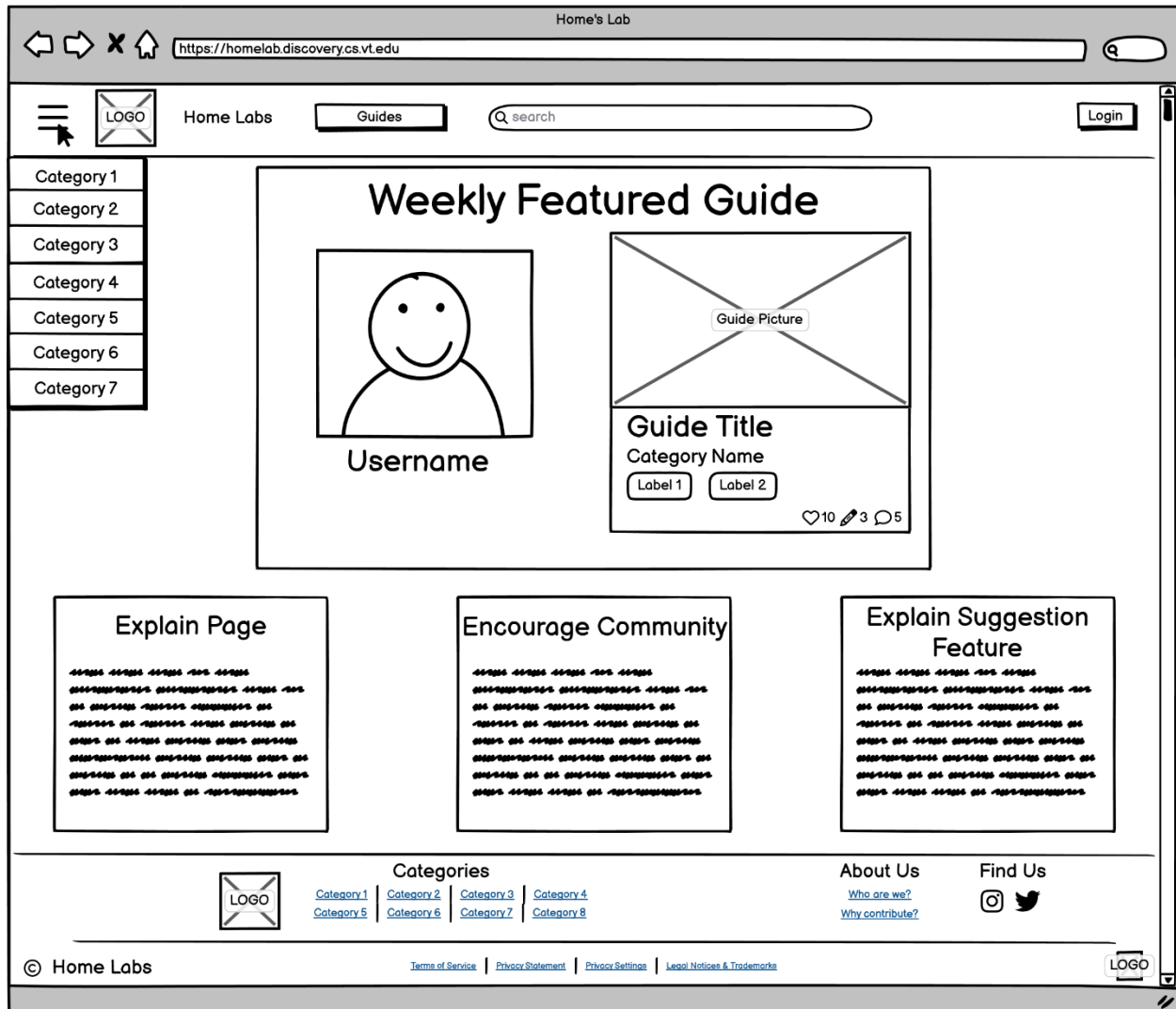Name: Johann Ruiz
Date: 01/31/2025
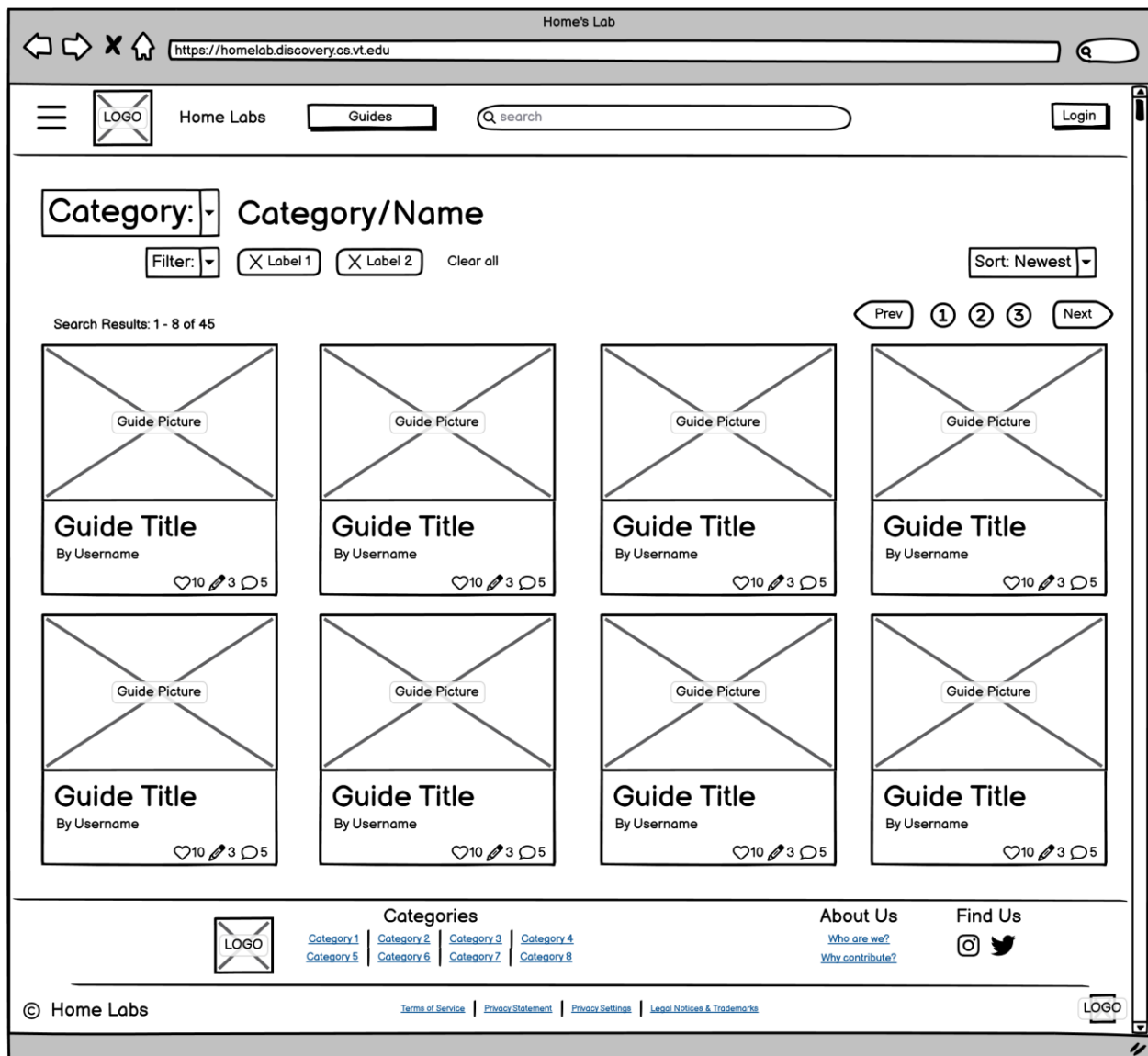PID: johannruiz176

Summary Document

The website I'm designing is (temporarily) called home labs! The goal of the website is to provide a platform for tech enthusiasts to share their knowledge on how to install, configure, and manage their own home labs. A home lab is a personal setup where individuals experiment with software, networking, security, hardware, etc. It typically consists of computers, servers, networking devices, and virtual machines, depending on the person's goals. The platform will be used so people from all types of home labs can share their own personal projects and learn from other members of the community! The guides are organized by being placed in a broad category, like Networking, Kubernetes, Virtualization, and then further specified using various labels (Switches, CSI, Proxmox). When a user is looking at a DIY guide, they have two options: viewing and suggestion mode. The viewing mode the original DIY guide that was posted by the creator. The key feature is the suggestion mode, where other users of the platform can provide live edits to the guide to provide clarity, add support for another version, or remove misleading steps. In addition, when a user chooses to look at a suggestion, it will appear over the original guide; this avoids common situations where a user must scroll all the way to the comments for feedback on potential issues. Both DIY guides and suggestions can be liked, which allows for the great suggestions to get noticed by other users. Lastly, the original creator can choose to merge the suggestion into their post; it's essentially GIT for Guides (potential website name)! A typical user will go to the website and log in to their account. From here, they are looking to set up GitLab on their own home lab, so they sort by the Development/Testing category and add GitLab and Setup labels. They find a popular DIY guide on setting up GitLab Community Edition and look at it. Before scrolling through the DIY guide, the user decides to peek into the suggestions and sees a whopping 1k likes on the first suggestion named "For Ubuntu Servers". The user is happy they decided to investigate the suggestion because their home lab is on Ubuntu and the original guide was for CentOS. When going through the guide, the user noticed the difference between an Ubuntu and CentOS is only the first 2 steps, and original creator was great on every other step. The user leaves a like on this suggestion, which also leaves a like on the original post. Finally, the user comments on the post "Thanks for the help!" and goes to play with their new GitLab instance! That is an example of a way a user could use the platform.
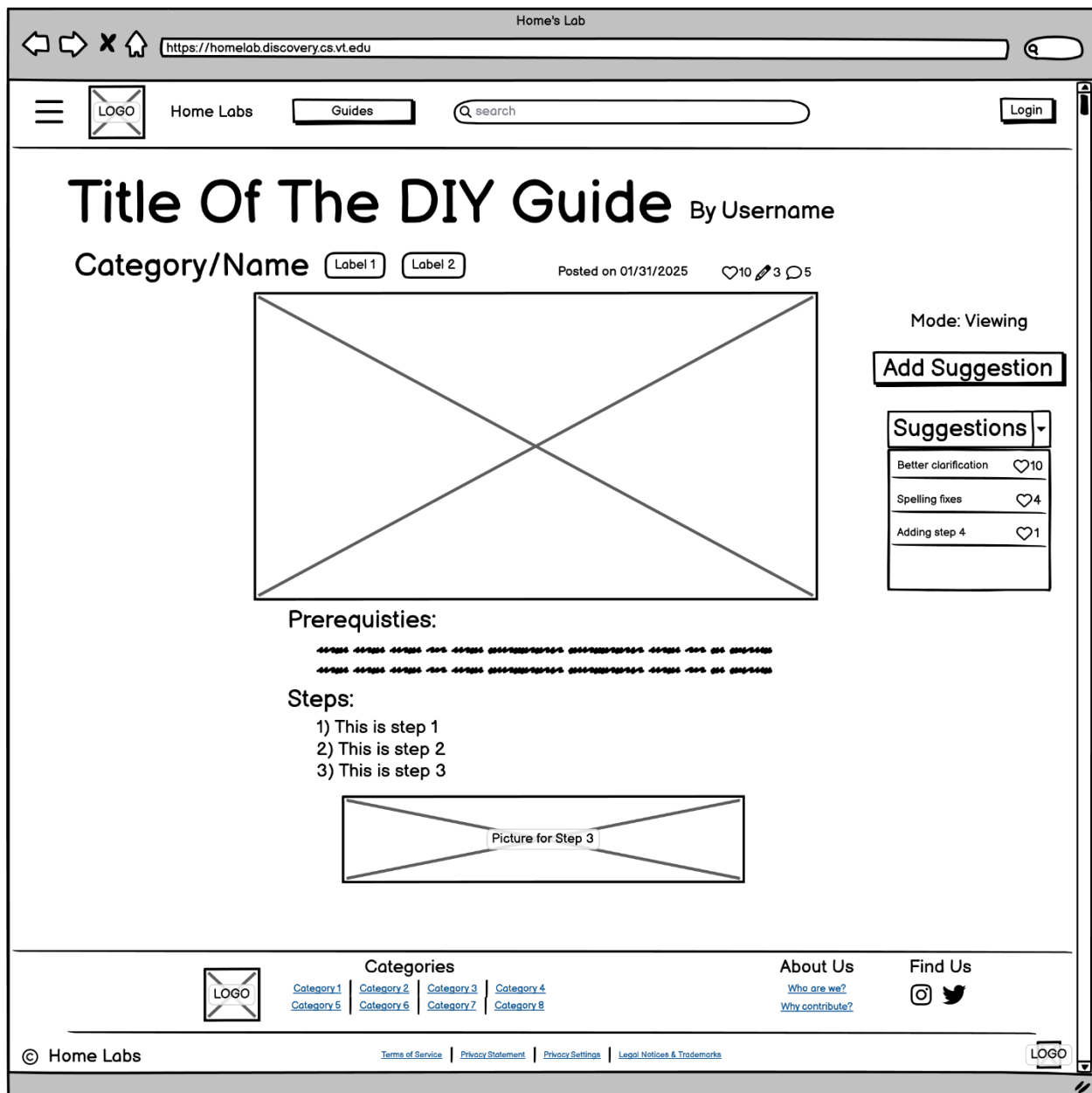
Designs

Home Page

On the home page, the user will be shown the weekly featured DIY guide, along side three paragraphs on the bottom explaining the website, encouraging community, and explaining the unique suggestion feature. In addition, the user can navigate using the Guides button of the or hovering to the three-horizontal bar on the left.
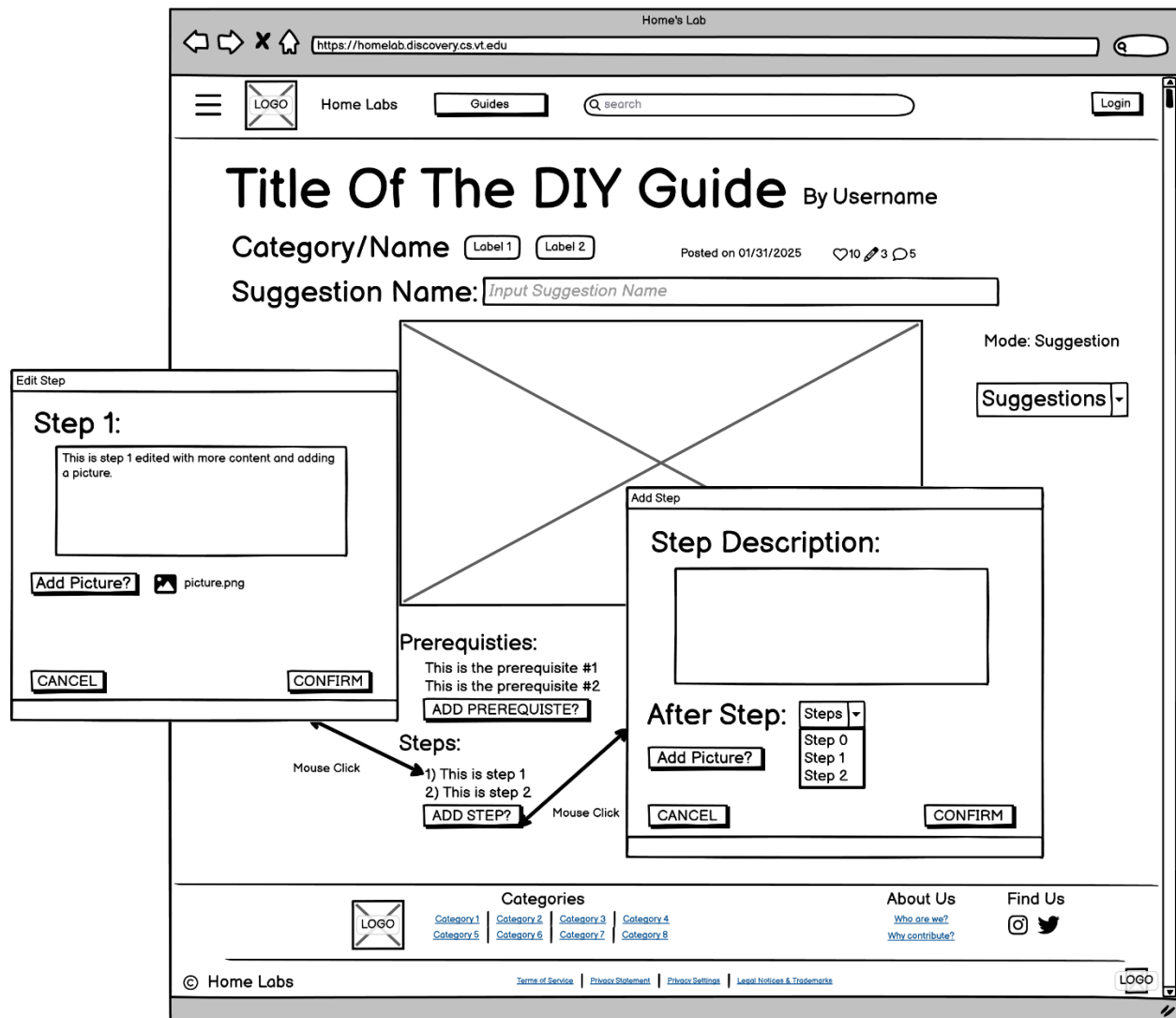
Page Listing DIY Guides

To view the list of guides, the user will have to select a category (Networking, Hardware, etc.) In addition, the user can filter results by providing labels (Switches, Routers, KVM) and sorting from newest, oldest, most liked, etc. The guides have a picture, title, user who posted it, and the number of likes, suggestions and comments on the guide.

Page Showing Details for Single DIY Guide

When entering a guide, it will show the title, category, and labels. On the bottom, it gets into the contents of the guide, including prerequisites needed and step by step instructions. Lastly, the suggestions are listed on the right, and the user can add their own suggestion (if logged in).

Alternative View: Entering Suggestion Mode on DIY Guide

If a user would like to add a suggestion to the guide, the website will enter suggestion mode. In this mode, the user can provide edits to the prerequisites and steps. When a user clicks an existing step, a pop window will show up to edit the content or add an optional picture. In addition, the user can add additional steps to the guide.

Page Adding a DIY Guide

A logged in user can create their own DIY guides on this page. They must provide a title, category, label(s), and then add a list of prerequisites and steps. Each step can have an optional picture.