Drafting an emerging picture

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Instructions:

Using your researched information fill out the flowing comparing the current state of the art with what you think new (software) innovations could bring to the community

Covering the orientations	
Compare the left-hand column of the document "Technology configuration inventory" table with the right-hand column of the document "Community characteristics & orientation" table. What do you notice about the match (or mismatch) between your dominant community orientations and the current configuration of tools?	
How well does the technology inventory cover the orientations? What themes emerged from both the community orientations and the technology configuration from your colleagues' notes	Some of the current technologies cover the orientations of this community. Forums allow for open-ended conservation orientation which enables members to learn from one another. Websites and searching online for information allow for a content orientation although this content may not be very valuable or well-organized and therefore not be very useful. Therefore, this type of orientation is under-supported for this community's needs. Individual participation is also supported through the above current tools however they support members with higher levels of participation and don't support those with lower participation, i.e. lurkers, because the lack of useful user information.
☐ Are you almost there? ☒ Are there big gaps?	I think this community has some useful tools already but not a user-friendly (member-friendly) platform to configure the tools in a more valuable way. This community does have a big gap in the lack of content available to members that is valuable from a user experience. The content available online is repetitive and limited to facts as opposed to experiences.
What is the range of skills? If their interests and/or skills are diverse, could it cause conflict or distraction?	There is a range of skills and interests mainly due to generational diversity and different participation levels however, I don't think this would lead to conflict as long as the technology is simple enough for all skill levels and supports all levels of participation which would reduce user frustration.
Achieving integration	
Look at all the pieces of your configuration	
What level of integration and interoperability has been achieved?	The current tool configuration consists of separate useful tools, but these tools could be more useful to members if they were integrated under the same platform. Almost no interoperability has been achieved unless individuals in forums share links to content available on websites.
Where are there big gaps	There are big gaps in the way these tools are configured to support the various orientations required for the community. Members have to visit multiple sources and spend a large amount of their time searching through repetitive information to

find valuable content. Having a platform that supports more than one activity and more than one orientation would be beneficial.

Balancing the polarities (Current state)

How is the configuration balanced with respect to each polarity?

Synchronous >>>	<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< **Asynchronous**
- Meeting with experts	- Forums - Websites

Participation >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	<<<<<<<<<< **Reification**
- Forums	- Websites - Online Calculators

Group >>>>>>>>>>	<<<<<<<<<< **Individual**
- Forums	- Websites - Online Calculators

How well does this balance fit your community?	The configuration supports asynchronous learning which I think is great for this community. However, it offers more support for participation rather than reification when it comes to valuable learning from user-experiences. There is some group learning supported in the current configuration and there is also individual learning that occurs through online content however, these aren't very strong. I think it could be better improved if there can be a configuration to both strengthen and merge these polarities; finding a way for members to learn together, separately.

Solution seeking

In the new configuration, do you want your choice of tools to affect the polarities of your community in ways that differ from the current configuration? Which way?

Synchronous	<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< **Asynchronous**
- No synchronous learning will be supported in this new configuration as I don't think it is necessary in the sharing of user data.	- Database / Content Management System - Forums: could create a notification function for when someone contributes to a conversation you have participated in or that you have saved/starred

Participation >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< **Reification**
- Forums: With the ability to flag/save conversations without being a part of them - Database: Users can add their own data into the database if they wish	- Database/ Content Management System: Users can view, search, filter through user data

Group >>	<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<< Individual
- No new tools. Forums will be the main supported group activity - The database can be seen as a way to support group learning because users add their own data to enable the community to learn as adding their own data does little to benefit themselves.	- Database/ Content Management System: view database and search for content at their own leisure. Add content to database is they so wish - Profiles: Save searches and forum discussions under their profile for future reference. Save results from online calculators.

MVP notes

- An app would be the most effective way to achieve this