

WhiteBoard 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

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| 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 announcements and communication |
| Weeks 11-12 | Implement schedule/calendar, maybe with schedule optimizer |
| Week 13 | Prepare for presentation |

7 Responsibilities

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| 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