The Electronic Design Notebook (EDN) is a secure web based collaboration tool used for all projects in The Design Lab at Rensselaer. The software includes project management, documentation, and file management features. Our students communicate with clients/mentors, faculty, staff, and each other using this tool.

Each project has its own private website which will have the following tabs:

* Overview – Provides a ‘dashboard’ of open issues and the latest project news. Provides a list of all team members’ names. Clicking a name provides their email address and latest project activity. This is helpful when looking for a post made by a specific person. Above the list of their recent postings is the word “Activity” which can be clicked to see their complete project history.
* Activity – Shows the overall project activity for all team members including clients and faculty for the last few weeks. At the bottom of the list are “previous” and “next” links to let you go through the project history. Be sure to check “message” box to include forum posts.
* Roadmap (only visible if defined) – Once a team has defined milestones (called “versions” in EDN) this tab will be available. From this tab you can see all the tasks associated with each version.
* Issues – This tab lets everyone on the project review and update current issues. Students will be tracking their progress here.
* Gantt – This tab provides a traditional Gantt chart view of the project’s issues. Although the default display is to show **only open** issues, the settings can be changed to show open/closed/all issues or just those assigned to a specific person.
* News – Some teams use this feature to share key project developments.
* Wiki – Teams use this section to create shared web pages. Typically these pages include relatively fixed information such as standard operating procedures for the project, links to technical or other project resources, instructions, contact information for all team members, etc.
* Forums – This is the main location for student activity. All design notes and discussions are in these forums. A new set of six (6) standard forums is created at the start of each semester (these will be at the bottom of the list). Of these, the “Design” forum is where the most activity takes place.
* Repository – Our system provides both file archiving and version control. Typically students will create an issue relating to a portion of work. They will discuss that work, evaluate pros and cons, and debate potential solutions in the forums. When one or more files are created to support the work these are usually stored here in the repository. Each time a student updates their files, the latest version is always available here in the repository for others to download. This is especially important for CAD models and software applications that often have more than one file that must be kept synchronized with the others.
* Booty Bay – This feature is used to inventory our "pirate's booty", aka our list of lab/shop equipment and key textbooks that can be signed out by students.
* Settings – This is used by the students to modify several key project management settings such as creating new categories to help organize issues and to define versions (milestones / deliverables) for the project.
* Plus sign – (to the left of Overview) This button allows creation of new Issues, Versions, News posts, and Wiki pages.

Task bar (very top line of the website)

* Home, My page and Projects are mostly useful for client mentors, faculty and staff who have more than one project they are working on.
* My Account: Edit information about your account. Specifically, you can change the settings for e-mail notification for any activity on your project.
* “Jump to a project” - Project pull down menu. This gives you fast access to your own project(s) as well as to the shared Capstone Support “project”. The Capstone Support project provides all overall course information such as syllabus, FAQ, resources, purchasing procedures, technical resources, forms, etc.