




NAME: Question & Answer platform 

DATE: June 26, 2026 10:56 AM


DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY
 A web platform where users can post questions and receive answers from other users, similar to Stack Overflow. Built with React (frontend) and Spring Boot (backend), with features including user registration, login, posting questions with tags, and answering questions. Developed as a personal learning project and as a QA course assignment demonstrating security as a quality outcome.

HUMAN VALUES 


Currently the platform allows users to post questions and answers under their username. This means their questions are visible to others. On the positive side, it encourages knowledge sharing and gives users a way to help others. The platform does not impose any belief or world view, and does not collect sensitive personal data that could judge users.

TRANSPARENCY 


Currently there is no explanation provided to users about how the platform works or how their data is used. There is no privacy policy, no terms of service, and no onboarding guide. Since this is a learning project with no commercial business model, there is no monetisation to explain. However, if the platform were to be used by real users, it would need a clear privacy policy explaining what data is collected and how it is used, in order to comply with privacy legislation such as GDPR.

IMPACT ON SOCIETY 


The problem this platform addresses is the same one Stack Overflow was built to solve: people learning or working in software development often get stuck on technical problems and need a place to ask questions and get answers from a knowledgeable community.

STAKEHOLDERS 


- students, developers, educators, platform developer

SUSTAINABILITY 


Energy use has not been explicitly considered in the development of this platform. As a small-scale learning project running on a local server, the energy consumption is minimal. However, if the platform were to scale to a larger user base, energy use would become more relevant

HATEFUL AND CRIMINAL ACTORS 


Users could post harmful or offensive content anonymously to harass others. Someone could also steal another user's account if passwords are not stored securely. To prevent this, the platform hashes passwords using BCrypt and uses secure cookies so attackers cannot steal login sessions.

DATA 


As a student developer, I am aware of some fundamental data pitfalls but not all. I have taken steps to protect user data by hashing passwords with BCrypt and using secure cookies. However, I have not yet implemented features like data minimisation (only collecting what is strictly necessary), a privacy policy, or a way for users to delete their account and data. but I have not yet built any content moderation system.

FUTURE 

In the future, the platform could grow into a larger community where developers share knowledge at scale. Positively, it could help many people learn and solve problems faster. However, there are also risks it could attract spam, misinformation, or harmful content if no moderation system is in place. If user data is not properly protected as the platform scales, it could become a target for data breaches. There is also a risk that automated bots could flood the platform with fake questions or answers. To prevent these issues, future...

PRIVACY 

Yes, the platform collects personal data. When a user registers, it stores their username, email address, and password (hashed, not plain text). It also stores the questions and answers they post, which could indirectly reveal personal opinions or knowledge about certain topics. No special categories of personal data (such as health or ethnicity) are collected. To protect this data, passwords are never stored in plain text and secure cookie settings are used to protect login sessions


INCLUSIVITY 

The platform itself does not have an algorithmic bias since it does not use AI or automated decision-making.

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HUMAN VALUES 

How is the identity of the (intended) users affected by the technology?

To help you answer this question think about sub questions like:

- If two friends use your product, how could it enhance or detract from their relationship?
- Does your product create new ways for people to interact?...

TRANSPARENCY 

Is it explained to the users/stakeholders how the technology works and how the business model works?

- Is it easy for users to find out how the technology works?
- Can a user understand or find out why your technology behaves in a certain way?
- Are the goals explained?
- Is the idea of the technology explained?
- Is the technology company transparent about the way their...

IMPACT ON SOCIETY 

What is exactly the problem? Is it really a problem? Are you sure?

Can you exactly define what the challenge is? What problem (what 'pain') does this technology want to solve? Can you make a clear definition of the problem? What 'pain' does this technology want to ease? Whose pain? Is it really a problem? For who? Will solving the problem make the world better? Are you sure? The problem definition will help you to determine...

STAKEHOLDERS 

Who are the main users/targetgroups/stakeholders for this technology? Think about the intended context by...

When thinking about the stakeholders, the most obvious one are of course the intended users, so start there. Next, list the stakeholders that are directly affected. Listing the users and directly affected stakeholders also gives an impression of the intended context of the technology.

...

SUSTAINABILITY 

In what way is the direct and indirect energy use of this technology taken into account?

One of the most prominent impacts on sustainability is energy efficiency. Consider what service you want this technology to provide and how this could be achieved with a minimal use of energy. Are improvements possible?

HATEFUL AND CRIMINAL ACTORS 

In which way can the technology be used to break the law or avoid the consequences of breaking the law?

Can you imagine ways that the technology can or will be used to break the law? Think about invading someone's privacy. Spying. Hurting people. Harassment. Steal things. Fraud/identity theft and so on. Or will people use the technology to avoid facing the consequences of breaking the law (using trackers to evade speed radars or using bitcoins to launder...)

DATA 

Are you familiar with the fundamental shortcomings and pitfalls of data and do you take this sufficiently into...

There are fundamental issues with data. For example:

- Data is always subjective;
- Data collections are never complete;
- Correlation and causation are tricky concepts;
- Data collections are often biased;...

FUTURE 

What could possibly happen with this technology in the future?

Discuss this quickly and note your first thoughts here. Think about what happens when 100 million people use your product. How could communities, habits and norms change?

PRIVACY 

Does the technology register personal data? If yes, what personal data?

If this technology registers personal data you have to be aware of privacy legislation and the concept of privacy. Think hard about this question. Remember: personal data can be interpreted in a broad way. Maybe this technology does not collect personal data, but can be used to assemble personal data. If the technology collects special personal data (like...

INCLUSIVITY 

Does this technology have a built-in bias?

Do a brainstorm. Can you find a built-in bias in this technology? Maybe because of the way the data was collected, either by personal bias, historical bias, political bias or a lack of diversity in the people responsible for the design of the technology? How do you know this is not the case? Be critical. Be aware of your own biases....

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