

Infact

A Social Media improved upon volunteer-based crowd sourced fact
checking

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1 Abstract

Mass social network platforms are highly prone to fallacious contents which can deteriorate the society. A good example of this could be the recent Whatsapp lynchings due to spread of provoking messages. We wish to create a platform which handles this problem using volunteer-based crowd sourcing.

2 Broad Goal

We would be creating a **web application** (*and if time permits an app compatible with both android and iOS using flutter framework*) which would be a **social networking platform consisting of only articles as posts**. What makes this application unique is that the articles posted here are **fact checked by volunteers, with the help of centralized admins**.

The broad goal of this project is to create a platform to route the articles to be fact-checked to volunteer users in the backend and to make these articles available for Public (*users other than volunteers and admins*) giving a flavour of social networking sites. This ensures the validity of the articles read by the users unlike any other platforms.

3 Functionalities

Some of the major functionalities provided are as follows :

- Different Login interfaces for Admin and Public. The volunteers will be among the public who have all the resources the general public has, plus they have special privileges to validate the articles. Any general public can become a volunteer by consent from the Admins.
- Route the articles acquired from a source to the appropriate volunteers based on their language expertise, genre of the articles they wish to review and their rating.
- After a volunteer does the fact checking and enters their conclusions, the result will be routed to other appropriate volunteers based on their rating for further checking with a constraint that who checks in late will get the further-checking task.
- Rating system for volunteers based on their responses on the articles. True positive and true negative cases will increase their rating where as false negatives and false positives will a decrease.

4 Roles

We have three different roles in total namely Admin, Volunteer and Public. Respective roles are as follows:

4.1 Admin

- Admins are the main source of articles to be crowd sourced by the volunteers.
- Admin can post articles and they will be given higher priority during verification by the volunteers.
- Only admin has the power to recruit/fire volunteers and create new admins.
- Make decisions for articles with no proper orientation of correctness from volunteers

4.2 Public

- Enjoy the verified content provided and can apply for volunteers (*processed by admins*)
- Can post articles themselves also.

4.3 Volunteer

- Volunteer provides article verification and optionally comments possible edits to make the article correct.
- Upon correct verification their rating increases. But if rating drops down below a threshold they are fired and become normal users (Public).

5 Interfaces

We have divided the interfaces into two major categories namely Public/Volunteer and Admin interface. The brief description of the interfaces are as follows :

5.1 Public/Volunteers

5.1.1 Log-in Interface

- For login to their accounts by email. Users and Volunteers share the same login.
- Has ‘Create Account’ option for new Users. New Users will be asked their interested preferences for feed if any.

5.1.2 Specifics

- Details
 - Contains user details like email, phone number, feed preferences.
- Post Related
 - Interface to write articles and tag them to corresponding genres (sent to volunteers for verification)

5.1.3 Volunteer Related

If User is also a volunteer :

- Interface where he sees a list of articles which he has to approve, where he can label articles as fallacious or correct, also comment on reasons for fallacy.

If User isn't a volunteer :

- Interface where the user can apply for volunteer, where he needs to fill additional details like qualification and expertise

5.2 Admin

- Log-in Interface for admin
- Interface for uploading articles
- Interface to select volunteers and make new admins

5.3 ER Diagram

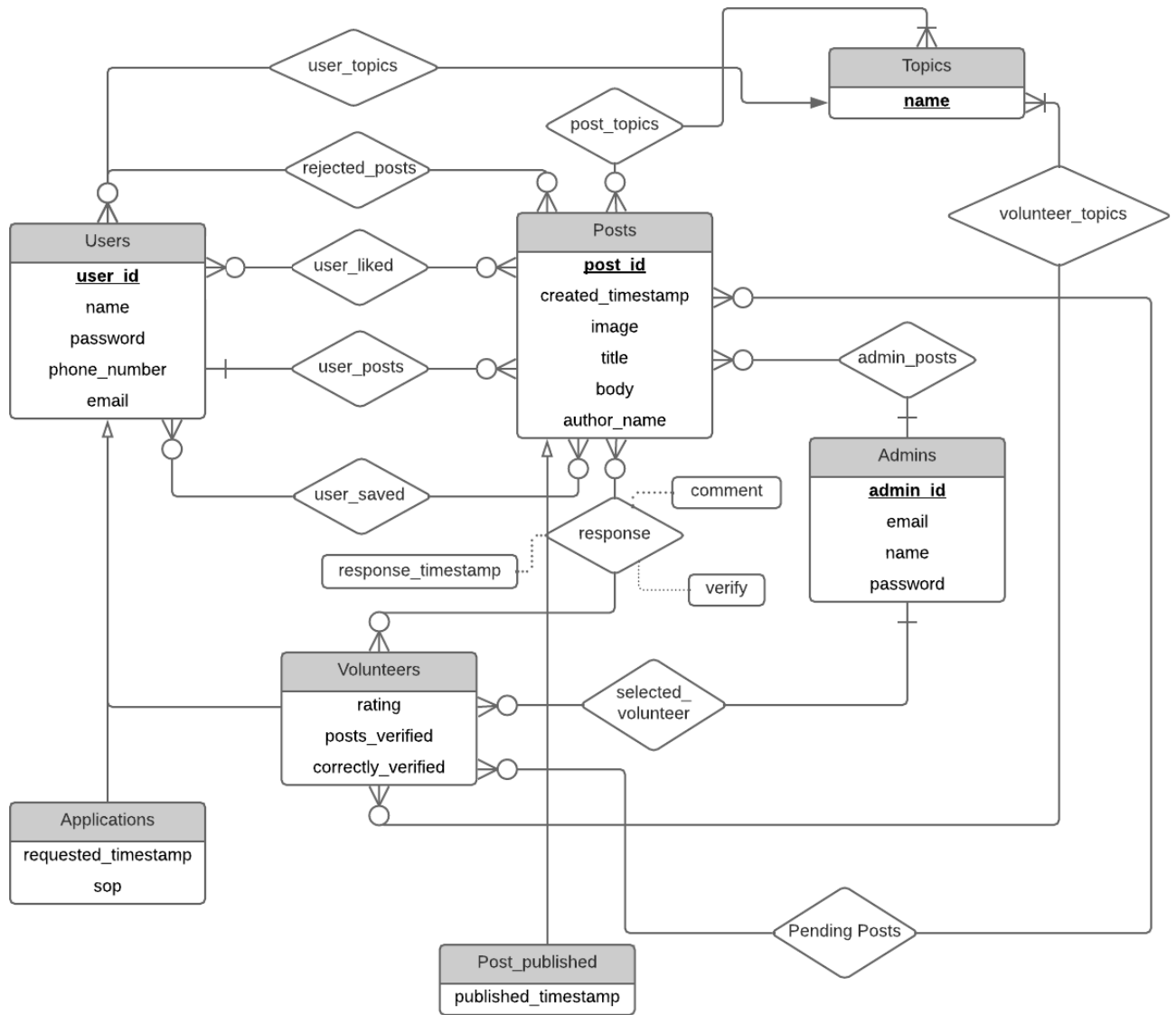


Figure 1: ER Diagram

5.4 Table Design

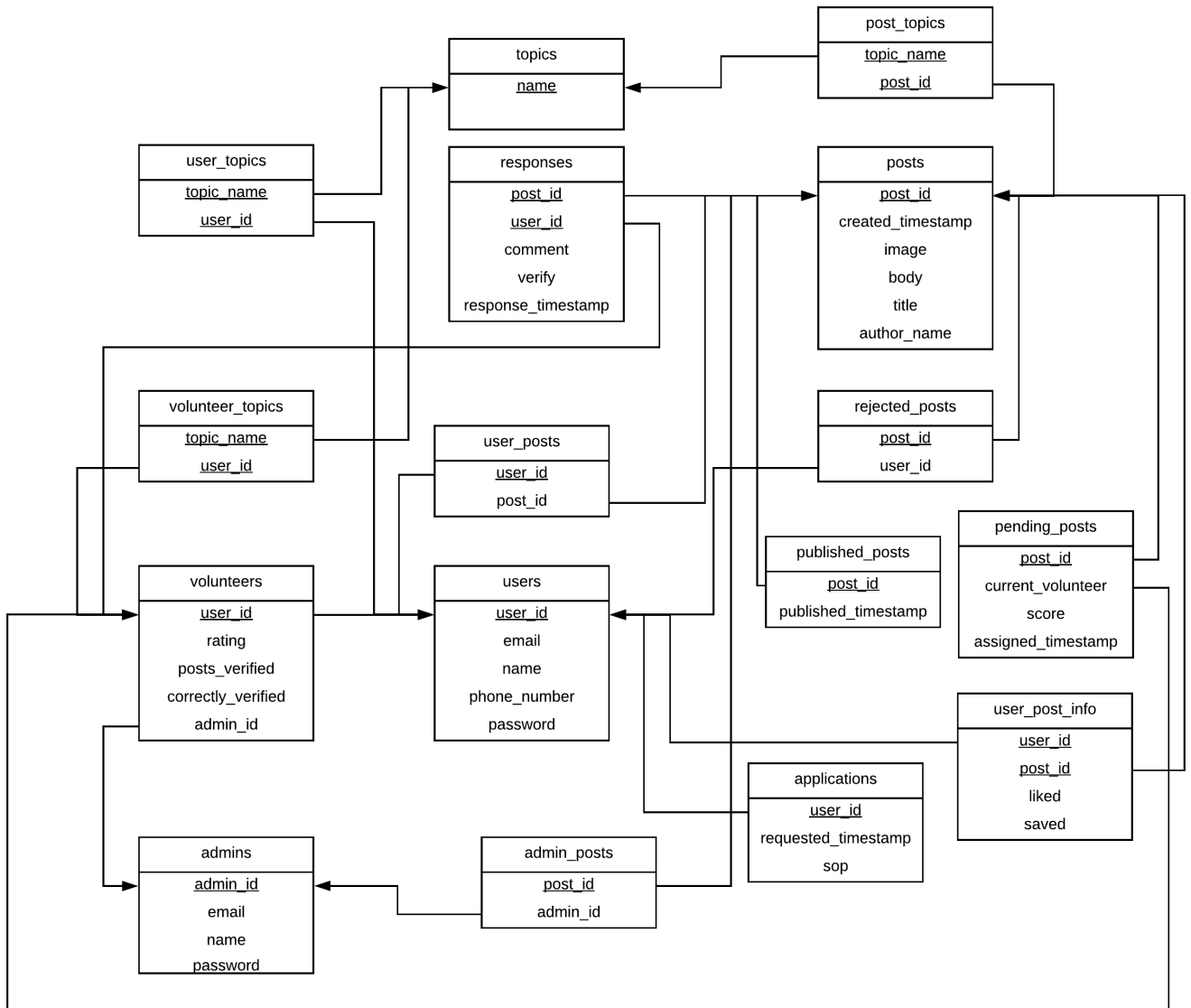


Figure 2: Table design