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Debate Forum

Project Backlog

PROBLEM STATEMENT

There are many places online where people can debate over a varying array of topics, but rarely are they heavily moderated to maintain a mature and educational debate environment. This project aims to fulfill that need.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We are trying to resolve the problem of uneducated and inappropriate debates being held over the internet. This is an issue—especially in anonymous environments—that is pervasive throughout the internet. There are many places where users can chat endlessly and about any topic, but rarely are they intensely moderated for fairness in debate-type circumstances. This is especially prevalent in the year 2016, as it is an election year. We would like to provide a place where users can display their opinion, get opinions from others, and see how many users agree with each viewpoint, all without fear of the conversation turning into uneducated rants.

ENVIRONMENT

Java will be used to build the main functionality of the application. The java code will call on a PHP script that will exist server-side. This would allow us to insert and query data from the MySQL database. The front-end of the application will primarily be built on the Java AWT and Swing libraries.

FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

ID	Requirement	Hours
1	As a user, I would like to be able to log in to the application	4
2	As a user, I would like to be able to view the discussion thread	5
3	As a user, I would like to create an account	5
4	As a user, I would like to sync my account across different platforms	4
5	As a user, I would like robust encryption to keep my data secure	5
6	As a user, I would like to contribute to discussions	3
7	As a user, I would like to create polls as a type of discussion post	7
8	As a user, I would like to be able to vote in polls	2
9	As a user, I would like to flag a comment for review by moderators	2
10	As a user, I would like the user interface to scale with the window size	6
11	As a user, I would like to see comments on threads updated on the page without refreshing manually	5
12	As a moderator, I would like to have all of the privileges and abilities of a user	1
13	As a moderator, I would like to be able to hide comments	2
14	As a moderator, I would like to be able to track reported comments	2
15	As a moderator, I would like to create debate topics	3
16	As a moderator, I would like to be able to ban malicious users and keep track of them	4
17	As a moderator, I would like to know the reporter of comments	1
18	As an admin, I would like to have all the privileges and abilities of a moderator	1
19	As an admin, I would like to be able to add moderators	5
20	As an Admin, I would like to be able to remove moderators	2
21	As an admin, I would like to be able to edit moderator decisions	2
22	As an admin, I would like to edit the rules page	2

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NONFUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

ID	Requirement
23	As a user, I would like to have an application that does not take up too many system resources
24	As a user, I would like to have an application that is responsive
25	As a user, I would like the application to be easy to use
26	As a user, I would like to not have redundant user interfaces
27	As a user, I would like quick recovery from application downtime
28	As a user, I would like the application to take up as little storage space as possible
29	As a user, I would like to have a clean and useable interface for the application

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USE CASES

Case: Log in

Action	System Response
1. Fill out username and password	
2. Click "Log in" button	3. Show a splash screen
	4. Display discussion screen with user credentials

Case: Signup new user

Action	System Response
1. Fill out the username	2. System checks if username already exists
3. Fill out password	
4. Type password again	5. System verifies that both passwords are the same
6. User clicks a "sign up" button	7. System creates initial profile and logs in user and displays discussion screen with user credentials

Case: Post a comment

Action	System Response
1. User enters text into text field	
2. User clicks the 'Submit Post' button	3. Comment is archived into the thread's discussion in the database. The comment is displayed in the thread's discussion log to all users. The comment text field is cleared of text.

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Case: Post a poll

Action	System Response
1. User clicks 'Add a poll' button to post	2. Interface displays text fields which correspond to title, option1, and option2.
3. User enters a title for the poll into a text field	
4. User enters first option for the poll in a text field	
5. User enters second option for the poll in a text field	
6. User clicks on 'Submit Post'	7. The post is submitted with a title and two option buttons for other users to interact with.

Case: Flag a comment

Action	System Response
1. Click on 'report' button beside a comment	2. The system stores the comment as flagged in database
	3. Shows dialogue box to user that comment has been reported.

Case: Hide a comment as a moderator or admin

Action	System Response
1. Click on "Hide" button beside comment	2. Confirmation dialogue appears
3. Click "yes" button	4. Comment disappears
	5. Show dialogue box to user confirming that comment has been hidden.

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Case: Create Debate Topic

Action	System Response
1. Click on debate topic	2. Opens Form prompting Title and date
3. Fill out Topic Title and the date	
4. Click ok	5. Enters title entry into database and displays confirmation dialogue to moderator/admin

Case: Ban Malicious Users

Action	System Response
1. Type in username to ban	
2. Click ban	3. System returns success status of action to moderator or admin

Case: Find reported comment as moderator or admin

Action	System Response
1. Moderator or admin clicks 'Reported' tab	2. GUI opens up a window with a list of all reported comments
3. Moderator or admin notes the comment ID number	
4. After taking care of the comment, moderator or admin clicks 'Unmark' next to the report	5. The reported comment is removed from the list of all reported comments

Case: Add moderator

Action	System Response
1. Type in username of user to upgrade to moderator	
2. Click "upgrade"	3. System returns success status of action to moderator or admin

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Case: Remove moderator

Action	System Response
1. Type in username of user to remove moderator privileges from	
2. Click "Revoke Moderator Privileges"	3. System returns success status of action to moderator or admin

Case: Undo moderator comment removal

Action	System Response
1. Click on "undo" button beside hidden comment	2. Confirmation dialogue appears
3. Click "yes" button	4. Post is shown
	5. Show dialogue box to user confirming that post has been restored

Case: Edit forum rules

Action	System Response
1. Click "rules" button	2. Show forum rules
3. Edit text box with rules	
4. User clicks "save" button	5. Save new rules to server