After the initial group meeting, I became solely responsible for the database. I chose to build the database in SQL using Visual Studio 2017 as my complier. The small scope of the client’s needs led our design at every step, with an emphasis on minimalism, and this extended to the database. A single table filled by manual input is sufficient for the little website we made, containing stripped down versions of the recipes we brought. Every recipe is saved with credit to the owner/website, with an eye for sharing within the client’s immediate social circle and not trying to replace recipe website giants like recipes.com and the food network. Further expansion would be at the client’s behest and does not lie within our current project scope. The database is linked to the search bar on our front page so that users could search the recipes in our database by ingredient. The search function is cursory and only searches our database of hand-picked recipes from various corners of the world.

Once I had created the recipe database, I initially attempted separate tables for the recipes and the ingredients, similar to recipe database coding I found during research, but this proved troublesome and created additional problems within the code. I then attempted to integrate the ingredients table contents into the recipe table but hit a wall with an “invalid column name” error. The solution to this problem was to rewrite the database creation code with more complex column names and all information contained within one single table. This was feasible within the project’s scope and fit the smaller, more personal nature of our site and, more importantly, it worked. The next hurdle was the php link between the SQL server and the website we built. The site wasn’t hosted yet and this led to some additional errors and confusion on my part. The group was involved in troubleshooting these hurdles; contributing their insight and utilizing their skills in html, php, and XAMPP. The reduced number of tables reduced the possible errors, simplifying the code and fixing the errors other troubleshooting attempts failed to. The experience I gained from this project was rounded out by each hurdle and solution, pushing me to expand my knowledge and abilities to fit the needs of the project.

When I ran into “invalid column name” error and could not shake it, no matter the modifications to the database and its tables, I reached out to an outside resource. I had initially started with 10 recipes, 2 tables, and simple names. I created a database with 2 tables but found the extra table unnecessary and built only one recipe table containing all of the desired information. By starting from scratch, I was able to avoid the naming errors with more complex and specific column and variable names to avoid any overlap with key words. At this point, all code has been sql using Visual Studio 2017, the database built with all of the recipes we chose to include. When attempting to connect the database to our website, we found a snag with an additional layer needed: php. Using XAMPP and phpMyAdmin, I recreated the database by modifying my existing sql code. Once built, saved, and tested the php database export file was created and inserted into the php code, which was inserted into Kendra’s HTML code.

I made a xampp file for php insertion into the HTML code; Kendra took that file and with pair programming we linked the database to the search function. I worked on the database code(s) with some troubleshooting assistance from Google and a call to an outside resource for the php hurdle we hit when connecting the database built in SQL via Visual Studios 2017 to the website built in HTML via Notepad++ and Chrome. Group meetings focused on communication, brainstorming, and troubleshooting any issues we were individually stuck on as a group. Each member contributed a number of recipes that we each wanted to share on the site, focusing on countries’ traditional foods or a collection of breads found the world ‘round. The design phase involved all continuing members and all changes to the design and scope of the project was discussed and agreed upon by all continuing members as well. The minimalist design was a response to the over-crowded recipe sites that exist now. Some design elements were inspired by Epicurious.com.