

CMU Forum

Project Specification

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1. Functionality

1.1. About Topics and Sections

The online forum has a series sections like “life in Pittsburgh”, “study and life”, “find a job”, etc. Within each section, there are some subsections and there would be topics posts by users related to that subsection. Within each topic, there are detailed information about the topic. The following are actions within the topics:

- Non-registered users can only view topics.
- Registered users can post and reply to any topics.
- Registered users can choose to post or reply anonymously.
- Registered users can favorite the topic they likes.
- Registered users can view his/her visiting history of this sites.
- Registered users can follow other users, and will be presented the topics liked or posted by those users.
- Registered users can manage his/her favourite sections in the main page.
- The topics support text, vote and image display.
- If there are images in a topic (not including images in the replies), the images will be displayed in the topic list under the topic title.
- There are hot topics selected each day and a specific section are used to display those hot topics.

1.2. User Level

There are 3 different kinds of users: site managers, sections managers and normal users. All users have levels and can upgrade to higher level.

- Site moderator can maintain the site, including assigning jobs and right to specific users and managing the sections.

- Section/Forum moderator can handle detailed issues raised by each topic in his/her section including pinning and deleting a topic.
- All users can win reward to upgrade according to their activities.
- High level users have some auxiliary functions including changing color for the ID and having personalized profile page.
- (Optional) All users can win badges of special achievements like “the 1024th to post a topic” and “the 128th to reply to a topic”.

1.3. Topic Search

Each topic have different basic types (QA, information, voting, etc.) and different tags. Each topic is also labeled as hot, controversial or latest according to its post date and numbers of likes, dislikes and comments.

- Users can search for a specific topic title in one section.
- Users can search for a specific topic author in one section.
- There are filters to display different types/tags of topics.

1.4. Event Sharing

Users can make events public with different features such as specific location, time period, count of people etc. For location related events, we will provide a map for display. To be specific, there are several kinds of events we would like to add into our forum:

- House Renting and Sublease
For this kind of events, the features include location, time period, count of people, price and other info.
- Travel Together
For this kind of events, the features include destination location, available time period and other info.
- Job Referral
For this kind of events, the features include company, company location, time period, job title, job type(internship / fulltime) and other info. There are 2 kinds of job referral events: giving referral and looking for referral.
- Short-time Activities
For this kind of events, the features include location, time period, maximum count of people, and other info. Users have access to use doodle to decide the time. User can also add the events to their Google calendar.

1.5. Other Functions

- Registered users can write short messages to each other using mails within the site. (This is convenient for users to share events and to have private communication.)
- Users can share the topic to other social networks including facebook and twitter.
- Users will receive email notifications if there are new replies to their topics.
- (Optional) There will be anti-addiction notifications if users are active for a certain period of time.
- (Optional) Pull latest news from school’s official site.

Data Model

This project includes the following basic data models:

- User: basic user model, using Django's built-in model.
- UserInfo: user info.
- Forum: the section of topics.
- Forum Moderator: the moderator of the forum section.
- Thread: the topic posted by a user.
- Post: the reply under a topic.
- Event: event type topic.
- Vote: vote type topic.
- Tag: the tag to label topics.
- Mail: mail that can be sent and received by users.

Detailed model code can be seen in the models.py file.

Wireframes

The wireframes of major websites in our project can be seen in wireframes.pptx