WhiteBoard:
An Efficient and Intuitive Learning Management System
Project Proposal

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1 Background

A Learning Management System(LMS) is an interface between students and professors. The most popular LMS, especially at colleges and universities, is Blackboard. Blackboard, however, is extremely slow and has unnecessary and fairly unused features. For example, their discussion boards, and personalize page features are rarely if ever used. Blackboard and other similar services trade speed for extra features. This also makes them difficult to navigate. For example, Blackboard has two sets of navigation tabs, and it is not obvious what the difference between them is. Our website will do the opposite, relying on the reasoning that students today would rather get what they need quickly, than have a hundreds of features they rarely if ever use.

2 Goal

The goal of Whiteboard is to create an open-source Blackboard alternative that is simple, efficient, and intuitive to use. The most important goal is for the site to have a unified user experience. It shouldn't take a computer science major three days to find where the grades are posted, and even then to be confused about what their grade is. (We also shouldn't have to Google "university of rochester blackboard login" to log in to Blackboard. We should be able to be directed from the home page of the website.)

3 Prior Work

TODO

4 Current Assets

TODO

5 Budget

For this project we shouldn't need a big budget. The only thing we need to spend money on is for server space to host the website, but we are planning to get server space on the computer science servers to save money. If we can't get server space on the computer science server, then we shouldn't spend more $10/month on hosting.

6 Schedule

Weeks 1-2	Project proposal and brainstorming
Weeks 3-4	Set up development environment and plan database structure
Weeks 5-6	Implement login system and general layout
Weeks 7-8	Implement courses and grades
Weeks 9-10	Implement annoucements and communication
Weeks 11-12	Implement schedule/calendar, maybe with schedule optimizer
Week 13	Prepare for presentation

7 Responsibilities

Joel	GitHub/git management, presentation design, LaTex programming
Noah	Database structure, server management, efficiency analyst
Jacob	Project lead, database structure
Shir	Site design, documentation, scaling/hardware compatibility
All	Site development

References