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Milestone 3

I made the mistake of starting by making sure the website fits the HTML validator. While this took quite a bit of time to do, it forced me to use CSS more rather than just jamming style properties in HTML elements. It also helped me figure out a bug in the way I call CSS since this was the first time I actually used it. I’ve been using bootstrap for everything else so I never needed it.

One thing I problem I’ve had since the beginning of the semester, not asking for help about this is totally my fault, is that my jumbotron at the top of my page is too long. I don’t know how to make it shorter but anytime you want to see anything in the actual website, you have to scroll down which I assume is bad design.

I’ve been doing SCORE since Milestone 2 when I started showing everyone’s names in every question and answer so that didn’t take any time. ADMIN was pretty straight forward as well. I did admin in PHP rather than SQL which was probably a bad idea in case more than 1 user is ADMIN, I could’ve just had a SQL Boolean called ADMIN.

BBCode was the most interesting part of this milestone for me. I used TinyMCE which Jory demonstrated in class and I’m not sure if all its components work. When TinyMCE writes things to the database, it uses “&lt;” for [ and “&gt;” for ]. In order to accommodate user inputs such as [b], I turn the characters [ and ] into “&lt;” and “&gt;” as well. When I’m writing something from the database, I simply convert those into < and > which works for the things I’ve checked. Hopefully it works fine.

I am still having trouble with uploading pictures as in the pictures will upload but won’t display which I think is caused by the way I store the names. I use UserID\_UserName followed by the image file extension. So when someone uploads a new picture with the same extension, even though it uploads, the browser sees that it has the same name and doesn’t bother to download the new picture. At least that’s my guess as to how it goes.

I wrote a help page in the form of FAQ, I think it addresses most questions a user might have even though most things are pretty straight forward. The user search took me about an hour or two, I followed the example on W3 Schools and it was actually very useful.

Pagination was a little bit of a nightmare. Trying to show 5 pages at all times was impossible and I couldn’t figure it out but I think it’s still pretty useful the way it is. The only problem is, if there’s 6 pages but we’re on page 1 for example, then it only shows pages 1, 2, and 3. But we’re on page 3, it’ll show 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. My goal was to show 5 pages all the time but I couldn’t figure out how to implement that.

That’s about it.