

## **Remaining Functionality: Messages , Notifications System & Admin Panel**

Although the Messages tab and Notification icon have already been added to the interface, their interactive functionality has not yet been implemented. For the final version of the system, we intend to fully develop a real-time communication and alert system that allows users to send, receive, and be notified of new messages or connection responses.

The Messages Section will allow logged-in users to open a chat interface where they can send text messages to other users. Each message will be stored in the messages database table with fields for sender, receiver, content, and timestamp. Users will also be able to retrieve their existing conversations, view them in chronological order, and access chat history on demand.

The Notification System will display alerts whenever a new message or connection request is received. Unread message counts will appear as a badge (e.g., “3”) beside the Messages tab. We intend to implement a database-based notification checker that runs in the background using AJAX calls or periodic refresh. This system will query unread records from both the messages and connection\_requests tables and visually update the notification icon without requiring a page reload. This feature aims to improve usability and enhance interaction between users by mimicking familiar real-time updates found in modern social platforms.

Additionally, the system currently does not have an Admin Page. For future improvement, a basic admin panel will be designed to allow monitoring of user activity, message reports, and connection requests. This will ensure the integrity of the platform and provide control over inappropriate behaviour or misuse. The admin section may include user management, monitoring of suspicious activity, and account suspension tools.

The goal for the final version is to provide a smooth, responsive messaging experience with at least basic real-time feedback. If time allows, we may extend this further using WebSockets to simulate live conversations. Overall, the Messages and Notification sections will transform the system from a static social platform into an interactive communication tool, fulfilling the core objective of The Connectors to allow students to connect and build relationships efficiently.