GLOW

Social Network Web App
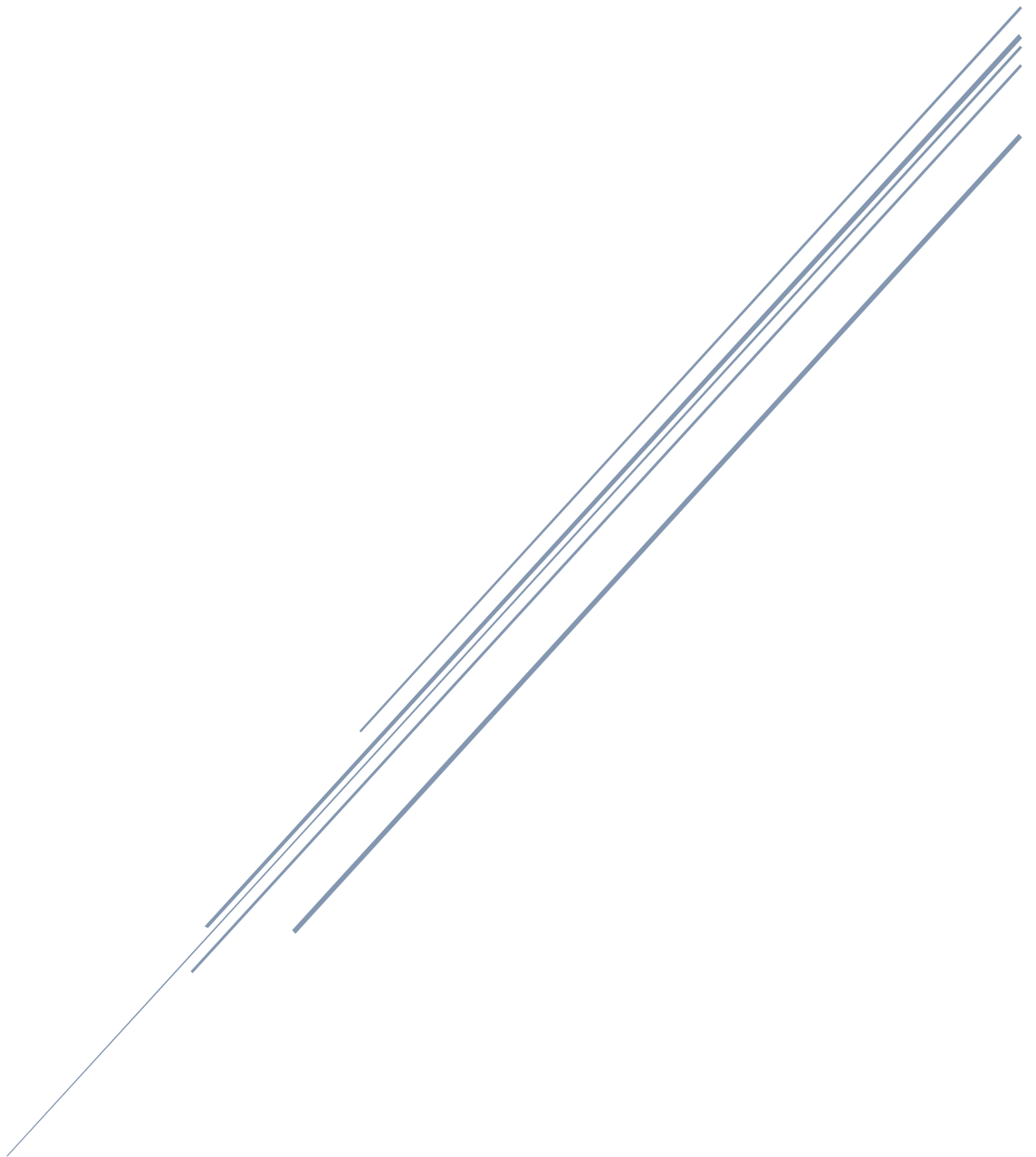
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Web Systems Development

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1. Introduction

Glow is a social network developed by Ruby on Rails, Bootstrap and JQuery. It allows to make the common things of a social network: publish some posts, have many friends, share and like friend's posts and send some private messages between users. To access to the application is necessary to login with an email and a previously defined password.

2. Development

The social network has been developed in Ruby language, following the Rails MVC platform structure. Rails is a framework that makes easier the development of Web applications. There are other languages and frameworks that can be used for this purpose, but the eases offered by Rails have been the main reason for choosing it for this project.

It has followed the MVC (Model-View-Controller) architecture to separate data concepts, business logic and interface, making easier the development and maintenance of the web application. It also promotes code reuse.
Bootstrap and JQuery has also been integrated over the Rails framework, allowing interaction and adding front-end infrastructure. It also offers a modern and user-friendly interface.

3. Structure

As it was explained before, following the MVC architecture it will be a controller, a model and a view for each one of the objects. Each of them are responsible for manage the different requests of the user in order to show what is required.

The objects used for this project are:

- **User**: responsible for managing the actions related with the User object.
- **Session**: the one that mange when a user session is open or close.
- **Post**: the one which manage all the actions that can be performed by the Post object.
- **Messages**: responsible of the management of the actions related with the sending of private messages between users.
- **Relationship**: the one that manages when a request of friendship is made.
- **Likes**: responsible for managing when the action of like or unlike is performed.

4. Web application

The application is locally allocated, so to launch it in development mode is necessary to run the command *rails s* on the console within the project folder. After launching the server, the browser can be opened with the url "*localhost:3000*". It will take us to the home page of the social network.
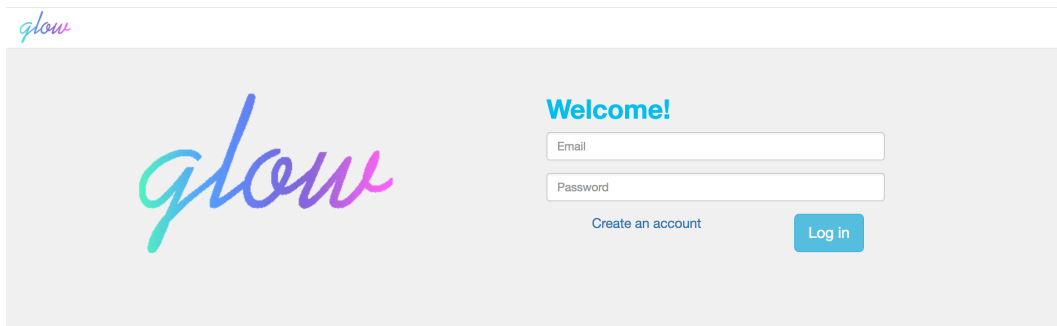
In the main page we can log in with the email and password associated with the account created previously. Creating a new account is as easy as go to "*Create an account*". It redirects to a page that is necessary to complete the name, surname, a nick to be recognised, email and password.
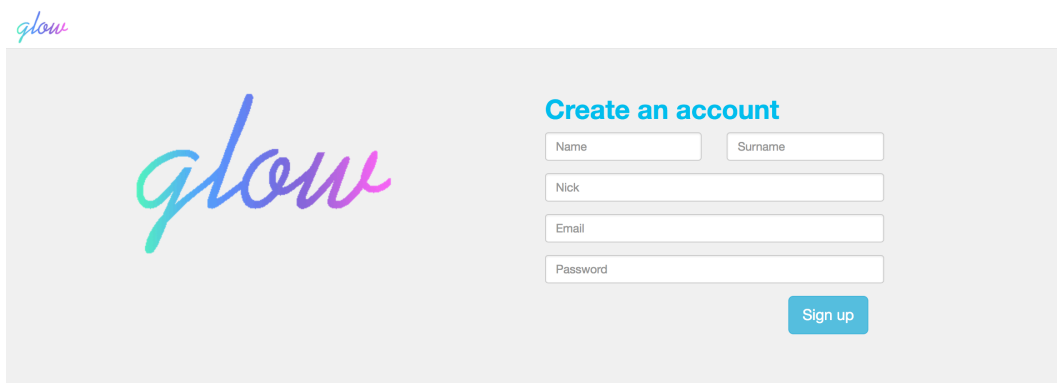

Once registered home page can be access. Here it can be shown a sidebar menu with a preview of your profile, a quick access for creating a new post and the most useful links, as the profile of the user, messages and friends. At the middle of the page can be shown the post published by the different users, taking into account that it will be shown only the ones that belongs to its friends.
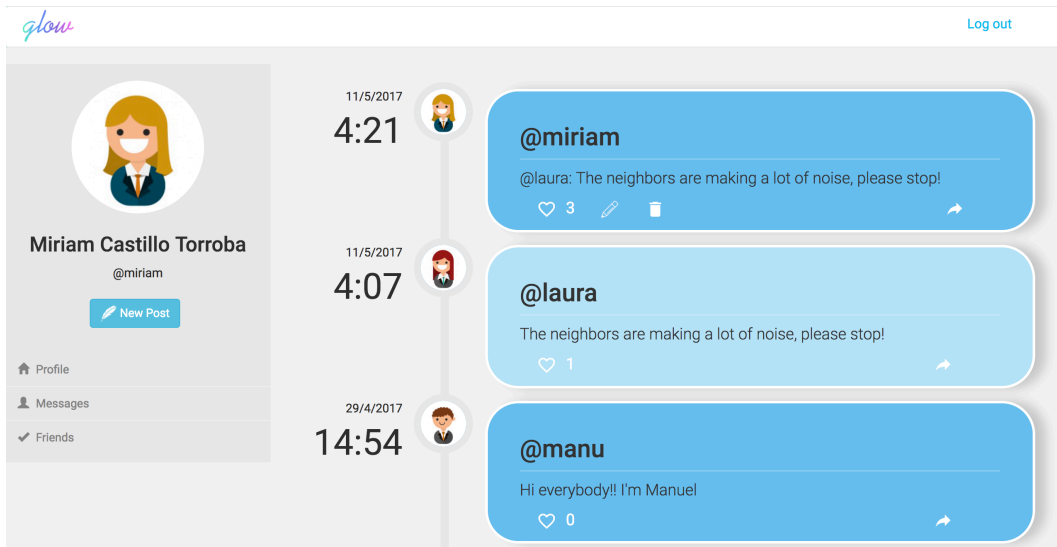
Each post shows the person who published it, the date and the hour. Those posts can be liked-it and share-it by everybody, but it can only be edited or deleted by the person who published it. When a post is shared is indicated the person who wrote the shared post.

Writing a new post redirect us to the next page, only necessary to write the text of the post:
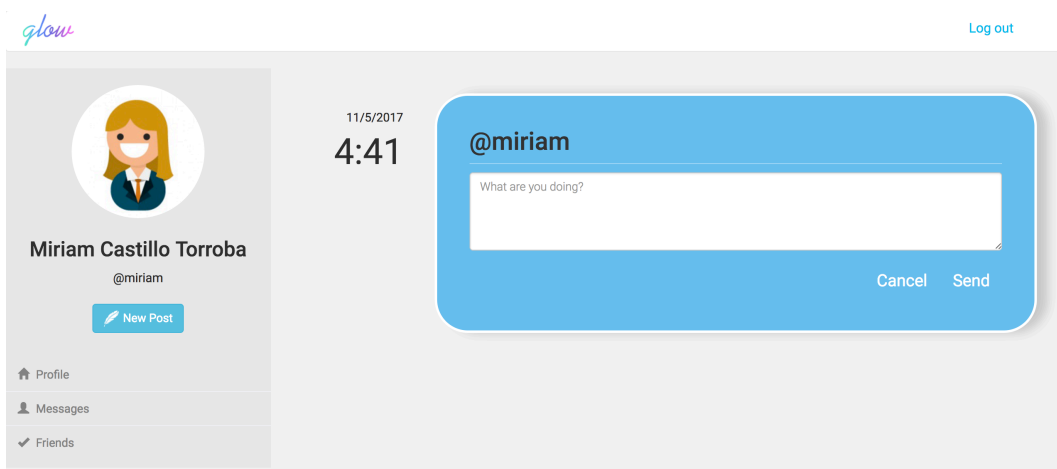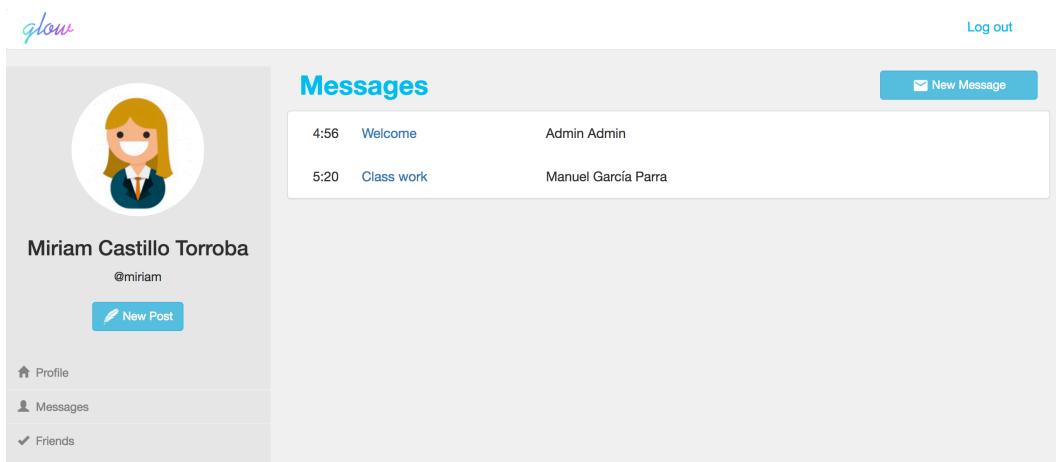

Going to the profile section it can be found a review of the profile of the user and give us some options like edit the data, delete the account or back to the home page.
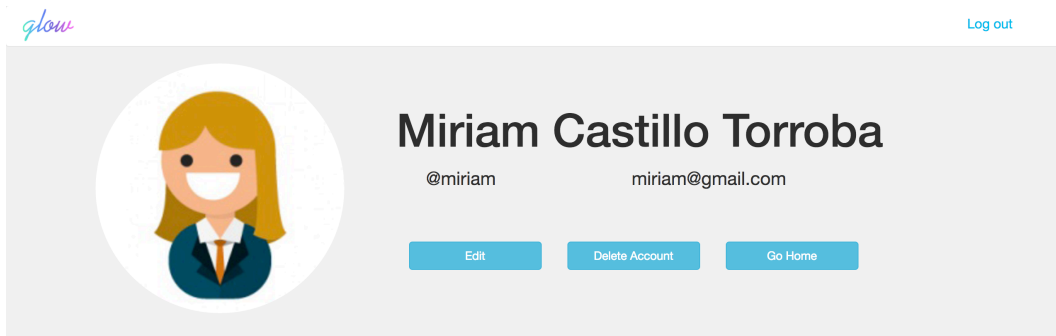
To edit the account data will be shown the next form. It necessary to complete all the fields. The available avatars can be shown or hide clicking into the option "*Show available avatars*".

Going to the message section it can be found a list with all the received private messages. To see them, just click on it.

The preview of the messages is the next one, where you can also delete them.
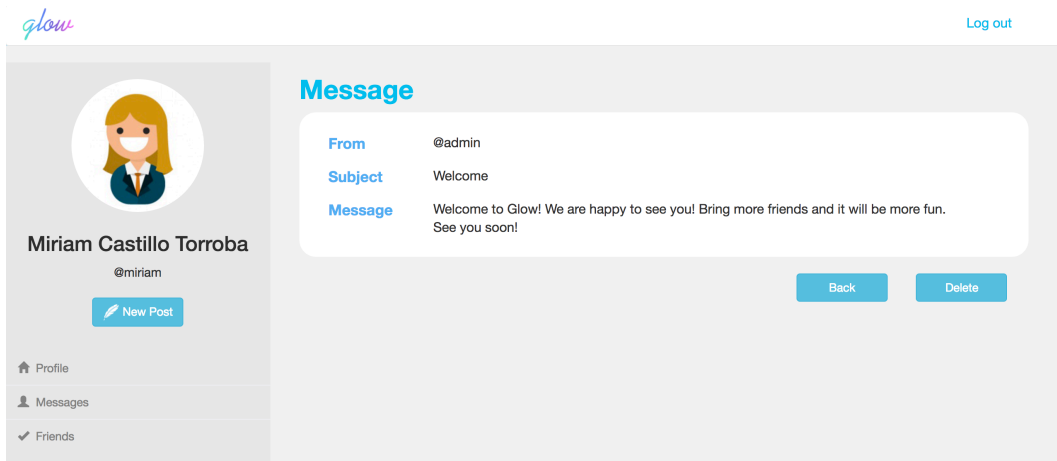
Regarding to the friend section it can be found a list with all the friends of the user. To add more friends, go to "*Add more friends*" and another list of users appears to allow to start following them.