

Discussion Forums

Kerri Vuolo, March 31st 2015

What are discussion forums?

- A discussion forum is an online “bulletin board” where you can post messages that others can respond to
- Centralized location for discussion of topics
- Also known as discussion board, discussion group, message board, or online forum
- Can be local or international

History

- Discussion forums began before the internet with BBS in 1978
- Usenet was another early form of message board used internationally
- WIT software developed in 1994, most widely used

What are forums used to discuss?



- Anything and everything!
- Often based around hobbies or lifestyles
- Automobiles, exercise, parenthood, gaming, sports, and politics are some popular topics
- Also used for education and online learning


Examples


Top 10 forums:

1. Gaia
2. ConceptArt
3. Something Awful
4. PB Nation
5. Martial Arts Planet
6. Fan Forum
7. Honda Tech
8. C6 Corvette Forum
9. The Student Room
10. NeoGAF
































Examples

[View Forum Moderators](#)
 **The GD**
 Subforums:  Casual Discussion

 **In The News**
 Discuss the current events happening across the world.

[Reopen Forum Pulse](#)
 New Topic

Displaying topics up to **Today** @ 40 Topics per page
 Topics 1 - 40 of 4354254 [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) ... [108855](#) [108856](#) [108857](#)

Topic	Replies	Author	Last Post
 Announcement: The GD Rules and Guidelines - Updated 04/10/2014	3	The Admin	5.8 years ago  The Admin
 Announcement: Notice of staff activity	0	The Admin	6.8 years ago  The Admin
  Can someone give me 1 good reason why cutting is bad [1, 2, 3]	34	gods special angel 2007	a minute ago  Aevius
  Want share a story?	5	SimpleSatisfaction	a minute ago  SimpleSatisfaction
  I have been here for years and... [1, 2]	19	SimpleSatisfaction	2 minutes ago  SimpleSatisfaction
  system.out.println("hello world!");	2	arcade fuhrer 420	2 minutes ago  arcade fuhrer 420
  Oh a PM cool, I wonder who wants to talk to me	4	Octo Gone	4 minutes ago  Cheri Merlot
  LOL @ the concept of "justice"-----	0	djfranktankv23	9 minutes ago  djfranktankv23
  Over glorification of Marijuana [1, 2, 3, 4]	45	WitchBoyNarc	10 minutes ago  PizzaStix
  It's hailing	3	I will punch a bee	12 minutes ago  PizzaStix
  Grotesque coworkers	4	PerniciousRex	12 minutes ago  Stop Banning Pussywillow

Examples

Threads in Forum: Celebrities

Forum Affiliates



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Thread / Thread Starter	Replies	Views	Last Post
Views: 2,409,406 ↗ 12-15-2007			
Announcement: Official Fan Forum Rules and Guidelines - Updated 1/3/15 Jerry D (Administrator)			
Topped: Moderator Opening Announcement - Extended (1 2 3) Wine Colored Roses	30	567	Today 01:17 AM by Maité ↗
Topped: The Salon (Off Topic) #85: Do fish get thirsty? (1 2 3 4 5 ... Last Page) Millie May	87	1,179	03-29-2015 12:27 PM by Maité ↗
Topped: Celebrities [Rules/Intros/Guide] #5: Please Read & Introduce or Re-introduce Yourself (1 2 3 4 5 ... Last Page) Ms. Evil Regal	137	3,557	03-28-2015 06:43 PM by Millie May ↗
Topped: Please Welcome Your Temporary Moderators! (1 2) Johnnie	27	983	03-26-2015 05:17 PM by Jade Lizabetta Lautner ↗
Celebrities ABCs #44 (1 2 3 4 5 ... Last Page) Melis	252	2,945	Today 01:43 PM by NikNak ↗
Michelle Dockery Appreciation #1: There's no fussing around. So I love that about her. She doesn't suffer fools. (1 2 3 4) L I N d \$ @ y	52	596	Today 01:35 PM by carrie.suze ↗
Lee Pace#3:"when Lee comes on set in character, people just clear out of the way!" -peter swords king (makeup artist from the hobbit) (1 2 3) wickedrum	35	242	Today 01:33 PM by wickedrum ↗
Johnny Depp #11: The legend of cinema of this age! (1 2 3 4 5 ... Last Page) Aludra	227	3,537	Today 01:25 PM by wickedrum ↗
Jessica Chastain #5: because she believes in diversity in Hollywood and the world agrees! (1 2 3 4 5 ... Last Page) always be my baby	85	828	Today 01:18 PM by heart devoured ↗
Patricia Arquette Appreciation Thread #1: "Because She's So Cool..." (1 2 3 4 5) ...	64	3,975	Today 12:59 PM by ... ↗

Advantages

- Provide an easy way for people to get relevant information about a certain topic
- Foster a sense of community
- Inspire users through encouragement and sharing of accomplishments
- Allow users to connect throughout the world
- Anonymity

Disadvantages

- Discussion needs to be moderated
- Spammers
- Negative association with host site
- Information may be inaccurate

Recommendations

- Forums are a great choice for niche businesses
- Better suited to larger companies with the staff to moderate discussion
- Also useful for online education

Future

- Continued growth expected
- Potential linking of other social media sites
- Further development of software

Resources

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/discussion-board-discussion-group-message-board-online-forum>

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-we-talk-online-a-history-of-online-forums-from-cavemen-days-to-the-present/>

<http://www.thebiggestboards.com/>

<http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/small/Di-Eq/Electronic-Bulletin-Boards.html>

<http://edu307fall2011.edublogs.org/2011/10/31/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-online-forums-2/>