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## Matcha Report

This is a report containing a brief overview of the Matcha project.

## 1.Introduction

The aim of Matcha is to create a dating web application. The website allows users to register an account with their details and set their preferences for potential matches. After registering, the user is sent a confirmation email with a token used to verify that the email given by the user is legitimate. Once the user has verified their account they are then able to update their profile, which will allow them to interact with other users on the application. The web application has the following additional features:

* Users can view each others’ profiles. And users that have been liked, will receive notifications on the app.
* Users can like each others’ profiles. And users that have been viewed, will receive notifications on the app.
* Users can update their profiles.
* Users can block users they no longer wish to see on their page.
* Users can communicate with each other
* If two users liked each others’ profiles, then the users could chat with one another. The chat system is private between the users and messages can be exchanged in real time.

## 2.Project Brief

The project brief covers the details on research, and the architecture for the project. The architecture consists of planning, and the design process. Research was conducted, continuously throughout the project. The architecture was based on the project requirements stipulated by the scope provided by the school.

Research for this project was conducted with a computer. Various sites like stack overflow, flask docs, tutorials point, etc... were used to research in order to complete the project. After analysing the project requirements and researching technologies and tools that could help build the project, I made the decision to choose the following stack & tools: HTML & CSS, JavaScript, PHP, MySql, vim and VS code. I used vim and VS code as text editors for development due to their usability and speed. Vim offered a low cost to computer resources and almost the same amount of power as VS Code; however, VS Code made navigating the codebase while testing easier.

The application requires data warehousing and relational management. MySQL caters for both and it has advantages provided for the web app of this nature. HTML & CSS were chosen to get data from the end user and JavaScript and PHP were chosen to ensure that the application runs in real time and handle communication between the frontend, backend and send data to and fro the database.

## 4.Conclusion

The Matcha project has taught me many lessons about implementing communication and user interaction in a web application. Key lessons learned were socket programming through socket.io, the basics of web development with PHP, and MySQL.

The PHP stack is overall one of the easier stacks to learn and the tools built for it make it very extensible. Although Java and C# are the languages of choice for most corporate environments tools like PHP, Node and Golang provide powerful and easy to use solutions for small development .