Secure Software Development - Individual Assignment Reflection

The second assignment within this module involved creating the deliverable that was designed in assignment one. In the first assignment, my team had designed a school management system that has CRUD functions and security built in. I came into the assignment anxious about my skills as I am fairly new to programming. I was also concerned about the level of detail that had gone into the design, and felt that some of this was beyond my level of skill at this point.

One thing I feel that I did well with this assignment is to research the available security libraries that were in the design document to ensure I could fully use these. I have not developed in this way before but I found it interesting to see the functionality of these. I also carried out research into the structures of actual school management systems to determine the kind of scope I should have, which resulted in having classes for student records and students. This is the kind of research I intend on carrying into my career as a developer. I currently work in local government automation, and as such it is common to see the problems we face also appear for other local authorities. This assignment has led me to join a working group for IT staff in local government to share ideas and ways of working, so that any problems I am facing in future can be discussed and hopefully resolved.

In terms of challenges, I found it difficult to know how to limit the development I did. I found myself at times wanting to create new functions, but once I did this I quickly found them redundant. This led to frustration about how I should proceed. I managed this by returning to the design document and looking at what we had specifically set out during that process, and used this to help my development. This is something I do in my work, as I spend the majority of my time acting on design documents and building to these specifications exactly, so being able to refresh these skills during an academic assignment has helped me see the importance of this.

Overall, I found this experience useful and enjoyed being able to improve my development skills further. This is work I aim to continue with beyond my studies, and will look to keep this project active and try to improve it as I learn more.