

Feasibility- Blackboard Extractor

CS 410 - Team Crystal
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Blackboard Usage in Colleges and Universities

In 2014, approximately 17,000 schools were using Blackboard, in over 100 different countries.¹

According to Dr. Zeil, professors are required to be evaluated yearly depending on their contract.² Annual reviews require a professor to present all course content, including Blackboard Content.

Extracting Blackboard Archives

Our Problem Statement

Professors have difficulty retrieving archived Blackboard courses' content after it has been exported to a Blackboard Course Archive.



Manually Extracting Blackboard Archives

Currently, extracting a Blackboard archive requires a professor to:

- Find an unused Blackboard course into which he or she can load the archive.
- Manually download course content, page-by-page.
- Manually format folder structure.
- This process must be repeated for each course archive.

Target Customers

Universities, Colleges, and other Educational Institutes currently using the Blackboard course management system.

Current Manual Process Flow



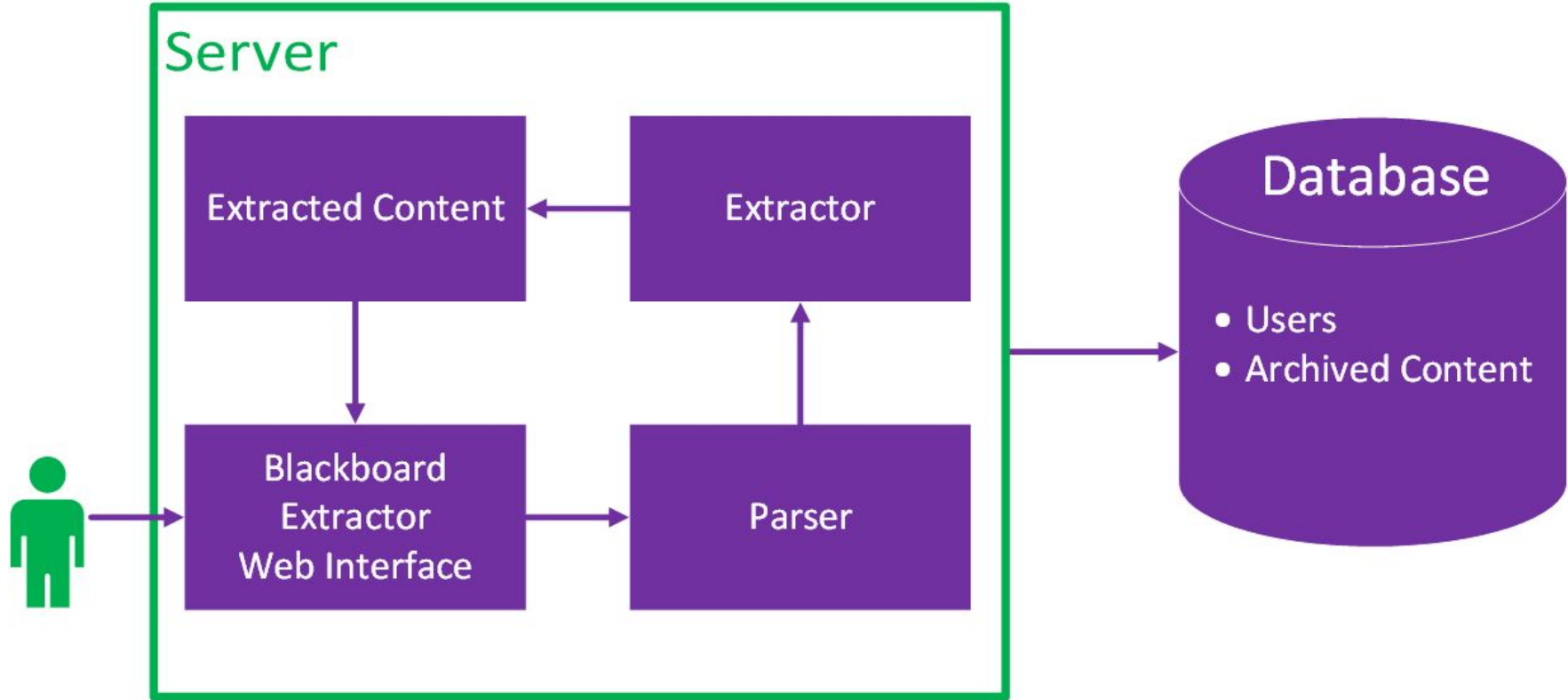
Plans For Our Solution

Our solution will be a web based application which allows a user to load a Blackboard Course Archive and explore the contents of the archive. The user will be able to view a website containing all of the contents of the course, or download a .zip file containing all of the extracted contents.

Revised Automated Process Flow



Major Functional Components



Frameworks, Libraries, and Platforms

- Microsoft ASP.NET
- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.6
- Microsoft Visual C#
- Web Hosting Service

Former Competition - bFree Blackboard Extractor

| | Our Blackboard extractor | bFree Blackboard Extractor ³ |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Extracts archives and converts to webpage | X | X |
| Runs a java web applet | | X |
| Runs from web browser | X | |
| Updated | X | |
| Documentation included | X | |
| Supports Latest Web Browsers | X | |

Conclusion

- The current extraction process is entirely manual.
- This effects professors and teachers at over 17,000 institutions.
- Our solution makes the process automatic and convenient.

References

1. Corcoran, B. (2014, July 23). Blackboard's Jay Bhatt Strikes Up the Brass Band. Retrieved October 19, 2016, from <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2014-07-23-blackboard-s-jay-bhatt-strikes-up-the-brass-band?elq=29068c31188e4150bde7dd6db8a3dab7&elqCampaignId=7599>
2. Zeil, S. J. (2016, September 15). Interview with Dr. Zeil [Personal interview].
3. BFree: Extract Blackboard content. (n.d.). Retrieved October 19, 2016, from <https://its2.unc.edu/tl/tli/bFree/index.html>
4. Blackboard | Reimagine Education | Education Technology. (n.d.). Retrieved October 19, 2016, from <http://www.blackboard.com/>