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HomeSlate

(temp name)

Idea

There has always been the trend in technology of increasing speed. We desire quick download times, fast shipping of merchandise, and pizza delivery under 30 minutes among many things. This is very evident in developing internet technology as browser developers find ways to load web pages quicker and web devs design site navigation to get their user to point $ in as little time as possible. The internet is almost synonymous with fast.

Our proposal follows this trend. Our idea is that right after you open a web browser, you can be one click away from your destination, or even no clicks at all. This will be done by providing a simple and clean interface that is highly customizable to fit the user's preferences. It will be a webpage with the intent of being set as the user's home or landing page in their browser. Within the page will be tiles that can be added, removed, moved, resized, and contain content that is of interest to the user, such as bookmarks, news feeds, and weather.

Even though there are many other web pages out there designed to operate as the goto homepage, they all seem to follow the same path, that is, they are all too cluttered and restrained from personalization. We can make something better that feels more like 'home'.

Minimum Viable Product

There are a subset of features that if implemented, the product will be viable for general use and ready for future add-ons. The minimum features include:

- Login/Registration - essential for user personalization
- Tile/Widget API - create an easy way for the project team and future users to build upon this project
- Sample Tiles/Widgets - something that will possibly use the API as an example and give a sturdy base from which have a deliverable product (e.g. website bookmarks)
- User Interface - one that allows user to customize their environment and provides access to necessary services such as login and registration

Additional Features

The architecture of this project allows for most future additions to be implemented with ease. These will primarily consist of tiles/widgets used to expand customization for users. Potential tiles/widgets include, and are not limited to, the following:

- Calendar
- To-Do list
- News/Sports

- Email
- RSS feed
- Reddit
- Integration with social networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.)

Tools and Technology

The following tools and languages are planned on being used:

- Django/Python - server-side scripting and framework
- Webfaction - host content
- Git/Github - version control
- JavaScript/JQuery - client-side scripting
- PostgreSQL - database
- AJAX/JSON - data retrieval and storage

Potential Risks

It is expected that not everyone on the team will be familiar with all of the selected tools and scripting languages, which would then require some time for learning. However, they are all valuable to know and we intend for the experience in their implementation to be beneficial.

Navigation Flow

The intent is for navigation on the site to be minimal with mindset of quick, fewer clicks, and customization.