

Vision

Revision History

Version	Date	Description	Author
Inception Draft	2/14/17	First draft. To be refined during elaboration.	E.J. Schroeder
Iteration 1	3/7/17	Reviewed with very minor changes.	E.J. Schroeder
Iteration 3	5/4/17	No changes needed.	E.J. Schroeder

Introduction

NKUNet is a next generation social network that allows Northern Kentucky University students, faculty and alumni to share knowledge and resources with each other.

Positioning

Problem Statement

Traditional non-educational social networks are not focused on sharing educational information. A platform not specifically designed to do so may detract from student learning and faculty's ability to accurately see student needs. Current social media are difficult to tailor a single organization. Not having social media tailored to our organization results in a lack of competition, motif, uniqueness, and efficiency.

Product Position Statement

NKUNet is for students and faculty as means to facilitate sharing of knowledge. NKUNet will provide a method to ask questions and share resources within an academic context, unlike other social media and general question-based websites.

Alternatives and Competition

Blackboard- NKU's system for hosting online coursework and resources

FaceBook- Popular general social media network, does a little of everything

Quora- Website for asking general questions and sharing experiences

Stack Overflow- Website for sharing and asking questions specific to programming

Slack- Personalized social media sites based around group messaging

Stakeholder Descriptions

Stakeholder Summary

Name	Description
Northern Kentucky University	University whose students, faculty, and employees will be using the system to facilitate better education for the students.

User Summary

Name	Description	Responsibility
Student	Primary users	Help other students by answering questions as accurately as possible.
Faculty	Primary users	Help students by answering questions as accurately as possible.
Registrar	Registers users	Keep the site updated with new users and their schedules.
Administrator	Maintains the system	Maintains all content created by students and faculty

Key High-Level Goals & Problems of the Stakeholders

High Level Goal	Priority	Problems & Concerns
Make the system fast and robust	high	As more users submit more content, the system could become slow.
Make the interface easy to use for any type of user	high	If users are not comfortable using the system, its features will not be used to their potential.
Accurate reputation system	medium	A reputation system that does not accurately reflect the content of submissions will be unappealing to the user.

User-Level Goals

Name	Goals
Student	Ask and answer questions, view class schedule, and maintain general social contact with other students and faculty.
Faculty	Same as Student.
Registrar	Add users and keep their schedules up to date.
Administrator	Maintain site and its integrity.

User Environment

Students and Faculty will have a homepage where they can see popular questions. The homepage will also have easy access to special topic forums and their personal page. Their personal page will have access to their courses and reputation. When a topic forum is open, the user will have the option to post a new question for that topic.

Registrars will have a page that allows them to add, edit or remove students. Editing students will allow for the registrar to upload a new CSV for that student's schedule.

Administrators will have extra abilities depending on the page, allowing them to edit or delete questions and answers, as well as manage user accounts.

Product Overview

Product Perspective

NKUNet will be run on a web server, but accessible to users anywhere there is internet access. Users will need internet access; however, will have access regardless of what network they are on.

Summary of Benefits

Supporting Feature	Stakeholder Benefit
Users can post questions in forums	Improve productivity in classes. Directs users to meaningful questions.
Users can provide answers to questions	Improve productivity in classes. Builds a supportive community.
Users can upvote or downvote answers	At a glance you can get public opinions on answer validity
Adjust user's reputation	Know whether or not an answer trustworthy before their are upvotes or downvotes.
Users can view forums of questions, which list question previews and other metadata	Directs users to meaningful and relevant questions questions.
Each user will have a page of their own, displaying their schedule, information, recent activity, and reputation	Provide a way to research users. Allows for follow-up questions based on user's background.
There will be class pages that contain general class info	Encourages students to post class specific questions.
The schedule on user pages must link to class pages for the scheduled class	Provides easy access to class pages.
The home page will list most active questions	Users can easily view questions that are widely applicable.
There will be a question search interface	Users can find specific questions.
Registrars can add students and their schedules	Students do not need to worry about updating their schedules. Increased user experience.
Administers have full access to site content	Provides means to take care of any issues regarding content posted by users.
There is no registration page	Administers and registrars have full control of who is using the system.

Assumptions and Dependencies

NKUNet will require a backend server capable of running Ruby, some form of web-server such as Puma or Apache, and a database such as PostgreSQL.

Licensing and Installation

There will be no licensing required. Students who are currently or have been previously enrolled will be given accounts. All faculty will be given accounts. There will be no installation required, instead users will access the system through a web interface.

Summary of System Features

- Questions and Answers
 - Question posting
 - Answer posting
 - Answer rating
 - Subject categories
- Student and Faculty Services
 - Question answer rating
 - Resource upload
 - Class schedule display

Other Requirements and Constraints

- NKUNet should offer the same experience to users regardless of the choice of internet browser.
- The system should be responsive to both mobile devices and desktop computers.
- The system should be intuitive and easy to use without any formal instruction.