

POLITECNICO DI MILANO
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING 2

GuessBid

User Manual

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Milan, June 2015

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Chapter 1

Description and requirements

The purpose of this document is to provide a user manual for the GuessBid web application. GuessBid provides a service for inverse auctions where the winning bid is the lowest unique bid, as opposed to the traditional highest one. Users, once registered and logged in, are able to create auctions for any good he/she might have, browse through ongoing auctions and place bids. After every placed bid, the system notifies the user of his current ranking in regards to that particular auction. Also, after an auction has finished, the system notifies the seller and the bidders about the outcome.

In order to access GuessBid, any device with a modern browser installed will suffice. Just type the URL of the GuessBid platform in the browser and you're ready to go.

This document is divided into two parts. One for functionalities available to a guest user (meaning not logged in), the other for a logged in user.

Chapter 2

Guest functionalities

2.1 Home page

A guest, after navigating to GuessBid's site is shown the home page (fig 2.1). The home page consists of two forms and a footer. The forms offer two basic functionalities, sign up and log in.

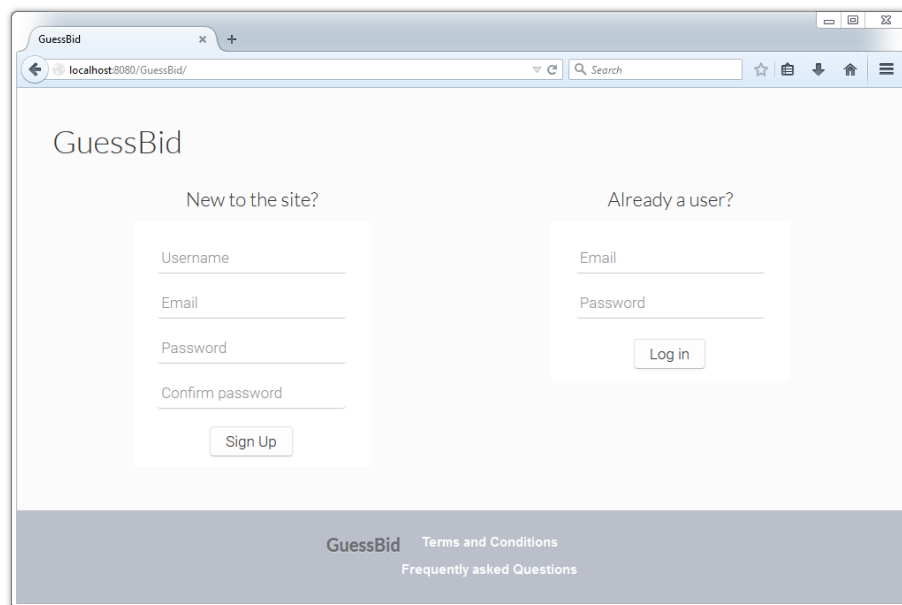


Figure 2.1: Home Page

2.1.1 Registration

In order to use the application's full functionalities you need to sign up (register). This can be done by filling out the leftmost form on the home page (fig 2.1). You need to input a username, a valid e-mail address, a password and a confirmation password to avoid any security issues that might arise by mistyping the password the first time. After clicking the *Sign Up* button, the system will check the information you entered. In case of an empty field or should any errors arise like mismatched passwords or invalid email, an appropriate error message will appear. If the input information was complete and valid the system will save your information and log you in automatically and redirect you to your user home page (fig 3.1).

2.1.2 Logging in

Provided you have already signed up, you can access functionalities by logging in. This can be done by filling out the rightmost form on the home page (fig 2.1). You need to input your e-mail address and password. After clicking the *Log In* button, the system will check the information you entered. In case of an empty field or should any errors arise like an unknown email or a wrong email-password combination, an appropriate error message will appear. If the input information was complete and valid the system will log you in and redirect you to your user home page (fig 3.1).

2.1.3 Footer

Since the same footer is present on all other pages, it's purpose and use will be stated only once. The footer, on the bottom of the page, consists of the application's logo and two links, namely, *FAQ* and *Terms & Conditions* link which, on click, redirect you to the *FAQ* page (fig 2.2) and *Terms & Conditions* page, respectively.

2.2 FAQ and Terms & Conditions pages

The *FAQ* and *Terms & Conditions* are reachable from any page via the footer links. The pages explain the concept of inverse auction, indicate clearly the rules of conduct which, if not followed, will result in account deactivation and provide information in order to clear up some common doubts.

In fig 2.2 only *FAQ* page is shown. The *Terms & Conditions* page is omitted for the sake of simplicity as it has almost the same format as the *FAQ* page. The page consists of a *Home* link to return to navigate back to the home page, content (questions and answers) and a footer.

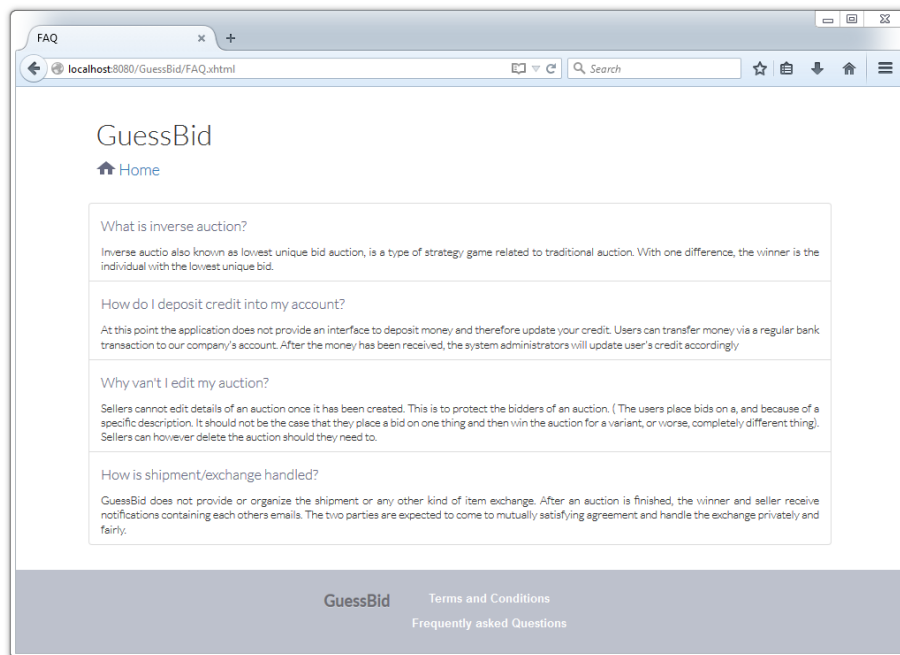


Figure 2.2: FAQ Page

Chapter 3

User functionalities

3.1 User Home page

After logging in or signing up, you are redirected to your personal home page shown in fig 3.1. From top to bottom, the page consists of a navigation bar, big header, recent notifications list, searchable list of active (ongoing) auctions and a footer. The navigation bar is present in the same shape and form on all other pages and as such will be explained only once.

3.1.1 Navigation bar

The navigation bar consists of five links. In order (left to right):

- Home
- Notifications
- Manage auctions
- Settings
- Log out

On click, each of these links, part from the *Log out* link, will redirect you another page (*User Home* page, *Notifications* page, *Manage auctions* page or *Settings* page respectively). The *Log out* link will log you out and the system will redirect you the GuessBid's guest home page (fig 2.1).

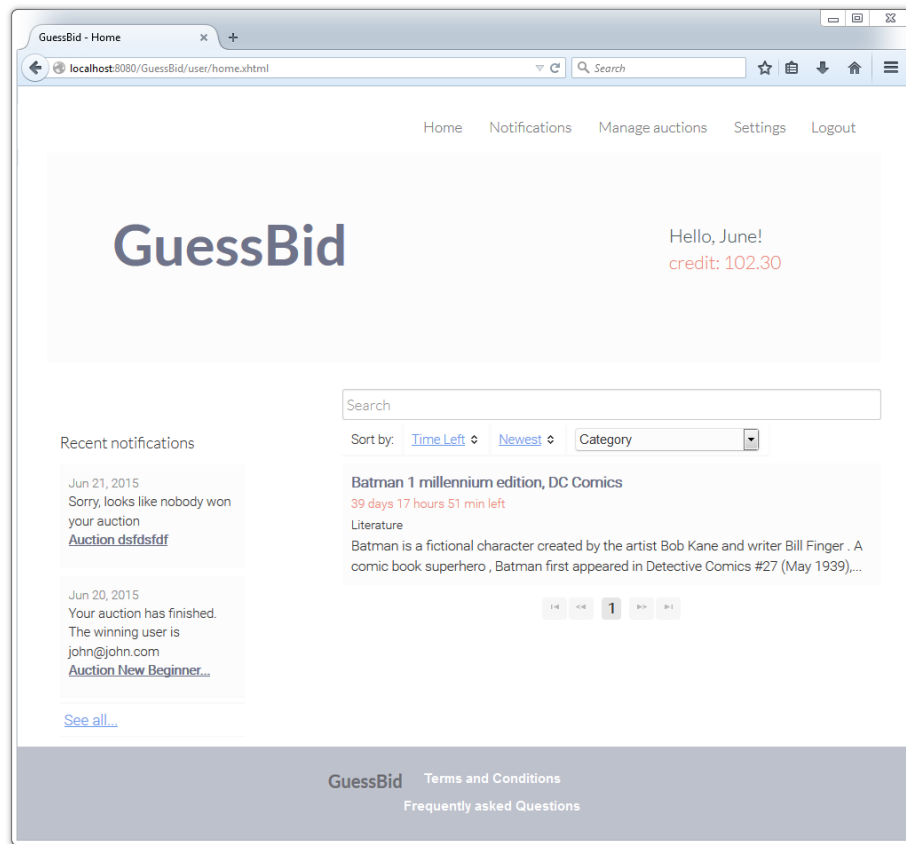


Figure 3.1: User Home Page

3.1.2 Header

The header consists of the application's logo, a welcome message and your credit balance.

3.1.3 Recent notifications

On the left hand side, you will find up to five most recently received notifications. Each notification is dated, has a description and a link to the related auction (fig 3.6). Clicking the link redirects you to a page containing the auction's details (fig 3.6). At the bottom of all notifications is a *See all* link which redirects you to the *Notifications* page (same as the *Notification* link from the navigation bar).

3.1.4 Browse auctions

On the right hand side there is an interface for browsing active auctions. It consists of a search bar, one filter (by category), two sort buttons (*Time left*, *Newest*) and auction list. Below is the explanation of each element's purpose.

Search bar By typing words in the search bar, the result list is automatically updated to show only the auctions which contain the typed word either in their name or description.

Time left Toggling *Time left* button sorts the current auction result list by their ending time (toggling between sooner and later).

Newest Toggling *Newest* button sorts the current auction result list by their creation time (newest/oldest).

Category By choosing a category from the dropdown filter, the result list is updated only to show auctions of that category

Each auction result item displays its full name, time remaining, category and a description snippet. The name also serves as a link. By clicking it, the system redirect you to that particular auction's page (fig 3.6).

3.2 Notifications page

The notifications page is shown in fig 3.2. The page allows you to browse through all your notifications using the pagination links located at the bottom (just above the footer). Notifications are chronologically listed starting from the most recent one. Each notification is dated, has a description and a link to the related auction. Clicking the link redirects you to a page with the auction's details (fig 3.6).

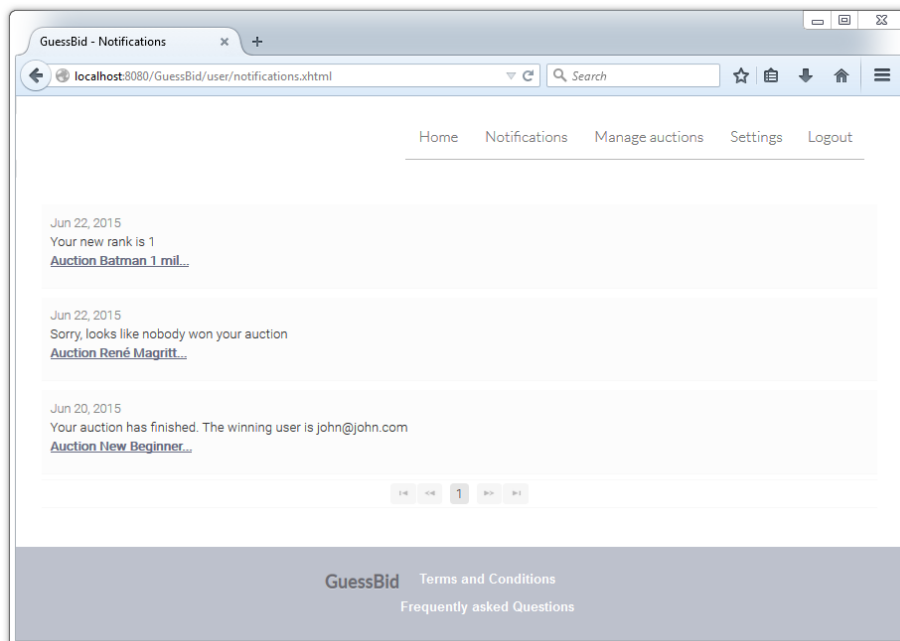


Figure 3.2: Notifications Page

3.3 Manage auctions page

Manage auctions page is shown in fig 3.3. It provides you with the functionality to create a new auction by clicking the *New auction* link. It also displays a list of your auctions which you can browse, filter, sort and search for keywords using pagination links, search bar, category filter, and two sort buttons (*Time left* and *Newest*). These elements work much in the same way as the ones on the home page explained in section 3.1.4. Each auction result item displays it's full name, time remaining, category it belongs to and a description snippet. The name also serves as a link. By clicking it, the system redirect you to that particular auction's page (fig 3.5).

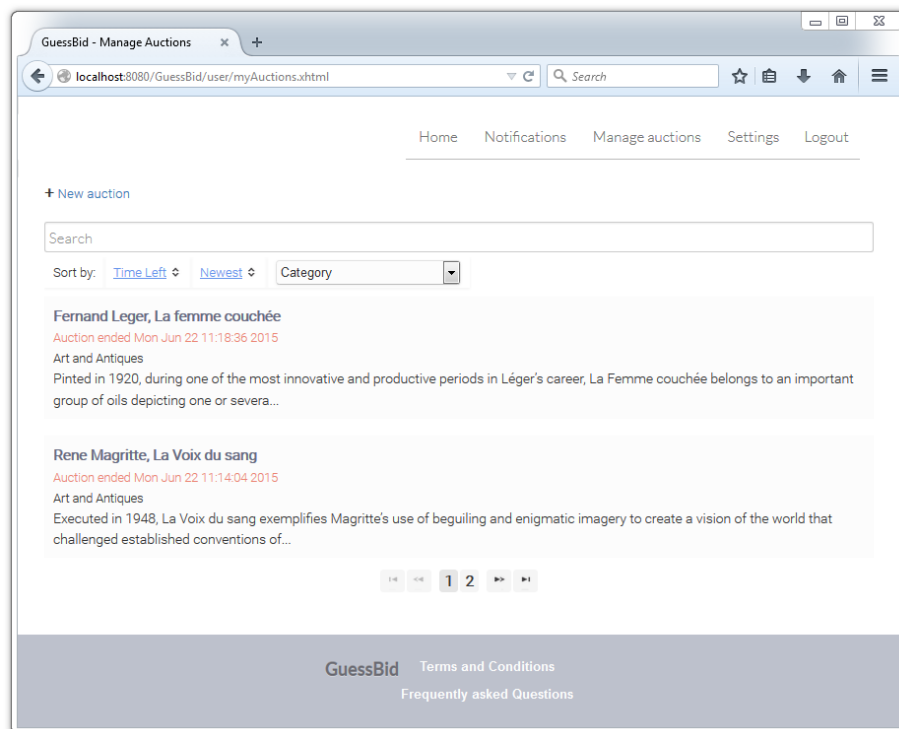


Figure 3.3: Manage Auctions Page

3.3.1 New auction page

New auction page, displayed in fig 3.4, provides the functionality to create a new auction by filling out the provided form. You need to input a desired name, choose a category from the dropdown menu, select ending time via a pop up dialog that appears upon clicking in the *End Time* field, and a short description.

After clicking the *Submit* button, the system will check the information you entered. In case of an empty field or should any errors arise like the name or description being too short, an appropriate error message will appear. If the input information was complete and valid the system will create your auction and redirect you to its page (fig 3.5).

GuessBid - New Auction

localhost:8080/GuessBid/user/newAuction.xhtml

Home Notifications Manage auctions Settings Logout

Name: *

Category: *

End Time: *

Description: *

Submit

GuessBid Terms and Conditions
Frequently asked Questions

Figure 3.4: New Auction Page

3.4 Auction page

Auction page actually has two variants, only one will be shown depending whether you are the seller (fig 3.5) or a potential bidder (fig 3.6). The difference will be explained below.

Each auction is identified with its unique id and can be accessed by either clicking a link on a notification, or an auction snippet, or by typing the URL

```
<path>/GuessBid/user/auction.xhtml?id=<nb>
```

where <nb> is the auction's id. Example:

```
http://localhost:8080/GuessBid/user/auction.xhtml?id=20
```

Furthermore, each auction page displays the auction's details. Specifically, it's name, the seller's username, category, ending time, and the full description. Where the two variants of the auction page differ is in the provided functionality.

If you are the seller you are able to delete an auction by clicking the *Delete auction* (fig 3.5) button after which you are redirected back the *Manage Auctions* page.

However, if you are not the seller, you are able to place a bid using the form shown in (fig 3.6). To place a bid, you enter a positive decimal number with up to two decimal points and submit the form by clicking the *Bid* button. Upon form submission, the system will check the information you entered. In case you haven't entered a valid number format or you left the field empty, an appropriate error message will appear. If the input information was complete and valid, the system will create your bid and generate a new notification informing you of your new rank with regard to this particular auction.

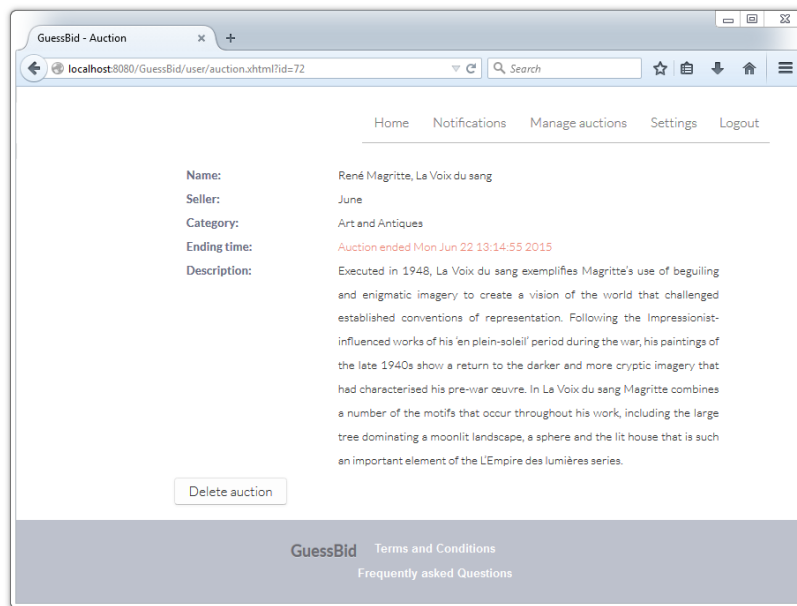


Figure 3.5: Auction Page Seller

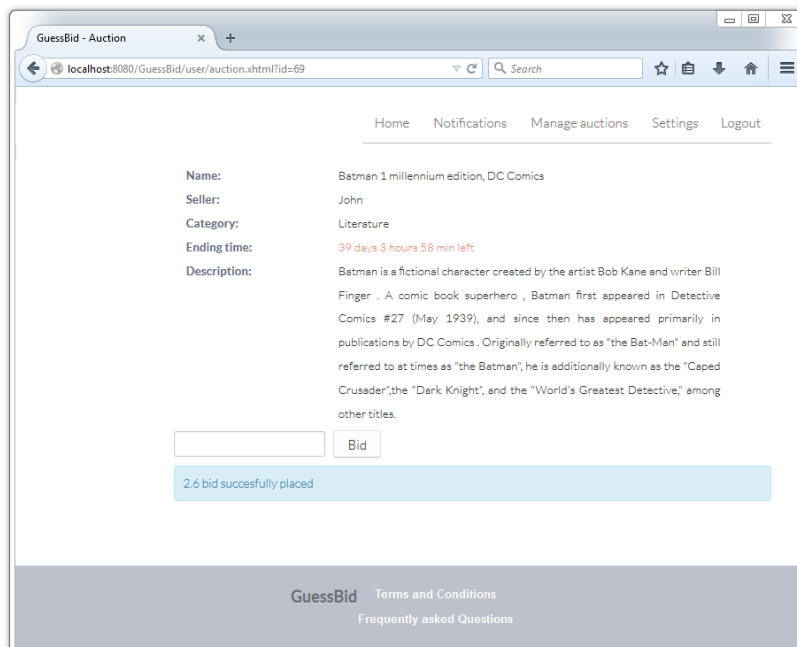


Figure 3.6: Auction Page Bidder

3.5 Settings page

Settings page, shown in fig 3.7, displays your username, email and credit balance (password is hidden for security reasons). You can change your username, email and password by clicking their *Change* links. Only the process of changing the password will be explained because changing any of the settings differs minimally.

After clicking the password's *Change* link, a form will appear asking you to enter your old password, new password and a confirmation password to avoid any security issues that might arise by mistyping the password the first time. After clicking the *Update* button, the system will check the information you entered. In case of an empty field or should any errors arise like incorrect old password, or mismatched new passwords, an appropriate error message will appear. If the input information was complete and valid, the system will save your information and the changes will be reflected in the *Settings* page immediately.

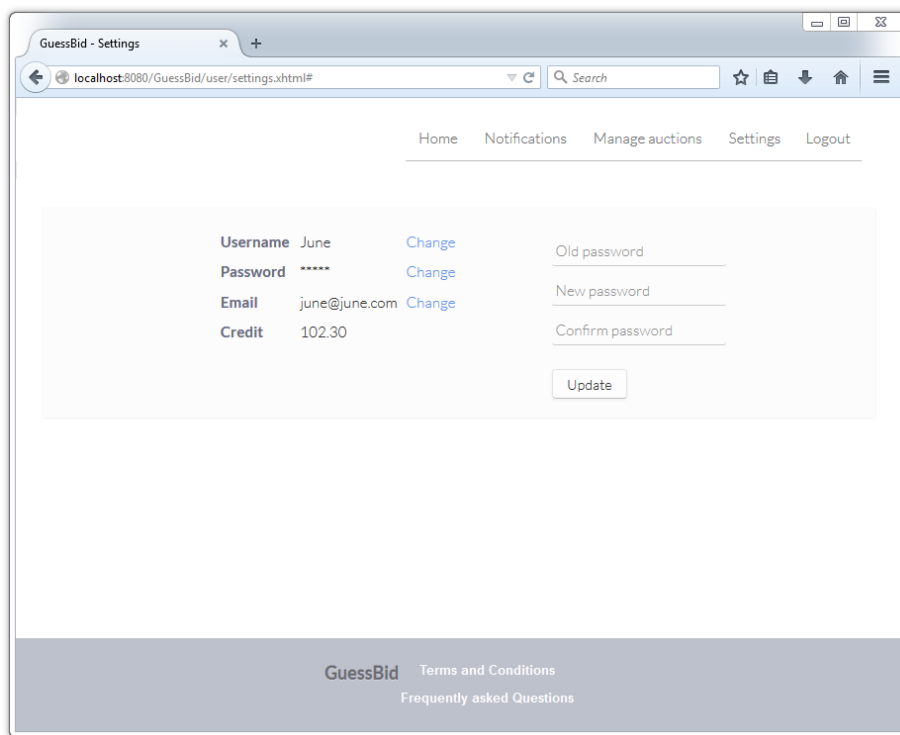


Figure 3.7: Settings Page