

RETREATS!

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<https://github.com/DaviCrisostomo/retreatsV2.git>

<https://retreats.herokuapp.com>

WHAT IS NEW?

Retreats is back with some fundamental changes either on the front-end and on the back-end.

Making more usage of the Bootstrap framework, the front-end now offers a smoother and elegant experience. The panel to create new retreats, which used to be accessed by the link 'create' at the left side of the top bar menu, now is just at the left side of the retreat grid. The page to edit a retreat also changed, and is visually more organized and 'beautiful'. Under the retreat illustration picture, we find only the table to edit the rooms and all other fields were moved to the left, giving a clear view of all fields, which are specified by labels.

For the back-end, an integration with MongoDB came to ensure a more reliable data storage. All new retreats and changes are immediately sent to the cloud database and not anymore stored in a local file as it used to be.

The app now is available on HEROKU platform and accessible by just a click!

WHY IN THE CLOUD?

The decision to store data in an external database is by far a better approach than having all the relevant info related to a retreat objects in a local file. Any damage caused to the local machine running the app can also compromise the data which make up the core around which the app gravitates. More important than that, losing that data also means huge damage to the user business. Decoupling the data from the app structure also integrates different app users in a broader experience as every single device running the Retreats app now shares the same database.

Heroku is another new brought to make a difference in the user experience. By storing the app in a Paas (Platform as a service) we allow the user to make usage of all the functionalities offered by Retreats from any device even if Retreats is not installed there. Access to the internet is the only requisite to enjoy Retreats – no download needed anymore!

WHY MONGODB?

MongoDB enables highly diverse data manipulation, giving more flexibility for creating databases and applications. MongoDB also scales better than more traditional databases like SQL.

The flexibility offered by MongoDB is also very useful when thinking about object-oriented programming. Mapping the database in relational tables is no

longer necessary and the database schema can evolve as needed. In other words, the code comes away from the need to get adapted to the database structure.

EXPLAINING RETREATS

THE HOME PAGE:

The home page is divided into three parts: the top bar contains links to refresh/go back to the home page and the About, which shows the present document; The Create Retreat panel; The Retreats Grid.

Create a Retreat:

A form displaying all basic fields to create a new retreat object. Excepting by the Image field, all fields are required. The rooms are created at the update page, which is accessible by double clicking the specific retreat to be edited.

The Retreats Grid:

A basic grid displaying all registred retreats. Double click on one of the cells to get access to more detailed info about the retreat and also edit the retreat, changing details and manipulating the rooms.

THE EDITING PAGE:

The Editing Page allows the user to change the basic fields and also create, delete and manipulate rooms. The page also allows the user to delete the selected retreat object.

The Room Table:

Change the price, determine if couples are allowed or not, define the number of beds and register how many bookings were made for each specific room. As the number of bookings has to be equals or less than the number of beds (the number of booking does not refer to the number of people), the buttons to increase or decrease the number of beds or bookings will be blocked according to the combination between number of beds and number of bookings.

The buttons Total, Insert and Remove at the bottom of the table refer only to the rooms. For the buttons Total and Remove the user has to select at least one row/room to get a result.

The buttons Update and Delete refer to the Retreat object shown on the screen. Press Update to push the changes and Delete to delete the entire Retreat object.