CVWO Assignment Writeup

Due to other commitments and family matters, I was not able to spend as much time as I would have liked on this assignment. Regardless, I still found this to be an invaluable opportunity to learn more about web development, especially on the backend side, which I found to be quite interesting despite not being able to produce a viable backend in my final product. I will first discuss the parts I liked about my implementation, followed by areas of improvement if I improve on this forum or work on other full-stack web applications in the future.

Firstly, I found that setting up a plan for the entire process helped structure my project well. By separating the frontend from the backend, I could narrow down the specific tasks I had to complete at each stage. Figma is a tool which is crucial during the ideation process, as it allows for rapid prototyping without having to debug and tinker with code. It also makes it easier to translate design ideas into an actual working frontend and simplifies the implementation process. In addition, researching what libraries are available is a wise move, as it results in time savings in the long run given that many people have already come up with great solutions to common problems. I made use of ChakraUI for React components and libraries such as Formik for handling form state and validation.

In terms of areas of improvement, I would first want to improve my Figma skills, in terms of learning simple design principles and making use of community plugins to make the creation of the wireframes a simpler process. For the frontend implementation, it would be good to research some commonly used libraries for frontend development instead of diving straight into the development process and constantly refactoring my code. I would also make use of react-router for client-side navigation as using the state to handle the navigation would likely get messy once the project gets larger. There are also tiny details I would like to polish, like improving the UI/UX for input validation and limits, adding media queries, and adding animations for a more pleasant user experience.

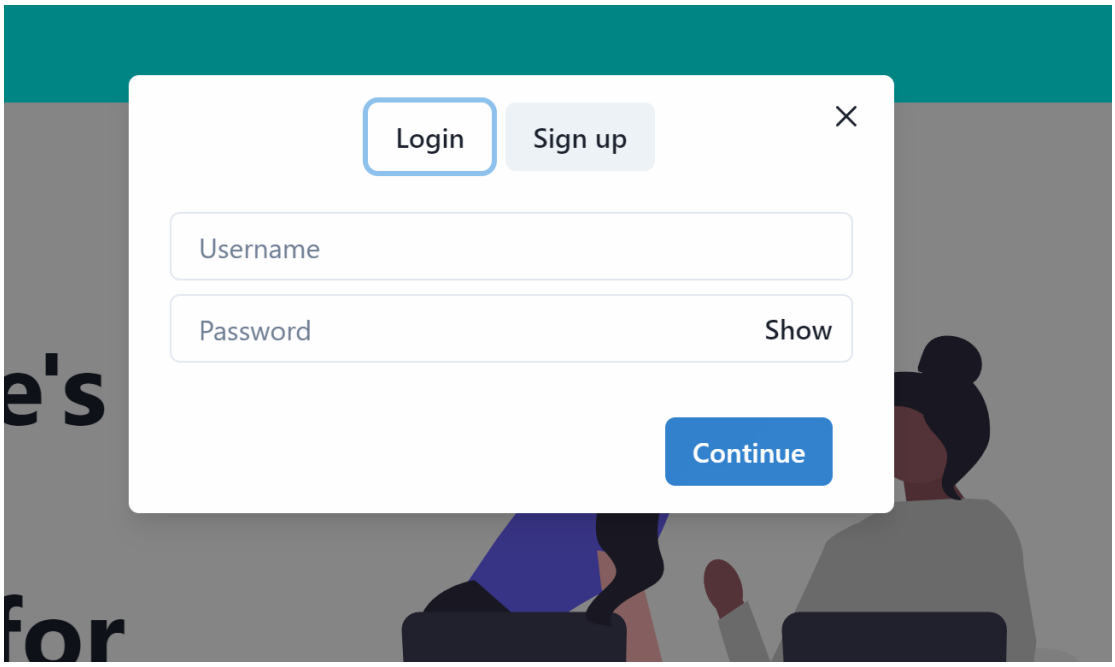
For the backend side, I would add a SQL database to store the forum posts and hook up the backend Go code to fetch the forum posts. I would also implement login and authentication for different users to interact.

User Manual

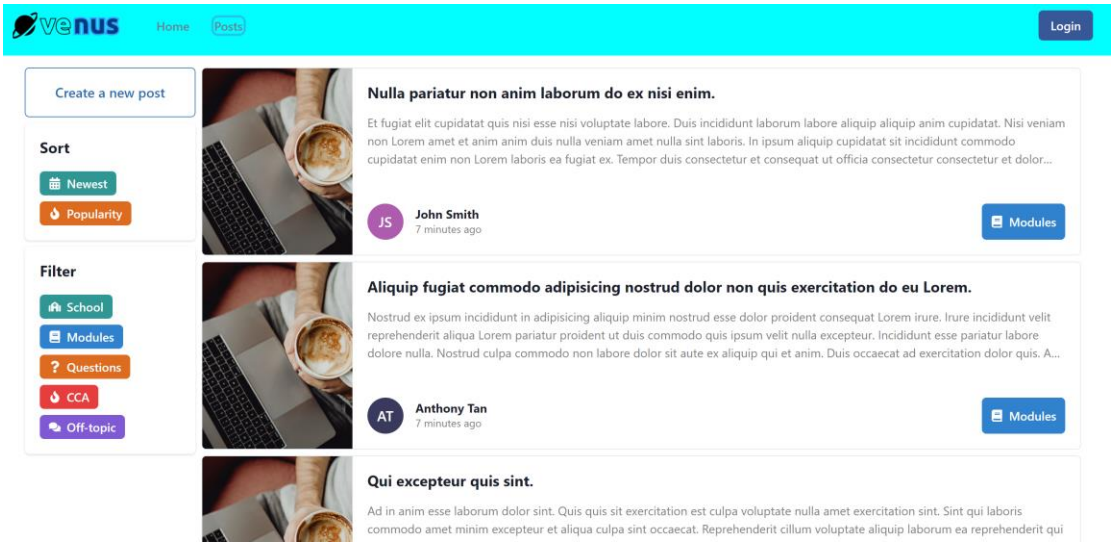
As the backend implementation is incomplete, what we have is mainly a static frontend that can be linked up once the backend is complete.

New users will be greeted with the following landing page.

They can then choose to log in or sign up.



The “Posts” page enables them to view the different posts made by their peers, sorting based on time or popularity, or filtering based on specific tags.



On top of that, they will also be able to create their forum posts which can be shared for all to see.