March 25, 2011

From: Nicholas Poorman

To: Dr. Alex Pantaleev

Subject: Status Report - Advanced Studies in Web Development

Alex,

Below are my notes from the past week.

Rails security: http://guides.rubyonrails.org/security.html.

Interestingly enough I was implementing session control and thought I'd see how twitter does it. They give you a cookie named "auth_token" if you check the "Remember me" box. Now for the interesting part this cookie never changes its ID and if you inject it into another browser automatically logs you into twitter on the account. How's that for some poor security?

Decided to go with the authentication system called Devise instead of rolling my own. This way it will be much easier to plug into the Facebook and Twitter auth later on if I so choose. For now I am implementing my own so I understand it down to the metal.

TODO: Secure the login script with TLS.

I just had an idea. I'm thinking I will use google's auth to login. This way I can integrate with youtube. Also when a user adds a video to the site it can parse all the comments to see if any users have tagged video locations and then add a default tag in our system at that location.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Poorman