

# COMMONS PERSONAL HOMEPAGE DESIGN

*We are in the process of creating a personalized homepage. As part of that process we've realized that we need to make some decisions about how this page will fit in to visual design and navigational structure of the current site.*

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*The purpose of this document is to help everyone get on the same page about what the issue is and possible solutions so we can make a decision and move forward.*

July 6, 2014

Prepared by:  
Chris Stein

# Current Navigational Spaces

Right now there are three navigational spaces:

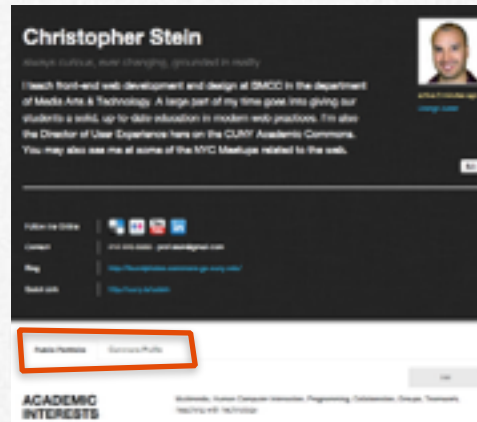
1. Main Commons Pages
2. Portfolio Page
3. Commons Personal Pages

As it stands now the Personal Commons pages are in the same basic layout as the Portfolio page, but the header has been reduced. Also, importantly, on the Portfolio (2) page the only nav is to click on the tab for Commons Profile, while on the Personal Commons Pages )3\_, there is the nav on the left side in the grey box.

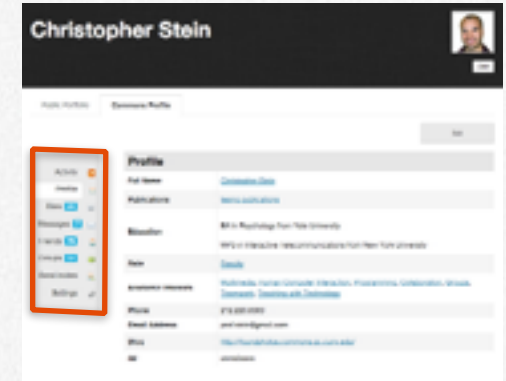
1



2

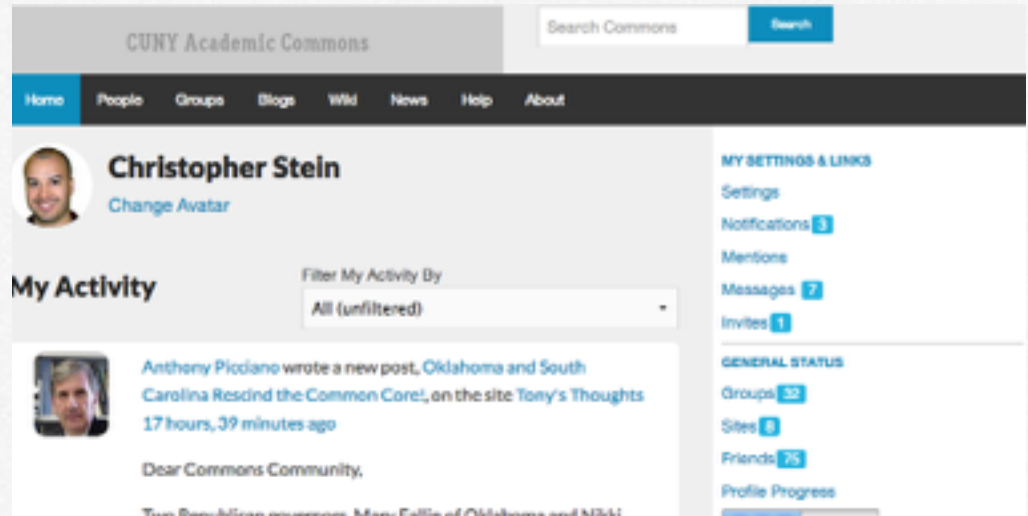


3



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# Proposed Addition: Personal Homepage



## Reasons for the new page

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*Gives people a quick way to see what of interest to them is happening.*

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*Quick access to things like settings, messages, groups*

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*A way for us to push information we want people to see.*

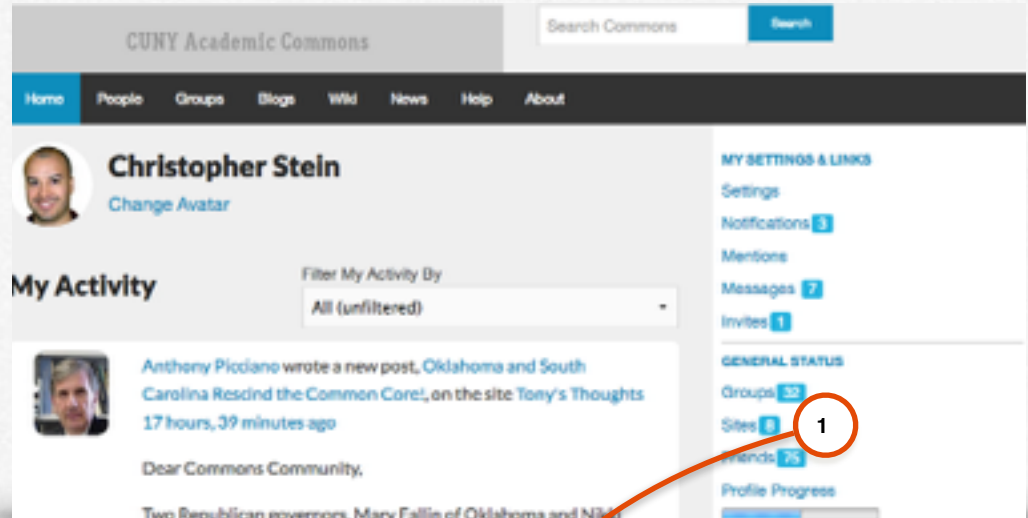
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We are making an addition which is a personal homepage. The page will contain information on activity related to the logged-in user and have links to various other pages on the Commons. Most of the links will be to the pages in the current Commons Profile space. Here is some rationale for it from the Pratt Usability Study:

In order to view the actual “Groups” and “Members” activity, or the more meaningful content, users need to click on each title and name, then navigate those individual pages to find the activity. This is especially a problem because when users login they are not presented with a personalized homepage. Not only does this create confusion about whether or not login was successful, but the all-inclusive lists of titles and names on the homepage likely hold very little meaning to them. This puts a burden on the user to hunt for meaningful content, and it creates a scenario in which the user is left overwhelmed and possibly uninspired to proceed to the next step.

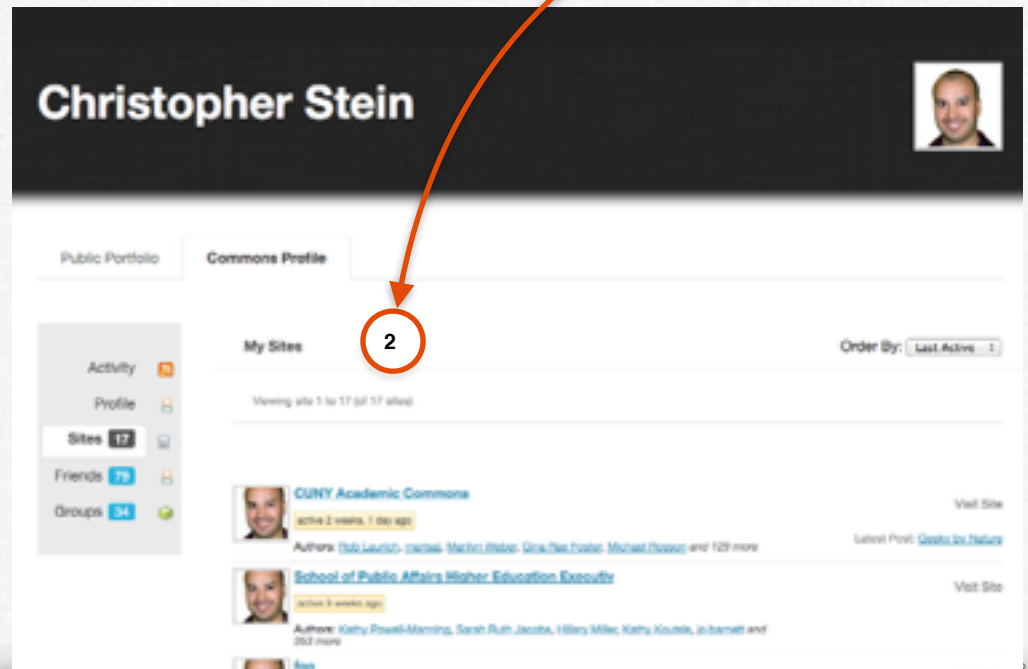


# Proposed Addition: Personal Homepage



An issue that has come up during development is that many of the links on this new page take you to existing Commons Personal Pages which have a different layout and navigation.

For example clicking on Sites (1) would take you to the My Sites (2) page.



# Options

In this section I will outline some different possible options to move forward. The idea is to find something we can all agree is the right direction and then I can develop a prototype around that.

# Option 1: Do Nothing and Have a Fourth Navigational Space

In this option we would just add in the Personal Homepage and leave the other pages as they are.

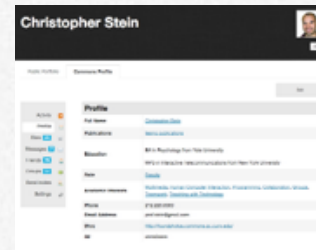
1



2



3



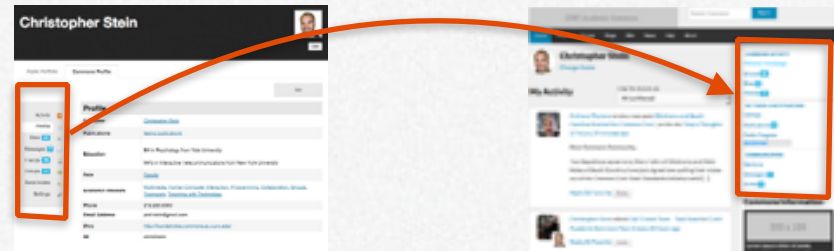
4





# Option 2: Convert Commons Personal Pages to the New Navigational Space

In this option we would convert the Commons Personal Pages to fit into the new navigational space.



This would also mean changing the layout so they no longer have the big black area at the top but conformed to the new layout like the Personal Homepage.

It would also mean removing the tabs in the middle of the Profile page and creating a new way to get from the Profile Page back to the pages in the new layout. We would be left with three layouts: 1) Current Main site, 2) new layout which is the main site plus a secondary nav, 3) Profile layout.

1



2



3



# Option 2: Examples

Here are some examples of the pages that would be converted in option 2. This is a quick (poor) mockup I quickly got together to give an idea. I will be creating clickable prototypes in the days ahead. Orange Highlight just to show the page.

The screenshot shows a user profile for Christopher Stein. The header includes the CUNY Academic Commons logo and navigation links: Home, People, Groups, Blogs, Wiki, News, Help, About. The profile section features a profile picture, name, and a 'Change Avatar' link. Below this are tabs for 'Friendships' and 'Requests'. A list of friends is shown, including Scotty Webb, Matthew K. Gold, Bruce Rosenblum, Steve Brier, and Marlon Weber, each with a small profile picture and a 'Cancel Friendship' link. On the right side, there is a 'MY SETTINGS & LINKS' sidebar with links for Settings, Notifications (2), Mentions, Messages (2), and Invites (1). Below this is a 'GENERAL STATUS' section with links for Groups (2), Sites (3), and Friends (2), along with a 'Profile Progress' bar. The main content area is titled 'Commons Information' and contains a large grey box with the text '300 x 100' and a paragraph of placeholder text: 'Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.' Below this is a 'Who's Online?' section with a grid of placeholder icons.

The screenshot shows a group page for Christopher Stein. The header is identical to the profile page. The main content area is titled 'My Groups' and includes tabs for 'Memberships', 'Invitations', and 'Create a Group'. A list of groups is shown, including 'CUNY Academic Commons Team', 'The Group for Group Admins', 'Digital Humanities Initiative', 'MOOCs and the like', 'Open Education at CUNY', 'CUNY Technology Group', and 'Academic Technology Research and Development Group'. Each group entry includes a small profile picture, name, and a 'Leave Group' link. On the right side, there is a 'MY SETTINGS & LINKS' sidebar with links for Settings, Notifications (2), Mentions, Messages (2), and Invites (1). Below this is a 'GENERAL STATUS' section with links for Groups (2), Sites (3), and Friends (2), along with a 'Profile Progress' bar. The main content area is titled 'Commons Information' and contains a large grey box with the text '300 x 100' and a paragraph of placeholder text: 'Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.' Below this is a 'Who's Online?' section with a grid of placeholder icons.



# Option 2: Examples

## More Examples

**CUNY ACADEMIC COMMONS**

Home People Groups Blogs Wiki News Help About

**Christopher Stein**  
Change Avatar

MY SETTINGS & LINKS  
Settings  
Notifications 1  
Mentions  
Messages 2  
Invites 1

GENERAL STATUS  
Groups 52  
Sites 2  
Friends 25  
Profile Progress

**Commons Information**

300 x 100  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.  
[view more](#)

**Who's Online?**

Inbox Sent Compose Notices  
Sending message 1 to 10 of 20 messages

Message list (blurred):  
1. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
2. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
3. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
4. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
5. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
6. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
7. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
8. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
9. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]  
10. From: [blurred] To: [blurred] [Details]

**CUNY ACADEMIC COMMONS**

Home People Groups Blogs Wiki News Help About

**Christopher Stein**  
Change Avatar

MY SETTINGS & LINKS  
Settings  
Notifications 2  
Mentions  
Messages 2  
Invites 1

GENERAL STATUS  
Groups 52  
Sites 2  
Friends 25  
Profile Progress

**Commons Information**

300 x 100  
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.  
[view more](#)

**Who's Online?**

General Notifications Profile

Send a notification by email when:

Activity	Yes	No
A member mentions you in an update using "@"	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A member replies to an update or comment you've posted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Messages	Yes	No
A member sends you a new message	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Group notifications	No Email	Weekly Summary	Daily Digest	New Topics	All Email
<a href="#">CUNY Academic Commons Team</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">The Group for Group Admins</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Digital Humanities Initiative</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">MOOCs and the like</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Open Education at CUNY</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">CUNY Technology Group</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Academic Technology Research and Development Group</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Announcements</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">CUNY Committee on Academic Technology</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Commons in a Box: documentation and testing</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Higher Education Certificate Program at Baruch</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">WordPress.HiLPI!</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">CUNY Games Network</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">CUNY Academic Commons Subcommittee</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">CUNY OC/IT Program</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Another Chris hidden</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Advanctel</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">ePortfolios</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Planning CUNY Tech Av. episode: Academic Software Solutions</a>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>