Group 1 Postmortem

After completing this project overall our group is happy about the design along with how much we were able to complete. Utilizing BootStrap to do styling with minimal effort was a great call that allowed us to focus more on the design and implementation. The design we are overall happy with after taking a long winded approach. So as we designed the database and relations it occurred prior to class on several occasion which allowed it to evolve compared to just doing it all at once. There were many things we debated from how data was organized to appropriate naming. PHP was a good option because it allowed multiple users on one database plus an easy installation process. Also we were able to separate use from implementation so we have on PHP file that is included in others that runs all the database methods which makes it easy to read and update as the design changed. Also the ER diagram tool we used called gliffy was nice for free collaboration because we could export basically a text file and other people could import it and export it to make updates.

There was some bad also the first being half our group hated that we selected PHP. It was a debate that was won by the people who had the most time to meet up. Ideally it would have been much better to have all members contribute, help, and revise this area of the application compared to two people. The next thing that could have been better is how we handled comments. After spending so much time designing we ended up picking a quick and dirty way to deal with comments. So the comment table is the only place we put nulls purposefully which is an appropriate design however could have been improved with more time. Most improvements could be found in the user interface. We used just plain bootstrap without changing the default colors unless absolutely needed. Ideally we could have designed a color scheme and logo even for the application. Another area of this that could have been improved is the mobile friendly version. It is understandable and nice but a bit off center on some devices. The last thing we could have improved is hosting. A member of our group had access to a server where we hosted the application however it would have been nice to spend more time finding a free hosting solution that gives a better URL than a IP address which is also a security risk.