

Reflection

For the development of this basic web application I used local hosting during the development stage, beneficial for its speed and ease of testing, though I had some issues getting the servers to run on my laptop, once this was solved however I found local hosting particularly useful for ease of fixing errors using the MAMP log files.

I used MAMP for local hosting, MYSQL for the database and PHP to build the application. These choices seemed the wise decision as many online hosting platforms I was considering primarily supported these and also for the ease of accessing the tutorials and workshop information from which I largely built my application.

After deciding what I was going to track, I used the information provided in the workshops to build a basic draft of my CRUD application, before choosing more firmly what types of information I would need to track, and how I would want the application to be structured. I looked at other, related types of tracker apps: [storytracker](#), primarily for tracking where you have submitted your stories, and [Novlr](#), and others designed to help you while you write, but I also considered what I personally would find most useful, then simplified the information, so it wasn't too unwieldy to include in a database.

I followed the tutorials provided for the basic application, altering the structure, including the edit and delete links on the read page for added simplicity, sourcing other resources where required for things like the [search function](#). Many of the additional resources I found used MySQLi instead of PDO as the primary way to access databases. But I also received a lot of help from consulting [w3schools](#), [php.net](#) and the [MySQL reference manual](#) for additional information regarding specific uses of code.

I used the [Skeleton](#) framework for the front-end styling. As a fast and convenient way to style my application using pre-made classes in CSS. I considered using [Bootstrap](#) for more extensive design choices, but Skeleton was simple and fast, its basic simplicity served my needs for this project. I would have liked to style the front end more extensively, either with a different framework, or using my own CSS, especially the header and menu items, but given time constraints and considering that it was not a major part of this project I opted to keep it simple and functional.

For the hosting I researched a number of platforms, that I was familiar with, as well as some recommendations by others in the class, for this project I decided that the recommended [Infintyfree](#) would best suit my needs as it was indeed free, and had some decent reviews for a free hosting service. There were several other free hosting options that I considered but many others

had limited databases, websites, or older versions of PHP. If I were running a professional website I might be inclined to pay for a more expansive service from someone like [Bluehost](#) or similar, but this suited my needs for this project.

While I had no major issues during the process, some aspects of it were more challenging than others; such as the search function and my initial lack of understanding of what php actually does, as I was new to the field of programming. Overall I was happy with the outcome, however there are many ways this application could be improved. Including a functioning user log-in/register system, and a more interactive user interface, among other things. My process as well could doubtless be improved, but I am pleased with the progress I have made so far.