

## CURRENTLY

- ✓ Breadcrumb trails positioned at eye level and close to other navigation links
- ✓ The current page is not a link
- ✓ Location breadcrumbs (= not based on the exact user path, but on the site structure)
  - ⚠ Inconsistent implementation across the site

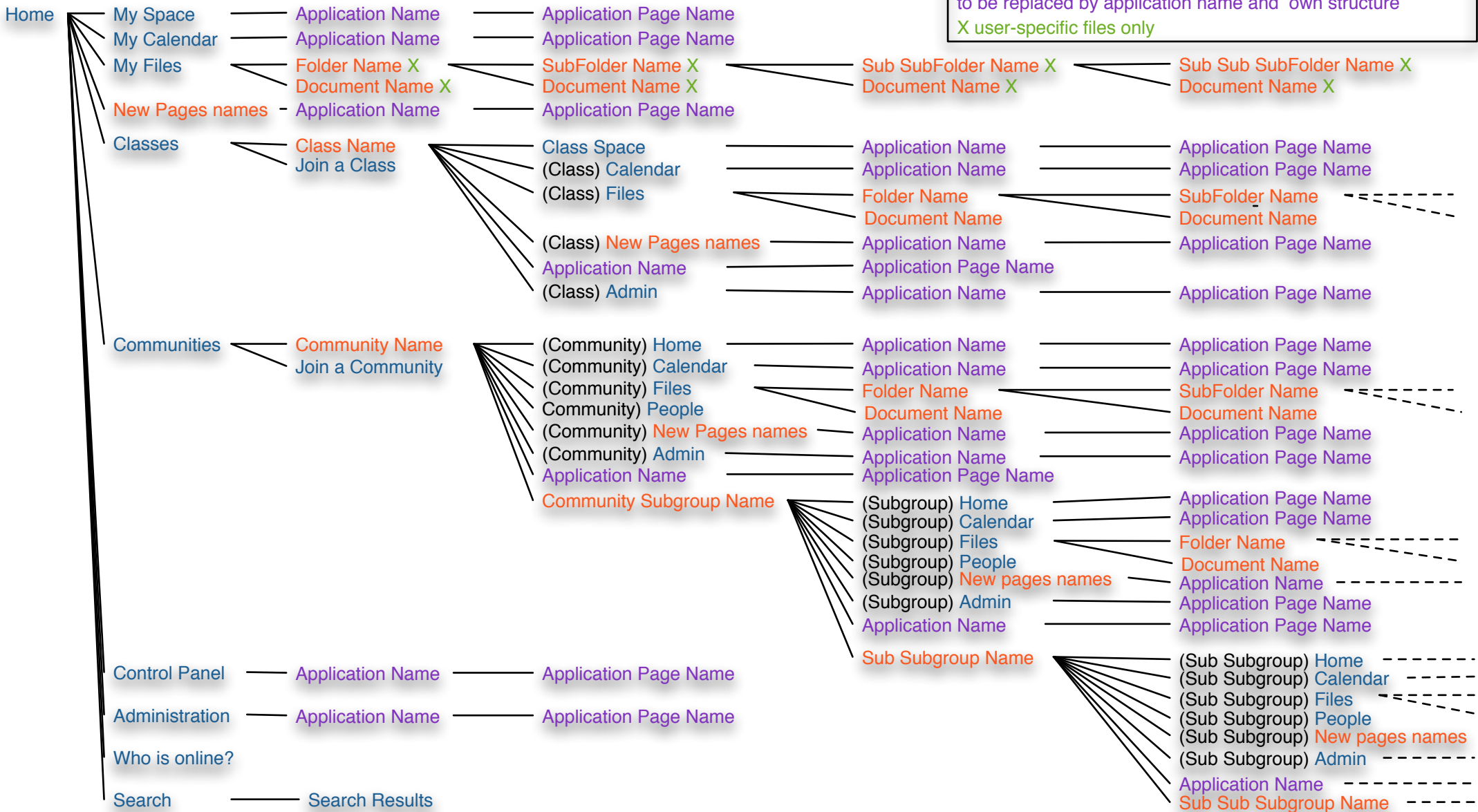
The screenshot shows a web interface for a forum. At the top left is the dotLRN logo. To its right is a search bar with the text 'search'. Further right is a welcome message: 'Welcome, ludvine martin | 3 Members online | STD HC | Logout'. Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home : dotLRN : Communities : ALPE : Forums : ALPE WP5', which is highlighted with a red box. Below the breadcrumb is a navigation menu with buttons for 'Home', 'Classes', 'Communities', 'Control Panel', and 'ALPE'. Under 'ALPE' are sub-buttons for 'Community Home', 'Calendar', and 'People'. The main heading is 'Forum: ALPE WP5'. Below this is an 'Unsubscribe' link and a page navigation bar with '< 1 2 >'. A 'Post a New Message' button is also present. The main content is a table of forum posts with columns for Subject, Author, Replies, First Post, and Last Post.

Subject	Author	Replies	First Post	Last Post
Survey progress bar	Emmanuelle Raffenne	5	10/31/07 10:11 AM	11/09/07 12:10 PM
DT - Preparation	Carmen Barrera	0	11/07/07 06:23 PM	11/07/07 06:23 PM
Greek Pilot Site	Nick Panagopoulos	3	10/11/07 02:46 AM	10/30/07 10:33 AM
UK and ES questionnaires - improvements review	ludvine martin	0	10/25/07 01:02 PM	10/25/07 01:02 PM
F2F interviews	Carlos Rebate	0	10/24/07 09:10 AM	10/24/07 09:10 AM
Concerns about Greek validation	Carmen Barrera	5	10/07/07 05:35 PM	10/23/07 12:28 PM
UK Pilot Site	Carmen Barrera	10	10/11/07 02:30 AM	10/23/07 12:23 AM

## SUGGESTED SITE STRUCTURE - AS PERCEIVED BY USERS THROUGH BREADCRUMBS

➤ Breadcrumbs should be built consistently to help users build a mental model of the site structure

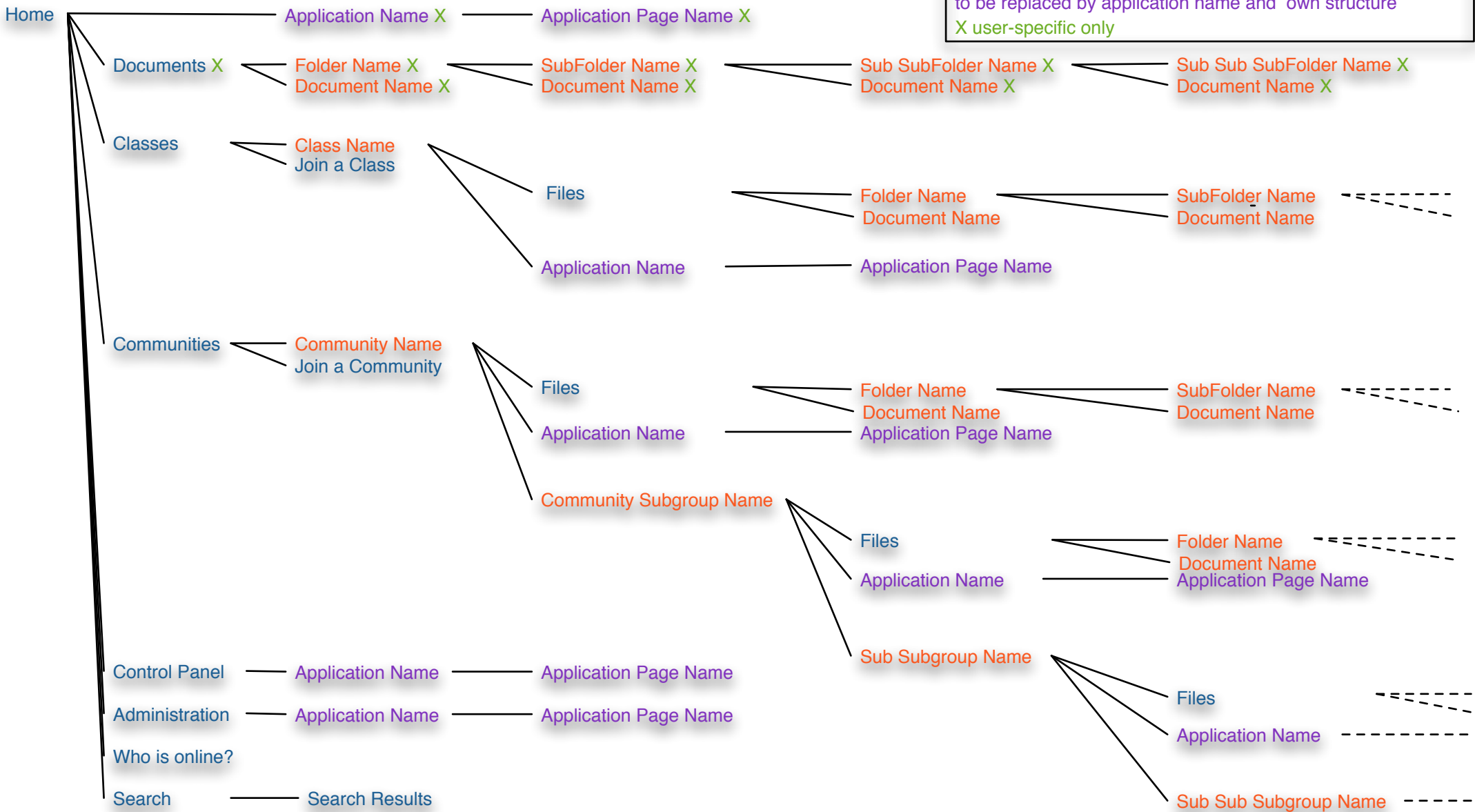
displayed as-is in the breadcrumbs  
 to be replaced by proper name  
 to be replaced by application name and own structure  
 X user-specific files only



## UPDATED: SUGGESTED SITE STRUCTURE - AS PERCEIVED BY USERS THROUGH BREADCRUMBS

Updated with the fact that submenu pages (e.g. class space, class files, class calendar) cannot show up in the breadcrumbs (technical issue)

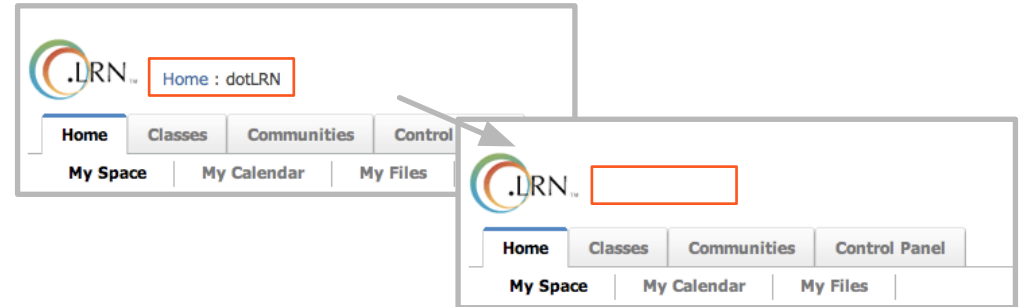
displayed as-is in the breadcrumbs  
to be replaced by proper name  
to be replaced by application name and own structure  
X user-specific only



## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

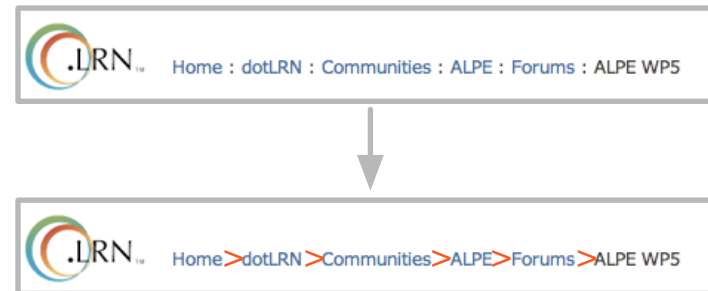
- Remove the breadcrumbs from the homepage.

The breadcrumbs for the homepage would be "Home". To respect the rule that the current page shouldn't be a link, "Home" shouldn't be a link on the homepage. Therefore it can be confusing for the user.



- Replace the colon by the right arrow.

It is more widely used across the web (65% vs 8% for the colon), therefore more easily recognized. Also, vertical separator such as colon can indicate an alternative. With breadcrumbs, we want to signify continuity and the right arrow fulfills this purpose better.



- If breadcrumbs are too long, include "..."

Breadcrumbs can be very long, especially with files, folders and subfolders. Ideally it should be kept on one line. The suggestion is to include "." if total breadcrumbs characters(with spaces) is over 190 (which is about one line). Ideally, display all the breadcrumbs possible from the left hand side.

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