



CU Marketplace

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Description

- Created a CU-exclusive marketplace for students to buy and sell items.
- Inspired by Facebook Marketplace, but restricted to **@colorado.edu** emails for safety and trust.
- Students can create item listings with photos, titles, prices, descriptions, and contact info.
- Other users can browse posts, view item details, and reach out to sellers.
- Includes a MyAccount page for managing, editing, and deleting listings.
- Designed to make moving, decluttering, and finding student-priced items simple and secure.

Tools Used

- Github - Version Control System - 5/5 
- Docker - Containerization - 4/5 
- Render - Containerization - 4/5 
- PostgreSQL - DB Management - 5/5 
- NodeJS - Server Side Javascript - 5/5 
- Express (through Node) - Web Framework - 5/5
- VS Code - IDE - 5/5 
- Handlebars - Server Side HTML Templating - 3/5 
- Chai - Automated Testing - 3/5 
- Postman - API Testing - 4/5 

Express

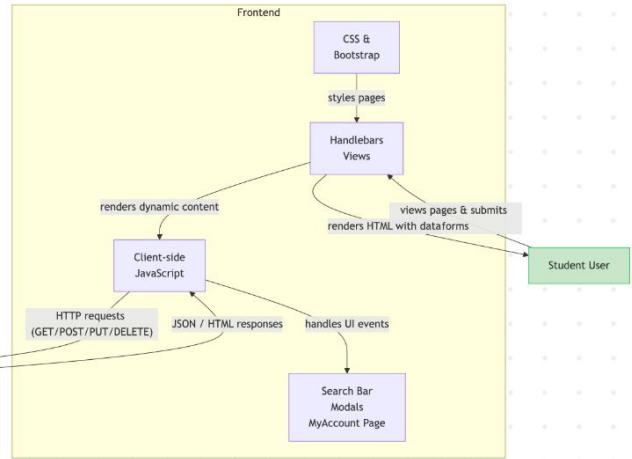
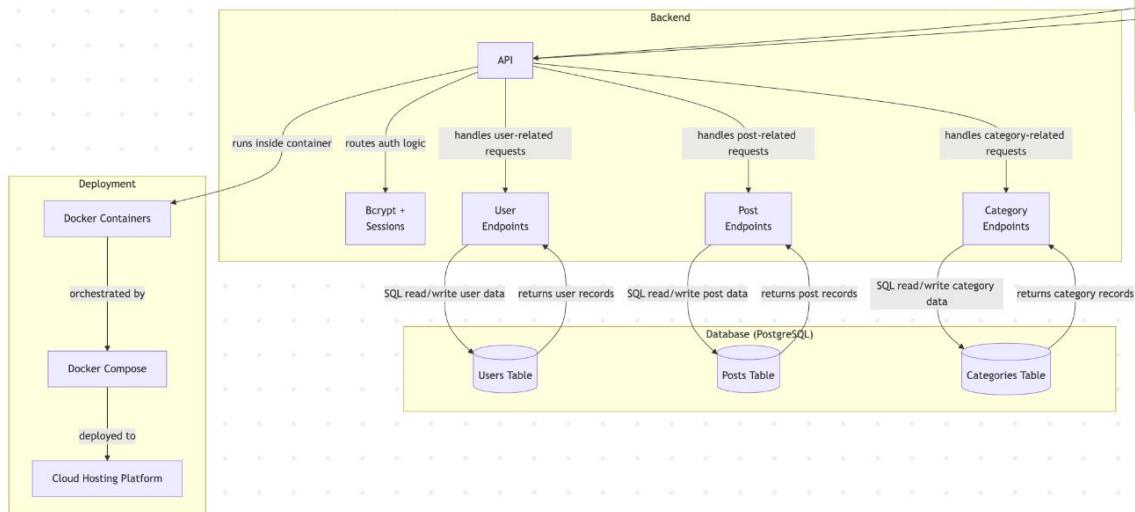
handlebars

Methodology

- Created planning document as a team at the beginning of the project
- Pair programming
- Strong communication through Discord
- Met after weekly meetings to adjust scope as needed
- Performed weekly functionality testing
 - Became daily as deadline approached
- List of tasks on Github
 - Updated when both programmers felt the task was complete

Architecture Diagram

(made with mermaid on mermaid.live)



Challenges

Test cases: Our project uses ES6 modules instead of commonJS, because of this the lab instructions didn't completely work for us so we had to outsource instructions on how to setup our tests. We ended up setting our test file to .cjs so commonJS is forced.

Deployment: Our home page requires data to load and the database was empty. We had a seed file created, but you need to paid version of render to access the deployed site's shell. To overcome this problem, we had to set our local version to run off of the deployed database and then seed the site.

Future Scope/Enhancements

- Post Moderation - Disallowing certain words and items
- Built in messaging
- Better / more comprehensive post sorting
- User moderation - Banning systems
- Implement a cache to save on computational expense
- Map API to view distance from post
- CU Boulder Indentikey API for better account validation
- Refactor code base
- Implement sort by category

Demo

<https://the-cu-marketplace.onrender.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwoY5a0E2Q4>

Q/A

