

- What issues and problems did you notice with some of the previous websites?

Issue 1:

The “news” tab of the sidebar is inconsistent. For example, on the home page, the tab shows “new news”, but on the lectures page, the tab becomes “news”.

The new here implies that there’s been some new news everytime the user views the site, even if there has been no new update since they have last visited the site. Moreover, the name “news” is somewhat ambiguous since it may mean either the latest updates in the course or latest news in the world about any topic related to the course content. However, the page only includes updates from the course which is essentially similar to course announcements

Issue 2:

When clicking on the “discussion board” tab of the sidebar, the user is immediately directed to the piazza page. This could be a bit unintuitive for the user because the tab name is “discussion board” instead of “piazza”, so the user might not expect to be directed to the piazza page. In addition, the piazza page replaces the current course webpage, which might be inconvenient if the user still wishes to remain on the course page and open the piazza page in another tab for reference.

Issue 3:

The colour of the texts containing the hyperlinks to the course materials is quite light which lacks readability.

Issue 4:

Only the assignment portion had the FAQ section. However, if there were any questions regarding the course logistics or teaching contents, we would have to create separate FAQ sections in each of those corresponding pages which is a bit inefficient.

- How did you address these issues in your redesigned course website?

To fix issue 1, we changed the page name “news” to “announcements” and removed the prefix “new”.

To fix issue 2, we added a piazza section in our homepage that redirects to the course’s discussion page.

To fix issue 3, the texts with hyperlinks were coloured blue which we believe increases the readability.

To fix issue 4, instead of having FAQ as a section within a page, we made a separate page dedicated to it which would include all the common questions that are asked throughout the course. Additionally, we added a feedback form where students can anonymously ask questions or provide feedback about the course. This would also help ensure a better student experience.

- What are some challenges that you and your team members faced? How did you go about addressing these challenges?

Our team's main challenge was to fix the conflicts that occurred while committing our work in Github, since we worked on the same files simultaneously. Initially, to avoid such an issue, we communicated to fork the original repo, and made commits on our individual forked repo. We were pushing the changes back upstream after reviewing the changes so that we have a copy of our own work and we don't end up losing our most updated changes. However, we faced some issues while pushing the changes back upstream and decided to commit to the original repo instead. This in turn ended up overwriting a couple of our most-updated files with the old version of the files.

We addressed this challenge by carefully verifying every conflict between the original repository and the new pull request. We would test out the code in both files and see which version works better. There were times that we also had to revert some of the most recent commits. In the end, we were able to solve all of the issues.