Microaggressions @ VT

microaggressions.cs.vt.edu

CS 4624 - Multimedia, Hypertext, and Information access
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Client: Josh Iorio
Principal faculty in the Myers-Lawson School of Construction

Arunima Singh, Brandon Falcone, Cyndy Ejanda, Robert Wenger
Outline

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Introduction

Microaggressions are seemingly harmless insults that target an individual based on their group membership.

“Microaggressions are actually more damaging than overt expressions of bigotry precisely because they are small and therefore often ignored or downplayed, ... leading the victim to feel isolated” [1].

Goal: Make faculty members feel more included at Virginia Tech.

- Faculty will feel less isolated
- Faculty will choose to stay at Virginia Tech
- Improves the cultural climate of Virginia Tech
- Increases diversity of faculty
- Gives Virginia Tech a competitive advantage
Diversity of Faculty

- Male: 85
- Female: 15
- White: 65
- Asian: 21
- American Indian: 0.3
- Hispanic: 6
- Nonresident Alien: 7
- Multiracial: 0.3
- Black: 2
Implementation Overview

- **Back-end**
  - PHP, MySQL
  - PhpMyAdmin

- **Front-end**
  - Foundation Framework
  - HTML, CSS, PHP, Javascript, Jquery

- **Main Website**
- **Admin Panel**
## Database tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table Name</th>
<th>Primary Key</th>
<th>Other fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>UserID</td>
<td>Password, First Name, Last Name, Mobile, Email, Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>UserID</td>
<td>Password, First Name, Last Name, Mobile, Email, Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posts</td>
<td>Post Number</td>
<td>Post, IP, Time Stamp, Date, Status(Published, Flagged, New), Gender, Ethnicity, Department, Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Templates</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tweets</td>
<td>Tweet Number</td>
<td>Hashtag</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technical Solutions

- Share posts anonymously
  - Rules for posting
  - Validations
  - Anonymity checker
  - Security

Avoiding microaggression

Anonymity Checker
Screenshots

- Share posts anonymously
- Admin/Moderator Dashboard
- View all approved posts on the website
Technical Solutions Contd.

- **Data Analysis**
  - N-grams (bigrams and trigrams)
  - Tag Cloud (D3 Word Cloud API)
  - Pie Graphs (Google Visualization API)
  - Filtering Posts
Technical Solutions Contd.

- Data Analysis
  - N-grams (bigrams and trigrams)
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- Other Features
  - Facebook Sharing (Facebook API)
  - Twitter Widget - Display Related Tweets (Twitter API)
    - #microagression, #racist, #sexist
  - Search

- Content Management System
Admin/Moderator Dashboard

- Manage website contents (pages, twitter hashtags)
- Add or delete moderators
  - Accessible only to the admin
- Approve or flag posts

Date: Apr 27, 16 1:27 PM
Gender: Female
Ethnicity: White
Department: Entomology

Story:
I am a girl with very short hair. In class this afternoon, my substitute teacher (who’s in his mid 20s) comments that he doesn’t understand why girls compliment each other when they get bad hair cuts, like a “boy hair cut.” The fact that he feels comfortable making this comment with me clearly in the room is not only unprofessional, but irritating and rude.

Approve or flag posts
Search

- Search from any page
- Uses MySQL “LIKE”
- Displays results on a separate page
Conclusion

- Seemingly benign phrases that are a type of microaggressions
- University microaggressions needs to be addressed
- The negative impact of microaggressions
- Our project can also be extended to include microaggressions among students
References
