

Forum specification

General description: The Forum application should allow for discussion of various and possibly arbitrary topics. Only users with approval roles can access the forums (not for general public).

Definitions:

Forum: A room or category of related forum topics open for discussion, e.g. "HAN", "Rollcall", "Funding methodology", etc. Forums may be open (anyone can post a new topic) or closed (user must be part of an attached audience spec to gain access.)

Topic: An individual thread of discussion within a given forum. Topics may be open for discussion (anyone who can view topic can post a comment) or closed (no more comments can be made). They may also be "sticky". Sticky topics should be listed at the top of the forum.

Comments: comments can be made on any open topic by anyone who can see the topic. (implementation note: my preference is that comments and topics are either handled by the same class with a reference to a parent for comments, or that comments is a child class of the topic class)

Application functionality:

- should be accessible via tab in portal toolbar
- should be accessible to users with approved roles (i.e., inaccessible to users with only public roles.)
- Forum application controller should list current forums, drill down to forum topics from there

Forum functions:

- Only superadmins can create new forums
- Superadmins should be able to lock a forum so that only people in a given audience specification can post new topics or comment on existing topics
- superadmins can hide a forum temporarily or permanently (no deleting forums)

Topic functions

- "Sticky" toggle as described above available only to superadmins
- Each topic/comment should display the display name of the user posting it and the time it was posted
- use something like redcloth (<http://redcloth.org/>) to offer markup abilities to forum posters (be sure to include some simple instructions somewhere on the edit page)
- superadmins and the poster of a topic/comment may edit the topic/comment
- only superadmins should be able to move the topic to a new forum
- only superadmins should be able to delete a topic (deletes all comments on topic as well)