Reflective Journal

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**Programme:** Business Information Systems

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# My Achievements

The main achievement this month was the successful implementation of the specific-user sharing functionality – at least to a first draft level.

I was able to incorporate a JQuery show/hide effect based on advice found on stack overflow - <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/7019096/jquery-dropdown-hide-show-div-based-on-value> along with a dropdown check-list plugin I found at - <https://code.google.com/p/dropdown-check-list/> to create the front end for this specific-user sharing. When a user selects Specific Sharing as a sharing option a new dropdown box appears on the upload page that contains a list of other users on the website which can then be selected to share files with. I also created the backend functionality for this specific-user sharing using PHP and MYSQL.

This month I also decided what third party forum to use ([http://mylittleforum.net](http://mylittleforum.net/)) and have been working on trying to integrate this into my website.

# My Reflection

I am very happy that I managed to implement the specific-user sharing functionality. I really struggled with the database design aspect of this however and eventually found the most efficient way to implement this functionality was to go against the rules of database normalisation. In my database I now have a table called *file\_sharing* where each row represents a particular file. In this table I have a column called [*shared\_with*](https://localhost/phpmyadmin/sql.php?db=sbt&table=file_sharing&sql_query=SELECT+%2A+FROM+%60file_sharing%60%0AORDER+BY+%60file_sharing%60.%60shared_with%60+ASC&session_max_rows=30&token=ec0ed4b4bcabe12b622139b54ded3fff) that holds the usernames of all users that the particular file is shared with. I know this method breaks the rules of database normalisation but I have also read that sometimes in software design it is faster and more efficient for your software to use a non-normalised database, particularly if a lot of searching will be conducted on your database – as is the case in this project. To further aid the speed of my application I will be applying a full index to tables that will be searched through regularly.

This month I was happy to have decided on a third party forum to use. I researched several PHP forums and discussed the possibilities with the client. Based on the client’s feedback, the requirements of this project and my ability to integrate the forum I have chosen to use a forum called - [http://mylittleforum.net](http://mylittleforum.net/).

# Future Plans

The client has requested that I include some additional functionality to my project - she want the students to be able to choose their degree programme or class when they register. She also wants the ability to add new classes and see how many students are registered for each class. I will work on this functionality next month.

My plans for next month are to:

* Work on the admin sections of the website, namely manage users and the new manage classes section
* Continue integrating the study forum into the website
* Add the functionality to allow students delete their files
* Investigate the possibility of using JQuery to show file information in a pop-up box instead of putting all the information in one HTML table