Reflective Journal

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**Programme:** Business Information Systems

**Month**: December 2013

# My Achievements

This month has seen number of developments to the website along with a successful prototype presentation. I also met up with Mimi to discuss and review the website. She is very happy with the progress to date and highlighted that the simple and user-friendly design of the website is excellent.

In terms of artefact development this month I have:

1. Completed the file upload, search and download functionality for both public and personal files.
2. Completed the front-end design to a prototype standard.
3. Implemented session control to stop unregistered users from accessing the website.
4. Successfully implemented SHA1 encryption (and salting) of user passwords along with sanitizing all user input to protect against possible injection attacks.

On the 16th December I had a successful prototype presentation with Vikas Sahni in which I presented my project idea and demonstrated the website in its current form.

# My Reflection

I am very happy with the progress made this month. In particular I am delighted with how my prototype presentation went and the feedback received from Vikas.

Vikas was impressed with my project so far and the work I have completed to date. He only had two changes for me to implement for next May.

1. To make my search form sticky so the search criteria won’t disappear when the results are displayed.
2. Not to code my own study forum but to use a third party forum (choose from the many open source PHP forums available).

For my prototype he gave me a result of a 2.1. He stated that the only reason he is not giving me a 1st is that some of my advanced features (specific-user file sharing) are not yet implemented.

He also stated that as a BIS student I am not expected to have as complicated code written as the computing students, but I need to ensure my documentation and end user testing is excellent. This was great feedback to receive as I have already completed a thorough RS document (50 + pages) and plan to complete end-user testing with the client along with a detailed technical report by next May.

# Future Plans

My plans for next month are to:

* Work on creating a draft version of the specific-user file sharing functionality.
* Research the available options for implementing a third party forum.

I aim to involve the client in the process of deciding what forum to use by researching and creating a short list of suitable forums, showing them to the client and then together choosing which forum I will implement.