Introduction

Current forums are, undoubtedly, convenient. Listing threads in a forum and the responses by different users in each thread one below the other has hitherto proven to be an effective display of information. In forums, threads are created and are listed chronologically where the most recent ones appear first and the oldest threads appear last. Usually the first page in a thread of conversation has a finite number of responses (10, for example) after which the responses flow or get archived into other pages. Fig. 1 is an example of an imdb message board that broadly typifies existing forum visualizations.

Motivation

While current forum displays are ordered by means if latest threads first, a user looking for topics that match his interest to post in, usually would sift through the first few pages. Based on my own experience and references from other friends, it is not uncommon behavior to lose patience and only look though the first three or five pages while visiting a forum for interesting discussion topics. As a result, the pages beyond a certain one-digit page number gradually die out and so do the threads and
information contained within it. Chances are that what the user is looking for is hidden in the later pages and doesn't come into their view because of the lack of recent activity. For example, in the above forum display, recent activity can be as soon as 18 seconds or 2 minutes. In such a case, threads or responses posted five days ago get pushed towards the last pages and never get revived unless a user with a great amount of patience looks through them and posts a comment or response, thus bringing it back to the more “current” time scale.

Concept

The concept is a visualization that promotes a frequent re-circulating of information. This visualization would ensure a way that relatively older posts do no die out while making the topics and information contained within them more accessible to the user. When the user clicks on a thread and enters a discussion, a list of similar threads would appear in the same page. The basic idea is of matching the words in the title of all the threads in the forum with the current one being perused by a user. Additionally, the words on the title of a thread being viewed can also be matched with all the responses in all the threads in the forum; however this would generate an unwieldy amount of information if the number of threads in the forum is huge. Going by this, similar threads from the past would appear inside the thread where the user can easily access them from, lest the thread and the discussion within it die out completely.

Below is a visualization of what the forum (in this case the imdb Watchmen forum) would look like.
**Watchmen (2009)**

**why does Rorschach's face/mask change ???**
I haven't read the graphic novel, but i just saw the movie & was wondering if i missed the explanation. thanks!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>why does Rorschach's face/mask change ???</th>
<th>bambamm98</th>
<th>Mar 29 2009 19:31:18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re: why does Rorschach's face/mask change ???</td>
<td>thefabulousjasonstuart</td>
<td>Mar 29 2009 19:34:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re: why does Rorschach's face/mask change ???</td>
<td>bilderback</td>
<td>Mar 29 2009 19:37:37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing 25 of 37 threads

- For those who claim Rorschach's voice is ripped off...
- Did anyone see Rorschach...
- Rorschach at the End
- Rorschach's INCREDIBLE Mask
- Why does Rorschach's face/mask change ???
- Rorschach
- Why Rorschach speak incomplete sentences?
- Why did Rorschach's 'face' move?
- Who the F cares about Rorschach??
- Rorschach stinks?
- Rorschach = a nerd?!
- Rorschach's mask?
- Rorschachs journal...
- Rorschach stinks?
- Who would win: Phantom vs Bubaste vs the two dogs Rorschach killed
- Rorschach's age?
- Young Rorschach's freckles
- Funny Rorschach vs Wolverine youtube video...
- Why wouldn't Rorschach kill the comedian?
- if kevin james had played rorschach, it might've broke even at the b.o.
- Rorschach's Journal: A Novel
- Hey guys, Rorschach here
- Why does Rorschach talk like Batman?
- Rorschach's mask - NOW IN THE FAQ
- I've always wondered how Rorschach can afford rent.