Outliner

Jeffrey Ricker
@rickerje on GitHub

Description

For some writers of fiction, creating an outline of their book can be a contentious step. Some bypass it entirely, but it is a document that is often requested by agents and editors.

Outliner is a Web-based app for users to outline plot-centered novels in an accessible fill-in-the-blank format. It allows users to build their outline step by step, adding characters and scenes, and then export to a convenient file format of their choosing.

Features

- Any person with an email address can create an account and use the application.
- Users can create and modify one or several outlines as needed.
- Users will be able to export their outlines in one or more file formats. (To Come)

Planning - User Stories

Users can create an account with an email address and a user-created password.

Users can give their outline a title.

Users can modify their outline title as needed.

Users can delete one or all of their outlines entirely.

Users can add characters to their existing outline(s).

Planning - Database

Model classes:

- User

- Outline

- Character

- Scene

Technology Stack

- C#
- ASP.NET Core 2.1
- Razor templates
- MySQL database
- Bootstrap CSS

Demo

What I Learned

- ASP.Net Core's Identity system for managing user account creation and modification
- Accessing and modifying Identity views and models by scaffolding items from the Razor Class Library into the web app
- Writing SQL in my model controllers to create relationships between my different models: User, Outline, Character, and (to come) Scene)

What's Next

- Refine the user experience flow and add contextual help (ex. What is an inciting incident? How long should the first act be?)
- Export: Word, PDF, Google Doc are the three baseline formats; others are possible (CSV or Excel if users wish to manipulate as a spreadsheet; and possibly a file format compatible with Scrivener, a common manuscript management tool)
- Using external authentication to create an account (Google authentication is the most obvious example)