Assignment 2

IS332

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For my mockup I chose NJIT’s beloved Moodle. As you probably know, Moodle’s purpose is to provide a convenient, centralized utility for NJIT students and professors, giving them a place for information on their courses, and way to submit and retrieve assignments.

Moodle’s primary purpose is to inform the students on the current news of the course through the weekly outline. Moodle also provides services for things such as forums, seeing which students are in a course, messages, and recent activity. These features are fairly peripheral, but useful on occasion. But for the majority of the time, most students (or at least, all my friends that I asked) visit the site for very specific reasons; typically a quick in-and-out checking up on what assignments are due in this week, and what grade they got on their assignments last week.

In this sense, Moodle is not a very good site. Navigating between courses is a hassle, occasionally the user gets an opportunity to use an expanding folder view of their courses, but usually they have to root through a horrible block of all the courses they’ve ever taken. The sidebar elements, such as ‘calendar’ and ‘latest news’ shift unpredictably and take up space that could be used for the important central content. The weekly outline, as the name implies, is at least organized by week, but assignments are mixed in with weekly news, forum links, and assignments; making it inconvenient to pick out homework links in a rush.

Moodle also has a second, separate set of users: professors and TA’s who can add content to their course’s page for the convenience of their students. One might assume that they go through mostly similar troubles as the students, but unfortunately, they interact with Moodle in through a somewhat different interface that unknown to me, so further explanation is impossible.