ABSTRACT

This abstract outlines the making process of the Cooking Recipes Website, from the initial idea to the final stages. Finally, lessons learned and a conclusion will be presented to summarize the outcome.

## The Idea

The beginning of the process began with the idea. Because I just recently started to cook and was interested in learning new recipes, I decided to create a website where I could store all the recipes that I created or found interesting.

I wanted the website's main appeal to be a simplistic and easy to use user interface, so that even my family members who never used the internet, for example, my grandmother, could use it without much trouble.

## Hosting Provider

The first step was to decide where the website should be hosted. I was already familiar with GitHub pages, however, I wanted to learn something new while creating this website, therefore I decided to use Firebase as the hosting provider.

Initially, I had a lot of trouble getting it to run, since I was not accustomed to their process, however with a lot of trial and error, alongside looking at their provided documentation, I was able to host the initial website.

## Login Option

I decided to have a login process, even though it would go against my initial principle of making it as easy to use as possible. Initially, I wanted to use local storage to store all the data, which would allow storing the recipes on a local web browser. However, since I wanted to learn more about Firebase and its functions, I decided to go with the more flexible option and add a login button.

There were many different login options available, but since almost everyone has a Gmail account, I decided to just have a Google login option. Additional options were not hard to implement at all, therefore if future improvements would require additional options to log in, it would not be much trouble.

## Technology Decision

For the front end technology I decided to use Javascript, HTML, and CSS. The IDE I used was VS Code, because it is my preferred IDE for web development. I decided not to use any frameworks for the styles, even though I had previous experiences with Bootstrap, because the website was supposed to be relatively simple and the use of a framework was not necessary in my opinion.

I was also debating on using APIs, but that would overcomplicate this project and add even more functions which would go against the initial idea of it being a simplistic website.

## Making Of The Website

Once everything had been decided on, I began working on the website. The first page was just a simple login button. As previously stated, once I got over the initial steps of setting up the website, creating and modifying Firebase functions was not complicated.

The home page is also very intuitive and self explanatory. There are two buttons, one for adding a recipe and one for viewing all recipes. This gives users absolutely no confusion on what the buttons do and where it will take them. Because I wanted the buttons to be big and clear on what they do, I took two photos of my cookbooks and with the help of Photoshop created two big clear buttons.

The first button takes the user to the add recipes site. On this page the user inputs the name of the recipe, its ingredients, instructions, and the time it takes to make. After the user inputs all the necessary data, a link appears bellow the submit button, which takes the user straight to the recipes page. I added this function, because some users might be confused as to what they need to do once the recipe has been submitted. The home button is the header title, and people who do not use websites very often might not know this fact.

The second button on the home page takes the user to the view recipes site. On this page, all the users recipes are displayed in a column, and clicking on the recipe name takes them to the site of the recipe, where all its details are presented. Initially, I wanted to have pictures of the recipes instead of their names displayed, however, Firebase offers a free database of 1GB and everything above that requires a paid service, and since pictures can take up a lot of space, the free space might not suffice in the long run.

## What I’ve Learned

Because I decided to use Firebase for the first time I learned a lot from it. I already had previous experiences with developing a website, therefore all the rest was not much of a challenge. Firebase by itself is very user friendly and overall easy to use, but there were a lot of times I found myself not knowing how to proceed, and it was not as easy as I had envisioned it at the beginning.

I also found myself with some security issues once I first deployed the website, which made me learn new things about the security aspects of having a website.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, I am happy with how my website turned out, and there are many things I am interested in trying to improve. If I ever need to use Firebase again, I know it will be much easier the second time.