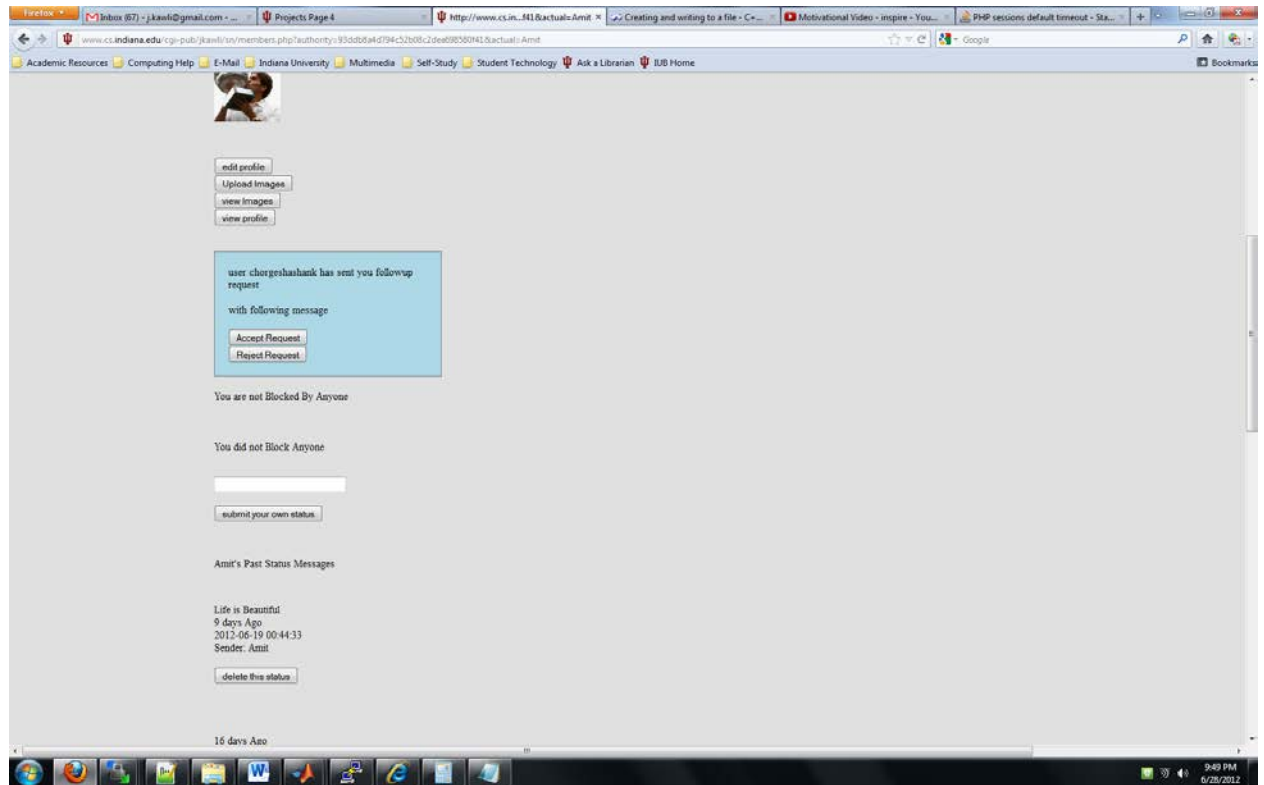
- N. Block List: On the main window, it displays the list of other users to whom you blocked as well as the other users who blocked you. (This feature needs more scrutiny as it hampers the privacy of individual users)
- O. Following Users: Option following which appears on the home page in upper right corner lists users following corresponding user.
- P. Follows User: Option follows which appears on the home page in upper right corner right below following lists users to whom corresponding user follows
- Q. Status messages: Lists all the status messages published by user till date. Arranges in descending order by timestamp.

R. Edit Users



1. Follow/Unfollow: Allows user to follow/unfollow other users
2. Block/unblock: Allows user to block/unblock other users. Users being blocked will not appear in search results.
3. Send Private message: Allows user to send private message to other users. User can send message to only single user at the time.

S. Follow up request



When user A sends follow up request to user B, window with blue background appears on the home page. It's up to B to accept or reject this request by clicking on respective button.

Conclusion:

So, this was the list of features on my social networking website. Hope the tutorial was lucid and easy to understand. If you would like some more features, let me know. I have tried to eliminate as much bugs as possible. However I am sure, actual users will find at least single bug. Let me know if any of the features is malfunctioning or not functioning at all. Also there is long way to go as far as user interface and security is concerned. Keep your fingers crossed for it!

Any suggestion, queries, complaints can be redirected to one of my email addresses.

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