Encourage Team Participation – DisQuss

Minor Project

IBM Career Education

Disclaimer

This Software Requirements Specification document is a guideline. The document details all the high level requirements. The document also describes the broad scope of the project. While developing the solution if the developer has a valid point to add more details being within the scope specified then it can be accommodated after consultation with IBM designated Mentor.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to define scope and requirements of a Simple Discussion tool engaging with your departmental teams on topics that require team's input and mandate for arriving at a decision. The proposed system will allow the managers to post a topic of discussion and invite team to participate by responding to the topic online via DisQuss tool on intranet. This collaboration tool is expected to provide:

1. A very simple clutter free user interface.
2. Quick and easy tool to encourage team participation by inviting them to engage in a discussion on a topic of importance.
3. Tool provides a simple discussion thread for easy comprehension for the participants.

This document is the primary input to the development team to architect a solution for this project.

System Users

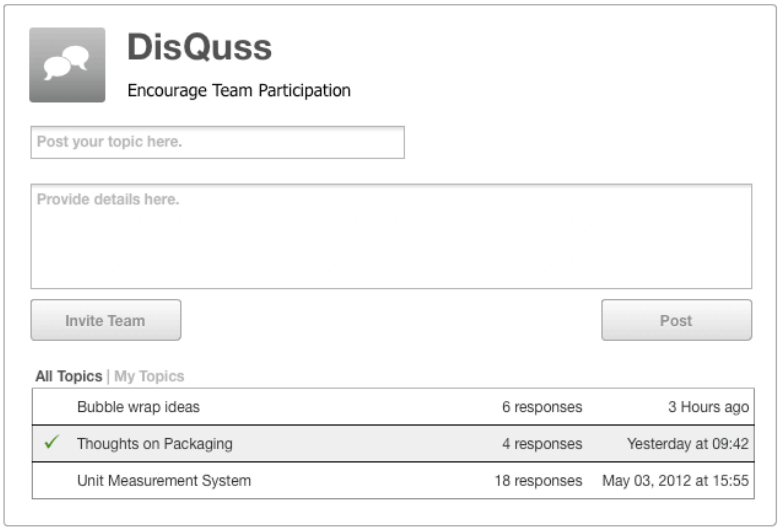
The employees at all levels of the automobile company are expected to leverage the DisQuss tool for engaging team members to discuss on various topics.

Assumptions

1. DisQuss will be integrated with the automobile company's collaboration section of their intranet.
2. The employee's registration is assumed, thus employee's entries will be made from backend.
3. A full-fledged discussion tool helps the discussion take two directions i.e. for and against the topic. The owner of the discussion topics makes decisions based on both types of viewpoint. For this project, we are considering only one thread to reduce the complexity.
4. A user-posting topic for discussion can invite own department team members only. Thus, the system will maintain department master and employee records with their respective departments.

REQUIREMENTS

DisQuss tool will allow employees to post topics and select team members to. The user interface for the same is outlined in layout.



The tool displays the landing page with text box to write a brief topic and details of the topic. Select the team members from the pick list of the logged in user's department. Multiple select is provided. The 'Post' button submits the Topic to the selected team members. The lower section of the page has two tabs, 'All topics' tab displays list of topics being discussed within the department. 'My Topics' displays the list of topics being participated on of the logged in user.

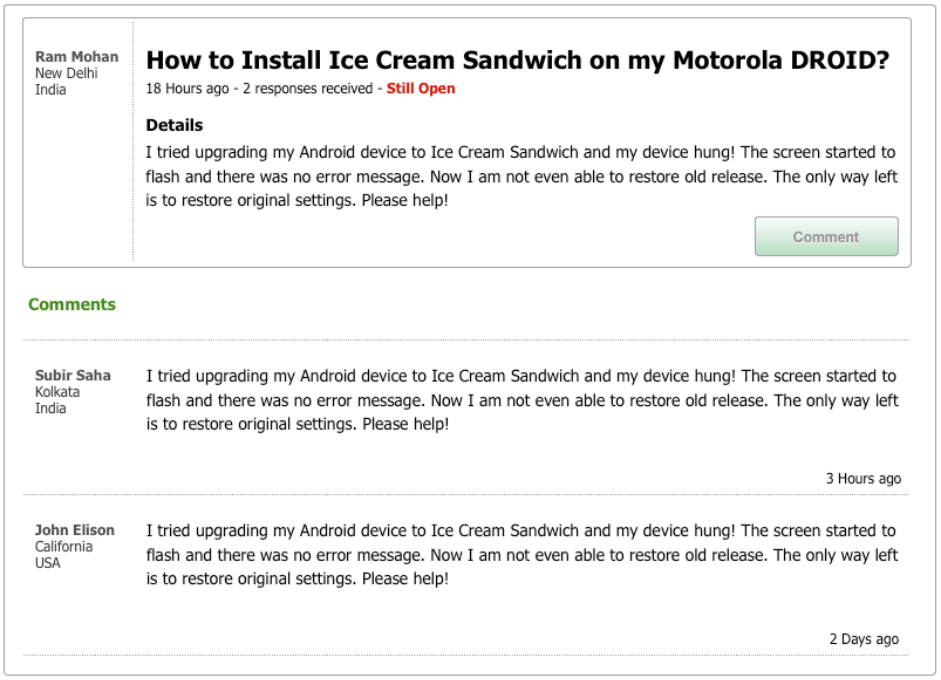
The topics are displayed with a status of Closed [Ticked]. Each topic entry displays the number of responses received and the date-time stamp of the topic posted. Users may choose to respond on this screen or browse through the list of topics and respond to an open topic if they have been invited to participate.

Post a Topic

The text box on the main screen displaying 'Post your topic here' prompts the user to write a topic in brief. The user will be able to enter the topic details in the text box below. Upon click of Post button, the topic will immediately appear below the text box in a list of topics posted as shown in the above figure. The topic posted will display date time stamp.

Participate in a Discussion

Invited users view the topics posted and have not been closed. User can open a topic to respond by clicking on it. This displays the following screen.



The screen will have two sections; the top section displays the topic and provides a text box for the user to post the discussion comment and click on 'Comment' button to finally submit it.

The second section displays the list of discussion entries in a chronological order with latest being on top, already received along with their status as reviewed by the owner of the topic. Each discussion entry is displayed in a separate row; the left column of the discussion row displays the Name of the participant.

The response that is considered to be the ultimate input for the topic is displayed with Tick mark.

Review Discussion Thread

The topic owner can view his/her own topics in the tab 'My topics'. The topic remains open to participation till the discussion is marked as Closed. Click on a Topic to view the linear discussion thread. The view screen will display each discussion entry. Please note that "Close Topic" button is visible to the owner of the Topic.

Saving Changes

The tool will save all the changes in the back-end database by clicking on a "Post" button or "Comment" button or "Close Topic" during activities like Posting a topic, participating on a topic and reviewing of a discussion thread.

DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

DisQuss will be developed as a web application using Java/JSP and DB2 database. Eclipse will be used as the IDE for the same. You may consider using a JavaScript framework like jQuery/Prototype/ Scriptaculous.