# Creative Content; Forum Website:

The **Creative Content** forum will allow users to create posts and communicate with others via these posts, a la sites like Reddit. Ideally, these posts are themed towards the creative content a user has created. Additionally, unregistered users can view, but not create posts. Admins should be able to edit posts by users, delete users posts, ban user (permanent and temporary), as well as do everything a registered user can do. Based off of the user’s level, they will have access to different areas of the forum, and users can Private Message each other as they desire.

(**I’ve interwoven some additional objectives here and there, but all the initial requirements are here)**

**Baseline Objectives:**

**Website user’s objectives:**

* Browse discussions without registering
* Search for items/posts by keyword and user without registering. This should include forum threads as well
* Register at the site by providing their name, e-mail and image
* Allow user login by providing user id and password
* Create and comment (specific for each project) when logged into the site
* Users are required to be able to view/edit their profile
* Profiles will include hidden and revealed information, as per the user’s preference
* User password recovery (via email)

**Website administrator’s objectives:**

* Search for user by name, email or post
* Enable/disable users
* Edit/remove posts items or complete posts
* Freeze threads, so more posts won’t be added

**Minimum Functional Requirements:**

* Hand-styled layout with contextual menus (i.e. when user has logged on to site, menus reflect change)
* 2 or 3 column layout using appropriate design principles (i.e. highlighting nav links when hovered over, etc) responsive design
* Form validation with JavaScript
* Server-side scripting with PHP
* Data storage in MySQL
* Appropriate security for data
* Site must maintain state (user state being logged on, etc)
* Responsive design philosophy (minimum requirements for different non-mobile display sizes)
* AJAX (or similar) utilization for asynchronous updates (meaning that if a discussion thread is updated, another user who is viewing the same thread will not have to refresh the page to see the update)
* User images (thumbnail) and profile stored in database
* Simple discussion (topics) grouping and display
* Navigation breadcrumb strategy (i.e. user can determine where they are in threads)
* Error handling (bad navigation)

**Additional Requirements:**

* Search and analysis for topics
* Hot threads/hot item tracking
* Visual display of updates, etc (site usage charts, etc)
* Activity by date
* Tracking (including utilizing tracking API or your own with visualization tools)
* Collapsible items/treads without page reloading
* Alerts on page changes
* Admin view reports on usage (with filtering)
* Styling flourishes
* Tracking comment history from a user’s perspective
* Accessibility
* Private Messaging between Users
* Pinned Posts that appear at top of Topics
* Site organized by Headings > Topics > Threads > Posts
* Users can create threads and posts, Admins can do this as well as make Headings and Topics
* Upvote/Downvote/Favourite posts.
* Post Tracking by user authority: i.e. Admin
* Hidden content, viewable only at certain levels of authority
* Users can Report Inappropriate content
* Admin can move threads between Topics if the content doesn’t make sense for that location
* Admin can have pinned threads shared among every topic
* Threads have tags, applied through user suggestions, thread owner at thread creation, or admin discretion