

Project Proposition: Computer Science Forum

Group No. 2

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1 Problem/Opportunity

Currently, a platform suitable for discussion of computer science coursework is conspicuously missing. If a student is confused about an assignment, they may contact the tutor or the professor, or their course friends. However, some students may be too shy to e-mail a professor or a tutor, and may be unfortunately friendless. In such a case, the student will find themselves in a rather precarious position.

Thus, a casual and accessible platform for discussion of coursework is needed.

2 Proposition

A forum, exclusive to students enrolled in courses affiliated with the School of Computer Science could be built.

Such a forum would feature sections split by years, as well as by modules, where relevant information about said modules could be discussed and collected by the students. The forum would be freely accessible by students and lecturers alike, such that full transparency is guaranteed, and indeed the lecturers themselves could contribute to the posts.

The forum could be expanded to contain things such as stickied posts, which could contain currently due assignments and their specifications, sections for discussion of courses overall, surveys which would be presented to registered users et cetera.

3 Value

The forum usefulness is too large to describe for the average student. If someone is confused about a piece of coursework, but do not want to make a fool of themselves, the forum would serve their needs nicely. If a lecturer is fond of using the blackboard, and a student misses a lecture, they would be able to ask their fellow classmates for a possible copy of the written notes in photographic form. Sticky posts would act as a useful summary of currently due coursework and common useful information about the course (for instance, book such and such is a must read etc.).

Similarly, the lecturers would find the forum useful as a source of unbiased and genuine feedback on their courses, since any problems are present are bound to come up in the forums. Surveys could also be designed etc.

4 Conclusion

It appears to us that a forum designed for the needs of the Computer Science students here at TCD would improve the course in a significant way, making the coursework more accessible, promoting student collaboration and teamwork, as well as providing a source of feedback for the lecturers.