# BCPR 294 Final Project

## Evaluation

### MoSCoW

The features implemented for the site are currently functional and robust, however some operation of the community sites has been overlooked, such as the ability to add new forum topics, editing a user’s information and many other customisation options for a user’s profile that was planned for completion. These were not implemented due to time constraints, however I have had a very enjoyable time creating the social media site and I plan on continuing to experiment with functionality after the conclusion of BCPR 294.

### Database

The database was quickly expanded based on the initial plan to accommodate some changes to the functionality, such as comments being for only a forum topic, and private messages being an exclusive feature of the ‘share’ button. This caused some confusion during operation and resulted in several of my planned queries becoming obsolete. For further expansion I would intend on adding a profile table to link with a user, allow users to update their information and display the results of the friends page differently to concatenate firstName and lastName, as well as count a number of friends a user has.

### Lessons learned

After completing the PHP website I have learned a lot about the use of .ini files, $\_SESSION and $\_POST variables, and PHP classes. While I quickly ran out of time with the project and was unable to implement a wider range of object classes for use, I was unsure of the use of interfaces and how to implement these classes across the greater website. I intend to examine the use of the functions.php functions() class and segment the class further, by creating a functionsGet() class and a tableMaker() class. This would further adhere to the single responsibility principle and most likely require the use of interfaces. This would provide a template for the use of these commands and assist the user in their implementation of the website’s greater functionality.

In future updates to the site I would like to look into the use of namespaces and autoloaders to include files and classes in the rest of the program. This would reduce the coupling between classes and make code easier to read and update. I would also like to add new pages to the site, such as a 404 page when an address cannot be resolved, and an about us / legal page. With the website designed to store and authenticate a user’s information it is important that a user understands what their rights are when it comes to access of information, and what can be done with their data. This could also be achieved through the use of a terms and conditions contract a user must agree to before they register for the site. This agreement protects the user’s right to privacy but also ensures they are aware that their data will be stored.

Localisation was an interesting feature to implement, however the method required to complete the translation for the Hindi portion of the site proved to be a clunky solution and was rather repetitive. In the future I would like to see other alternatives for text translation, preferably dynamically to improve capabilities and maybe expand it to include a wider variety of languages. The hashing of passwords was also an area of interest for me; it is interesting to understand about how passwords are stored as hashed values and compared while hashed. This means that a database manager will never see a user’s password stored in plain text, greatly improving user security. I found injection very interesting and would like to also look in to other malicious strategies and how to avoid them.