MURDERBOOK

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENT

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I.   Introduction

The following document will describe the design and implementation of the MurderBook website. The site is intended to be used by clients that have a deep passion for murder mystery stories whether fiction or non-fiction. Clients also known users can interact with other users via the platform.

The key features of the Minimum Viable Product (MVP) are the design layouts of the login, home, and profile screens. As well as the ability to navigate between pages. Additionally, there is an ajax call when clicking the login button that posts back to the website with a redirect URL to the home page.

II.   Design and Implementation

The idea started with wanting to be able to socially interact with other murder mystery fanatics across the globe. When designing the application, storyboard drawings were used to represent the flow and layout. This allowed for a visual interpretation of the user interaction.

When implementing the application modifications were made to the design to allow for simplicity. Upon writing the code a realization was made that the design was too complex. Simplifying the design allowed for more time on styling and functionality.

Various components used to implement the application include Bootstrap, jQuery, and HTML elements. Styling was done primarily with Bootstrap class name attributes. Input elements were used for all user interactions within the forms. These inputs were styled with Bootstrap to be various elements when rendered to the screen. i.e., input(s) and button(s). Class attributes were used in order to add custom styling to elements via CSS.

Additional functionality was adding a local server to the project. The server is used to make AJAX calls with jQuery. The only implementation of this is upon login. When the user clicks on the login button the application uses jQuery to post and AJAX call to the server. The server response with a JSON blob including a redirect URL. The website consumes the JSON blob and updates the window location with the redirect URL.

III.   Conclusions

The biggest take away from this project was choosing to pick topic I am passionate about. Once I realized I knew what I wanted to work on, I had more drive and inspiration to complete the design and implementation. I also learned that a solid and simple CSS foundation is very important. The more I added to the website the more difficult it became to style.

The best features of the project are the styling and the layout. The ability to call the server and redirect the user to the home page is the top feature of the application.

I would like to have more time to add modals for posting a update and for login. Adding more features to the forms like validation on the username and password would be really nice to add.