FBBS: Facebook in Bulletin Board System

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ABSTRACT

Our idea is to change the Facebook interface into the BBS one, which has a clear list layout. Give user a better experience when surfing on the Facebook.

Author Keyword

Facebook; BBS; redesign; user experience; user interface;

ACM Classification Keywords

H.5.2 [Information Interfaces and Presentation]: User Interfaces – Interaction styles.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, Facebook becomes the most popular social computing application. As users of Facebook, we find that there is still some inconvenience. People frequently post things on Facebook, and that makes information sink rapidly. It is really hard to find the old posts which were posted many days ago.

Therefore, we came up with an idea – an interface that can fetch data from Facebook and has the BBS-like layout. With the BBS-like layout, searching posts will become easier. People who are not using our interface can still communicate with those who are using it. The functions that Facebook has will remain. The great part is that we have changed the interface from Facebook into BBS, and improved the functions of Facebook.

Analysis, Design, and Implementation

Facebook has a layout with blocks that shows the first five lines of each status post. However, the posts sink rapidly and the ones which people put comments on will often be pushed up to the top of the layout. It messes up the correct timeline of the posts. We used to browse the BBS board by using the list layout with posts sorted by their created time. Thus, the BBS-like layout Facebook viewer is created.

Figure 1. The group list page in Facebook.
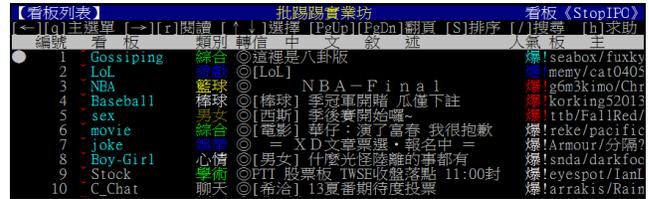
Figure 2. The board list in BBS.

Figure 3. The group list page in FBBS.

The FBBS group list page (see Figure 3) shows up a list with all groups which the current user is participated in. Highlight the rows of groups that have unread posts. The use of up/down arrow on the keyboard is allowed just like the BBS user interface. The pressed right direction arrow will bring the users to the next page.

Figure 4. The posts list of a group in Facebook.

Figure 5. The posts list of a board in BBS.

Figure 6. The posts list page of a group in FBBS.

The posts list page in FBBS (see Figure 6) fetches the data from Facebook, sorts the posts by their created time. The new layout in FBBS makes users browse the posts easily and clearly. Users can press the direction arrows on the keyboard to change the selection just like using the BBS. It shows up all the posts within a single month. The key page up/down is used to change to the list of posts created in previous/next month of the list.

Figure 7. A single post in Facebook.

Figure 8. A single post in BBS.

Figure 9. A single post in FBBS.

After comparing the Facebook posts list (see Figure 7) and the BBS one (see Figure 8). We found that it is unnecessary to show the whole post content and the comments in the posts list page. We make the list page clearer to browse, and the detail will show up after users enter the page of each single post (see Figure 9).

Prospection

The project is promising and flexible. Our interface will be able to deal with not only groups, but also timelines, chat logs…etc. Second, the functions of Facebook, for instance, instant messaging, notifications and friend requests, posting and commenting are going to be implemented. Furthermore, the integration between our redesigned interfaces and extension toolkits of web browsers is also a good aspect to develop.

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