360 Project

Summary of Implemented Features

Without registering for an account, users are able to browse blog posts about every movie that is on the site. If a user wants to leave a movie review, they are prompted to login first. If the user does not have an account, they can register for one by clicking on the “register” button which, along with the “login” button, is only visible when a user is not logged in. The registration form asks for a user’s name, username, email, profile picture, and password. Using JavaScript for form validation, if the form entry boxes are not all filled out, then an alert pops up informing the users that they missed a box. If all the boxes are filled in, then the JavaScript checks to make sure that the password and “repeat password” boxes match. If they match, then the form can be submitted. The database is checked before the new account is successfully made to make sure that a user with that specific username and email does not already exist. If an account already exists, then the user is prompted to login instead.

Users can login by providing their username and password. Using prepared statements to prevent against SQL injection, as well as the md5() function for password encryption, user’s information is kept securely in the database. User password recovery via email is available to them in the case that they forget their password. If their username and password match the ones that are stored in the database, then the user successfully logs in and they are redirected to the home page of the site.

If a user is logged in, a “profile” tab in the main navigation is visible to them, and users are able to view and edit their profiles here. If a user is not logged in, they do not see the profile tab. Logged in users are able to comment on posts and view all the other comments on each post. If a user likes or saves a post, then the number of likes and saves on the post increases by 1, and the post is visible in the user’s profile page, either under “liked posts” or “saved posts.” A user can also add a movie to their watchlist, which is also visible on their profile page. If a user writes any movie review blog posts, they are all visible on their profile page along with their top movies. All the comments and reviews that users create are stored in the database, along with likes, saves, watchlists, advertisements, users, and movies. Nearly everything that users do on the website comes from the database tables created to efficiently store information.

Administrators are provided with an admin “code” that they can enter when they register for a new account. These users are given more functionality than regular users because they need to be able to deal with disrespectful users and rude comments. Admins are able to search for users and enable or disable them. The number of users that an admin disables is stored in the database in order to keep track of things. They are also able to edit and remove posts if they feel necessary.

The website is a 2-column layout website with a responsive design philosophy and contextual menus as stated above. Navigation links are visible at the top of the page regardless of where a user is on the page. All data is stored in MySQL and there is security for user’s data to prevent against injection or hacks. The site maintains the state of users (i.e., whether they are logged in or not) and offers more functionality for logged in users. User’s profile pictures are stored in the database and are visible to them on their profile page. At the top of each page, a navigation breadcrumb strategy is visible to enable users to know where they are in the threads. Form and database connection error handling is implemented throughout the website.

User activity (posting movie review blog posts and comments) is stored in the database by date and is visible to all users when they look through blog posts and comments. Advertisements are visible on the home page of the website and if a user clicks on one, they are brought to the website for that product in a new tab. This ensures that they stay on our website for longer and can easily return after visiting the product’s site. Just like all the other data on the website, advertisements are stored in a table in the database. A user’s watchlist is filled by the films that they are excited to watch, after reading the reviews for them. They can easily find all the movies they added to this list when they visit their profile page. This way, if a user forgets about a certain movie, they can refer back to this page to find a film that they want to watch. This also helps to make movie nights a lot easier!