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Step 1: Access Goals

- What are the site owners trying to do?
  - Site owners are trying to create a convenient user experience, while maintaining an acceptable level of security.
- What are the end users and administrators trying to do?
  - End users are trying to use the site as a learning management solution.
  - Administrators are trying to ensure the users are able to access the site at all times and that developers can modify the site at any time.
- How do these goals interact/conflict?
  - 1. User convenience vs. system security tradeoff:
- How will your site support those goals?
  - 1. Have a consistent layout which will allow users to easily navigate the website

Step 2: Plan for Content

- Do we have any existing content?
  - We have various image assets, text documents, course information and course content as provided via the current LMS.
- If so, can it be formatted in a consistent way?
  - Yes, course content can have its own page with nicely formatted headers for each lecture, with the slides for that lecture listed under the header. The main landing page for the site can have a description of the class, and there can be a contact/info page for office hours, class location, and more.
- Do we need to add new types of content?
  - Some images of students working on course content (like from a lab session) to give prospective students a feel for how the class operates.
- If so, can they be formatted in a consistent way?
  - It can be structured in the same way as the existing content, using images as page headers, maybe a parallax scrolling feature to give the website a modern look.
- Are there any special cases that need to be addressed?
  - User accessibility and browser compatibility should always be kept in mind.
- How will it be created/maintained?
  - The new website will discard LMS as a hosting platform and instead be built from scratch and hosted on new servers. This way, the educational community will have maximum flexibility over the look and interface of the site.
- Who will be creating/maintaining it?
  - The site will be maintained by staff at RPI, etc.
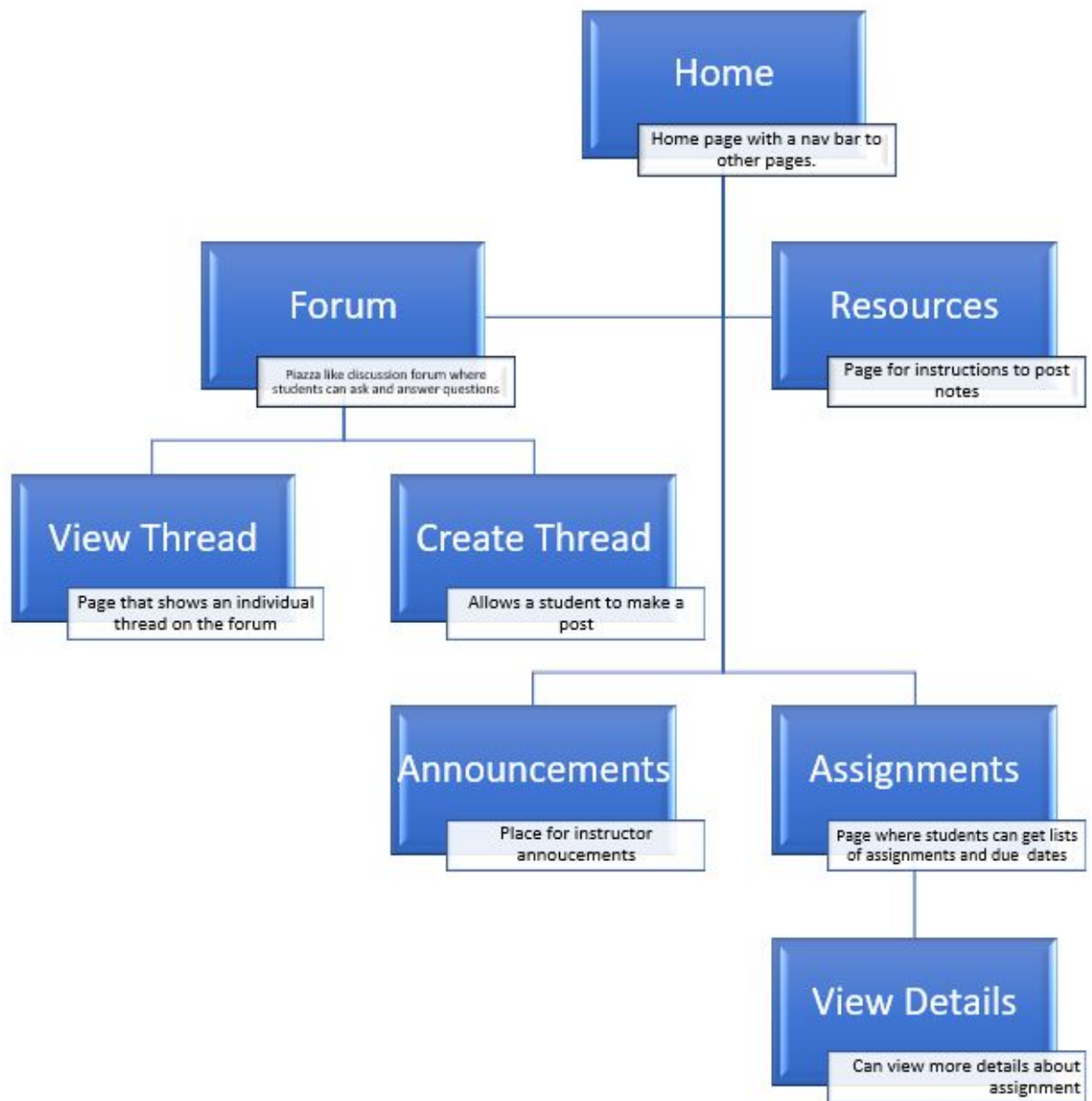
Step 3: Specifications and Requirements:

Functional Requirements:
- Site must allow professors / admins to post content for a specific course.
- Site must support authentication that delineates between admins / professors and students.
- Site must allow students to submit content for a specific course and have the date and time of submission recorded in UTC time to account for time zones.
- Site must allow for discussion forum like functionality that allows users to post questions and for others to respond.
- Site must catalog grades for submitted student assignments.

Non-functional requirements:
- Site must have a simple, intuitive UI that adjusts correctly for use on different screen sizes.
- Site must allow courses to have multiple "channels" that categorize announcements, posts, content, and submission areas.
- Site must be secure and no allow for non privileged users to edit administrative data or otherwise compromise the site.
- Site must be reliable and have close to 100% uptime to consistently serve members of the educational community.

Site Map:

Home
Home page with a nav bar to other pages.

Forum
Piazza like discussion forum where students can ask and answer questions

Resources
Page for instructions to post notes

View Thread
Page that shows an individual thread on the forum

Create Thread
Allows a student to make a post

Announcements
Place for instructor annoucements

Assignments
Page where students can get lists of assignments and due dates

View Details
Can view more details about assignment

Wireframe Outline:

Home page
      Links to forum, announcements, resources, assignments
Forum page
      Links to different post pages. Create new post.
Announcements page
      Show announcement made by professors/admin
Resources page
      Different sections: Assignments, Labs, Lecture slides etc
Assignments page