

Project Specification

<u>Section title</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Project Title	Social media web application to help university students gain an academic advantage.
Project Aim	<p>The aim of the project is to create a web application with a supporting database to encourage university students to socialize around their academic studies.</p> <p>The application will focus around helping students improve their academic performance and confidence within their subjects.</p>
Project objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate the impacts of mainstream social media in correlation to student's academic performance. • To research and compare the academic performance of students that engage with each other and attend most of their timetabled activities versus those who do not. • To research user-friendly interfaces/platforms to help construct a suitable layout for the web application. • To research the relevant tools and technologies needed to create a modern web application and a well-structured database. • To build a web application and database to support the necessary environments needed to create a helpful online social platform for students' academic needs.
Product	<p>The product to be implemented is a social space aimed to help all levels of university students in their academic endeavours. The web application will include a way for students to interact peer to peer, share course experiences and a format for students to plan events to help encourage others to get involved more with the university lifestyle.</p> <p>The product will be developed as a web application using the Laravel framework to meet the expectations of the project. This will also include the use of an SQL database to support the data handling of the website.</p>
Research	<p><u>Theoretical Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media's effects on academic performance. • Social media websites. • User-interface designs. • Al-Rahmi, W. and Othman, M., 2013. The impact of social media use on academic performance among university students • Evans, C., 2014. Twitter for teaching: Can social media be used to enhance the process of learning? <p><u>Technical Research</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHP/HTML/CSS using a Laravel framework. • SQL/MySQL database system. • Agile approach versus Waterfall approach. • Secure Encryption of data techniques. • Website accessibility options. • Optimization and Performance.
Evaluation	<p>The product will be evaluated by collecting feedback from end users at the end of the production project to gauge if the product was a success within its intended use. The collected feedback will be used to come to a conclusion and evaluate the aspects of the project that went well and what things could have been improved if the product were to be attempted again. The feedback will be collected in the form of a survey evenly among all levels of university students to ensure the sample size remains fair.</p>

Thomas Gale

Milestone: ✓

Start Date: 27/10/2019

1

Initial Plan

TASK	PROGRESS	START	END	DAYS
Research Activity				28
Research around topic area		27/10/2019	06/11/2019	10
Research into similar applications		06/11/2019	10/11/2019	4
Research necessary tools and technologies		10/11/2019	18/11/2019	8
Collect sources and useful information		18/11/2019	24/11/2019	6
Product Development				13
Use research to develop initial design		24/11/2019	26/11/2019	2
Initial ERD for database		26/11/2019	29/11/2019	3
Initial wireframe designs for pages		29/11/2019	03/12/2019	4
Acceptance criteria of features		03/12/2019	07/12/2019	4
Product Design				14
Wireframes for rough idea of all pages		07/12/2019	11/12/2019	4
Developed ERD for structured database		11/12/2019	15/12/2019	4
Acceptance criteria to outline most important features to implement first		15/12/2019	21/12/2019	6
Product Implementation				70
Create core pages of the prototype		21/12/2019	25/12/2019	4
Develop basic database for prototype		25/12/2019	29/12/2019	4
Add needed functionality for prototype		29/12/2019	04/01/2020	6
Expand on prototype with remaining pages,database tables and functionality		04/01/2020	03/02/2020	30
Add accesibility features colours,fonts etc		03/02/2020	07/02/2020	4
Add validation and authentication to pages		07/02/2020	13/02/2020	6
Eliminate any bugs left in the final product		13/02/2020	29/02/2020	16
Product Testing				10
Make sure all routes are setup and lead somewhere		29/02/2020	02/03/2020	2
Check validation and authentication is all working using dummy data		02/03/2020	04/03/2020	2
Eliminate any final bugs that arise during unit testing or within the front end html design		04/03/2020	10/03/2020	6
Product Evaluation				15
Collect feedback from all levels of university students		10/03/2020	14/03/2020	4
Use general feedback to develop a clear conclusion		14/03/2020	18/03/2020	4
Evaluate product overall for the project report		18/03/2020	25/03/2020	7
Writing of Report				29
Include cover letter,table of contents and effective layout for report		25/03/2020	30/03/2020	5
Evaluate research techniques and research gathered		30/03/2020	06/04/2020	7
Evaluate if the product meets the needs of the project		06/04/2020	13/04/2020	7
Discuss and evaluate the project overall		13/04/2020	20/04/2020	7
Include final bibliography referring to all sources referenced throughout the project		20/04/2020	23/04/2020	3