**Project Proposal: Movie Review Website**

**1. Introduction**

The project idea is to build a Movie Review Website where users can share their opinions on movies. On this site, people can post their reviews and get recommendations. For example, if someone writes a positive review, the site can show links to similar movies. On the other hand, if a review is negative, the site can suggest alternative films. Since this idea might include lots of outside movie data, I plan to use an external API to get extra details about movies.

**2. Project Goals**

• Create a simple and friendly website for movie lovers.

• Allow users to create, read, update, and delete (CRUD) movie reviews.

• Provide user authentication so that users can have personal accounts.

• Integrate an external API to fetch additional movie data (e.g., movie details, ratings).

• Offer links to similar movies or alternatives based on the reviews.

**3. Target Audience**

The website is designed for people who love watching movies and want to share their thoughts. This includes casual movie fans and those looking for recommendations based on reviews. The target demographic is broad, but I imagine the primary users will be teenagers and adults who frequently watch movies and use online platforms for movie information.

**4. Features and Functionality**

• **CRUD Operations:** Users can add new reviews, edit or delete their own reviews, and read reviews by others.

• **User Authentication:** Simple sign-up and login system so that only registered users can post or modify reviews.

• **Database:** I plan to use a relational database (like MySQL or PostgreSQL) to store user information, reviews, and movie data. A basic schema might include tables for Users, Reviews, Movies, and possibly a table to link similar or alternative movies.

• **API Integration:** The website will call an external movie API to retrieve up-to-date information (like movie summaries, ratings, and similar movies). This might involve handling API keys and caching some data to improve performance.

• **User Flow:**

1. A user visits the homepage and sees a list of recent movie reviews.

2. They can sign up or log in to post a review.

3. When posting a review, the user can enter the movie title and rate it.

4. After submitting, the review appears with additional movie details from the external API, and links to related movies are shown based on the review’s sentiment (positive or negative).

**5. Potential Challenges**

• **Learning API Integration:** I might face challenges in integrating and handling data from an external API.

• **Database Design:** Designing a good schema to support user interactions and linking similar movies might require some trial and error.

• **Authentication:** Ensuring secure authentication and protecting user data is important but can be tricky since authentication is not a strong skillset right now.

**6. Stretch Goals**

• **Advanced Search:** Allow users to search for reviews by movie title or genre.

• **Rating System:** Include a feature for users to upvote or downvote reviews.

• **Responsive Design:** Make the site mobile-friendly so that users can browse reviews on their phones.

• **Comment Section:** Enable discussions on each review for a more interactive community.

**7. Estimated Timeline and Effort**

Based on my current understanding and learning curve, I estimate that this project can be completed in roughly 45 to 65 hours. This includes time for planning, coding, testing, and refining the user interface.

**8. Conclusion**

This project is a great opportunity to learn web development fundamentals such as CRUD operations, user authentication, database design, and API integration. By building the Movie Review Website, I aim to create a functional and interactive platform that connects movie enthusiasts while also expanding my skills in software engineering.