**6/14/2022**

Proposal for   
**XYZ Book Review Platform Development**

Project name: Book Review Website (BRW)\*

Submitted by:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Abdullah Al-Galib | 1712986642 |
| Nawal Ayesha Khan | 1911301042 |
| Fairuz Nawar | 1912793642 |

North South University, Bashundhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Email: naqib@AtoZ.co  
Phone: +88 01755605053,  
Website: [www. AtoZ.co](http://www.ibcr.co)

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# Introduction

This is a proposal for the development of a book review website where users can write reviews for books. In this system users can search for books and provide feedback for them. Users will be able to know the latest books of their interests being introduced into the market like fiction, science, technology etc. This document contains high requirements, user stories, phase-wise development outline and expectations. It will remain as a document to be shared online collaboration to undergo phase wise changes as the product matures into a proper platform.

## About AtoZ Limited

The group consists of 3 members: Abdullah Al-Galib (1712986642), Nawal Ayesha Khan (1911301042), and Fairuz Nawar (1912793642).

Learn more at http://[www. AtoZ.co](http://www.ibcr.co)

# Background and Product Context

Book lovers read a lot of books, and buy new books frequently. A book review website helps them to know about books before purchasing them. It lets them know if a certain book meets their requirements or not. Not only will the reviews give them an idea of the story, genre and tone of the book, they also get a valuable impression of its quality.

Book reviews give books greater visibility and a greater chance of getting found by more readers. On some websites, books that have more book reviews are more likely to be shown to prospective readers and buyers as compared to books with few or no book reviews. Reader reviews tend to be more personal, focusing on the individual reader’s experience while reading the book. But since readers can have such widely differing views of the same book, it is valuable for all involved when a book has a variety of reader reviews available. The benefits of book review are immense. In fact, book reviews help potential readers become familiar with what a book is about, give them an idea of how they themselves might react to it and determine whether this particular book will be the right book for them right now.

Reviews also make it easier to find an author's book. Reviews can help move an author’s book up the search ranking on sites like Amazon or Goodreads, and reviews can also help their SEO (search engine optimization). Reviewers will use keywords like the title of a book, author’s name, the genre and sub-genres of the book. The more times these things are mentioned, the better the chance of a book getting pulled up in searches results for those words. Increasing the traffic to your book pages combine with good reviews of your book are the best ways to lead to the sale of your book. They also inspire confidence in the rising authors. Seeing good reviews on their own writing skills will motivate him to write and publish more amazing books to the market.

A detailed review can save readers time, prepare them for what they will find, and offer them a greater chance of connecting with a particular book, even before they read the first page. They give books greater visibility and a greater chance of getting found by more readers. On some websites, books that have more book reviews are more likely to be shown to prospective readers and buyers as compared to books with few or no book reviews.

Reviews on a site can also help amplify one's book’s reach among book clubs, bookstores, blogging communities and other opportunities to gain attention from new readers. Books with a lot of book reviews will appear to be more in-demand. It is human nature for people to be curious about what seems popular and check it out for themselves. As a result, a good number of book reviews can help lead to a snowball effect in book sales.

The reviews are also effective on the buy-and-sale market. Customers are particularly unsure of products with no consumer reviews, including books. Stores like Kindle are full of books, and some are of much better quality than others. Regular shoppers are likely to have spent money on a poorly written book before and are now more cautious about buying. But if a book has several good reviews, the buyer’s faith in that product is higher. Reviews work excellently with the algorithms used by online stores. The more reviews an author gets, the more shoppers are shown his book. The more shoppers see his book, the more sales you’re going to make. If you can legitimately tap into this, you have a fantastic marketing opportunity. In other words, the presence of book reviews can help validate the worthiness of a book and establish who the book’s audience is. Then once validated, other similar people are much more likely to want to join their peers and buy that same book.

Book ratings also work in building brands. Building your brand as an author helps target the specific audience reading your genre. Book reviewers are able to build your brand like no one else. The more reviews that say things that build and boost your brand, the more people will have trust in your ability to craft a compelling story. Reviewers can let people know what genre you write in and if you excel in that genre. Being known as a writer who is great at world-building, especially for sci-fi or fantasy, will help target readers who look for that in the books they choose.

Many also want to keep track of books they enjoy, books they are yet to read, etc. and digital collections of books have become a very convenient way of doing this. Following others on social media to know of their opinions is a very common practice, and having such a feature in book review sites to stay informed on what literature your peers are interested in currently and whether they fit into your preferences would be a valuable addition.

Considering the above benefits of such review sites, there is room to create a website providing book reviews that also acts as a way for book-lovers to stay connected. Reviewing books, following and reading others’ reviews, saving books according to your taste, and other such features are a valuable way for avid book readers to share their opinions on their favorite pieces of literature.

In this system, users can search for books by title, genre, or author. Users can review a book by giving it a rating and providing some feedback. Users are able to create collections/libraries and add and remove books to and from them. Admin users will be able to edit or remove any inappropriate reviews. Users are also able to follow other book reviewers and see what books are being rated well

# User Story

## Use Case 1:

Ms. Nabila (A user on the site) wants to search for books according to her preferences. There are 3 ways to do this:

1. She uses the search bar in the website to search for books by author or title. She can then click on these books to see their details like Title, Author, Year published, etc.
2. She clicks on the option in the dashboard to see books of a certain genre. Based on the option, she will be able to view different books and see their details.
3. She goes to her home page and sees which books the users she follows have reviewed, and clicks on the reviews to see if the books match her preferences.

## Use Case 2:

Ms. Nabila (A user on the site) wants to rate books she has recently read and share her opinions on them. She can do this by:

1. Searching for books by title, clicking on the button to review it and leaving a rating with a concise review.

## Use Case 3:

Ms. Nabila (A user on the site) wants to keep track of books she has completed or will read soon in her personal libraries. There are 3 options to do this:

1. She searches for books by title or author, or selects options to see books of a certain genre, and clicks on the button next to them to save them to different libraries.
2. She views which books her fellow users have reviewed and clicks on the button next to them to add them to her libraries.
3. She can select the books she has already reviewed and save them to libraries of completed books by clicking on the button next to them.

## Use Case 4:

Mrs. Nabila (Administrator on the website) wants to remove or edit reviews that are controversial or redundant so that the website is cleaner. She can do this by:

1. Clicking on the edit or delete button to change or remove a review

## Limits

*<Fill up as the project progresses in the first 2 weeks>*

# Solution Description

## Architecture

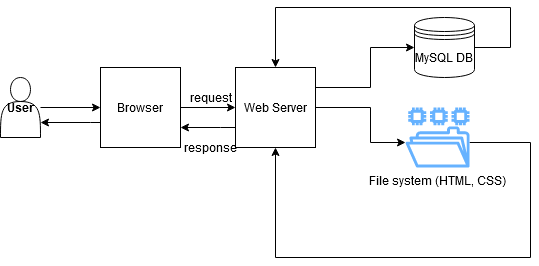
Central MySQL DB will receive requests from clients in the form of browsers, which will then respond to the server’s requests with the necessary information and media.

Figure 1: Architecture plan

The first phases will focus basic and initial UI and meeting acceptable performance benchmarks as set by Google and open source benchmarking tools available in the industry.

The website will use a MySQL DB for the information for Users, Reviews, and Libraries.



To facilitate rapid development, the PHP scripting language will be used for server side programming. Since PHP provides flexibility, performs efficiently, and is easily integrated, it will accelerate quick development into a fully maintainable website.



## Front-end plan

A total of 9 page-templates in plan (as of June 14, 2022)

1. Home page
2. Search result page
3. Admin homepage
4. Book details page
5. User dashboard page
6. Register/Login page
7. User profile page
8. Book review page
9. User libraries page

Google Books API will be used to fetch the relevant book information.

## Back end development

1. Account Creation:
   1. Sign-up form
   2. Login
   3. Google login (Phase 2)
   4. MySQL Database
2. Profile Management:
   1. DB plan design and dev: MySQL
   2. User Profile
   3. User Following
3. Searching facility:
   1. Genre-based page
   2. Author-based search
   3. Title-based search
4. Reviewing book facility:
   1. Review form
   2. Rating form
   3. MySQL Database
5. Admin Editing:
   1. Review edit/remove form
   2. MySQL Database
6. Personal library facility:
   1. Add to Library form
   2. MySQL Database

## Performance plan:

### Open-source web page tester (https://www.webpagetest.org/)

* For TTFB < 200ms
* Image compression all image
* Static content caching
* Use separate media server for faster media delivery
* Use Bangladeshi CDN for minimum latency.

### Google Page evaluation (https://developers.google.com/speed/pagespeed/insights/)

* Desktop 85/100 (bikroy.com at 85/100)
* Average TTFB < 200ms
* Average DOMLoading < 3sec
* Maximum Page Loading time < 7 sec

## Others Comments

* Web-based application
* Separate panels for Admin and Regular Users
* Responsive front end

# Development Plan

Development methodology will adopt agile methodology. Each cycle will complete in exactly 2 weeks (10 working days). At the end of each cycle, developing team will release a working software version. The team will then meet, run the software, test and provide their feedbacks, etc. In the next cycle, each team updates their development plan within acceptable range of change.

## Phase 1

Duration: Total 8 weeks for development and 1.5 weeks for final deployment. This phase shall develop a minimum viable product (MVP) with basic and initial UX. It will focus on Account creation and Profile management for the Users. It will also focus on developing the Searching, Book reviewing, and Personal collection facilities through API integration

### Deliverables:

At the end of this phase, users will be able to register/login to their account. Users will be able to view and edit their profiles, such as personal information and profile pictures. Users will be able to search for books and leave reviews for them, as well as click on them to see book information. User be able to find a review of the book they’re interested in quickly. Searching facility includes key filters (genre, title, and author) which will help the users to find something new to read. An API will be used to fetch relevant book details. Users can also save books to their personal libraries.

## Phase 2

Phase 2 will comprise of optimization, and will focus on implementing Admin actions and allowing users to follow each other. It will satisfy use cases as described in the use case section update as of 14 June, 2022.

### Deliverables:

Users should be able to follow other users and view their reviews. Admins should be able to edit or remove reviews from the website. Website should also be fully responsive for the users.

## Phase N

Phase 1 and Phase 2 will help decide goals and expectation for the next phase. The   
evolved user stories and learning from utilization gathered from different users all   
together will help guide design and development. Hence prior to this next phase it will be   
important to have a solid planning session

# Hardware/Hosting Plan

Here is a list of possible cloud plans. We will choose one that fits our project the best and is also the most economical.

Table 1: Cloud hosting plans

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cloud Provider** | **DC location** | **Latency (ms)** | **Starter description** | **Starter price**  **(USD)** | **Mobile app ext. (with Redis)** | **Mobile app ext. price (USD)** | **Total expense (USD/mo)** |
| hyperPhp  (GrandHost Inc.) | USA | 2135 | EC2- small, EBS, Transfer 20TB, 0.12$/GB | $0.00 | 0.022/hr for a cache.t2.micro, goes lower ($0.009/hr) with 3 year term | $15.84 | $0.00 |
| 000webhost (Hostinger International Inc.) | Lithuania | 170 | Transfer 300 MB, 0.07 $/GB | $0.00 | 300 MB disk | $1.99 | $0.00 |
| GCP  (Google Inc.) | Singapore | 0.05 | 1 shared vCPU .6 GB memory 10 GB disk | $0.00 | 0.6 GB memory, 10 GB disk | $4.28 | $0.00 |

# Collaboration Plan

All issues to be reported on Canvas system. ATOZ will provide access credentials to XYZ team for raising issues as the development progresses.

Table 2: Collaboration plan

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tasks | Schedule | ATOZ | XYZ |
| Host dev-site and develop | Ongoing basis | Y |  |
| Build and release | Every Sunday |  | Y |
| Summary and discussion | Every alternate Thursday | Y | y |
| Provide feedback on UI and functionality | As per need |  | Y |
| Use case testing | As per need |  | Y |
| User data population (Users, Admins, etc.) | As per need | y | y |

# Project Schedule

Phase 1 will take a total of 10.5 weeks from the day of start. Calculated Man-month = 10.5/3 = 3.5. Excluding front end development, it will become:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Week** | | | | | | | | | |  |  |
| **SL** | **Deliverable** | **1** | | **2** | | **3** | | **4** | | **5** | | **6** | **Man-week** |
| 1 | Front end development | - | - | - | - | - | - |  |  |  |  |  | 3.0 |
| 2 | Account management |  | - | - | - | - |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2.0 |
| 3 | Profile management |  |  |  |  | - | - |  |  |  |  |  | 1.0 |
| 4 | API Integration |  |  |  | | - | - | - | - |  |  |  | 2.0 |
| 5 | Search facility |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | - | - |  |  | 1.0 |
| 6 | Deployment and final release |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | - | - | 1.5 |
|  | **Total duration** | **1.5** | | **2.0** | | **3.5** | | **1.5** | | **1.0** | | **1.0** | **10.5** |

Table 3: Phase 1 Schedule

# Budgetary Price

Excluding front end development (2.0 man-week) total time plan = 7.5 weeks. Following table shows development expense. In addition, based on requirement as it reveals during project development AtoZ will be helped in choosing the appropriate cloud hosting. The approximate cost of this project was estimated by adding the salary of three developers completing a project in this duration.

Table 4: Expense Breakup for Development

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SL** | **Deliverable** | **Expense** | **Comment** |
| 1 | UI design | 70000 BDT |  |
| 2 | Front end development | 90000 BDT |  |
| 3 | PHP back-end development | 120000 BDT |  |
| 4 | Database design (MySQL) | 70000 BDT |  |
| 7 | API and UI integration | 80000 BDT |  |
|  | Total | 70000 BDT |  |

**Note:** Price is excluding of any Tax, VAT and other levies.

# 

# Appendix

## Contact information

Contact Person Name: Md Naqib Imtiaz Hussain

Email: naqib@AtoZ.co

Mobile: +8801817181156

**ATOZ Limited**

**North South University, Bashundhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Email: naqib@AtoZ.co**

**Web :** [**www.YourCompanyAtoZ.co**](http://www.ibcr.co)