**DAY 6**

**DEPLOYMENT PREPARATION AND STAGING ENVIRONMENT SETUP**

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**Introduction:**

The goal of this phase was to prepare the marketplace for deployment by setting up a staging environment, configuring the hosting platform, and testing the application in a production-like setting.

**Hosting Platform Setup**:

**Platform Used**: Vercel

Connected GitHub repository to the hosting platform and configured build settings.

**Environment Variables**:

* Configured sensitive environment variables (e.g., API keys) using .env files and added them securely in the hosting platform.

**Deployment to Staging**:

* Deployed the application to a staging environment and verified successful build and correct loading of the site.

**Staging Testing**:

* **Functional Testing**: Validated product listing, search, and cart operations using **Cypress**.
* **Performance Testing**: Ran **Lighthouse** for performance, achieving a score of **90/100**.
* **Security Testing**: Checked for SQL injection, XSS, and ensured HTTPS was enabled.
* **Responsiveness**: Tested across various screen sizes for mobile compatibility.

**Test Reporting**:

* Documented all test cases with results (e.g., Product Listing, Cart Functionality) in a structured CSV file.

**Documentation and Organization**:

* Created a detailed **README.md** and ensured the project files were organized with a clear folder structure.

**3. Test Results**

* **Functional Testing**: All features passed as expected.
* **Performance**: Lighthouse score of **90/100**, minor improvements suggested.
* **Security**: No vulnerabilities found, all security measures in place.
* **Responsiveness**: Fully responsive across devices.

This concludes the deployment preparation and staging environment setup. All systems are ready for further testing or production deployment.