**Evaluation**

Qualitative Evaluation

In terms of how close the website matches the requirement specification in its latest form, its fulfills the purpose of the solution by allowing users to create posts and to share their thoughts easily. It matches the scopes and boundaries laid out as well as the only images i grabbed off the web were royalty free images along with the only operating system and browser developed for being windows 10 and google chrome. It however does not appeal as greatly to the age group i aimed for than I had hoped as the lack of images on the site seemed to displease one of my end users during testing.

It does meet the user requirements though as the windows operating system was used and it is indeed a text based website. The chrome browser was indeed developed for and user walls are indeed a feature of the site. The ability to delete your account is definitely a feature and the ability for the user to create their own account is one of the first things they will come across on the site. They are able to see posts they created being displayed in the user feeds available to them and they are able to sort posts. Finally they are able to search for other users and change their user settings along with having a notifications page which introduces them to the site.

For the user interface multiple forms are indeed used for multiple purposes from logging on to deleting your account. With the data indeed being processed or inputted to the database due to validation and creation of posts and such. User inputs are indeed validated at multiple points throughout the site for example on the login, to the creation of posts to changing your password.

Users are able to create posts on the site and therefore add data into the database and they are able to see these created posts on their walls or on the super feed that contains the posts of all users.

They are also indeed able to search for other users on the site via the search box and as such visit those searched users pages. With error messages being present here for inputs that are invalid or not found. Error messages are prevalent wherever there is validation on the site.

Users are able to see their own user profile and as such their posts and bio along with those of other users as well.

In settings users are indeed able to change their bio, password and delete their account.

Media elements such as pictures are again seen on all pages of the site due to a users profile pic and the search.png file.

The program design for the site along with the data structure match the requirement specification pretty much exactly as those laid out in it are the what makes the site what it is and for it to be able to function the way it does. With php i believe being exclusively used when validation is required and javascript being very prevalent throughout the site to add functionality from dropdown menus to the asynchronous design of the feed. CSS being used to make the website look the way it is and HTML being the foundations of the site.

SQL is also heavily involved due to the need to store data in structures like tables for the website to function, for posts to be able to be created and retrieved, and for users to be able to maneuver around the site and visit others. It is what stores all the users and posts.

The inputs and outputs for the site do indeed for the most part come from a keyboard and mouse as they are what the user uses to navigate the site via buttons links and forms. However inputs and outputs also do come from javascript files, php files and html files as data is passed around and processed in order for the site to function. With inputs from html forms going to php files only for those php files to output back to a javascript file to output back into the html to allow features like posts to be formatted the way they are. As such relating to the requirement specification due to how I am doing what I had set out to do here.

Some more comments on inputs is that almost all inputs on the site are validated if not all and that outputs are also processed quite heavily before being put into the html as they first need to made so that they can be formatted correctly to be put into the html.

For essential design features, I do indeed have a home page along with user pages containing their posts and bio. In addition user settings allow users to be able to change their bio and password along with deleting their account. Registration page for users is available and users may log into the site after having created a profile. A search bar is present on nearly all webpages and a navigation bar is as well. The notifications page does also provide basic navigation tips. Therefore meeting all the points in the essential design features.

In regards to my final testing, there were more problems than I had thought would occur on the site as during the implementation process there was a lot of ongoing testing leading me to be able to get rid of a lot the kinks in the site. However minor things like forgetting the logo for the tab or setting a link incorrectly seemed to have escaped me more times than I would have liked.

I am overall quite satisfied with how small the number of problems were and how for the most part how simple they are to fix. There is the one issue with post creation and presumably also the updating of bios that I did not get round to fixing though as it was quite strange in nature. I didn’t have the time to pinpoint what exactly was going wrong and the problem seemed to have been due to a specific piece of text as well, as other texts I had tested had no problems. It however seemed to be quite niche in nature and as such would not affect the posts most users create unless a user actively seeks out an error like it. As such, due to the limited to I have left to finish this project I have decided to leave the bug in as it doesn’t hinder the main function of the site in most cases.

For end user testing, most feedback was positive, with the design being praised by all end users who participated. However there was feedback on the functionality of the site, as 2 users desired more to be available. They all had points on the settings as well with the final end user making a very good point on security when changing your password. That in my websites current state that they only need to enter their new password and that if someone malicious were to come along while you are away, they would be able to take our account by changing your password. This would be something that would be fixed in further developments as the settings page currently meets the user requirements.

Some further developments I would have liked to have seen with my site was the implementation of different post types like that of images or videos or code even as it would have allowed the site to be much more appealing to the audience that I had set as my target. In addition to this, if users were able to create communities in which they could discuss specific topics of interest to them, it would get them to like the site even more I believe as there would be even more interaction. On top of this, if the ability to comment on posts from, or message other users were to be implemented then it would enhance the user experience by ten fold due to the ability for users to then be able to communicate directly with each other which would be an amazing feature to have. However difficult it may be to implement. Finally I would have liked if users were able to have their accounts more personalised, via features like the home feed being of only posts from people you follow or friends, or through the ability to edit their user interface as it would allow users to make the website their own. Which I believe would make the site so much more fun and appealing than it is in its current state.

Overall, I would say that the success of this project was somewhat limited. As I was able to meet the requirements in the final draft of my requirement specification, however that was only after having to restrict the number of features I would be implementing multiple times throughout the development process due to time constraints. In addition to this, the need to learn new languages for the project hindered my ability to implement it to its fullest. Leading to my inability to implement features like that of the user feed until after much time was spent on researching and learning what I will need to do in order to develop what I wanted for the site. As such, even though I have met the requirements set out in the final draft of my requirement specification, I could have done more and as such I believe that the success is limited.

Personal Evaluation

In terms of what went well during this project. One such thing I would say went well was the initial drafting of ideas as there were multiple of which were interesting to me that I would have liked to do. Another would be the research and learning done whilst implementing the website as I was able to quite quickly narrow down what I needed to know and how to implement it during the implementation project. Along with this would be the ongoing testing and documentation I have been keeping as I believe I have been quite thorough in my project log to what I have done during the development cycle, from the documentation of bugs to keeping track of what I have done.

I also believe the work ethic I developed as the project went on is another one of the things that went well with the project. As I had slowly but surely learned to manage my time better and to dedicate it towards the project. Consistently working on it in order to make things better.

With what could have gone better, there are many. First of all my time management during this project I would say was quite abysmal due to my own lack of self discipline. In addition to this the number of events occuring in my final year of school from university interviews to prelims emphasised this point even further as initially I had been doing quite minimal work, only working in class. It was not until there were three months left for my project that I actually started properly working on it and as such I had not much time to do quite a lot of stuff.

Along with this, another issue has been my planning. My designs that I had began with essentially went out the window after having began my implementation. As such the implementation process was quite the state as I had no guide to what I was to be doing in addition to not knowing the language I was working with very well. Leading to some things not making much sense and other things causing some bloat.

If I were to do this project again I would wish it to be from the standpoint I am in currently. With knowledge of what goes into a site and how to implement it. As I am currently I believe I would be able to create designs that would be held onto and adhered to as there will not be much need for redrafts and I would also be able to make the website a lot more efficient due to said designs.

I believe if I were to start this project again there would also be a lot more javascript as the functionality it adds can make using a site so much nicer and it's also a language that is pretty easy to use.

I have learnt a lot from this project. My understanding of how websites work is much stronger now due to having needed to make one myself. I now understand things like cookies and their use whereas previously it would seem like they were simply something out there to steal your information. I also have essentially learned javascript, css and html on my own to a reasonable degree as well, due to how much I’ve had to use them throughout my project. Compared to the past where my use of them was much more limited. Having barely touched javascript at all even. My understanding of php and sql has also been deepened by performing this project as I have expanded a lot upon what I had been taught in class for the two languages. My debugging skills have also grown much stronger after having done this project due to the sheer complexity of some of the things I’ve had to implement.

Finally I was very happy after receiving feedback from my end users on my project as they all seemed to have been quite fond of the site. Being excited when seeing posts from their friends and laughing at the jokes people had made. It was amazing seeing people be so happy about something I had created.

Evaluation of Performance

I believe my performance as a whole on this project has been good. I have consistently documented any errors I have found and how I fixed them. Along with this I have also been giving explanations for most things I’ve been doing consistently throughout the project. Consistently reflecting upon why changes occured when they were made and looking forward to what needed to be done. The time I committed to the project at the beginning was not great but as I progressed with the project I found myself doing more and more and more and as such I believe that my progress in this regard also counts as being good. The user of project logs and the gantt chart also helped keep me on track and allowed me to see whether or not I was falling behind at points and by how far. Along with interviews with my teacher helping me understand where I was lagging behind and as such what I needed to do. This all leads me to believe that my performance was good as I was always keeping track of what I was doing.