Design Document

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Introduction

As requested in previous correspondence, this document outlines our chosen web project: a web application provisioning a platform for **informal debating**. We have chosen to construct this project because we believe it to sufficiently prove our proficiencies (or lack thereof) in the domain of full-stack web development. Albeit being a rather simple concept, we will strive to build a reasonably complex product by introducing as many pertinent features as possible in the course of its construction. The rest of this document goes into more detail about initial features that you, as the instructor, should expect to see implemented in the finished project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In choosing our project architecture, we have made it a priority to stick to the course specification so that every member of the group can contribute regardless of differences in prior web development experiences. This rest of this section elaborates on the foregoing statement.

Web application topic

As previously mentioned, the topic of the web application will be to facilitate informal debating and general discussion amongst users registered on the site. On the site, debates will be referred to as *wrangles*. Users **must** make an account in order to participate in *wrangles* (to post *wrangle* topics, write comments, rate comments and vote), but anonymous users can access the homepage which will be a global feed which will, by default, be filtered by most recent posts. Registered users can login after which they will be redirected to their own personalized feed based on *wrangles* which they follow (you automatically follow a *wrangle* when you post a comment on one). There will also be a notification system alerting registered users to replies to their comments or when they receive *agrees* or *disagrees* (upvotes or downvotes).

Architecture

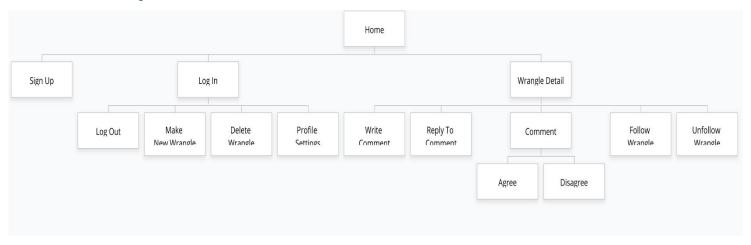
- The web app will be built without front-end frameworks as requested. This means server-side rendering using **Php**.
- jQuery will be employed for fancy animations, but most other functions will be written in vanilla JavaScript, including but not limited to AJAX requests.
- No CSS preprocessors will be adopted; plain CSS₃ will be used for all styling purposes.
- Web hosting will be handled via Fontys infrastructure (just as you apprised us in the week 1 lesson).

- A SQL database (MySQL) will be utilized to store authentication information and user-generated content.
- **Git** and **GitLab** will be employed for version control.

Target audience

The target audience will be adults all over the world who want to participate in debates on the platform. The web application will be as responsive as possible so it can be accessed on most devices; this will be achieved using CSS grid and media queries.

Sitemap

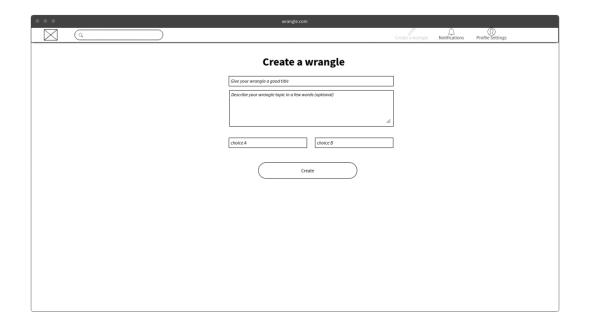


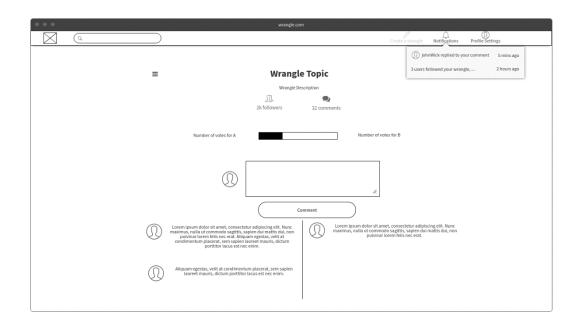
Above is a proposed sitemap showing the arrangement of pages and possible AJAX calls where dedicated pages are superfluous, such as the *agree*, *disagree* and *follow* functionality.

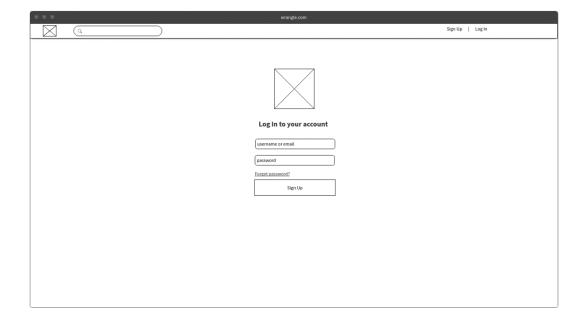
Wireframes

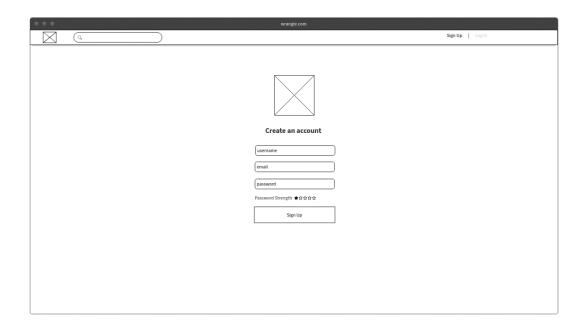






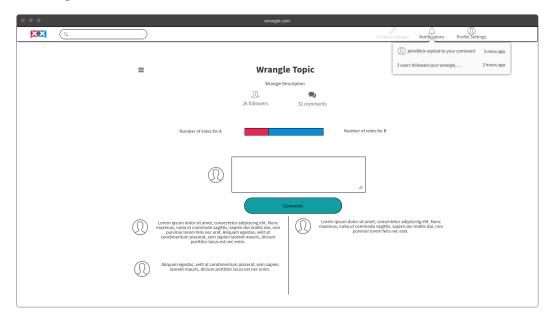






The wireframes shown above outline a rudimentary illustration of the general layout of the web application's front-end. Major pages pertinent to the main functionality of the application have all been included.

Visual design



Above is a proposed visual design including the primary color of the adopted theme for the application - hex number #119da4, the shade of teal which fills the *comment* button - and the secondary color - hex number #9e9e9e - which will be used to outline less significant page elements. Red (#ed254e) and blue (#058ed9) will be used utilized to detail areas involving discourse between both sides of a wrangle (such as in the *votes* bar and could also be used in the comments section to specify which side commenting users agree with). The website application will not deviate from this proposed theme.

DIVISION OF WORKLOAD

As expected, every member of the group will contribute code in every area. Each member will build out a portion of a page or a whole page where possible (i.e. if relatively trivial). Less trivial functionality such as the notification system, will be developed in tandem to make sure everyone contributes. There will be at least 2 AJAX fetch functions so that each member of the group gets a chance at gaining experience in implementing this functionality. While we cannot provision an accurate and detailed summary of who will be implementing what functionality at this moment, our division of labor will be explicitly verifiable through the commit history in our adopted version control.