Day 6: Deployment Preparation and Staging Environment Setup

1. Objective

The goal of Day 6 was to prepare the application for deployment, set up a staging environment, and ensure all necessary environment variables were configured for smooth deployment to Vercel.

2. Deployment Preparation

- **Code Finalization**: Ensured that the code base was up-to-date, with bug fixes and performance improvements incorporated.
- **Testing**: Verified that all core functionalities (payment integration, form submissions, car rentals) were working as expected in a local environment.

3. Staging Environment Setup

- **Staging Environment**: Set up a staging environment in Vercel to test the deployment process and simulate the production environment.
- **Environment Variables**: Configured environment variables in Vercel to securely store sensitive data like API keys and database credentials.

Vercel Deployment with Environment Variables

Access Vercel Dashboard:

Log into your Vercel account and go to your project.

Set Environment Variables:

In the Vercel dashboard, navigate to **Settings** > **Environment Variables**.

Click **Add New Variable**.

Add the key-value pairs for the necessary variables (e.g., STRIPE_SECRET_KEY, SANITY_PROJECT_ID, etc.).
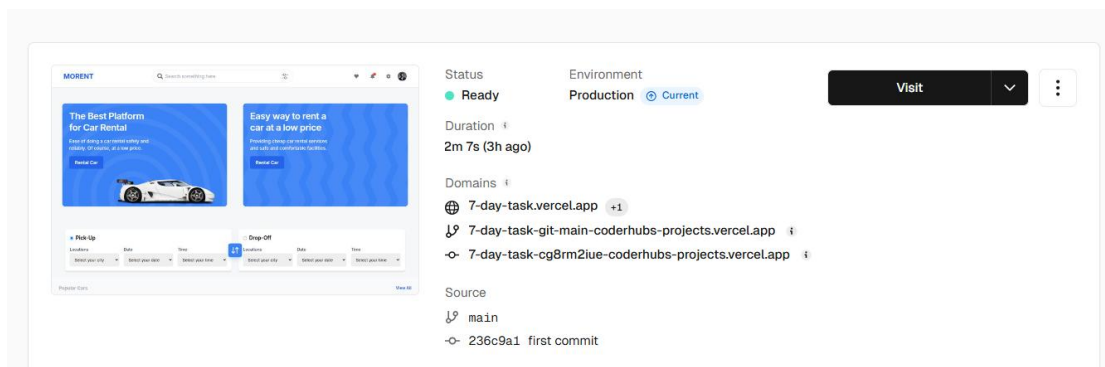
Assign to Environments:

Select the environment (e.g., **Production**, **Preview**, or **Development**) where the variables should be applied.

Click **Save** to apply the changes.

Deployment:

- o   Push the latest changes to your Git repository.
- o   Vercel will automatically trigger a deployment, using the environment variables for the respective environment.
- o   Test the deployed application in the staging environment before going live.

4. Conclusion

With the staging environment set up and the deployment process configured with necessary environment variables, the application is now ready for production deployment. This process ensures that sensitive keys are securely handled while maintaining functionality across different environments.