Infact

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

Suraj Soni : 160050092
Sai Teja Talluri : 160050098
Chaithanya Naik : 160050102
Jagadeep Sai : 160050104

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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.

- If posts published has more negative response then it is stopped from circulation for verification and author is notified if possible to reevaluate and edit.

- 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.

- Users get the articles based on their selected preferences and also depending on the recently liked/read posts. They can also save their posts and view previously liked posts.

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 Feed Related

- Interface which list articles according to users interests, with option to *save for later*.

- Interface to read the selected article and option to like or dislike the article

5.1.3 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)

  - Interface to view the status of the published articles and comments why they weren't published, and option for edit and re-evaluate.

  - Has three tabs each navigating to
    * Posts posted, both pending posts and already published (pending displayed above).
    * Posts liked.
    * Posts saved to view later.

5.1.4 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's volunteer application is pending :

- Interface to withdraw application.

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 view responses and comments given by volunteers to the articles.
- Interface to select volunteers and make new admins
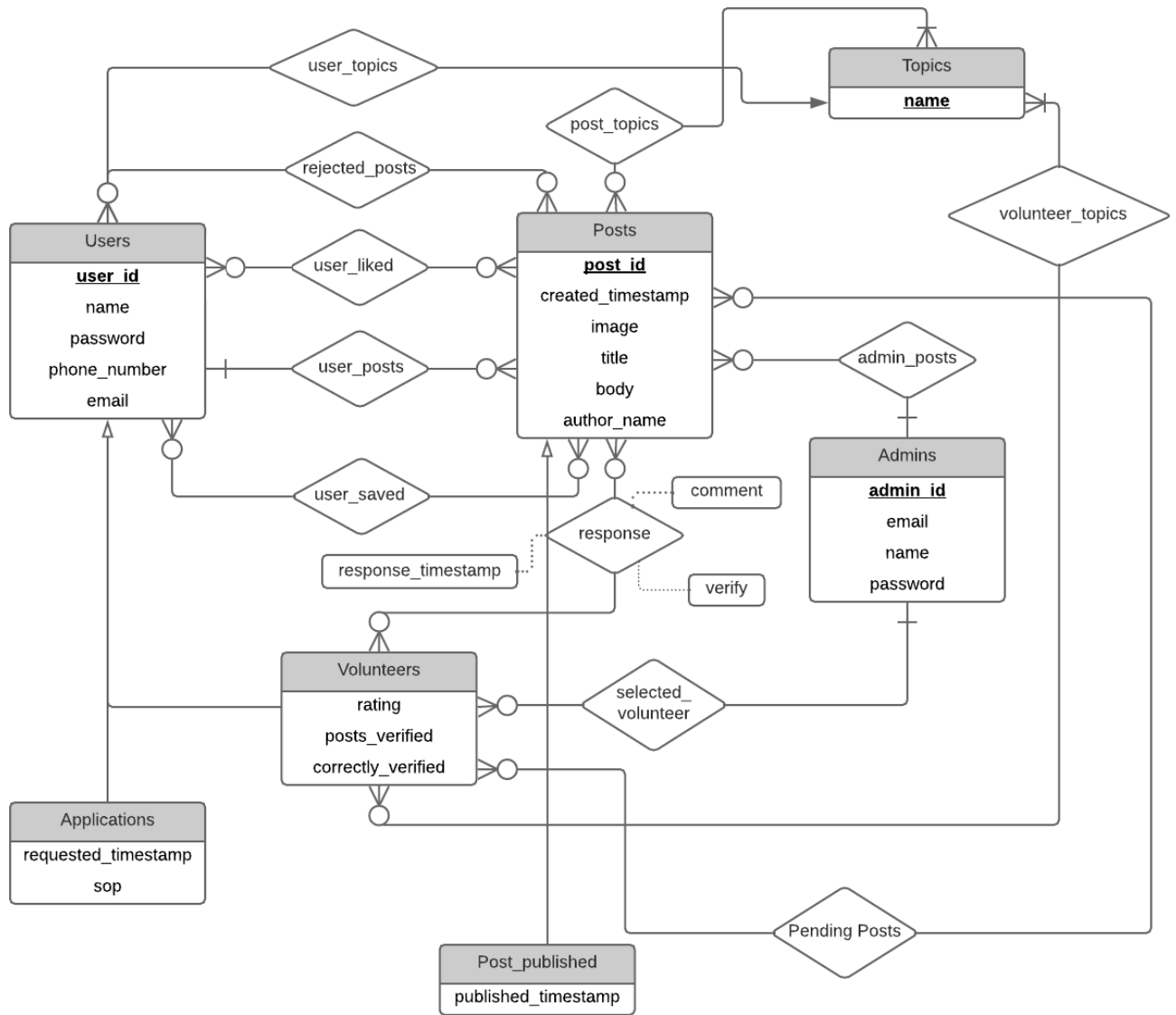
5.3 ER Diagram
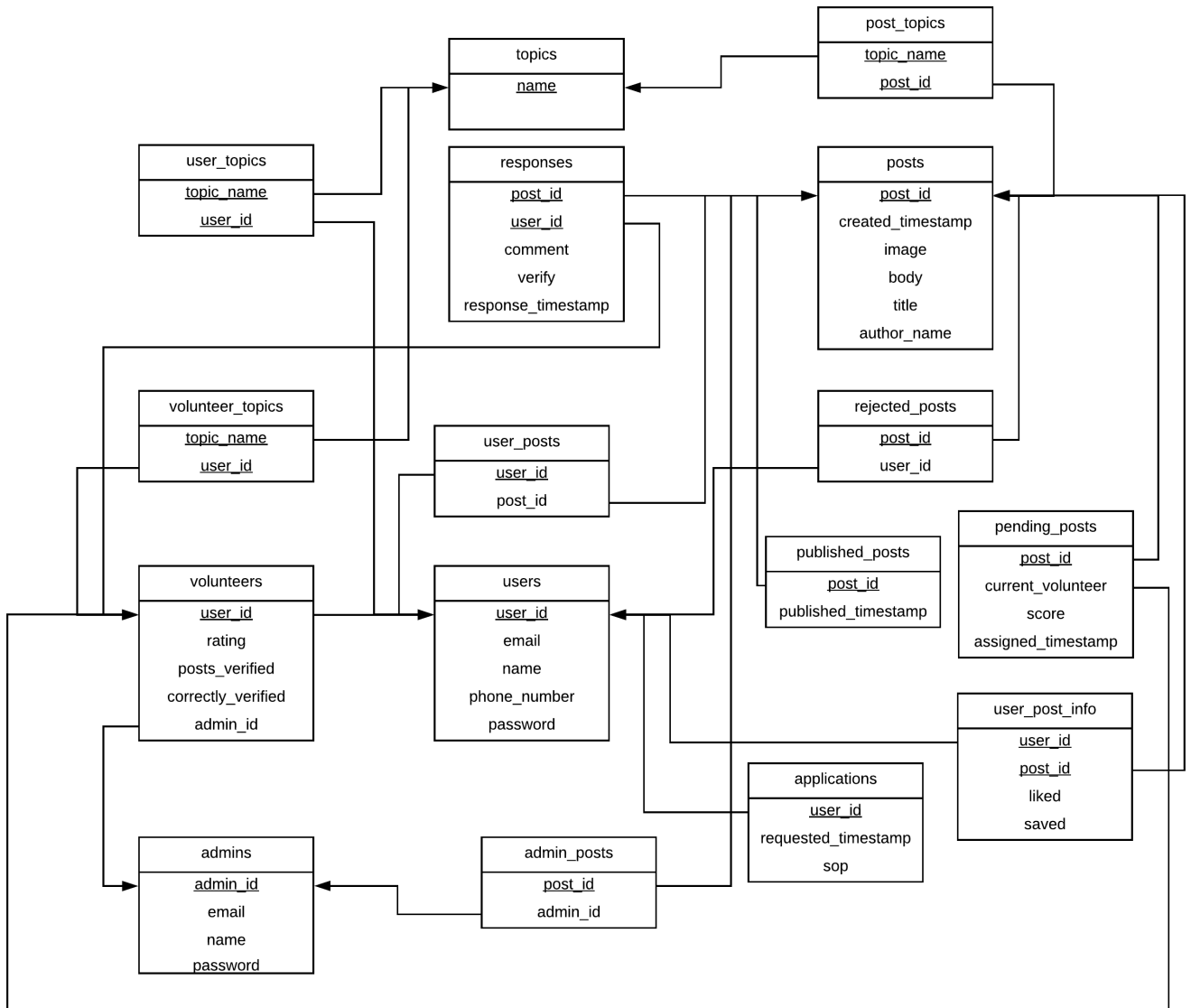

Figure 1: ER Diagram

5.4   Table Design

Figure 2: Table design