Reflective Journal

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**Programme:** Business Information Systems

**Month**: November 2013

# My Achievements

This month a number of achievements have been made.

1. In terms of front end design I have created the structure of my website using HTML and CSS. I have also added text and images to the users profile page.
2. In terms of back end functionality, I have created a prototype version of the following features:

* User login
* Student registration
* The ability for the administrator to change the registration code
* The ability for the user to change their password
* File Upload (ongoing)
* Database structure (ongoing)

1. Other achievements this month included a one hour meeting with my client to review the website and discuss any possible changes in user requirements. The client – Mimi, is delighted with the work so far.
2. I also had a productive meeting with my supervisor in which we reviewed the website and discussed my future plans. Paul was very impressed with my progress to date.
3. I created a GitHub repository for my project and am using this for version control. Link: <https://github.com/andrewmgh/studybettertogether/tree/master> -

# My Reflection

This month, I put an enormous amount of work into the development of my website. At the start of the month I made a decision not to let my lack of experience in PHP stop me from developing an excellent project. I literally worked day and night trying to learn PHP and slowly start building my website. Looking back at my progress this month, I am delighted with myself and feel the hard work has paid off.

One concern I had was that my style of coding may not be appropriate for a fourth year project. As I am learning PHP for the first time, I am using a procedural / functional style of coding rather than a fully object orientated approach. However I sent samples of my code to both my supervisor and project coordinator for review and they both confirmed that my style of coding was ok. This was excellent feedback to receive.

In my client meeting this month, Mimi has requested some additional features be added in place of the quiz maker functionality. We are in the process of ironing out these additional features and they will be documented in next month’s journal.

# Future Plans

My plan for next month is to continue working on the file upload and file search functionality. I have my prototype presentation on the 16th December so I’m aiming to have both of these features working (at least to an initial prototype level) by then.

Next month I also aim to implement the following security features:

* Salt and encrypt passwords in database
* Implement session control to stop unregistered users from accessing the website
* Remove the spaces from the uploaded file names to avoid errors on Linux systems
* Sanitise all user input to avoid SQL injection and Cross Site Scripting attacks