

Blogging and Blog Websites

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Abstract - This document presents a review of research on blogs and blogging websites within the social sciences and the humanities. It maps out what kind of research has been completed, how it has been performed. The blog has become a popular mechanism for the quick discussion of scholarly information. In this world full of internet, blogging has proved to be a very effective way of presenting information which results in subsequent knowledge for various individuals (especially students). Blogging websites make clever use of images, videos along with text to present blog content.

Key Words: blogs, php, internet, html, CSS, JavaScript.

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is about how blogging website generally work and also about how they are functionally designed working seamlessly between communicators and bloggers. Interest in blogs and blogging has increased dramatically in recent years. Weblogs or blogs can be described as a form of personal, easy-to-manage Web sites with content. learning writing skills that is both collaborative and individualized is advantageous. Not only do learners better improve their writing skills through blogging practices, they can also build their self-confidence as writers and attract a wider audience.

In addition, blogging practices play an active role in encouraging learners to experiment, take risks and foster their awareness to be private and public writers. Through blogging, learners can express their writing freely and can pool a wide range of ideas from one another when read or published. This helps them gain a stronger sense of analysis and interpretation of the topics they write about. [4]

'blog' is a blended term for 'web' and 'log'. Simply put, 'blog' is a web page that contains multimedia and hyperlinks. Unlike Internet websites that feature texts and photographs uploaded by web developers, with no room for any participation and communication whatsoever, blogs provide access to people to express their writing ideas and share their writing skills online.

2. Literature Review

Blogging has recently gained considerable interest among learners as a new approach to learning. Blogs place a special focus on learners' writing mechanics, energize them, and provide them with greater writing dynamics. Blogging is an

excellent way for learners to communicate with one another in a socially based context through technology. Using blogs makes learners' writing more participatory and more focused on everyday language use. Research studies reveal that blogs play a considerable role in improving learner reflection, classroom dialogue and social networking. It can be enhanced through dialogue, discussion and storytelling. This creates self-expression and helps individuals discuss their ideas and then put them in writing either individually, in pairs or in a group. In this sense, blogging per se is not technology; rather, it is literacy, which underscores the strengths of authentic writing [2]

A study on Blog readers: The study of Li et al (2010) investigated the extent to which compatibility of personalities influences online interaction. Participants of the study were from the University of Toronto community. The main findings were that readers of the blog corpus were able to consistently judge the personality of the writers based solely on the text that they wrote, and that they followed a well-established social rule regarding interpersonal attraction in real-life interaction. It was also discovered that blog readers were significantly more attracted to blog writers with more similar personalities - offering support in a blog environment, "birds of a feather flock together." Moreover, emotion word uses in the blog corpus correlated with writer's personality, suggesting that online personality maybe signaled by linguistic cues. Li et al (2010) suggested that personality is an important determinant and that further research on how people communicate with blogs will be relevant to social network analysis and to marketing. [3]

A study on bloggers: Six of the interviewees were blogging. All of them but two had personal blogs to share how they were doing, and the things they found interesting. Two of the respondents who didn't have personal blogs were providing 1) practical information for international students, 2) information about Swedish language for those who want to learn it. Three respondents were blogging in the past but stopped doing it. Two of them claimed they didn't like to be public. One said that she lost her confidence as a blogger. The rest of the respondents had never been blogging. The main reason for not blogging was that the interviewees didn't like the idea of being public. Moreover, one of them didn't find her life to be interesting to blog about, and another reason was that the respondent didn't feel that she writes in a very interesting way. [3]

Interviewees were also reading blogs on various topics. They mentioned that they were following lifestyle, fashion, photo, news, friends', personal, health, scientific blogs. [3]

3. Materials and Method

Blog Website is built upon various technologies, programming languages and tools. Following are some of the tools and resources used along with their brief descriptions:

HTML5: It is a markup language used for structuring and presenting content on the World Wide Web. It is the fifth and last major HTML version that is a World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) recommendation.

HTML5 includes detailed processing models to encourage more interoperable implementations; it extends, improves, and rationalizes the markup available for documents and introduce markup and application programming interfaces (APIs) for complex web applications. For the same reasons, HTML5 is also a candidate for cross-platform mobile applications because it includes features designed with low-powered devices in mind.

CSS: Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is a style sheet language used for describing the presentation of a document written in a markup language such as HTML. CSS is a cornerstone technology of the World Wide Web, alongside HTML and JavaScript.

JS: JavaScript, often abbreviated as JS, is a programming language that conforms to the ECMAScript specification. JavaScript is high-level, often just-in-time compiled, and multi-paradigm. It has curly-bracket syntax, dynamic typing, prototype-based object-orientation, and first-class functions.

Alongside HTML and CSS, JavaScript is one of the core technologies of the World Wide Web. Over 97% of websites use it client-side for web page behavior often incorporating third-party libraries. All major web browsers have a dedicated JavaScript engine to execute the code on the user's device.

As a multi-paradigm language, JavaScript supports event-driven, functional, and imperative programming styles. It has application programming interfaces (APIs) for working with text, dates, regular expressions, standard data structures, and the Document Object Model (DOM).

PHP: It is a popular general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited to web development. Fast, flexible and pragmatic, PHP powers everything from your blog to the most popular websites in the world.

PHP code is usually processed on a web server by a PHP interpreter implemented as a module, a daemon or as a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) executable. On a web server, the result of the interpreted and executed PHP code – which may be any type of data, such as generated HTML or binary image data – would form the whole or part of an HTTP response.

Arbitrary PHP code can also be interpreted and executed via command-line interface (CLI).

4. Procedure

The following steps provide a rough chronology of how to develop a blog website:

1. Start with installation of all the tools and software's required for the blogging website to execute. Here's what is needed web browser, xampp web server (for testing the database and php on local machine), code editor (e.g., Notepad++, VS Code, etc.)
2. Now that the installation is off the track, we need to setup the environment before we can start executing php programs. For which you have to initialize PHP i.e., php's path in environment variables of advanced system settings
3. The setup is finished. Now comes, the coding phase. There is a lot going on in this phase: logic development, connections of the files and databases, designing the user-interface (often abbreviated as UI), refactoring the code. This phase takes time according to various factors
4. The coding phase is a bit tough as the whole website is being developed but you know where things get a little more interesting in the testing phase. You get a lot of bugs and errors where the website might crash. Testing is a long process of rebuilding and retesting of code.
5. All right, the bugs are solved and closed. The website is ready for production, all that's remaining is to host the website along with its database to an internet web server. You can use any paid or free internet hosting services readily available online to get your blog site running on the internet.
6. After all the work for the blogging site, you should head to the site and start engaging with the world. Share blogs about what you created and what they can do through your blogging platform.

The basic algorithm for the flow of website would be:

Step1: Register/Signup the user

Step2: User logs in

Step3: User can create & edit blogs

Step4: User reads and interacts with other blogs

Step5: Logout

Following are some UMLs which will help you design the database and the flow of whole project:

Activity Diagram:

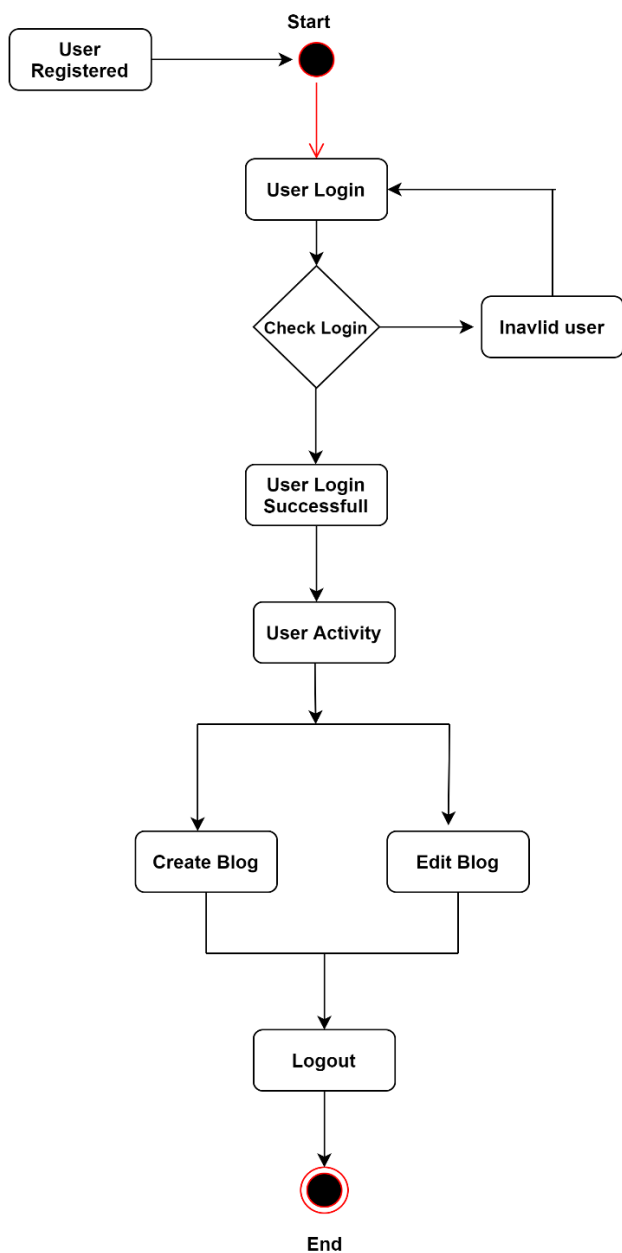


Fig. 1 Activity diagram

Flow chart:

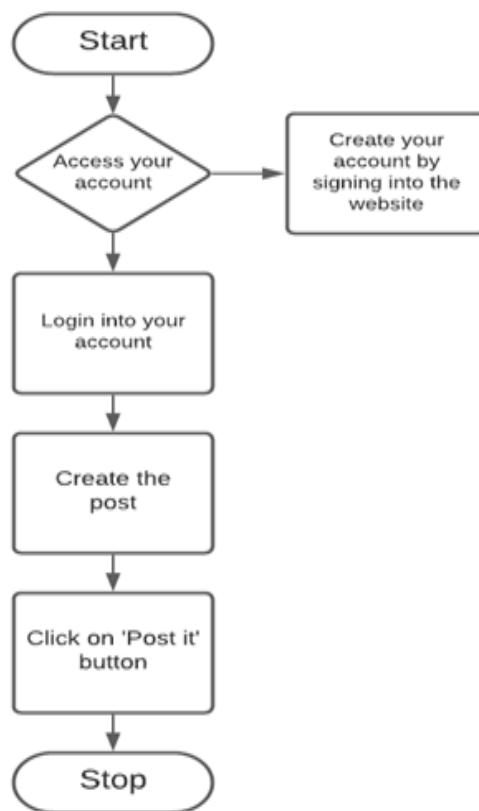


Fig. 2 Flow chart

Test case Diagram:

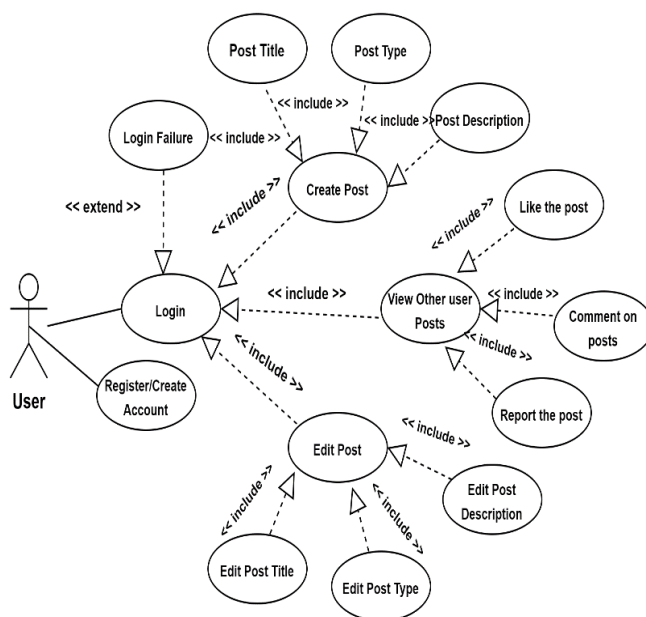


Fig. 3 Test case diagram

ER Diagram:

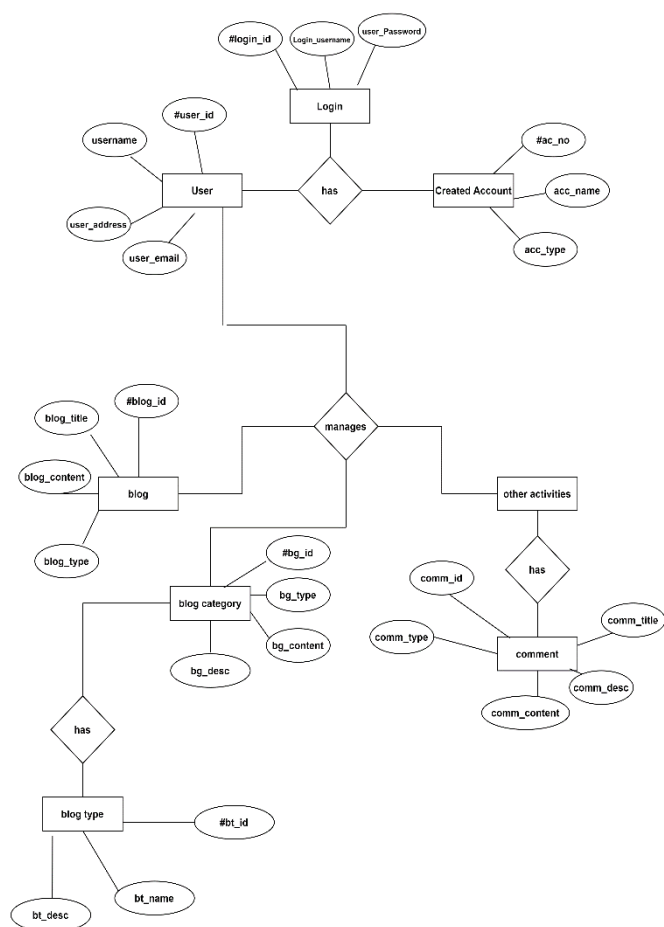


Fig. 4 ER Diagram

5. Future Applications

This system enables users to create their own blogs, where users can publish their any informational content. Below are some characteristics features that may become future applications:

1. Integration of admins who can monitor blogs.
2. Functional integrations of like, comment and sharing of posts.
3. Post's verification which may be verified by the admins or platform managers.
4. Classification of blog posts wherein posts can be classified by relevant categories.

6. Significance of project website

The idea behind this project is to make blogging easier for every individual and informational enhancement of students and professionals.

7. Conclusion

Blogging website is a user-friendly platform that helps bloggers and learners to improve many of their writing skills and knowledge. Generally, participants showed noticeable improvement in several writing components, such as content development, language mechanics, style, voice, word choice and other writing sub-skills.

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