The Jedi Way of Stack Overflow

Stack Overflow has moved to a pretty full-featured Live beta phase, so it's time for a few more thoughts about our design process. Some of the details for the website are discussed in Joel's podcast, but I thought I'd give a little more detail on the design process here.

The basic design decision that Joel and I made from the beginning was that we would not attempt to design a wide-ranging platform. My grandiose vision for Stack Overflow is that it's a place where programmers can come to ask questions and answer questions, and that's about it. Nothing more, nothing less.

As we wrote about, Stack Overflow has our particular opinionated spin on how such a website should be designed, based on our experiences with the forums, or, more specifically, the lack thereof. Forums are an amazingly powerful tool, but they are also a very, very, very,