CVWO Final Submission Write-up

How I feel about my Accomplishments

I am proud of what I managed to produce over the past month. I am happy with the web forum that I have managed to produce which includes all the basic required features as well as some additional features such as account-based authentication using JWT, a system for filtering the threads by tags, and a system to sort the threads. One UX feature of my forum that I am particularly content with is the colouring of the thread tags as well as the user avatars which I felt gave my website a nicer look and much more intuitive feel.

Moreover, when I look back at where I started from, I am surprised by how much I've learnt from this project in such little time. When I started working on this project, I had no experience in full stack web development and the assignment seemed intimidating. Before even starting to write any code, I had a long list of technologies that I had to learn: HTML, CSS, Typescript, Go, React, Redux, MySQL, and several other libraries and frameworks that I needed for my app. And to add to that, my time was limited knowing that I was going to be overseas for half the winter vacation. Regardless of the quality of my web application, I am definitely content with the progress I have made and my learning journey throughout.

I am also quite proud of the simple fact that I was able to see this project all the way through to the end. Although I did enjoy the overall process of software development, naturally there were some moments where I did feel quite frustrated when my app did not perform as I expected it to, and I could not figure out why. Being able to persevere through and overcome those moments was definitely a challenge and I am glad that I was able to overcome them.

Although I am proud of my accomplishments, there are some features that I do regret not being able to implement in time. I had initially planned to give users the ability to like/upvote the threads and even sort the threads to see the most popular ones at the top. I hoped for this to be one of the key additional features of my web application but couldn't implement it in the end.

I am also aware that my web application is far from perfect. My code quality has lots of areas for improvement. For example, in my frontend, the JSX returned by some of my react components is far too long, and my code would be a lot neater and easier to read if I broke these up into smaller components. On the backend, I stored the threads' images as strings in the form of a data URL in my database. I've learned that using a file system to store the images themselves and just storing the URL to the image in the database is a much more efficient way of saving images and would definitely opt for this approach in the future.

Overall, at the end of this journey, not only am I satisfied with the project that I have managed to produce, but I am also thankful for all the learning experiences that this project has given me.

User Manual

The application is made to be quite user-friendly, so I do expect any user to be able to intuitively understand how to use it. Nevertheless, I have provided some screenshots with annotations to help new users understand the various features.

Note: if accessing the deployed product, it may take some time to load the first time.
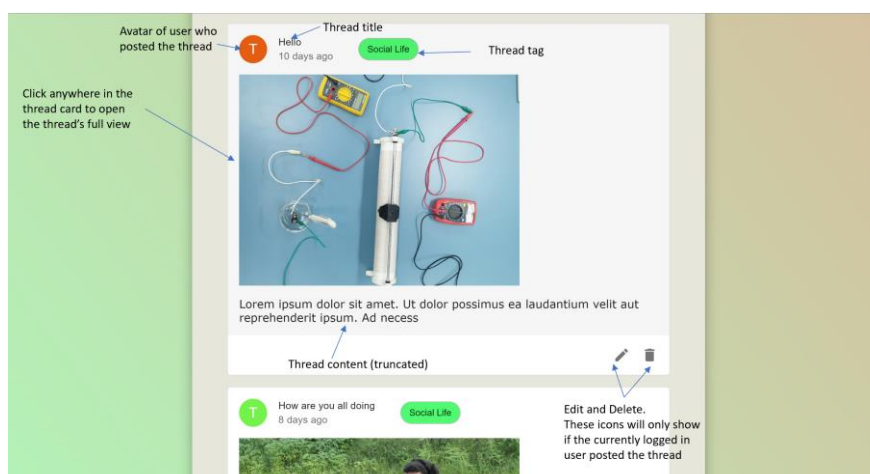
Authentication

I encourage anyone who wants to access the website to create their own account.

Nevertheless, I have also provided some credentials that can be used to log in below for users who want to access the website without creating their own account.
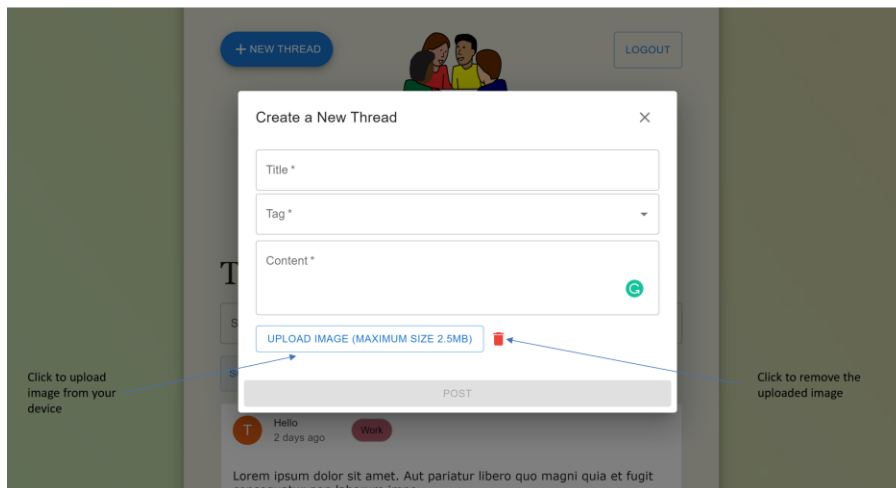
Username: testuser123

Password: abcdefgh

Main Threads List Page

Add a New Thread

Thread Full View