Discussion Navigator (DN) is our attempt to design an interface to extend the conversation beyond simple read and comment. Although we have done our best to come up with the most intuitive interface and workflow for DN, we know that we will have to refine UI and workflow in the coming weeks and months to address the user needs better. We need your input and please send any comments and suggestions for improvements to: classroom-salon@andrew.cmu.edu

Here’s how to start experimenting with DN

**Step 1:** If you are a member of an active salon, you may already be getting the 2-hour digest from Salon as an email as follows.

Dear Member of 'Chemistry 100-401 FlZ',

Here is an update on what's been going in the Salon:

== RA #7 - Solutions
- 1 member(s) made 1 comment(s) on the Document

to see the Document

**Step 2:** If you click on the visit link, you will be directed to the comment and the context directly. This allows you to quickly see what others in your salon have done (See Context), and allow responding (REPLY) to the comment quickly.
Step 3: If you want to see all of the level 1 comments (or root comments) click on the back button. And you will be directed to ALL root comments with “context” highlighted as you click on the comment. This will allow you to easily explore all comments, in their context, reducing the cognitive overload associated with separated comments and context (as in all discussion boards).
Filtering Comments

Salon has attempted to provide you with many filters to look at only the comments you need.

**Step 4: Filtering Comments of a certain area of a document**

Select the area of the text, and program should display only the comments in that area. (for files with many comments, this may take a few seconds, so just select and wait until it filters). You can then reply to a comment or create a “NEW” comment on the selection (see MAKING NEW COMMENTS In Step 8)

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**SOLUTIONS**

Chemical reactions between solids are normally slow, so we usually carry out such reactions by first dissolving the compounds in a liquid to form a solution. For example, one of the processes used to treat oxide ores of copper produces a solution containing copper(II) sulfate.

**Question:** Why do you think reactions in solution are often faster?

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**Step 5: Filter Comments by Users**

PREFERENCES ➔ PEOPLE ➔ HIDE ALL ➔ SELECT THE USERS YOU WANT TO SEE
Step 6: Filter Comments by Tags/Thread label

Each comment is associated with a tag. We use this tag as the “label” for the thread. If the root level comment extends, then this “label” will carry throughout the discussion tree with that comment as the root. Users can start their own “labels” (see below). To filter by Threads (or tags)

PREFERENCES ➔ THREADS ➔ HIDE ALL ➔ SELECT THE THREADS YOU WANT TO SEE

Exploring Comment Threads

Step 7: To explore a comment thread beyond level 1, look for comment threads that have gone deeper. The P(people) and C(children) shows the number of people and number of children (see 1) who have participated in the root comment. Navigator interface is designed to open more levels (horizontally), so you can explore a comment and all its children, grand-children etc with context in place. The hotspot navigator (see 2) will point to places in the text where most rooted discussions have been created.
Making New Comments

**Step 8:** To start a new comment, select text (on left), then choose thread subject (click on Thread subject (box 1)) from the list of available tags (or write your own tag)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you start a comment from Discussion navigator (as opposed to making a comment in participate or view mode), you need to choose a thread subject/tag (box 1). Click on “Thread subject” (box 1) twice to see the available tags. Choose an existing tag or write your own tag.

**AS OF CURRENT VERSION,** user defined tags/thread subjects will NOT appear in view mode. This is due to a technical issue that we are trying to resolve.

Helping Us Improve Discussion Navigator

Discussion navigator continues to improve its User interface and easiness. Our goal is to design a UI that elegantly combines DOCUMENT CONTEXT, USERS, and DISCUSSION TREES into one simple unit. We believe that Salon can not only define COMMENT DENSITIES but also show “SEMANTIC DENSITY” of text by showing where discussions take place and continue. Our vision is to combine interpretation and context. We believe “INTERPRETATION IS SOCIAL” and we are attempting to user social annotations to interpret text.