This self centered forum visualization tool, Rising Star by Narci-Soft, allows forum-goers to always be in the right conversations – the ones that get noticed, that matter – and to always see just how important they are. Each thread on the a forum is represented as a star. The conversations that are generating the most interest are represented as more colorful and brighter. The more replies to an initial post, the more 'flares' the star sends out. Branches within conversations are represented as branches within the flares.

When the user has influenced the path of a conversation-- when they have greatly affected the shape of the star, the star gains an ethereal glow. Of course, most users won't notice this feature since (important people that they are) they may cause glow in each star they see.

To ensure that the user feels important enough, their own posts are shown within the stars as bright little starbursts, and can be read (to reassure the user that they are in fact witty and important) by hovering the mouse over the starburst,as seen in the second picture. Links to your the user's posts are shown by little rocket ships, shooting off to energize other conversations with their wit and brilliance.

Zooming in on a star shows more detail of the conversation, including others' post headings as hypertext, leading to the forum itself.

Of course, Rising Star can be set to see other users' places in the universe, but that feature is only expected to be used to show how inferior others' contributions are.

Additionally, the history of a forum's conversations can be viewed as a movie, with stars being born, growing, becoming beautiful, and then fading away into the black, with the user's contributions shown prominently.

Activity on multiple forums is kept separate in different 'galaxies', which can all be seen at once if the user zooms out sufficiently.

Most users will naturally choose to use Rising Star as an active Desktop background, but it can also be run as a widget, gadget or stand alone application.

Keep watching for Narci-Soft's next forum visualization, Sycophant, which will let track whomever you choose as an idol and mindlessly affirm them at all times!
What do you call a broken boomerang?