TESIS^ APPROVAL STATUS FORM

JUDUL: **KOLEJ UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA FORUM (KU Forum)**

SESI PENGAJIAN: **SEMESTER II (2004/2005)**

Saya **HAFSAH BINTI DAUD @ YUSOF**
(HURUF BESAR)

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KOLEJ UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA FORUM
(KU Forum)

HAFSAH BINTI DAUD @ YUSOF

This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (Software Development).

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
KOLEJ UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
2005

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I admitted that this project title name of

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DEDICATION

I owe this project and my true happiness I feel today to my beloved parent. Since the day I started going to this college until today, they are very caring and supporting for me. Not forgotten to my best friend, Bent. Love you mum, dad...

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to Allah SWT because with His permission I had completed this Projek Sarjana Muda. I would like to take this opportunity to personally express my deepest appreciation and gratitude. The completion of this project would be impossible without help of these people. It gives me a great pleasure in completing this project.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my project supervisor, Puan Nurul Akmar Binti Emran for her concerns, time, advice, guidance and supervision throughout the progress of the project. Her invaluable information and suggestion is much appreciated. She makes teaching worthwhile.

Second, I thank would like to thank my project panel, Puan Wahidah Binti Md Shah and Puan Norashikin Binti Ahmad for her time and guidance throughout the progress and completion of this project.

Last but not least, thanks to my friends and my family for their love, support and trust.

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ABSTRACT

This project call as Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia Forum or it abbreviations is KU Forum. This project will be built for KUTKM students and staff. The main feature is for them easy to communicate each other wherever they are. This project also has moderator and administrator as management level to manage this forum. Else there also has guest and member. Basically, user who browses this forum will be guest, and if they register then become member. Development phase for KU Forum used Warterfall Model methodology. This is because this methodology simple and easy to follow. It has to repeat phase until the project completely finish. So this project can reduce human mistake.

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ABSTRAK

Projek ini dikenali sebagai Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia Forum atau singkatannya KU Forum. Projek ini dihasilkan adalah untuk kegunaan pelajar dan staf KUTKM. KU Forum digunakan bagi memudahkan mereka berkomunikasi tidak kira di mana jua mereka berada. Di dalam KU Forum terdapat fungsi bagi moderator dan pentadbir dibahagian pengurusan. Selain daripada itu terdapat pelawat dan juga ahli. Sesiapa sahaja yang melayari laman web ini akan menjadi pelawat, dan apabila mereke mendaftar, mereka akan menjadi ahli. Metodologi *Waterfall Model* dipilih untuk membangunkan projek ini kerana ianya mudah dan senang diikuti. Metodologi ini akan mengulang fasa-fasanya sehingga projek tersebut siap. Maka projek ini akan mengurangkan kecuaian manusia.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

[A]	
AUT	Application Under Test
[C]	
CSS	Cascading Style Sheet
[D]	
DBMS	Database Management System
DFD	Data Flow Diagram
DHTML	Dynamic Hypertext Markup Language
[E]	
ERD	Entity Relationship Diagram
[F]	
FHD	Functional Hierarchical Document
FTMK	Fakulti Teknologi Maklumat dan Kommunikasi
[H]	
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
[K]	
KU Forum	Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia Forum
KUTKM	Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia

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[N]

NT	New Technology

[P]

PHP	Pre-Hypertext Processing
PSM	Project Sarjana Muda

[R]

RAM	Random Access Memory

[S]

SQL	Structured Query Language

[U]

URL	Uniform Resource Locater

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble / Overview

One of the ideas behind Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia Forum (KU Forum) is to make an online forum that is not only free, but also good especially for all. KU Forum is an Open Source web forum that is written in Pre-Hypertext Processing (PHP) and can be used on virtually any windows operating system. This forum use MySQL server as database.

KU Forum combines an extensive feature set while maintaining the ability to generate forum web pages extremely fast. This forum used to communicate each other using Internet and act as platform in Internet. User can achieve latest information or notice from this KU Forum. They can send questions, opinions and news. Therefore user also can reply comments or give answers or coding here based on topics and questions in there.

Basically this project will be done because Fakulti Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (FTMK) forum links with Claroline Forum. Claroline Forum is not suitable for FTMK students. There a few topics that not related to us. There are so many foreign users. The KU forum is managed by anybody either staff or students, who responsible to manage this forum. So KU Forum is more suitable for Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia (KUTKM) students and staff.

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The Waterfall Model has been chose to guide development phase in this project refer chapter 3, section 3.3 System Development Approach for further information. It is because this methodology is simple and suitable with this project. Each stage was completed before the next was started.

1.2 Problem Statement

The main problem now day is FTMK Forum (Claroline Forum) not belongs to FTMK. The others problems are:

- The Claroline Forum for FTMK students and staffs are lodger. So they can only be a guest or member.

- The Claroline Forum is forum for setup online course system. So this forum did not have discussion about other than setup online course system. It basically, discuss about installation of this system.

- The Claroline Forum interface not user friendly. In that forum, there was no documentation how to use forum in the right way. There also have topic in wrong general topic. So it make user confuse.

1.3 Objective

KU Forum is one of important services for KUTKM students and staff to communicate all over the world. This is because KU Forum had been published using internet. So with KU Forum they can easily communicate to know the latest news or notice. Therefore this project has a few more objectives.

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KU Forum objectives:

- As platform for KUTKM students and staff to communicate each other using internet. Students and staff can send messages, opinions, questions, answers, notices and others. So they all can send or receive it anywhere they are.

- KU Forum has administrative tools for KUTKM administrator to manage forum. They can create, edit and delete forum topics or forum contents. This is to make sure that forum topics and forum contents suitable and there are no such unsuitable messages.

- This project is user friendly. So students and staff can easily use this forum. KU Forum also has online user manual.

1.4 Scopes

This KU Forum focus on basic features for forum. But there are additional features for different user status. KU Forum has four user statuses: guest, member, moderator and administrator. Each status has its own features. For more details refer to chapter 4, section 4.3.1 Functional Requirement page 29.

Time frame for this project will take about eight months to do and it has two parts: PSM I and PSM II. PSM I start from 29th Mar 2004 until 22nd May 2004 then PSM II start from 17th Nov 2004 until 18th Mar 2005. PSM I is prototype report. PSM II is develops KU Forum and make full report of KU Forum. For more details refer to chapter 3, section 3.4 Project Schedule and Milestone page 22.

Based on application complexity for KU Forum, module for administrator is the most complex privileges in this project. This is because administration module different from others privileges. Administrator manage whole of the system, functions for manage user, functions for manage forum and user.

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1.5 Contributions

The KU Forum had been developed because in FTMK forum, FTMK students and staffs are minor user. So that's mean FTMK students and staffs are lodger. The KU Forum is specially developed for KUTKM students and staff. But this forum can have foreign user. Foreign user only can be a guest or member. Only registered user either foreign or KUTKM citizen can post forum messages in KU Forum.

With KU Forum, moderators and administrators are trusted person in KUTKM. So the KU Forum fully managed by KUTKM responsibly person. It means that forum category, topic and message can be managed by responsible KUTKM staff or students.

1.6 Expected Output

Target for this project is to make sure that user can use this project effectively. And this project means a lot to them to communicate each other in locate area with the lowest coast. Other than that this project hopefully is complete in the time that has been given.

1.7 Conclusion

The KU Forum can reduce human mistaken. With KU Forum all information can be passing to other all over the world. KU Forum make communicate between students and lectures effectively especially for industrial training students. The students can achieve notice from lectures as soon as possible.

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CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

A literature review is a research from the existing research. Occasionally write one as a separate assignment (sometimes in the form of an annotated bibliography), but more often it is part of the introduction to an essay, research report, or thesis. In writing the literature review, the purpose is to convey to reader what knowledge and ideas have been established on a topic, and what their strengths and weaknesses are. As a piece of writing, the literature review must be defined by a guiding concept (e.g., research objective, the problem or issue discussing, or argumentative thesis). It is not just a descriptive list of the material available, or a set of summaries.

Literature review is important for KU Forum because from that KU Forum can be a good forum for the KUTKM forum. This literature review also tells what the best web hosting to use during developing KU Forum. It also can suggest the best database to store data for this product. This literature review also help in guiding decisions about further research and providing a context for interpreting new findings and informing policy and practice, based on existing research.

To develop a successful online KU Forum, current system and other online forum are studied. The business flow of KU Forum functions, data and information gather from other forums. Two samples from websites from internet for online forum are searched and analyzed in page 9.

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2.2 Fact and finding

2.2.1 Information Gathering

For KU Forum, there was a lot of ways to gather relevant to this product. Among of ways to gather information that have been chosen:

- Journal articles: these are good especially for up-to-date information. Bare in mind, though, that it can take up to two years to publish articles. Literature reviews are frequently used because it offers a relatively concise, up-to-date format for research, and because all reputable journals are refereed (i.e. editors publish only the most relevant and reliable research).

- Internet: the fastest-growing source of information is on the Internet. It is impossible to characterize the information available. But more refereed electronic journals (e-journals) are appearing on the internet. So if they are refereed it means that there is an editorial board that evaluates the work before publish it in their e-journal, so the quality should be more reliable (depending on the reputation of the journal).

2.2.2 Project Definition

In project definition section elaborates about forum meaning. Basic features of forum identify from the meaning of forum. Below is a listed of forum definitions.

WordNet 2.0 Search

The noun "forum" has 3 senses in WordNet

- Forum is a public meeting or assembly for open discussion.

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- Forum, assembly or meeting place is a public facility to meet for open discussion.
- Agora, forum or public square is a place of assembly for the people in ancient Greece. **[1]**

Internet Glossary of Terms

Forum is an online discussion group or news group. **[2]**

Glossary of Terms

Forum is a discussion area (containing post and reply messages) within an ezboard community. A community may have one or more forums. A forum may have one or more topics. **[3]**

Summary

From definition above, forum is a place or platform to groups of user having their discussion. Post message and reply it. Here they can give their question, answer, opinion, comment and so on.

2.2.3 Comparison With Others Existing Web Forum

In this section discuss about the existing web forum. Web forum had been analyzed to find the best combination to make web forum.

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