For my Basic Web Application assignment, I created a simple assignment due date tracker using PHP, MySQL HTML, and CSS. The features of my application include the ability to add, view, update and delete assignment entries. I have also enabled key features that allow users to register an account, login/logout and change their password. My application includes a backend that ensures that users are not seeing site content unless they are logged in. They also do not experience the security issue of seeing other user’s entries. My assignment due date tracker includes simple but clear design features that ensure that users can navigate the site with ease and have an enjoyable experience.

Although I am familiar with HTML and CSS, I have never used PHP or MYSQL before this project and this presented me with a learning curve that involved me perusing extra study outside of my class and utilising my tutor for feedback and guidance. It was a challenge to learn not only about the role of servers but, to learn the code to initiative it. This influenced my final application as some of the features I wanted to include were a bit too complicated for me to implement. I knew that my lack of experience in these programming languages would be a pain point, so I ensured that the features I did include presented no issues and were simple to use.

Simple design and functionality is a key goal for my program. A user needs to not only be able to navigate and use my application, but they should also have an enjoyable experience free of confusion and errors. Users will give up out of frustration if they can’t perform the tasks easily and if the website breaks. I used clear navigation, headings, and buttons to ensure that the user can easily use the platform.

My program included a range of features to limit fatal user error. This includes having alerts when users log out and when they delete entries. This is to ensure that users do not accidentally make fatal decisions. I also utilised the bootstrap library to ensure that my platform was visually appealing and accessible. This was an easy way to use existing libraries to improve my program. By using danger and success bootstrap classes for buttons, I could ensure that users did not accidentally click the wrong buttons.

Building this project was a great way to learn these new programming languages as I got to experience a lot of bugs and errors in my code. A large part of my time during this task was breaking my code and diagnosing the problem. This helped me learn how PHP and MYSQL works and how I can manipulate the languages to work for my goals of the project. Although frustrating at times, it pushed me to reach for solutions.

There are always ways to improve my work and there are several features I would have liked to include if I had the opportunity. An assignment due date tracker should have a range of features to assist the user to stay on track with multiple competing priorities and tasks. Creating a field that sorts the tasks by urgency would assist users in determining which tasks they should complete first. Alongside this, creating a feature to show warnings if multiple assignments are due on the same date with help users be prepared earlier. These two features would ensure that users can stay on track and organised. I would also add some branding elements to my project by including a unique colour palette and logo.