

# Description for Urlinq:

Urlinq is a social media platform which connects students and professors. Our mission statement is *make the most out of what you have to do*, since Urlinq's focus is to help people discover and manage everything that's going on in their classes, clubs, and beyond. Urlinq is your link to a complete college experience, allowing you to crowdsource your schedule, maintain an active routine, and connect with the people and events that will make you into a better student and person.

Urlinq is a social platform to engage students, faculty, and administrators within a university environment to interact and to share information about courses, clubs, and events with one another that are happening at the university level. We have built in a calendar into the platform that allows the end user to stay-up-to date with the important dates that are relevant to the user whether it be upcoming exams, homework assignments, guest lectures, exciting event opportunities that are offered through departments or clubs at the university. The calendar that is built for urlinq is built to be a crowd-sharing component of urlinq. Thus if a club or course announces an exam date or event or meeting that will be occurring it would be shared with all members that are part of that respective calendar. Our hope and vision for urlinq is that we will help to create an online academic environment where it will be easy for professors and students to be up-to-date with the events that matter to them and will serve as an important communication tools for students and professors to communicate with people and interest groups within the university.

Educational course management platforms Blackboard, Lore, and Piazza provide an important resource for professors to easily manage academic courses that their students are enrolled in. These course platforms though serve only one dimensional purposes distributing grades, assignments, lectures but have missed the opportunity to create an environment where the the social conversation element is present to engage students to return frequently. These educational platforms are designed and built for the universities to adopt and use and not for the end users which are ultimately we believe the students who are suppose to gain the most utility to enhance their college experience.

Urlinq's focus is to allow students and professors to make the most out of their education. Your experience on Urlinq is defined by you, not the university. Your events, conversations, and academic responsibilities are distributed to you in an engaging, useful, and interactive format that is custom to you.

The Main Reasons Urlinq is Unique: We transform your syllabus from text documents into rich social content that is integrated into your calendar. Urlinq encourages students to stay on top of their school work through easy reminders and a to-do widget, effectively preventing you from ever forgetting about an obligation you have in class. Urlinq eliminates the barriers by which peer-to-peer and student to professor interaction can occur, and does so through the use of timelines, newsfeeds, and group conversation boards. This mechanism of communication allows you to discover more and link more with the people, projects, and events that you want to know about. And it does all of this in a simple, easy to navigate interface with a fluent user

experience.

- The website is being developed using PHP and MySQL in the back end.
- The front end needs to be developed in HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript (jQuery) and AJAX.

For the front end we just require the pages to be designed in HTML with some CSS and JavaScript. The website's UI should be simple, attractive, and professional, a blend between a Facebook and a LinkedIn. We need you to use vibrant colors in the design, but not flashy. We feel that such a color scheme will attract our primarily Generation-Y users. There is also the potential down the line to allow users to modify the color scheme so that it matches the colors of their college (i.e. NYU = purple and white). The most basic thing we require is a design for the logo of Urlinq, the background image/color and a basic color scheme which will be used throughout the website. The following pages are what we need for you to provide graphic designs and front-end for.

## Pages for Urlinq:

### **Landing Page:**

When a person goes to Urlinq.com, and is not currently signed in, they reach this landing page. The main aspects of this page are a login form and two buttons to begin the sign-up process, one for students and the other for professors. Below the login form there will be a small link that says "Forgot Password", which is pretty self-explanatory. A user can login through Facebook in which case we are able to extract data from that user's past experiences on Urlinq. There should be buttons that allow visitors of the landing page to like Urlinq's Facebook page and to follow us on Twitter. We also hope to make the background of this page dynamic, looking something like this website: <http://yipit.com/>. We have all the images that could be used in such a moving background available. On the bottom of the page, we will provide a little more information about the site.

### **Forget Password page:**

The name itself describes what it does. We will send an email to the registered email address to change the password. There will be no security questions as such, but possibly a captcha. The user clicks send email, and the form disappears while a statement like "Check your email now" appears to replace it.

### **Signup Form:**

Our goal with the Signup process is to make it as simple and efficient as possible - a user should be able to get into Urlinq.com and start using it very quickly. As mentioned above in the

landing page section, there are two different signup forms, both of which have relatively the same User Interface - one for students and the other for professors. Both Signup processes can be initiated using Facebook, and the information we are unable to derive through Facebook will be asked in a subsequent part of the sign up process.

Both pages need to be designed so that if there is any error it should show on the same page using AJAX. The signup form will ask the user First Name, Last Name, Email id (.edu id only), Password, Confirm Password, School, department (for professors only), and Graduation Year (for students only). It also allows user to upload his profile pic, but this can easily be extracted from Facebook. Upon completion, as mentioned in the following section, the signup form will disappear and an alert saying successful signup will appear, asking the user to confirm his or her email address. Once confirmed, the user will be directed to their homepage.

### **Home Page:**

This is the main page which is the catalog for the whole website. It contains search bar, a mini calendar in the top right. Groups and Courses on the left. The mini calendar has to be designed in AJAX which will show a week duration of the upcoming classes, and various events. The home page will be more clear with the mock up design created by Jake. The search bar should be search as you type. The top bar of the homepage should stay even if the user scrolls down to the bottom.

### User Profile Page:

This page will show the information about the user, profile picture, courses he is enrolled in. The Page should also have edit profile option such that the data stays there in the input form if a user wants to change the data.

### Friend's Profile Page:

This will show the information of the friend with tabs-: user's timeline tab, a friend button, a tab that brings you to that user's calendar. // **I am not sure whether you want to include Friends stuff in alpha version.**

### Add course/subject Page:

This page will allow a student to add a course to his profile. There should be two types of search. 1) Search as you type 2) Dynamic drop down menu where first user selects the department and then he selects the subject.

### Event:

A Page/Process to create an event. An input form which will ask the user to enter event

details like start time, end time, event description etc

### **University Page:**

This will show all the basic information of the university with the logo of the university and the posts about the university.

### **Groups:**

This page will show the group members and the posts by different group members.

### **News Feed:**

This will be on the home page. It will be the normal news feed just like in mashable or facebook

### **Calendar:**

This page should be totally designed in ajax. The calendar will be designed by our team. We just want you to make the basic background design of the page.

**Note :**When a user clicks a group, whether its from the group sidebar menu in the home page, or from a search query, or from content in a newsfeed or timeline, it brings you to that group's main page. On the top of this group main page is an about section, containing the name of the group, the type (course, club, department), the head of the group (if there is one, though all classes will have professors as the head), a button that will show you the list of the groups members, and if its a course or club, the regular meeting time of that group. There is also a large profile picture for the group to the left of the about section. Below is a conversation board, a sort of discussion forum in which students can ask questions, answer those questions, discuss lectures, post articles from other websites (with snippet views just like on Facebook), and each of these posts have timestamps. The top post in this conversation board is the one that is actively being discussed by the group, meaning that even if the original post was made a couple days before more recent ones, if comments have been made on this post more recently than they have been made on other posts, it will appear at the top of this board. Also in the group page there is a tab that leads you to this group's calendar, but you can only reach the calendar if you are a member of the group. Next to the profile picture and below the name of the group there is a join group button. Once you have joined the group, this button becomes a leave group button and there is also another button, the sync calendar button.