Requirements Documentation for SCSS Student Forum

Group 2 - Screw you Gary we'll call it what we want

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

- Our project aims to create a forum for students of Computer Science to use to be able to discuss different topics and matters regarding to the course, and to be able to give and receive help from their course mates.

- 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, all of whom may not be able or willing to help at all. We propose a better solution, one where you can gather more responses from your course mates, and are able to contribute to others who face similar problems and can achieve them together, A Computer Science dedicated forum.

1.2 Scope

- We wish to have a single forum that encompasses all modules for all year groups across Integrated Computer Science, Computer Science and Business, and Computer Science and a Language. Users should be able to:

  - Post new topics in each module page.
  - Reply to existing topic threads.
  - Choose best response to the current thread.

- The forum should only be accessible to students, demonstrators, teaching assistants and lecturers with a valid @tcd.ie email address.

1.3 Objectives and Success Criteria

- To complete the forum by Week 10 of Hilary Term.

- To host the forum on the Trinity KDEG servers, which we have been given access to. The forum should handle multiple users at a time and should accept each valid email to sign up.

- To program the front end in HTML/PHP and design a back end SQL database.

- To communicate with our expected user base, which are the student body associated with SCSS, in order to ensure that the forum meets their expectations, and to guarantee the forum would be something they would use once it is made available.

1.4 Definitions, Abbreviations

- SCSS - School of Computer Science and Statistics.

- CS - Computer Science.

- CSB - Computer Science and Business.

- CSL - Computer Science and a Language.

- HTML - HyperText Markup Language.

  - Used as standard markup language in creating websites.

- PHP - Personal Home Page.

  - Used for web design and also as a general purpose programming language.

- Forum - An online discussion site where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages.

- UI - User Interface.

1.5   References

- http://www.vbulletin.com/forum/help?faq=vb3_board_usage#faq_
vb3_forums_threads_posts

- http://php.net/manual/en/preface.php

2 Proposed System

2.1 Overview

- An online forum where students of CS, CSB, and CSL can discuss course topics and trade opinions, ideas and feedback. The forum will allow users to create new topic threads, reply to existing topics and choose the best response to the topic they created.

- The moderators of the forum will be given tools to manage the overall forum. They will be able to delete threads they deem inappropriate, remove spam/derogatory posts and remove users. This will all be manageable using SQL permissions.

2.2 Functional Requirements

- The forum in its final state should:
  - Store unique usernames
    * Each user should have a unique username based off of their Trinity email.
  - Allow creation of new threads
    * Each user should have permission to create a new topic of discussion.
    * Users should be able to create replies to this discussion.
  - Choose best response to a topic
    * Users that create topics should be able to highlight the reply that they received the most help or information from in general so other users with similar complaints can also see it.
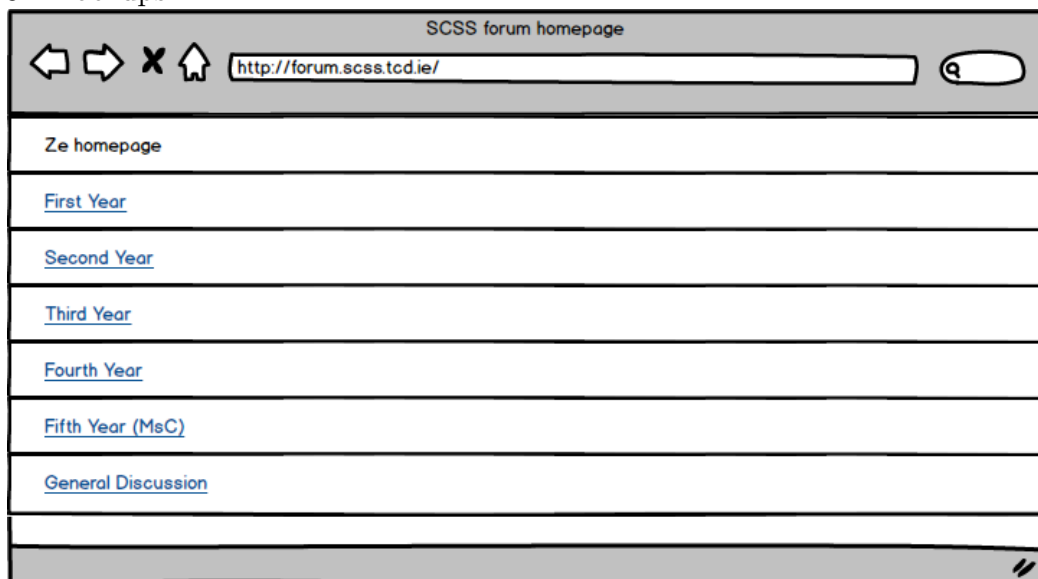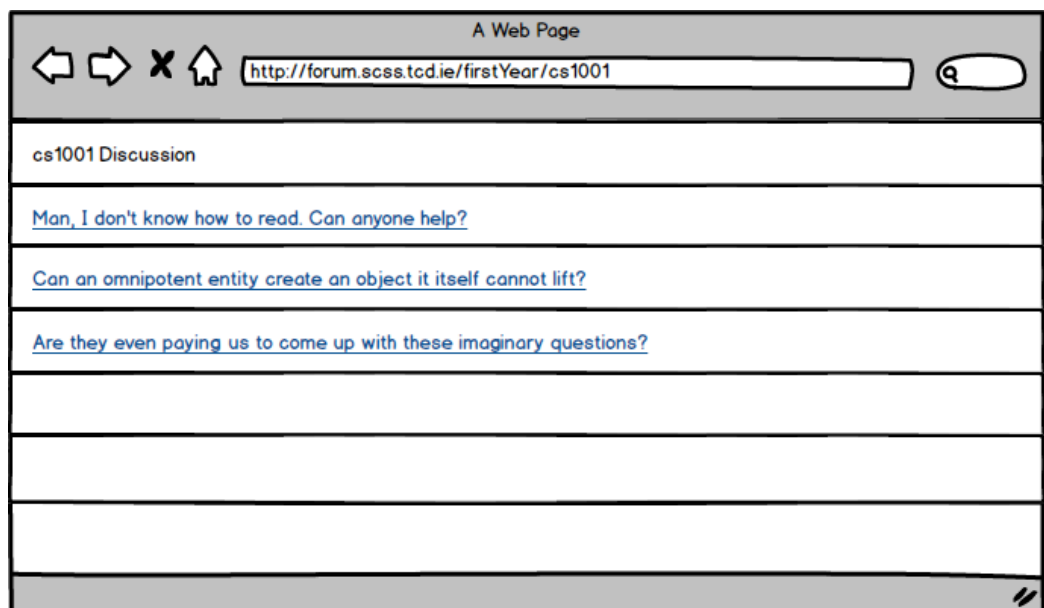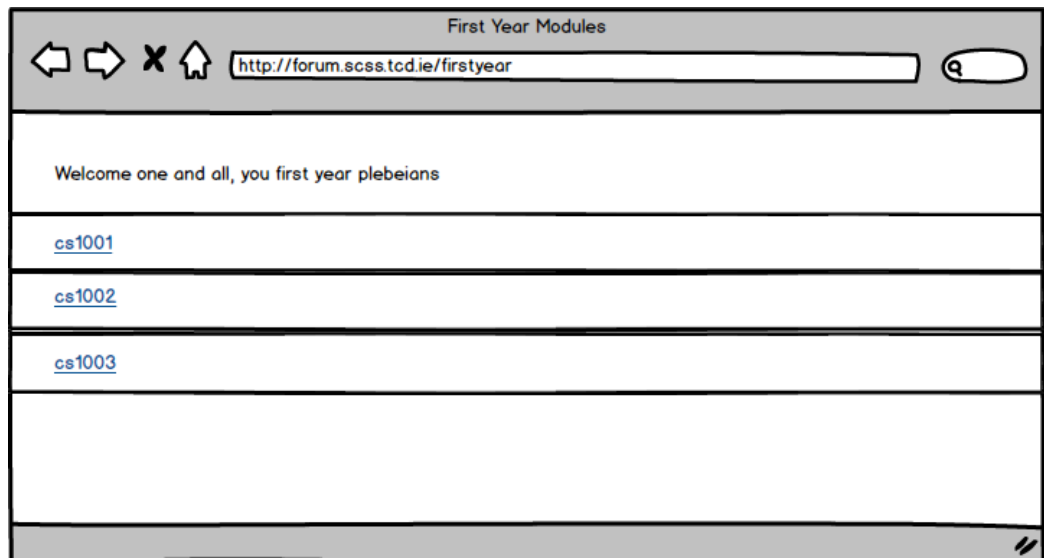
2.3 Non-functional Requirements

- The forum should prioritize:
  - Scalability
    * The forum should remain efficient and swift regardless of number of threads and users.
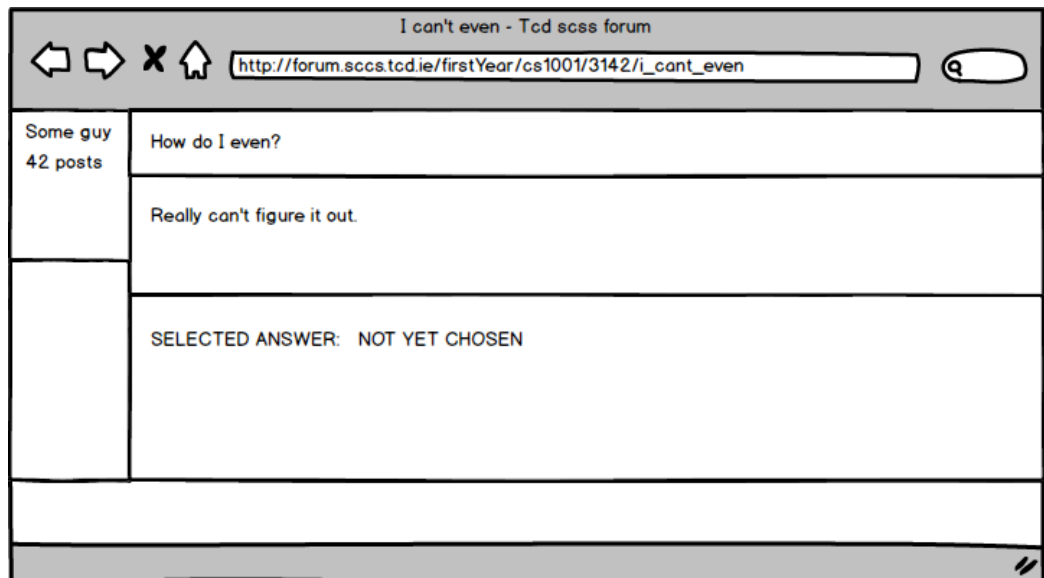 - Efficiency

* The forum should be efficient and responsive i.e a forum post should appear immediately, pages should load instantaneously etc.

  – Security
    * The forum will keep user information secure via passwords and unique IDs.

2.4 System Prototype

- UI Mockups

First Year Modules

http://forum.scss.tcd.ie/firstyear

Welcome one and all, you first year plebeians

[cs1001](#)

[cs1002](#)

[cs1003](#)

A Web Page

http://forum.scss.tcd.ie/firstYear/cs1001

cs1001 Discussion

[Man, I don't know how to read. Can anyone help?](#)

[Can an omnipotent entity create an object it itself cannot lift?](#)

[Are they even paying us to come up with these imaginary questions?](#)

I can't even - Tcd scss forum

← ➡ ✗ ⌂ | http://forum.sccs.tcd.ie/firstYear/cs1001/3142/i_cant_even | 🔍

Some guy 42 posts	How do I even?
	Really can't figure it out.
	SELECTED ANSWER: NOT YET CHOSEN

- UML Use Case Diagram