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Homework 2

Github Repo: <https://github.com/mmallett/coms4156-hw2>

Describe the system.

We created a simple (and in real-world use would be described as chaotic) message board that is shared among all users. All users can post to and delete from the message board and all messages are displayed on a central page. Users can add a message to the board and will be redirected to a confirmation page with a link back to the main board page. All messages also have a separated ‘X’ next to the text where clicking on the ‘X’ deletes the message from the board and reloads the board without the deleted message.

Discusses your experience using each part of your team's chosen technology.

Python, Flask, PostgreSQL

Both of us have previous experience with the technology we have chosen for our team project and are familiar with the structure for completing a project. Python is a fairly simple and well documented programming language to use and did not provide many challenges when building our system. Our web development framework, Flask, is a Python micro framework that allowed us to work within the programming language while designing the front-end and back-end in a seamless manner. PostgreSQL is a simple enough database to use and we were able to create a small database with a single table for the toy application with relatively easy effort.

Did you run into any challenges?

We did not run into many challenges on the coding side of things when developing the toy system. We did hit a minor snag when we were trying to first print out all of the messages from the database to the main page “message board” where all of the messages were still wrapped as Unicode. After a decent amount of time researching into the matter, we found that we were actually printing out the row object retrieved from the database and we had to access the column value for each object when we wanted to print the message out on the main page.

Was there anything you wanted to do but couldn't get working?

Not really. We kept the system small for the purpose of the homework assignment and focused more on how we would be programming as a pair on a single task.