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Milestone 2

This milestone was basically this course forcing me to face one of my greatest fears. JAVASCRIPT. Even though it’s simple to write, I think it’s very unpredictable and hard to debug. For example, I wrote javascript that change voting dynamically, but I can’t figure out how to focus on the new e-mail textbox when I click the update e-mail button. JSLint wasn’t very helpful since it didn’t allow custom variables which I used a lot. My decision of putting a user’s KARMA\_POINTS next to their name on every page led to me having to write more javascript to change that with votes as well. Also, I couldn’t find a way to center the number of points in each question in between the up and down arrows.

I decided to put more things in functions in my thingsandstuff.php file which I include in every page. I use MAMP for testing on my own laptop and it doesn’t support certain things so I need to switch a couple variables (database name and password, using http meta to switch to another page instead of php header) anytime I want to run something on Docker. So I put all those functions in this php file so I only need to change it in one spot now.

Just for the fun of it, I went online and added profile pictures for all the ghostbusters characters. Also added a stock photo to show if that person does not have a profile picture. I use userID\_username for picture names. When a user selects a new picture and clicks upload, I change their file name to match my pattern and upload it that way. I also check to see if a picture with the same name already exists and if it does (even if the extension’s different), I delete it to avoid confusion.

While this milestone forced me to learn new things and improve my website, it kind of feels like it is becoming too big a project for one person. I have started forgetting how I implemented certain things. This might be because of my lack of commenting which I should improve.

One confusion I had was with the sorting of answers. I wasn’t sure if we were supposed to sort the answers based on value dynamically. So if two answers have the same value and a user votes on one of them, should that answer move up right away, or on page load? I was too deep into the javascript side of things that I decided not to move it up right away. If I’m moving the answer up or down, might as well reload the page but if I do that, I wrote all that javascript for nothing which is unacceptable.

I use a new datatable called votes to keep track of votes. It takes the type of thread (question and answer) so a vote for answer 2 doesn’t mean a vote for question 2, the vote (1=upvote, 2=downvote, 0=novote), voter and vote\_time.