

## Future Directions of the Lost & Found App

As mobile technology evolves, lost & found apps can greatly improve the user experience with new features. Here are some simple and practical ideas for future updates:

### **1. Cloud storage and user accounts**

Using cloud storage (e.g. Firebase or AWS) will allow users to access and synchronise data between devices in real time. This replaces local databases (e.g. SQLite) to support more users and future growth. Adding user accounts (via email or social media) will help track posts, allow editing, and ensure accountability. Push notifications can alert users when someone replies to their post or new items are reported nearby.

### **2. Photo uploads and AI matching**

Allowing users to upload photos of lost or found items makes identification easier. ai image recognition automatically compares photos to find matches based on colour, shape or other visual features. This increases the chances of the item being reunited with its owner.

### **3. GPS and Maps Integration**

Adding GPS and Google Maps APIs will help users mark the exact location of lost or found items. This improves search accuracy and saves time.

### **4. Community Features and QR Codes**

A community bulletin board or chat feature connects users who have found similar items. A QR code is generated for each post, allowing you to quickly share or print item details without typing.

### **5. Simple security upgrades**

Hide user contact information by default and use encrypted messages to protect privacy.

By combining these features, the app can evolve from a basic list to a powerful tool for real-life lost and found cases. These changes will make the app faster, safer and more useful for everyone. (270 words)