Assignment 5 ITMD 562 README

This document is the README for the fifth and final assignment of the class ITMD 562, Web Site App Development. The objective of this assignment was to create a fully functional web application for a real company, using our newly acquired knowledge of groovy and grails.

The submission consist of a folder, called LCM562, which contains the source code for the application, in addition to any css, javascript, images and any other files used. The bootstrap code used to provide a testing base for the application also includes some pdf files that are included in the submission too.

The development of this project was done using NetBeans IDE instead of Eclipse, as I already use NetBeans for a Java class and it was quicker to set up. Because of that, there is no target-eclipse folder, and there is also no .settings folder (which I guess is something Eclipse uses, but NetBeans doesn't).

Application

The application is made to be used by a company that specializes in repairing electrical equipment. This company generates reports, and the application is supposed to host those reports, allow user to log in on their accounts and retrieve the reports available to them. There are two kind of users: regular users (clients of LCM, the company), and admin users (LCM employees?).

Regular users only have access to the reports associated with the company they belong to once logged in on the application. Admin users have more powers to fiddle with the application: administrate users, adding, deleting and editing them, administrate the companies that are clients of LCM, and the locations on which LCM work for those companies, and of course administration of the reports generated by LCM, being able to add new reports, delete and edit existing ones, and view all the reports that exists in the application, no matter who they belong to (in contrast with clients, which can only see reports that are less than a year old).

Index page

The index page of the project is a heavily customized website that serves as the face of the application. It provides visitors with an overview of the company and what it does, while providing clients with a login link to access their account and a contact link to address emails to the company (currently with my address on it).

Once the user has logged in he will be returned to the index page and, depending on the security role associated with him, will have a series of links available.

For a regular user, just the 'Reports' link and the 'Logout' link will be displayed. Time constraints didn't allowed for a full customization of the web application, so a design choice was made to at least customize the view that was going to be most commonly used by clients, so the Reports link available to regular users links to a page that shows the client all the reports that he has access to, with links to download the .pdf file associated with them.

An admin user will have access to all the parts of the application, and links to 'Users', 'Companies', 'Locations' and 'Reports' will be shown. On each of them, the admin will be able to administrate each of those domain objects, being able to add new ones, or edit and delete existing ones. The 'Users' part is not part of the initial requirements, and was added as it was suggested that it would be needed in the future. There is also another feature that was not requested, which is that an admin can see all reports, regardless of company or date of publication, which in my opinion makes more sense from an admin perspective. All this pages use a slightly modified version of the default grails template, since it wasn't too bad for administrative tasks and it was preferred to improve the public facing part first. They can be improved if the application is ever taken to production, but since this is the part that is going to be more heavily used by our client (in this case, LCM), the design should be consulted with them first.

For the animation of the slides in the index page, a custom css file was used, called animate.css. The source is:

https://daneden.me/animate/

There is a copyright notice in the file, acknowledging ownership.

The graduate extension for this project was related to the reports view. Only reports less than a year old are shown (except for admin users), and if there are no reports, a message is displayed. Also, only reports for the user's company are shown (again, except for admin users), and those reports are organized by location and, inside each location, organized by date of publication.

Bootstrap data and access

Some initial data is created when the application is initialized. Three users are created:

- sampleUser: A regular user, whose company is 'testCompany'. It has a few locations associated, and a few reports. The username/password combination is: sampleUser/correcthorsebatterystaple
- admin: An admin user, whose company is 'LCM'. It also has a few locations and reports, but since he is an admin user, he has access to every one of them. The username/password combination, in this case, is: admin/secret
- noreports: A regular user, whose company is 'companyNoReports', It doesn't have any location nor reports associated to it. This user is there to test the message when no reports are available. The username/password is: noreports/noreports.

Real World Application

I would like to be considered for the possibility of having the application used in the real world, and I agree with the conditions mentioned in the instructions.

Acknowledges

The password for the first sampleUser is a reference to a webcomic (just in case you don't know it and are wondering what is wrong with me):

http://xkcd.com/936/