

Vision

Positioning

Business Opportunity

Students are able to communicate to other students currently enrolled in the same course and section through Blackboard forums. They cannot contact students in other sections or students who have previously taken the course. The students who have previously taken the course would be a vital resource to the current student because they have more knowledge about the class. Blackboard does not have this capability built into their system.

Problem Statement

Blackboard does not allow for much communication among students who previously took the course or students in different sections. This can affect student learning if students in their section are unsure of the answers to a question. With affecting student learning, this evaluatially will affect the student's overall grade in the course if the student is not understanding material. Consequently, this would affect the professors and university as a whole if students are unable to pass classes.

Product Position Statement

The system would mainly serve the students so they get their questions answered about different topics. This system would allow students to not only communicate with students in their own sections but from other sections and students who have previously taken the course. Blackboard is limited to communication only amongst students currently taking the same course and they must be in the same section.

Alternatives and Competition...

The main competition is Blackboard since it's already in place and most classes use blackboard to use discussion boards for questions.

Stakeholder Descriptions

Stakeholder (Non-user) Summary

The NKU Board of Regents has prioritized keeping student learning as the university's focus. They want a platform that will enable students to not worry about the small problems, of finding books, or figuring out what events are happening, so that they can focus on their education.

User Summary

Students at NKU want information about current events and advice from previous students to be simple to access. Faculty are concerned with the success of their students. Both faculty and students would want the ability to ask and answer questions on the platform. Admin are responsible for managing the users and keeping answers appropriate. Registrars are responsible for ensuring that classes are up to date.

Key High-level Goals and Problems of the Stakeholders

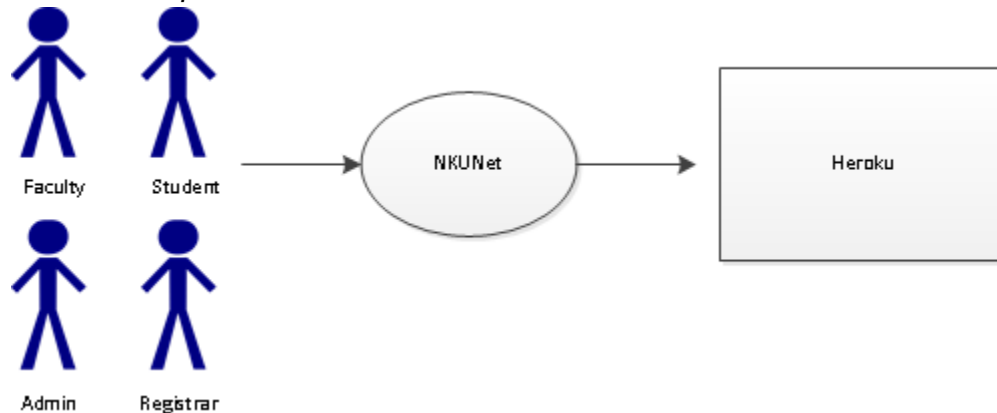
High-Level Goal	Priority	Problems and Concerns	Current Solutions
Provide a safe space for students to ask questions	High	With any web application, there is the potential for online bullying or harassment.	Ensure that any questions are filtered by admin. This may not be done quickly enough, so may need to introduce an automatic system to be done as an initial step.
User authentication	Medium	Users must be properly authenticated so as not to harm the reputation of another student or faculty member.	Passwords are required, but these may need a minimum security specification to prevent easily guessed passwords.

User-level Goals

- *Students and Faculty:* post questions, answer questions, up/down vote answers
- *Students:* join class, find other students in same class
- *Faculty:* approve students for their class
- *System Administrator:* manage users, manage questions and answers
- *Registrar:* add classes, add faculty or student users
- *All users:* view forums, view questions, view class pages, search questions

Product Overview

Product Perspective



Summary of benefits

Supporting Feature	Stakeholder Benefit
The system will provide all the common features of a traditional forum for NKU students.	A place where students can openly converse in cross sections and with students that have already taken the class.
All controlled by admins.	Having experts familiar with the system to test and help resolve problems that arise.
A pure system that is self-contained	No communication with and reliance on other systems
Deployment through Heroku	No need to deal with infrastructure
Permission hierarchy	All users have the permissions that they need

Summary of System Features

- Forum for students' questions
- System administration for users and internet ethics
- User authorization for different types of users
- Search capabilities for easy access to information

Other Requirements and Constraints

Including design usability, reliability, performance, stability, documentation, and Heroku