Specification

# Functional Specification

## Overview

myDebate is a service that allows users to participate in a democratic debate or discussion - to achieve a goal of agreement on a particular subject.

The system forces users to vote on a goal at the end of each time period (which is **10 minutes** by default). The goal (usually an issue that must be debated) is specified when the conference room is created. If all (or a specified proportion) of the participants agree when the vote is cast, then the goal has been achieved and the conference can be ended. Otherwise, the discussion continues for another period.

## User Stories/Scenarios

The user stories or scenarios specified in this specification will help to define how users interact with the system.

### Scenario 1: Jimmy

Jimmy is an 18-year-old college student in London, studying the arts, and has a keen interest in computers. Jimmy is a participant in a number of online communities, where he often has heated dicussions, supporting his views on his choice of operating system – Mac OS X. Jimmy enjoys making fun of people that use Microsoft Windows or Linux, and often gets himself into arguments in forums or message boards over the subject.

## Flowchart

This flow chart gives a high-level overview of how the user interacts with the system, and vice-versa.



## Functional Requirements

1. The system should have a web-accessible interface
2. The system should allow users to login and logout
3. The system should present users with a list of available conferences
4. The system should allow users to enter a conference, and chat with others in that room in near-real time. This requires the user to be logged-in.
5. The system should allow users to see who else is in the conference
6. The system should allow users to leave a conference, and return to the list of available rooms
7. The conference system should use an asynchronous method of communication (i.e. the page should not refresh when a new message is available.
8. The system should allow users to sign-up for a user account.
   1. Users must choose a username and password
   2. Users must enter their email address
   3. The system should send the user an email, which includes a link that the user must click in order to “activate” their account
   4. Before the user has clicked the link in their email, the account should be inactive - so the user cannot login
9. Users should be able to change their password.
10. Users should be able to change their email address.
11. Users should have a profile, containing their personal information shared with other users.
12. Users should be able to edit the information in their profile.
13. Users should be able to create conferences.
14. When a conference is created, it should not be published immediately - instead residing in a private area until the user chooses to “publish” it and allow other users to join.
15. Users should be able to edit conferences in their private area, before they are “published”.
16. Users should be able to delete conferences in their private are, before they are “published”.
17. Once a conference is “published”, it should not be editable or removable.
18. The system should require users to input a “poll” when creating a conference. This should represent the “objective” of the conference - all members should agree on the issue named in the poll.
19. The system should allow users to choose the length of the “period” when creating a conference (a default value of 10 minutes should be provided).
20. The system should switch to a vote at the end of each specified time period.
21. When in the voting mode, users should not be able to enter messages in the conference. Everyone is required to vote on the poll specified at creation time.
    1. If all members in the conference agree, then the conference can be officially called finished - and the objective achieved (this should be decided by a vote).
    2. If all the members do not agree, another period is entered to try and resolve the disagreement. At the end of each period, the voting mode is entered again.

## Non-Functional Requirements

1. The web interface should be accessible from any platform, using either of four main browsers - Firefox, Google Chrome, Internet Explorer and Opera
2. The system should be secure in that unauthenticated users cannot access conferences
3. The system should be available
4. The system should respond to requests in a reasonable time period