

The Mememaster Web Service

Features that had to be compromised on:

Searching:

The search functionality of Parse.com was a gigantic workaround. Because parse does not feature query commands such as "Like" wildcards "and" "or" etc.. We can only wind up with best fit searches. This means our search is able to match individual words in a string in any order, and by amazing savvy we are able to even do exclusions.. but nothing more complex than that.

Instant page loading:

Since the pages are rendered and then assembled in javascript dynamically we don't have anything like the speed you would see on professional sites where they have a server back end compiling new pages dynamically.

Remote URL uploads:

Remote url uploads are done with ajax get requests and because of security, or specifically Access-Control-Allow-Origin policies, unless the response contains a header that allows access outside of their domain, we are restricted from grabbing the images as blobs to be stored on our database. We could just grab the url and display that, but it would severely degrade the integrity of our code. We'd have to create special exceptions for certain types of entries that may or may not have local files.. and then it would make the entire reason we put together thumbnails of files uploaded pointless. Loading times would have to come to a crawl for whatever URL is being fetched while our local stuff would be up much quicker... making our site seem slower than it deserves. So in the mean time, the uploader shows what the visual elements would look like, but it does not actually upload.

Favorites:

Because Parse does not understand unique keys (that aren't objectId's), we had to leave this one out. It would be very easy for a user to visit a gallery they favorited but forgot that they did so.. and then favorite again.. and again.. and again. Until they have a folder filled with tons of favorites that are the same gallery. Until we're using a database with a more robust system, this one seemed like it was more trouble than it was worth to do correctly. It might be possible doing Parse.Cloud.beforeSave, but this functionality will likely have to come later.

Help page:

This one didn't make the cut because didn't have the time. That's about it.

Trending Page:

The trending page was merged with the index page as they both fit the same concept. There really wasn't much of a reason to keep both. It just seemed like more work than necessary.

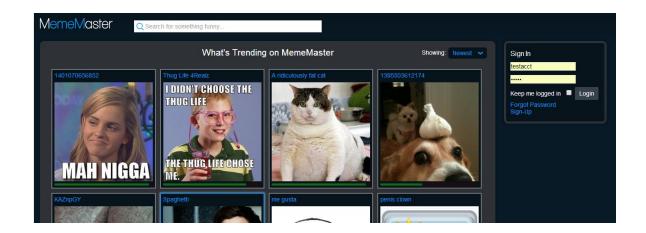
User Page:

While the user page has much of the functionality required, such as avatars, account stats, and etc. In keeping with the essential functions of our site, we decided to omit those until a later version. While user accounts have entries and fields for various other items, right now the only entries being utilized are username and password.

Features that made it!

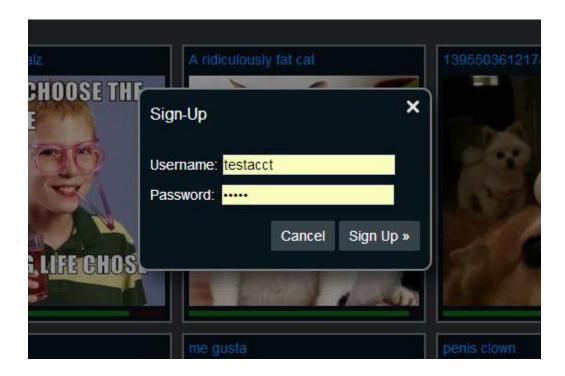
And how they work

The Index Page



Our index page is laid out very simply when the user is not logged in. You have the choice of browsing memes by trending status. You can search memes, you can sign in, and you can sign-up. Right now the "keep me logged in" and "forgot password" features do nothing as we have no cookie support and no means of doing e-mail prompts. It's also worth mentioning that once you have an account a NSFW filter pops up on the front page. The front page is NSFW filtered by default without a login, however if you have an account you can get the good stuff.

Signing Up



Signing up is presented to the user as a modal. We don't ask for e-mails, and probably never will. So if you lose your password.. tough. Luckily almost all account names are available even 1234!

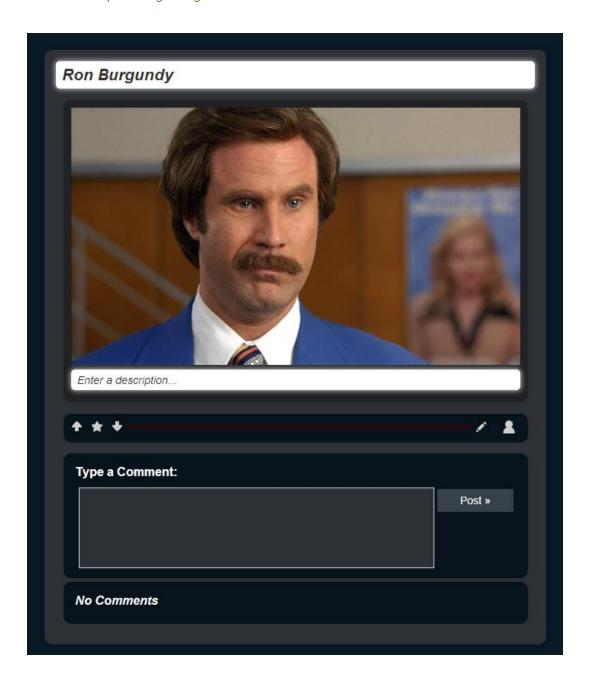
Your home page



Once you're signed in you still have a view of the trending memes, albeit a much more drawn back experience. there is possibility to expand on the presentation of the trending memes by adding a javascript scrollbar, but time has become a constraint. However the trending memes are much smaller than your own memes. The user is also given a clear view of the memes that they've uploaded which are public and private. We've done this for instances where the user may not feel like sharing what they've submitted at all, or just haven't edited the content of the page to a point where they're comfortable with sharing it.

The Meme Page

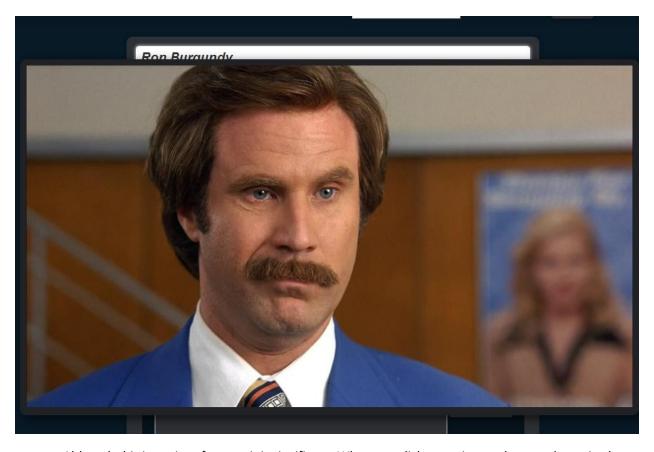
Your private garbage



On the meme page there's 2 very distinct pages. The public page, and the private (only viewable by owner) page. In this page the title & description of the picture is editable. And if you hit the pencil icon it'll save those changes. If you click on the little icon shaped like a person it'll turn into 3 people when you hover over it.. this is to signify that the gallery will be viewable by everyone. It's also worth mentioning that when a meme page is private it can't be commented or rated on.

The Meme Page

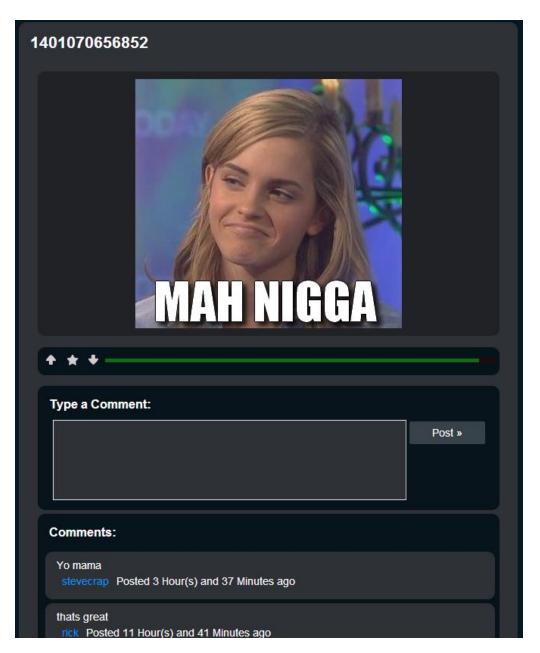
A closer look



Although this is a minor feature, it is significant. When you click on an image that may be resized to fit in our page. It'll be opened into a larger modal view which can be viewed at a much higher resolution. However we had to draw the line at 1000px in width. After that you might as well just open it up in a new tab, as it would just make our page unviewable.

The Meme Page

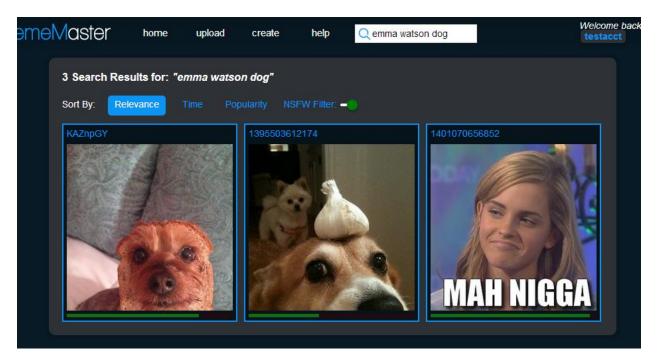
The Internet's Toilet



When a gallery is public it can be voted on and commented on. The votes & comments are polled and update live (or as live as a 5 second interval can be). This page is not owned by the viewer thus they cannot take the page private to edit it. The future moderators of our site can be notified of inappropriate comments and those can be removed but do to the limited financial resources we have at our disposal currently what ever goes up stays up.

The Search Page

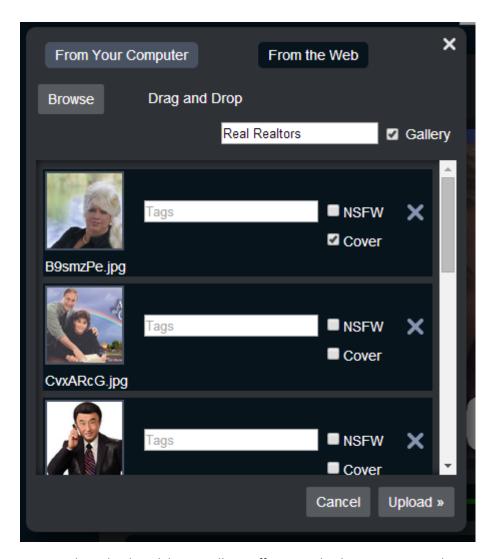
Witty subcaption!



The search page is pretty much what you would expect. You can search based on a string and our search engine looks through a series of arrays that contain tags & titles. In this case we looked through tags and these are the results we got. We can also hit the NSFW Filter and it may or may not have more results depending on whether there's any NSFW results found in the query we're just not displaying. Sorting by relevance is essentially unsorted, sorting by time sorts by time and popularity sorts by likes (which means having 1 like out of 1 vote doesn't mean you have 100% popularity... I hate cooked ratings).

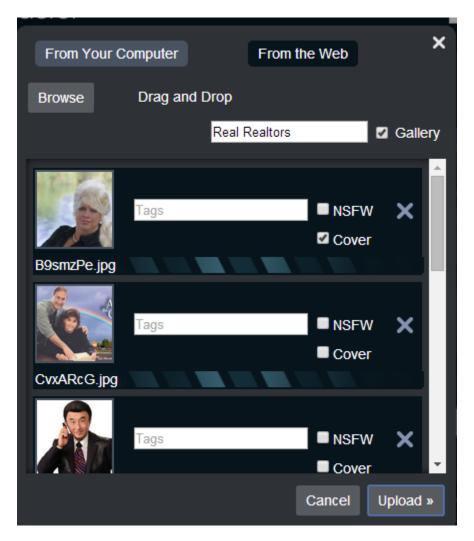
The Upload Modal

aka The Workhorse



The upload modal was really an effort to make data entry as simple as possible. You can browse for images on your computer and multi-select. You can delete images from our modal and add more later from a second dip into browse.. or a third.. etc.

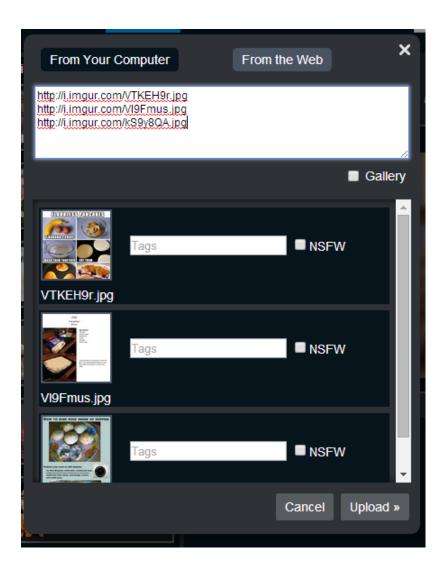
If you select gallery all images are uploaded into a single meme gallery. If you don't each image is uploaded into an individual meme gallery and the title is derived from the filename.. Of course you can change this later so no worries. If in gallery mode the tags are all combined and used as tags for the gallery. If not in gallery mode each image has individual tags. You can also select which image you want as the cover of your gallery.. or don't select a picture and we'll pick for you! The cover option however is not available for non-gallery mode, as each image is assumed to be it's own cover. Finally NSFW, in gallery mode if you select any picture as NSFW, the entire gallery is NSFW. As you'd expect the NSFW in non-gallery mode only applies to the individual image.



When you're uploading a little gif pops up while each picture is being evaluated, uploaded, and etc. to let you know we're actually working. Images will disappear from the que at random as they're uploaded until everything is gone and you either are redirected to your new gallery, or you're redirected to your homepage to see your new memes. I should also mention that this uploader also resizes the pictures submitted to 300x300 pixels to be used as thumbnails for each image entry. This also strips the first frame from gifs. This was done because we noticed the severe load time involved in rendering large images just on landing pages and homepages. Even before the user has committed to showing interest in viewing these images they're forced to wait what could easily reach 10 to 30 seconds for a gif they had no interest in looking at... or some ridiculously high res picture. Although resizing comes at the price of a slightly longer uploading time (literally just like 0.5 seconds per picture, the resizing is usually done & uploaded to the database before the original is), it is worth it in the long run when you consider how many times these pictures may be viewed.

The Upload Modal

Almost finished..

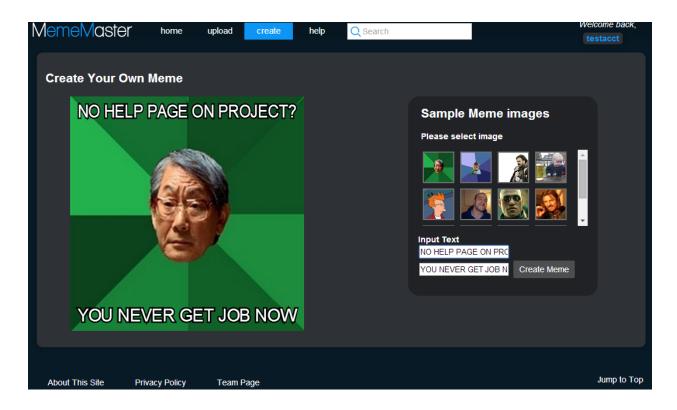


We also threw in functionality for uploading from external URL's. In this page the user is given a display of the images they're typing the urls in as they type them in. We wait until the url is actually valid before rendering it, just so we don't have a bunch of empty boxes. You'll notice the X's on the side of the files are missing. because it should be easier to just delete the URL.. but hey if it's difficult let us know and we'll add the X back and do it for you.

UNFORTUNATELY! We cannot actually add the external URL's. As listed in the compromised features, we cannot grab the files from these urls without security issues. Some pages work with this feature, but many,many,many do not. The feature would only work on a handful of sites, causing a lot of pain. So we left it out unfortunately.

The MemeCreator Page

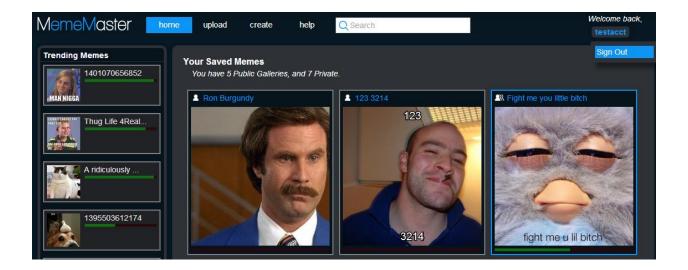
It's like littering for the internet!



Our meme creator page has several images hard-coded in so the user can create their own meme. The page allows the user to only put text on at this moment. Once the user is done they can hit Create Meme and the file will be whisked away off to our database as a file and stored with the rest of their memes. By default the title & tags for this meme are the contents you write in, and the gallery is of course private. The title, description, public attribute are editable just like every other gallery.

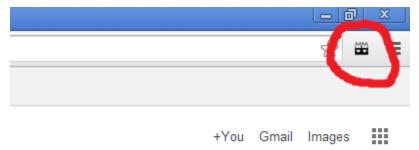
Welcome to MemeMaster

Now git out

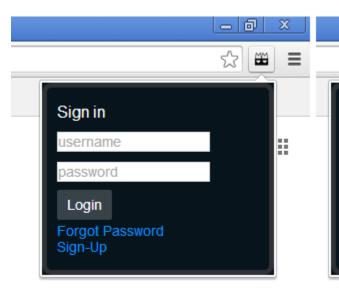


Once you're done making our clean site a more horrible place, signing out is real easy.. it's on every page even. There are more features and menu options to be added regarding the user's account. However at this time the user's information simply consists of a password and a username. So there's not a whole lot to build on top of. There's avatar functionality, however in trying to keep the core functions of the website in higher priority the user page functions were cut until a later version.

Google Chrome Extension



After installing the extension the user, the extension's icon will appear in the top right corner of the browser. The user should then click on the icon in order to log into their Meme Master account. The user will also be able to sign up for an account if they don't have one.



A user must sign in in order to fully use the extension. After signing in a user can go to any website and right click on an image they want to store into their Meme Master.



After selecting the option to add to their Meme Master a user will be prompted with a new window with the ability to add a title, tags, and a description of the image they want to add. For ease of annoyance the user can simply change back to their previous window and the MemeMaster window will automatically close itself and store the image.

