

Supplementary Specification

Revision History:

Version	Date	Description	Author
Inception draft	02/16/17	First draft	-
Revision #1	02/19/17	Revised draft	Joshua Lorenz
Revision #2	03/12/17	Updates for Iteration #1	Joshua Lorenz

Introduction: We envision an educational social network site where NKU students and faculty can share knowledge and resources with each other via a simple forum.

Positioning

Problem Statement: Blackboard's forum system is clunky and unintuitive. There is no incentive to post on the forums, and often the forums remain empty for the entire duration of the semester.

Product Position Statement: The Educational Social Network system is intended to be used by Northern Kentucky University.

- It will be fast and easily accessible to any student or faculty member at the university. The forums will be divided up based on class, so that only students/faculty who are in the same class will be able to communicate through the forum.
- The discussions will be kept friendly, clean, and on-topic by the moderators (and in part by the faculty).
- There will be an “upvote/downvote” system on the forums. Each user can vote a post up or down. These votes will affect the author's reputation on the forum.

Alternatives and Competition: Blackboard, Canvas, ...

Stakeholder Descriptions:

Northern Kentucky University – A medium sized college with a diverse student body. The university is in need of a social network to help bring the students and faculty together to share and discuss ideas.

Stakeholder (Non-User) Summary:

Name	Description	Responsibilities
Software Engineers	This stakeholder produces the software.	Responsible for the design and implementation of the system.
Project Manager	This stakeholder leads the development of the web application.	Responsible for keeping the team focused.
University	This stakeholder hosts the forum.	Responsible for hosting the web application.

User Summary:

Name	Description	Responsibilities
Student	Primary user of the application	Responsible for communicating and sharing knowledge.
Faculty	Primary user (but with higher privilege) of the application	Responsible promoting discussion for topics and keeping discussion on point.
Moderator	Primary user (but with higher privilege) of the application	Responsible for removing malicious/explicit posts.

Key High-Level Goals and Problems of the Stakeholders:

High-Level Goal	Priority	Problems and Concerns	Current Solutions
Fast, Accessible Communication	High	Heavy Server load, may reduce speed.	n/a

User-Level Goals:

Student – wants to communicate with other students.

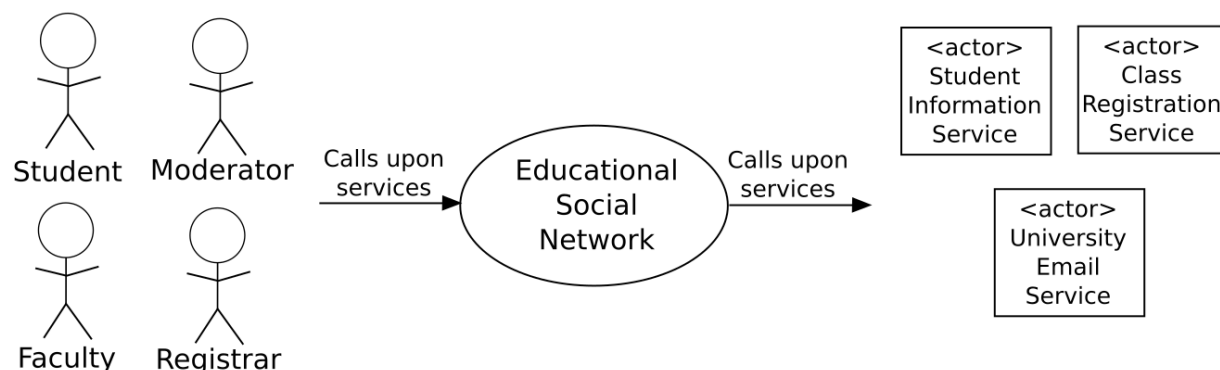
Faculty – wants to promote discussion and augment learning.

Moderator – wants to ensure forum discussion is on topic and clean.

User Environment: The educational social network site will be used by students and faculty of the university.

Product Overview**Product Perspective:**

Figure vision- 1. NKU Educational Social Network Context Diagram:



Summary of Benefits:

Supporting Feature	Stakeholder Benefit
The system will provide all common services that would be provided by a common forum/discussion board, such as the ability for users to post, reply to other posts, search for a topic, etc...	Quick, organized communication.
The system will provide a way for users rate posts. Ratings will also be used to compute the “reputation” of a user.	A quick way to filter posts/users.
The system will organize users based upon the classes in which they are enrolled.	Gives the conversations a sense of privacy among the class.
The system will allow the university to appoint moderators who will monitor the forums and ensure that the discussions will stay on-topic and friendly.	A place to have a friendly discussion/debate with other students/faculty without fear of being harassed.

Assumptions and Dependencies:

1. It is assumed that the users will be capable of reading English.
2. It is assumed that all users will have access to the internet.
3. It is assumed that the user is a student/faculty at NKU.

Licensing and Installation: The system will be installed on a server and accessed by users via a web browser.

Summary of System Features:

Student can post a new topic on the class forum. Faculty can create sub-forums. Moderators can remove posts. All users can rate posts which affects the author's reputation. Each student/faculty member has their own page which will display their current schedule and info about their reputation. Faculty can quarantine posts.

Other Requirements and Constraints:

Usability:

- The UI should be clean and easy to understand.
- The web application should be responsive.
- The web application should also contain a help/FAQ.