The goal of my website for the first capstone project will be to create a news outlet that displays current and past events pertaining to the users search. This website will be targeted towards users who want to keep up with current events and have a one stop shop for all news for specific categories that interest them. Each day when the user logins, there will be several news articles posted on their home page based off what categories they’ve selected as their favorites. Modern day newspapers have many sections and articles the reader might not find interesting, and signing up for different newsletters can flood a persons inbox. I plan on pulling data from NewsApi.org. They have gathered more than 80,000 articles over the past 5 years in their database and track headlines in 7 categories across over 50 countries, and at over a hundred top publications and blogs, in near real time.

The database schema will consist of 4 categories. News category, date, country, and sort by. News category and date will be required inputs, while sorting and country will be optional. The sorting option will default to “latest” if no input is given. A few issues I might run into with the API is if a user inputs a category that doesn’t exist or retrieves data that is too outdated. Another issue that I foresee is the API not updating their database that frequently. Certain popular news items like finance, sports, weather, etc. need to be updated on a daily basis at the minimum. The only sensitive information I would need to secure is the user’s passwords. I can keep their usernames public and have an option for them to hide their favorite news items from their profiles.

Some functionality my website will include will be liking articles, saving articles, and setting certain news categories as “favorites’ to receive daily updates on them. The user flow will be to first create an account with a unique username and a password. An email address will also need to be provided along with an optional phone number to receive texts. Next the user can begin searching for news articles by selecting a category, date, and country. They will have the option to sort the results as they like. The user will also have the option to favorite a news category to receive daily news articles displayed on their homepage for that category to assist them in keeping up with current events. One stretch goal I have in mind is to send news articles directly to the users phone on a daily basis to act as a “digital newspaper” with only categories they are interested in.