

Development of a Campus Based Social Networking (CBSN)

Omotunde Muyiwa¹, David Osanebi¹, and Moses Olaiifa²

¹School of Computer Science, Mathematics and Information Technology,
Houdegbe North America University,
Cotonou, Benin

²Department of Computer Systems Engineering,
Tshwane University of Technology,
Pretoria, South Africa

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ABSTRACT: The need for a platform in which student and staff (academic and non – academic) of an institution can communicate and share ideas within the campus in order to have access to huge pool of information of day to day life on the campus without an external intruder cannot be over emphasized. It is a way of bringing life on campus to everyone attention and to people of common idea, knowledge and interest, also to serve as a tool for e-learning and security checking on the campus. To have access to the platform, users have to fill a signup page form that has column for matriculation number for student users' and staff identification number for staff users'. The platform has admin users interface at the back end, who updates the site and verify what has been the latest gist on the campus either for security or institution authority attention to prevent any likely campus breakdown of law and order. Registered users can change profile picture, add friends, update status, send, receive and reply messages, accept friend requests, check notification, create groups or join pre-existing groups, block other users and upload photos to gallery. The platform was developed using html, php, javascript and mysql.

KEYWORDS: Campus, Social, Networking, Institution, Student, Staff.

1 INTRODUCTION

The impact of information communication technology has been felt more in administrative services like admission, registration, and fees payment in institutions than learning, information dissemination and campus social enlightenment or association [1].

Social network can be defined as a social structure made up of individual or organizations called nodes which are tied by one or more specific types of interdependency such as friendship, kinship, common interest, financial exchange, dislike, sexual relationship, beliefs, knowledge or prestige [2].

Reference [3] suggested that the use of social networking site (SNS) that is more appealing to students that will provide more social environment. This is one of the idea behind development of a campus based social networking system (CBSN) with the mindset that it can be used as a tool of e – learning. It worth of noting that Facebook idea was based on something like this but later over shoot its purpose but to prevent such occurrence with this campus based social networking system, before any user can be registered it has to be verified that the person is either a student or staff of the institution by filling matriculation number if it is a student or staff identification number if it is a staff while filling sign up form.

The campus based social networking is developed to offer students and staffs of an institution vast amount of information about one another. And when it is used as an organizing tool, it can provide new ways for student groups to react to members, share information, learn about campus events and mobilize support and action [4].

In a research carried out among undergraduate student of Kogi State University, Nigeria, [2] observed that out of 282 questionnaire distributed 158 respondents which represent about 56% of the study use Facebook while 44% make use of other types of social networking site and also high use of Facebook was also observed by [5]. This can be associated to different features that were made available in the Facebook site such as ability of users to create profile, search and receive friend request, upload profile pictures, tags pictures, add comment on friends' picture, upload and share information either public or private which has make Facebook one of the fast growing website among the youths. Also has been suggested by [3] if not all some of this features are also available in campus based social networking system for users accessibility.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Some school of thought has reasoned that e-learning can be introduced to social networking site especially Facebook which is believed that, is being wildly used by youths especially students but such integration can either lead to wrong learning than right because of social networking site versatility in terms of the users'. But integrating e-learning with campus based social networking system will avoid this type of problem because user population will be students' and institution staffs'.

In a research carried out on students in Pakistan by [6], concluded that social networking site (SNS) is ruining the future of teenagers and children and that SNS has negative impact on education because there is no third party or any other community which could check for what actions were been performed by which users. Reference [5] stated that military authority of United State of America (U.S.A) banned the use of SNS by soldiers in 2007, also that Canadian government banned employees from use or visiting SNS and that U.S.A congress has proposed to block SNS in schools and library.

Reference [7] observed that social networks grabs the total attention and concentration of the students and it diverts students attention to non – educational, unethical and inappropriate actions such as useless chatting, time killing by random searching but that the use of SNS for educational purpose such as online tutorials, online lectures and education material downloading is very good.

Social networking site especially Facebook which has been adjudged as the most used SNS comprises different people with different mindset, opinions and attitudes, also compounded with several tools and resources which makes monitoring who does what, a bit of problem or impossibility.

In a research carried out in Lulea University of Technology, Sweden where 239 undergraduate students' were studied through administered questionnaire by following flow theory, using smartPLS software to test the proposed structural questions showed extensive use of Facebook by student with extraverted personalities leading to poor academic performance but students who are more self regulated and control were not influenced by trust in people who uses SNS [8]. Also, in a research carried out in Kogi State University, Nigeria where 282 undergraduate students' were studied through administered questionnaire showed that Facebook is the most use SNS and that it has negative effect on student academic performance [2]. But, with the campus based social networking system, the system administrator has access at the back end to know who does what.

On the use of social networking site, [9] observed that out of 168 questionnaires administered 51 respondent which makes 30.4% of the respondent indicated that SNS is being used for entertainment while 29.2%, 16.1% and 24.4% of the respondent used the SNS for knowledge, time killing and communication respectively. This shows that entertainment takes precedent above knowledge based activities of the SNS users, from which it can be concluded why users of SNS resulted in low academic performance.

Reference [10] noted that students were socially connected with each other by sharing daily learning experiences and conversation on several topics while [11] argued that extral curricular activities and academic activities were not enough to satisfy some students who has suffered social networking isolation. Hence, social networking is beneficiary to students when it contribute in learning experience as well as social life.

3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Campus based social network was developed using html, php, javascript, and mysql program and is web based.

3.1 SYSTEM PROCESS ILLUSTRATION

The system administrator can login to update the system from the back end or to view what has being the latest gist on the campus or to check who is doing what and bring to the notice of the institution authority any likely bridge of security.

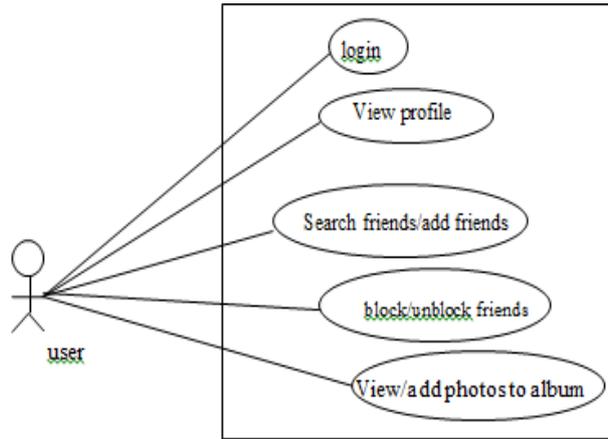


Fig.1. Users' Use Case

Fig.1 shows actions that users' of campus based social networking can perform after registration.

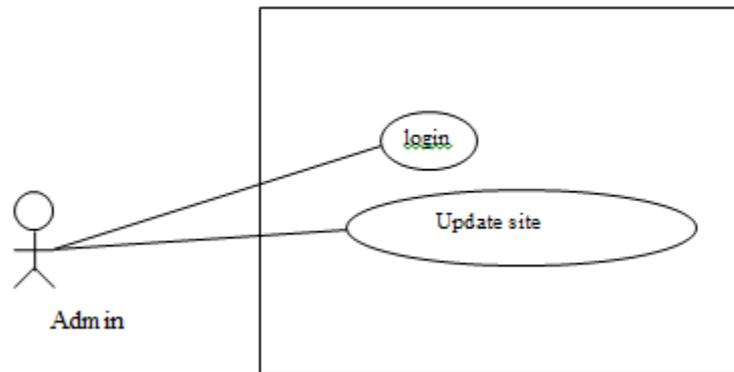


Fig.2. System Administrator Use Case

Fig.2 shows actions that system administrator can perform.

New users' of the campus based social networking has access to sign up page as student or staff of the institution and as such there is opportunity to send and receive message, view profile, search for friends or add friends, block or unblock friends, and also to view or add photos to album, create group and soon.

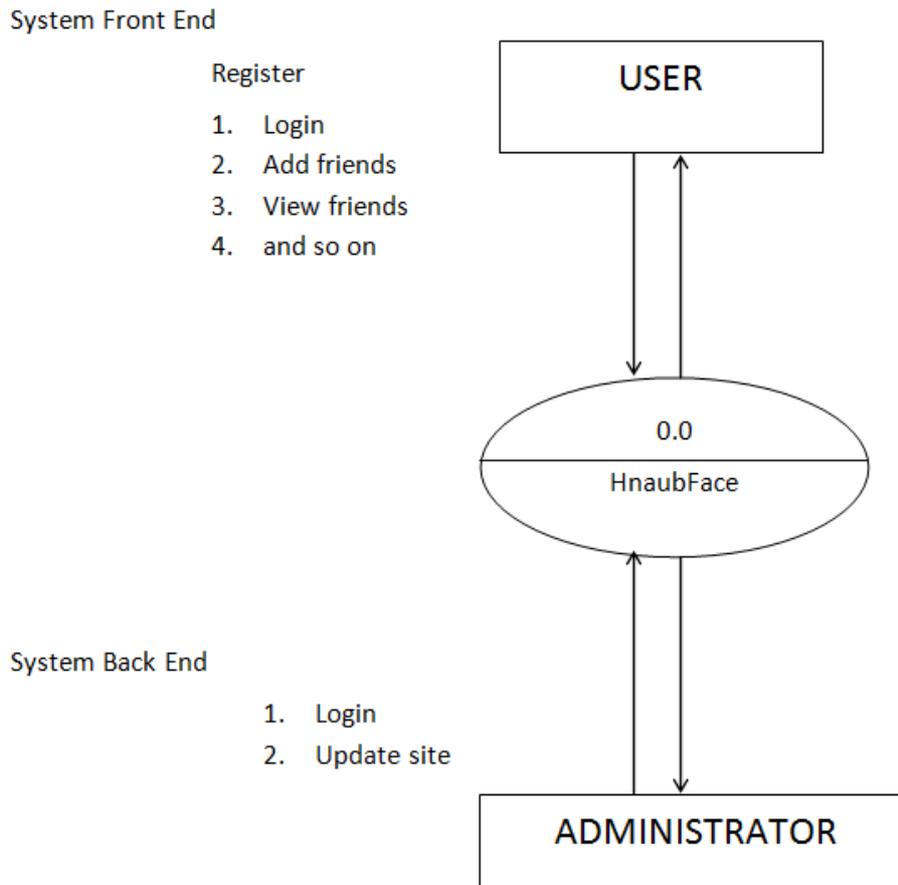


Fig.3. System Illustration

Fig.3 shows system illustration of campus based social networking.

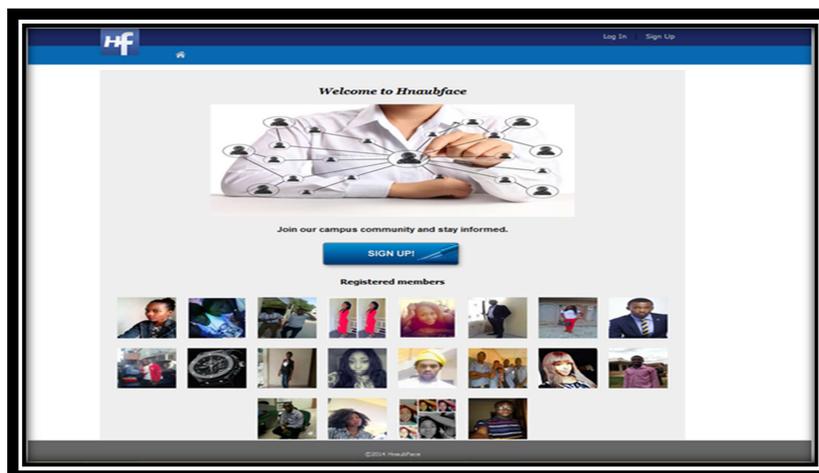


Fig.4. CBSN WELCOME PAGE

Fig.4 shows the welcome page of the developed campus based social networking

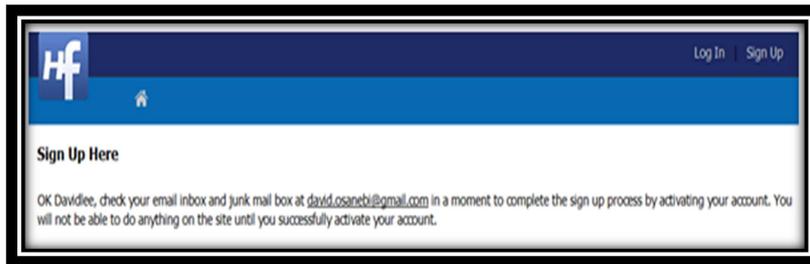


Fig.5. CBSN Sign Up Page

Fig.5 shows the signup page of the developed campus based social networking

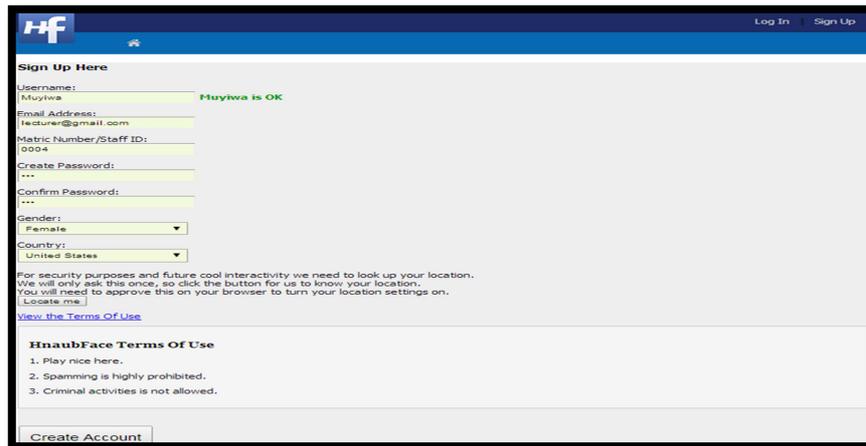


Fig.6. CBSN Staff Registration Page

Fig.6 shows a filled sample of staff registration page of the developed campus based social networking

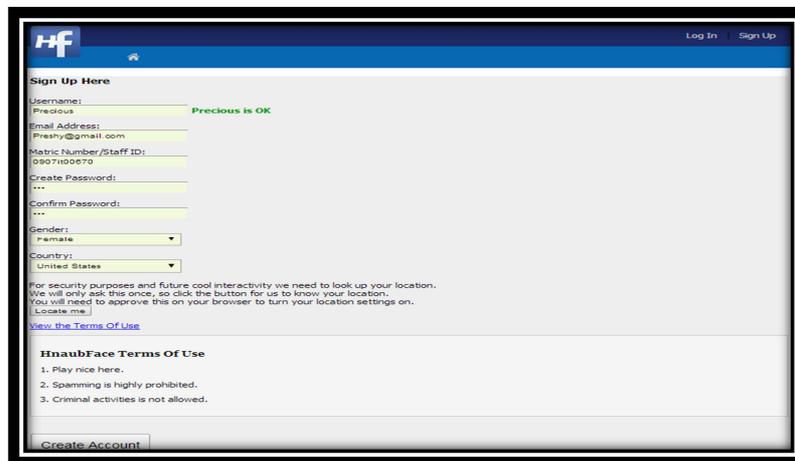


Fig.7. CBSN Student Registration Page

Fig.7 shows a filled sample of student registration page of the developed campus based social networking



Fig.8. CBSN Account Activation Page

Fig.8 shows account activation page of the developed campus based social networking

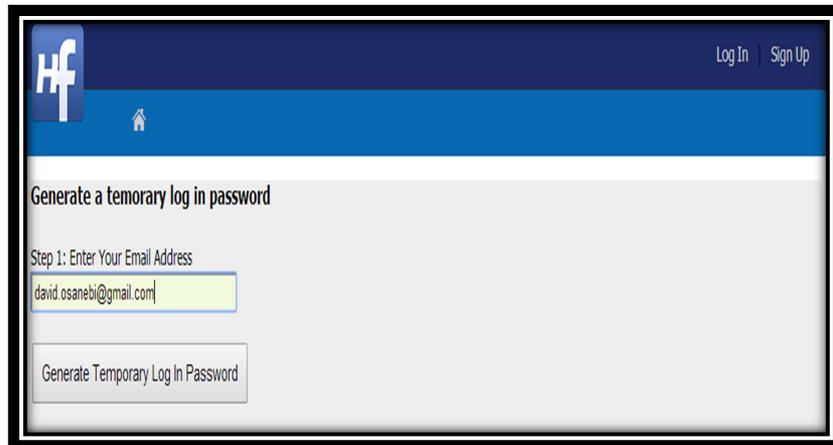


Fig.9. CBSN Temporary Password Generation Page

Fig.9 shows temporary password generation page to be used if any registered member forget the password

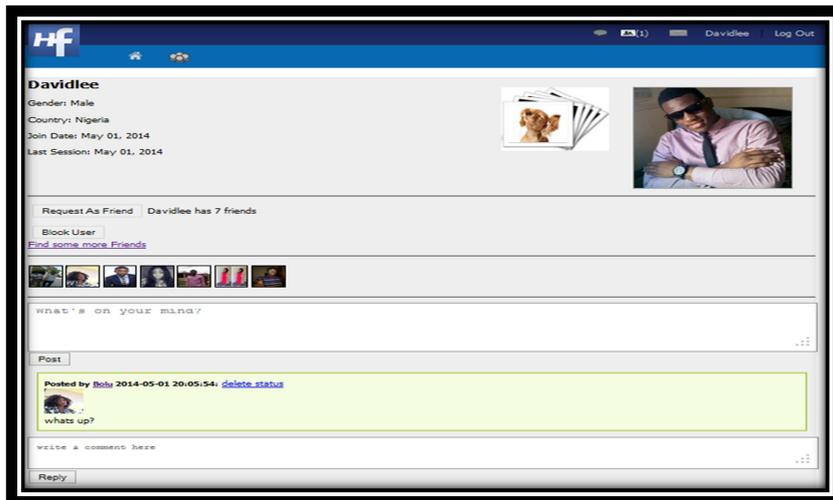


Fig.10. CBSN Users' Homepage

Fig.10 shows users' homepage

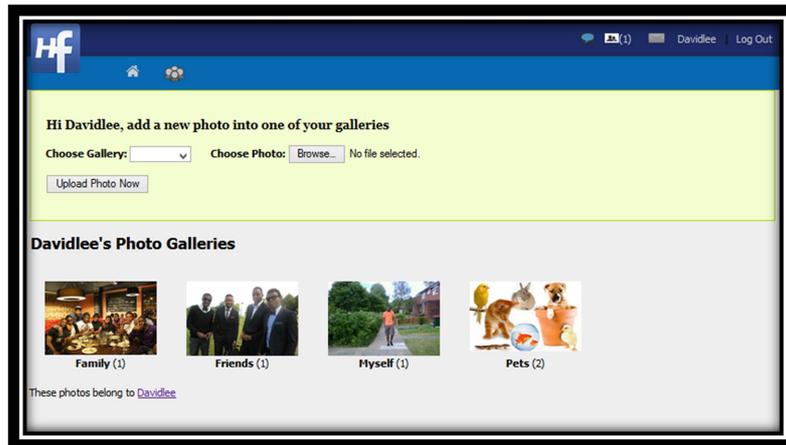


Fig.11. CBSN Users' Gallery Page

Fig.11 shows user's gallery page

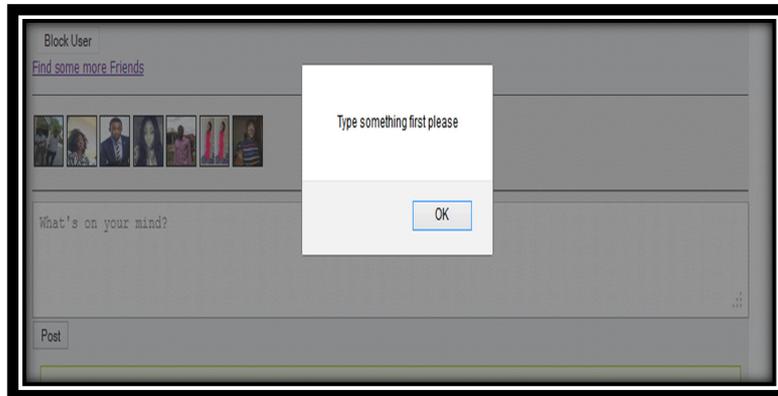


Fig.12. CBSN Users' Post Page

Fig.12 shows response to a request to posting empty post page

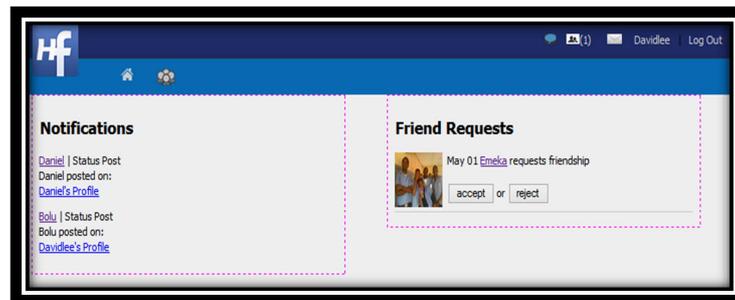


Fig.13. CBSN Users' Friend's Notification Page

Fig.13 shows users' request notification page of the developed campus based social networking

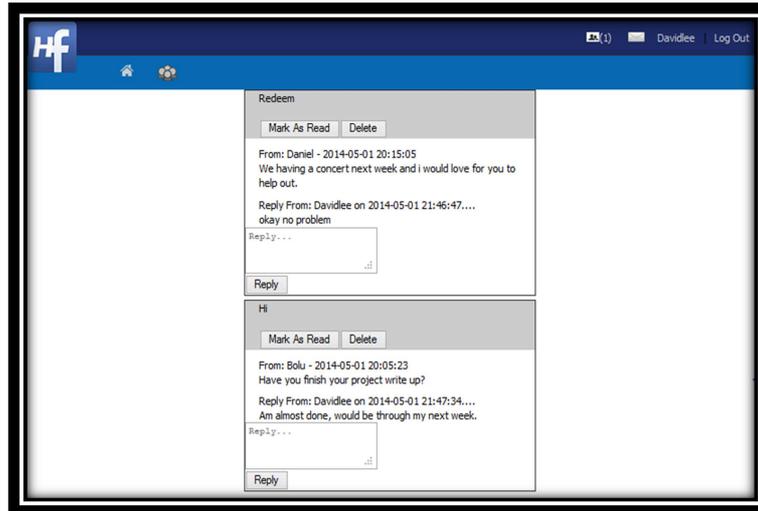


Fig.14. CBSN Users' Message page

Fig.14 shows users' message page of the developed campus based social networking

4 CONCLUSION

The need for development of a campus based social networking (CBSN) is to satisfy desire of youths especially students to socialite and also to help in developing a good academic environment which most commonly used social networks has not been able to achieve, brought about development of CBSN. The restriction in the sign up form will prevent any interested user that is not based on the campus not to be able to register thereby not to be able to have access to the use of the campus based social network. The student users' has to be a registered student of the institution in order to be issued a matriculation number that will allow such student to access the system, also the institution staff will need staff identification number in order to be registered. For the implementation, institution will be required to link the sign up page of CBSN to the school database such that staff identification number and student matriculation number can be compared to the one available in the school database in order to avoid graduated student from using the system or any staff that is no longer in the service of the institution or outsiders.

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