

## ONLINE DISCUSSION PLATFORM

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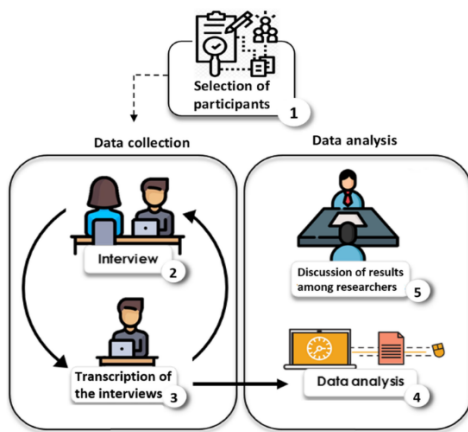
### ABSTRACT:

The "Technical Online Discussion Platform," a PHP project, is where people can express their thoughts and have debates about numerous topics after creating an account. It is a technical discussion forum where users may post questions and receive responses on a range of technical and unrelated subjects. The subject might concern PHP, Java, general knowledge, English, math, or hibernate, for instance. Each question category will have its own forum. Users who have already enrolled are able to post questions, answer questions, get personal messages in their notification area, and comment to other postings that have already been made. To enter queries and receive prepared responses, we used a conventional WYSIWYG editor. Even the attachments to individual comments or specific posts can be made through.

### INTRODUCTION

An effective tool for online learning is discussion. It can promote a sense of belonging, promote peer connection, and heighten student interest. We have tried to add new features to the online platform that overcome the drawbacks of a traditional discussion policies and saves a lot of time and energy for the students who want an immediate attention to their queries and problems as they read different subjects which consists of various chapters. Its applicability ranges from various organizations to educational institutions. For example, college students who are sitting for placements could discuss all their doubts and resolve their confusions by interacting with other students and placement staff.

The students can build their profiles and submit all their information, including their grades, using this software. The administrator can review each student's information and alter subject, chapter, and subtopic names. The administrator of such a system maintains student records, registration statistics, and topic updates. entry to database information.



**Fig 1:** online discussion platform outline

The platform consists of five pages which are home page, registration page, forum page, contact page, and Message page.

**Home page:** It asks the user for their login credentials and contains only the most basic information. If the user has successfully registered and provided accurate information, access to the application is permitted; otherwise, authorization is denied. If not registered, a new user will have the option to create

**Registration page:** The user will be required to provide certain personal information on the page in order to register with the

application and access and use the programme.

**Forum page:** The user will be able to access several domains on this page to obtain or upload information pertaining to domain expertise and can get all their related questions answered.

**Contact page:** This page contains all the application provider's contact details for issues with web applications that need to be resolved.

**Message page:** The user can communicate with one another on this page by sending and receiving messages from other account/application holders.

## WEB TECHNOLOGIES

Most of us are aware that computers do not interact with one another in the same manner that people do. Computers need codes or instructions instead. Computers can process necessary data thanks to binary codes and commands. To give you the information you require, hundreds of billions of zeros and ones are processed every second.

What does that have to do with your ability to upload your most recent photos to the internet, then? Everything.

World wide web is the means by which computers connect with one another using markup languages and multimedia applications. From a few marked-up web pages to the capacity to complete highly specific tasks on a network without pausing throughout the course of the last few decades, web has gone through a significant transformation.

```
<?php require("header.php");  
  
?>  
<script type="text/javascript">  
  
document.getElementById("auhome").cl  
assName="active";  
</script>
```

**Fig2:** sample markup language code

## TECHNOLOGIES USED

### HTML

Hyper Text Markup, or HTML The common mark-up language used to construct web pages is called language. HTML is written using HTML elements, which are tags surrounded by angle brackets (like). HTML tags often occur in pairs like and, but some tags, such those that indicate empty elements, are unpaired. The start tag is the first tag in a pair, while the end tag is the second tag (they are also called opening tags and closing tags).

A web browser's job is to read HTML files and combine them into visually or aurally appealing online pages. Although the HTML tags are not displayed by the browser, they are used to comprehend the page's content. HTML explains the architecture.

### CSS

When specifying the appearance and formatting of a document produced in a mark-up language, Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) is the style sheet language that is typically used. While most frequently used to style HTML and XHTML web pages and user interfaces, the language can also be used to create plain XML, SVG, and XUL documents. Most web pages utilise CSS style sheets to specify their display because CSS is a fundamental web specification.

The use of CSS can also make it possible for the same markup page to be displayed in several ways, including on-screen, in print, or when being read aloud by a screen reader or speech-based browser, as well as on tactile devices that use Braille. It can also be utilised to permit.

### JAVASCRIPT

An object-oriented, cross-platform programming language called JavaScript is used to create interactive websites (e.g., having complex animations, clickable buttons, popup menus, etc.). Additionally, there are more sophisticated server-side JavaScript implementations, like Node.js, that enable you to enhance a website's functionality without downloading additional files (such as real time collaboration between multiple computers). JavaScript can link to the objects of its environment inside a host environment (such as a web browser) and grant programmatic control over those objects.

### PHP

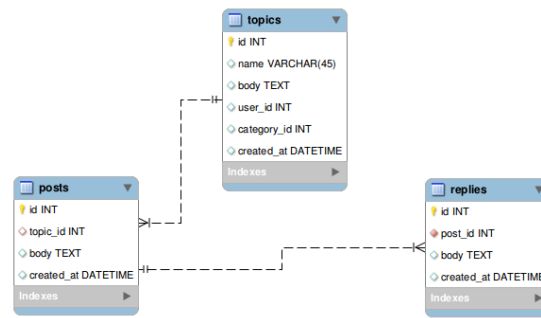
PHP stands for Hypertext Pre-processor, a PHP-based programme. Specifically created for web development, PHP is a server-side programming language. It can

be downloaded and used without charge because it is open-source. Learning and using it are straightforward. ".php" is the extension of the files. PHP's initial design was inspired by Rasmus Lerdorf, who also contributed to later iterations. Since it is an interpreted language, a compiler is not necessary. On the server, PHP code is run. It is compatible with a wide range of databases, including Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Sybase, and Informix.

It can support a robust content management system like WordPress and may be used to regulate user access.

## MYSQL

Many small and large enterprises utilise MySQL, a quick and simple RDBMS. MySQL AB, a Swedish corporation, creates, promotes, and supports MySQL. The fact that MySQL is available under an open-source licence is just one of many solid reasons why it is growing in popularity. Therefore, there is no cost for you to use it. By itself, MySQL is a potent programme. It manages a sizable portion of the most pricey and potent database products' features. It also employs a common variant of the well-known SQL data language, which is compatible with a wide range of programming languages and operating systems, including PHP, PERL, C, C++, JAVA, etc. Even with massive data volumes, MySQL operates quickly and effectively.



**Fig4:** MySQL database schema

## ADVANTAGES OF PHP AND MYSQL

Since PHP does not save data on its own, it is excellent for creating dynamic web applications. A database is required to store the data, and MySQL is the database of preference for PHP programmers. Based on given criteria, MySQL automates the most frequent tasks associated with locating and storing unique user information. MYSQL, an open-source relational database management system, and PHP, a server-side programming language. It can produce quite unique solutions when both are combined.

### The Major Benefits of using PHP and MySQL in Web Development

- 1.Open Source, Simple and Quick Upkeep
- 2.better scalability, reliability, and superior performance
- 3.IIS, Apache, and other operating systems compatible
- 4.independent of platforms and works on Linux, Windows, or Unix

5. Programming is user-friendly and supports multiple languages

6. broader support for other widely used databases, such as Informix, Oracle, Sybase, etc.

## ADMIN SIDE FEATURES

The admin on the platform has some privilege powers where he can delete accounts if he or she believes that the user to whom the account belonged had done some unethical things or followed the things that were against the rules of the platform.

The admin can also grant special access to people to do the different operations that they could not do it without admin's approval.

The admin can display the summary and images on home page along with the category management which consists of different operations like adding new category moreover listing categories and viewing their details, besides that admin can also update and edit the category data.

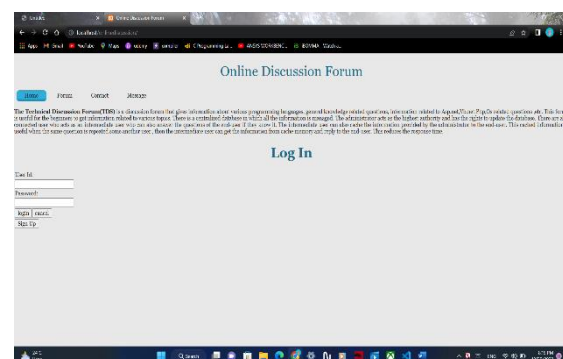
Admin maintains post management functionality such as creating new post, listing all posts, viewing post details, editing, and updating post details, maintaining comment section along with deleting comments and posts.

The user management is also one of the jobs that admin has which is adding new user, listing all users, viewing user details, and editing them and deleting those details.

Other important features that admin makes sure to operate correctly is updating system information and account details/credentials along with the log in and log out operations.

## USER SIDE FEATURES

Students must sign up to get access to the functionality of the software. At first, they must visit the home page there they have the option to choose to log in or sign up, for the first-time users must choose sign up otherwise they have to choose log in to enter directly into the website.

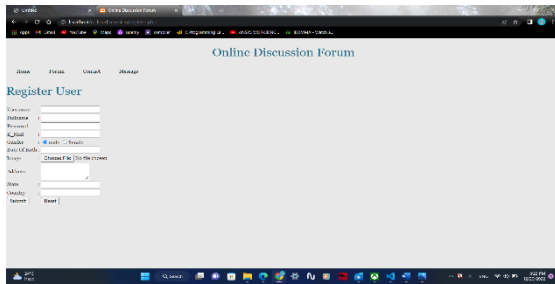


**Fig5: Home Page**

On the home page, users can log in and display the carousel and list all the published topics along with that searching for the desired topics. They can open the categories page and view the active topics categories, search other categories, check the category description.

User can also add new post and view post page and his or her own page.

1. List all the user created topics.
2. Search created topic.
3. Edit or update posted topic.
4. Edit comment section.
5. Delete posted topics and comments.
6. Update account details/credentials.
7. Logout.



**Fig6:** Registration Page

## ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUMS

Online discussion groups are called forums. They are like message boards, but they have guidelines and moderation, and they typically have a narrower focus. One of the first types of online communication is the forum. Online message boards were where individuals would go to ask questions and obtain help from other people during the dial-up era. People use them to discuss just about everything these days. For practically anything you can think of, including sports, hobbies, and even politics, there are online forums.

Most individuals would view this as the main benefit of an online forum. Your team's stakeholders can connect with one another through their shared experiences. To go even further, you could make distinct communities for various user groups so they can quickly access topics ranging from

various interests that are pertinent to them. This is a terrific method to keep them interested in the conversations.

Organizations must develop new ways to enhance communication because email is now widely regarded as a huge productivity killer by many employees. Your communication strategy may include an important role for an online forum. In discussion forums, you may ask a question and read everyone's comments in a clear, chronological order without having to sift through a crowded inbox of emails.

Along with being able to respond to inquiries, this has the added benefit of preserving the important ideas brought up throughout the online debate. To ensure that no one misses any important points, the most widely used platforms let you pin posts to the top of the conversation.

The top of your list of priorities should be enhancing collaboration.

Why? Starting off, 70% of employers consider teamwork and collaboration to be "extremely important."

But there is more than that. Online collaboration has several benefits and can assist to bring out the creative sides of your active team members or other people because they can collaborate more closely and contribute fresh ideas.

Discussion boards are the ideal location to do this. People can share their ideas with the confidence that they will be saved in an online workspace and accessible at any time.



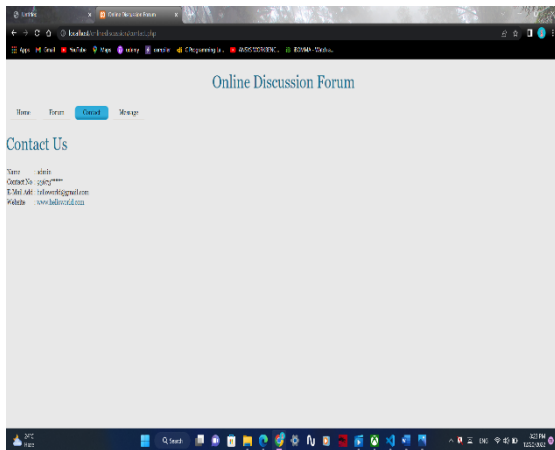


Fig7: Contact Page

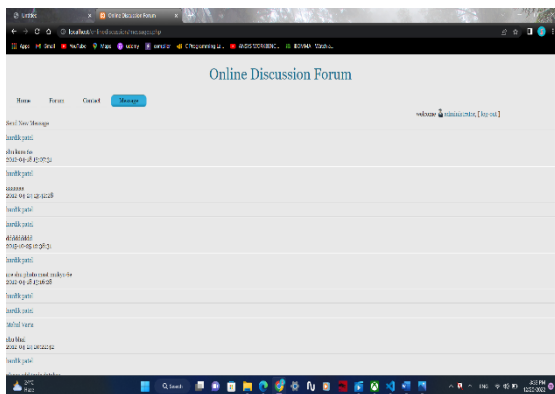


Fig7: Message Page

## RESULTS

The site is simultaneously accessed from more than one system.

The site works according to the restrictions provided in their respective browsers. The speed of the transactions become more enough now. In this site the user can search the appropriate answers for their questions. They can view their favorable questions, articles, and inventions.

## MERITS

They have the option to select their preferred method of communication with their professors thanks to this.

Blended learning is promoted through the usage of online discussion forums. It complements the traditional classroom environment & students gain additional time to reflect about the course content, offer feedback, and make helpful contributions.

In addition to acting as a library for content in different media, online discussion forums for teachers stimulate and support the sharing and exchange of teaching experiences and expertise. For further learning outside of the traditional classroom setting, teachers and students can contribute tutorial films. This can enhance students' educational opportunities and give teachers the chance to evaluate their own instruction and the students' learning curves. The traditional method of teaching is complemented by online discussion forums.

Due to a lack of time allotted for a particular course, a teacher may occasionally be unable to finish a particular lesson or topic. However, by taking advantage of the chances presented by this, the instructor can post those lessons or materials for further discussion with the students.

## LIMITATIONS

The advantages and drawbacks of online discussion forums are equally present. It can take a while to read through threaded discussions, and when there are too many posts to read, especially when the postings are lengthy, students can become discouraged.

University level courses are being delivered through discussion boards more frequently, but this method of delivery can be quite time-intensive for academics. According to the data, members in online forums may be restricted by ongoing power outages, a time constraint based on a busy schedule, a lack of access to computers and the internet, and the cost of doing so.

access fees for using computers and the Internet. Additionally, online learners encounter difficulties like a lack of peer interaction, a limited sense of belonging to the learning community, and frustration with the lack of timely feedback on their postings, while teachers already dealing with a heavy workload are under additional pressure to engage students in discussion forums more actively.

## SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Software requirements establish the agreement between the team and the customer on what the application is supposed to do. The software requirements are descriptions of features and functionalities of the target system. Requirements convey the expectations of users from the software product. The requirements can be obvious or hidden, known or unknown, expected, or unexpected from the client's point of view.

- Operating System: Windows 7 and above
- XAMPP Server
- MySQL

## HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

These requirements include the minimum processor speed, memory, and disk space required to install Windows. In almost all

cases, you will want to make sure that your hardware exceeds these requirements to provide adequate performance for the services and applications running on the server.

- RAM: 4GB or above
- Hard Disk: 500 GB and above
- Processor: Intel core i3 or above and Internet Connection

## CONCLUSION

Online forums offer chances for inquiry-based learning, participatory learning, and the production and creation of new information by students. The online conversation

The study's discussion forum demonstrated excellent results for interactive learning and communication between students and their teachers. To increase productivity, however, increasing student and teacher participation is necessary for online discussion forums to exert a stronger impact. Because of the relative significance of this platform, professors must devote more time replying to queries on the platform and facilitating or guiding debates and interactions there.

Teachers' greater involvement and use of the platform for class activities like assignment submission and attendance tracking will improve student participation.

To pique student's enthusiasm in the forum, teachers should respond quickly and proactively. Additionally, the forum needs to be properly coordinated to make sure that only pertinent comments are permitted in order to avoid abuses and frivolities that



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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We would like to express our special thanks to our mentor Mr. Damodhar Rao who gave us a golden opportunity to do this wonderful project on this topic which also helped us in doing a lot of research and we came to know about so many new things. We are thankful to them.

Secondly, we would also like to thank my friends who helped us a lot in finalizing this project within the limited time frame.