3.1 Forums

Goals
Our goal was to find a way to visualize both group and individual activity in a forum. We want to represent activity in an entire forum community as well as within topical sub-forums. Furthermore, we wanted the ability to zero in on an individual user's activity in both situations.

Methods
3.1 Forums allows for immediate visual distinction between activity in different subforums by varying the relative size of the particular subforum's "slice". Greater activity translates to a larger slice of the virtual pie. Users' activity determines their distance from the center of the circle; more active users are closer to the center of the circle (the center of activity). Users can have multiple 'points', one in each separate slice. When any of a user's points is moused over, their username is displayed and all of their points are highlighted. When any of a user's points is clicked on, all of their points are highlighted and a message box appears containing more detailed information.