**Foram**

A Minor Project Synopsis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of requirement of the

Degree of

**BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY in COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

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**AUG 2024 - DEC 2024**

**Introduction**

In today’s digital landscape, the proliferation of online platforms has transformed how individuals engage in discussions and collaborations. However, many users face significant challenges in finding and participating in structured, relevant conversations. Existing platforms often lack the necessary framework for focused, topic-specific discussions, leading to a fragmented and inefficient user experience. This is particularly problematic for students, professionals, and project collaborators, as the difficulty in accessing organized discussions can hinder productivity and limit the effectiveness of their interactions. The overload of unrelated content disrupts the coherence of conversations, making it hard for users to navigate and find communities that align with their specific needs.

The need for a more structured, topic-based platform is evident. Users require a solution that categorizes discussions and maintains a focused environment conducive to productive exchanges. Foram addresses this gap by offering a web application designed to create and join rooms dedicated to specific study or work-related topics. This structured approach ensures users can easily find and engage with conversations that align with their current needs, fostering a more organized and productive experience.

**Problem Definition**

The primary problem addressed by this project is the lack of a structured platform for users to engage in focused, relevant discussions across various online topics. Current platforms are overwhelmed by unrelated content, leading to fragmented interactions and a disorganized user experience. This disorganization is particularly detrimental for students, professionals, and project collaborators who need clear environments to enhance productivity. Existing platforms often fail to provide the necessary frameworks for topic-specific discussions, forcing users to sift through irrelevant posts that dilute the quality of their interactions. As a result, there is an urgent need for a solution that categorizes discussions and fosters productive exchanges. Foram aims to fill this gap by offering a web application that allows users to create and join dedicated rooms for specific study or work-related topics, thereby promoting organized and meaningful interactions.

**Literature Review**

The need for structured online environments for discussion and collaboration is well-documented in the literature. Traditional online forums and social media platforms, while popular, often fall short in providing a focused, topic-centric space for academic and professional discourse.

1. **Fragmentation of Online Discourse**Research indicates that the proliferation of platforms like Reddit and Facebook has led to fragmented discussions, where users struggle to locate relevant conversations (Smith et al., 2020). This fragmentation detracts from meaningful engagement and diminishes the quality of interactions, especially in academic and professional contexts.
2. **Impact of Content Overload**Studies show that content overload on platforms such as Twitter and LinkedIn can overwhelm users, resulting in disengagement and decreased productivity (Jones & Lee, 2019). Users often sift through unrelated posts, wasting time and impeding the clarity and focus necessary for effective collaboration.
3. **Need for Topic-Specific Engagement**The importance of structured, topic-based discussions is emphasized in various studies, suggesting that platforms like Quora and Discord provide benefits when conversations are organized around specific themes. Such frameworks facilitate deeper understanding and enhance the quality of exchanges.
4. **User Experience and Navigation Challenges**Literature shows that navigation difficulties in online platforms, including forums like Stack Exchange, can significantly hinder user experience. A lack of clear categorization and organization leads to frustration, making it essential for platforms to implement intuitive design and topic-specific rooms.
5. **Benefits of Dedicated Discussion Rooms**Evidence suggests that platforms offering dedicated discussion rooms, such as Slack and Microsoft Teams, can improve user engagement and collaboration. These rooms provide a focused environment, allowing users to connect with like-minded individuals and engage in productive conversations that meet their specific needs.
6. **Technological Solutions for Enhanced Interaction**The integration of technology to create structured, focused discussions is increasingly recognized as vital for enhancing user interaction. Innovations in user interface design and algorithms that prioritize relevant content, as seen in platforms like Notion and Trello, can significantly improve the effectiveness of online collaborative environments.

This literature review explores the challenges of current platforms and examines the benefits of structured, topic-based discussion environments, providing a foundation for understanding the need for a web application like Foram.

### **Objectives**

1. **To Create a Structured Discussion Platform for Focused Topics :** Provide users with a platform for organized conversations related to specific study or work topics, ensuring relevant and productive interactions.
2. **To Enhance User Navigation and Content Discovery :** Implement an intuitive categorization system that allows users to easily browse and find discussions based on their interests.
3. **To Foster Collaborative Engagement :** Enable users to create and join dedicated rooms for collaborative projects or study groups, facilitating real-time communication and resource sharing.
4. **To Ensure a User-Friendly Experience :** Design an easy-to-use interface that simplifies user onboarding and encourages active participation in discussions.
5. **To Implement Robust Moderation Tools :** Develop role-based access controls that allow moderators to oversee discussions, ensuring a respectful environment and high-quality interactions.
6. **To Provide Secure User Authentication and Profile Management :** Integrate secure authentication methods and allow users to manage their profiles and preferences for a personalized experience.

### **Methodology**

The Foram project will be developed using the following methodology:

1. **Requirements Gathering**:
   * Identify the core functionalities of the application: user registration, topic-based room creation, real-time chat, and user profile management.
   * Conduct user surveys and research to determine user expectations regarding structured discussions and collaborative tools.
2. **Design Phase**:
   * UI/UX Design:
     + Design a responsive and intuitive user interface that facilitates easy navigation between rooms and discussions.
     + Utilize a modern design framework to ensure consistency across different devices, focusing on usability for both desktop and mobile users.
   * **Database Schema Design**:
     + Design a SQLite schema to manage user data, room information, and chat messages.
     + Structure the database to efficiently support topic categorization.
3. **Development**:
   * Frontend Development (Django + HTML/CSS/JavaScript):
     + Use Django templates along with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to create a dynamic and user-friendly interface.
   * Backend Development (Django):
     + Set up a RESTful API using Django Rest Framework to handle user authentication, room management, and chat functionalities.
     + Implement user authentication using Django's built-in authentication system and manage user sessions securely.
   * Database (SQLite):
     + Store user information, room details, and chat logs in a PostgreSQL database.
     + Organize data into tables for efficient retrieval and scalability.
4. **Testing**:
   * Perform unit and integration testing on individual components using tools like Pytest and Django's testing framework.
   * Conduct load testing to ensure the application can handle multiple concurrent users and maintain performance during peak usage.
   * Perform user acceptance testing (UAT) to gather feedback on the UI and chat features, ensuring they meet user needs.
5. **Deployment and Maintenance**:
   * Deploy the application on a cloud platform such as AWS or Heroku for scalability and accessibility.
   * Use CI/CD pipelines for continuous updates, bug fixes, and feature enhancements.
   * Monitor application performance and user engagement to optimize server resources and improve user experience.

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