2nd Year Project:

The Vinyl Factory

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Contribution:

**Dylan:** Register User, Add Admin, Add Customer, Contact Us, Stock Control, Design, Shopping Cart, Stripe, Log in, Reports, View Orders.

**Leigh:** Add, Update and Delete, Image Upload, Design, Log in, Reports.

**Nathan:** Design, Add, Update and Delete, Log in, Reports, Contact Us.

Login Details:

Admin: Password:

dylan@tvf.com dylan

leigh@tvf.com leigh

nathan@tvf.com nathan

Customers: Password:

[customer@tvf.com](mailto:customer@tvf.com) customer

Chapter 1: Introduction

From the onset of our project, we sought an idea that would truly portray our skills learned throughout the year as well as giving us the freedom to expand our knowledge with use of obtaining outside information available as well as the labs provided to us by our lectures this year - within this semester and last semester- . We decided upon vinyl’s as it would allow us to further research a topic we are interested in (music/the vintage era), and conjoin it with our greater knowledge of HTML, CSS and Java. For the duration of our project we continued to add aspects to our site, of which we gathered information on through online forums and researching other well-made websites. We intended for our website to be both easily browsed by the average user and intriguing to a user with an interest in the genre; whilst also representing the extent of our understanding and fluidity within the web design field. Together we have worked on our project doing our different parts as well as coming together to work on other things, using pair-programming to eliminate small errors while we have more than one set of eyes looking at and navigating the project.

Chapter 2: Iteration 1 report

Our website is named “The Vinyl Factory”. The general purpose of our website is to sell the analogue sound storage medium (also known as a record) all over Ireland as well as worldwide for an excellent shipping price method. A user who orders several vinyl’s which reach above a previously set limit will be granted a discount, thus granting end satisfaction with regards to payment. We set a goal of having an eye catching website that will both have high grade functionality and provide ease to the customers in searching for, finding and purchasing their desired vinyl. We allow users who login to view a soundbite of the selected song so they have an idea of what they will be receiving on the vintage record. We chose this topic for the following reasons; Vinyl’s are on increasing demand and are highly popular with both current and older generations, it also allows us to showcase our coding ability with regards to our administrator add update and delete methods, the users search aspect, our signup/login feature and an excellent form of communication provided through forms user may submit if they have any queries or comments.

Issues

Throughout our project, we in addition to the rest of the groups ran into many errors that we were challenged with. We worked as a team to provide help with our mutual knowledge/interest in coding, and research together as to how we would solve said errors. An example of an error we ran into was in the sign up method. Together, we spent time trying to figure out why exactly the date of birth input would continuously refuse to work. After hours of looking over the code we finally realised that a simple @InputText was placed where @InputDate should have originally been. We also came to an error with adding the thumbnail picture for our on sale page/items page which we had to comment out for our demonstration in order for our code to work. These small errors account in some cases for a lot of time it took to complete this iteration and we focused to solve them as soon as they arose.

Original Idea/Testing

We set to create this website using our current knowledge of the skills and knowledge it takes to do so, but also to learn and improve them throughout the project experience. We did however realise that we did have to learn extra coding in addition to our existing knowledge. The vinyl shop was an excellent choice as it is something that we are all equally interested in, leading us to know exactly what aspects of our coding abilities would allow the user a much easier browsing experience. Although we were set with the original idea, we developed it slowly and added much more aspects for the end result. Testing continuously as we coded. Our testing included us assessing the errors that were displayed, finding solutions, and taking note of both so that if we ran into the issue again we could fix it much faster. This worked extremely well for us as we ran into the same error a few times following us attempting to change methods we originally thought were complete, yet needed to be further looked at. We used pair programming as our main method for coding in this project in order to try and cut down on errors and taking it in turns to be the one who types and the ones who are overseeing.

Support

Users can tend to have queries with regards to the website or vinyl. We will provide the support of forums and the ability to submit a slip. This withholds the users email address , their question and their name. This will be delivered to an administrators email account in which they can respond to said question.

Meetings

We met with our project supervisor every week on Wednesdays to chat about how our week went with regards to the project. Every week we took notes on what happened and new ideas, as to not forget them and also for the ability to add them into our project. We found this a very valuable asset as it is good to get to talk about where we are in the project, we can be reminded about upcoming deadlines and ask questions about the whole dynamic of the project if needed.

Chapter 3: Iteration 2 report

Throughout our work on the project in preparation for iteration two, we all strived to implement anything we think could cause further improvements to the website, as previously learned from iteration one. We focused on our time management skills a lot, trying to focus more on our code and getting it written fast yet effectively, therefore eliminating time spent on fixing errors within the code. Our team worked strenuously together to further make this website stand out from others, yet continue to be dependable, easy to use and quite visually pleasing when researching, viewing and purchasing our vinyl records that are displayed on our website. However, of course we ran into several issues which we were forced to work on together to solve, rewrite and fix within quite a small matter of time.

Issues

Since the start of iteration two we ran into several issues; many of which took plenty of attention and attempts to solve as a team. After opening the project folder in virtual studio within our virtual machine, then continuing to run the SBT command (followed by run), we had finally launched our website. With regards to testing each of our many in depth features on the site, we used selenium IDE. A member of our team would pick an aspect we had recently implemented since iteration one, then others would begin setting the path through selenium as to testing it. Selenium is a portable framework for testing web applications. Selenium provides a playback tool for authoring functional tests without the need to learn a test scripting language. This thoroughly helped us grasp some greater knowledge towards what was working as intended compared to some aspects that needed improvements. We came across a few errors when it came to our payment method with regards to the payment not fully processing.

Original Idea/Testing

We set to create this website using all our knowledge and skills acquired from our strenuous efforts starting from the beginning of this project. The vinyl factory was an excellent choice as it is something that we are all equally interested in, leading us to know exactly what aspects of our coding abilities would allow the user a much easier browsing experience. Our use of the testing knowledge we acquired in semester one (of which we focused on selenium) hugely helped us with errors as well as with our confidence in our project. Our group have pushed through many obstacles that stood in our way with regards to errors, crashes, trying to implement new features of which we hadn’t ever done before, as well as others we had done before, yet finding a way to have all aspects work side by side without any trouble. One example of a feature we tested on our site is the ability to log in as different users, of different rankings; logging in as both a normal customer, then attempting to log in with an administrative account. This worked successfully and gave us confidence in the feature as it worked perfectly.

Meetings

We met with our project supervisor every week on Wednesdays to discuss exactly how our week went with regards to the project. Every week we took notes on what happened/new ideas we touched on. This ensured we would have a reference to look back on, research and continue to try implement into our project. We found this a very valuable asset as it is good to get to talk about where we are in the project regularly. It allowed for us to be reminded of upcoming deadlines, or ask questions about the whole dynamic of the project (when needed). We have started to demo our project weekly to stay on top of things.

Iteration 3

For iteration 3 we hope to get all our CSS, HTML and design done. Now that we pretty much have all our main functionalities done we think focusing on the design aspect is important to make sure users would be attracted to our website and find it easy to navigate through it. We hope by the time we finish the project that we complete everything we set out to do.

Chapter 4: Iteration 3 report

Within iteration three, we didn’t add any new functionalities to the website. We spent our time fine tuning the smaller aspects such as the colour of the website, it had to be visually pleasing to the eye, smooth yet warm making sure the user/s don’t have a hard time seeing the website. We changed the text so it complimented the colour scheme making sure it stood out on the page.

Issues

During this iteration we didn’t run into too many errors we couldn’t solve. The main errors which arose included design and layout, such as the navigation bar and header image positioning. We also ran into minor complications with the carousel on the home page due to the images not displaying although the sliding motion of the carousel would work perfectly. As a result/In addition to these errors we were unable within the time frame to complete our search bar and have it fully functioning.

Meetings

We met with our project supervisor every week on Wednesdays, however upon discussion we decided to change it to Thursdays for the final iteration. This allowed us to demonstrate our project to our group supervisor each week. We showed her our website from start to finish. This included all aspects being demonstrated as well as the functionalities of which all were added to our project. She gave us feedback on our design and text layout which thoroughly helped; we took said feedback on board and altered it to what we believe is visually more appealing compared to our original design. Originally, it was not aesthetically pleasing and tended to strain the eyes. Overall, we consider the meetings to be quite a good part of the project, it tended to encourage us with staying truly motivated as we could see an honest reaction to our website from an outside perspective. This gave us insight into user experience and satisfaction, which pointed us in the right direction of what to alter or rethink.

Chapter 5: Concluding report

For the entire duration of the project, we feel like our team’s project management was generally good i.e. Meeting the deadlines on time, attending the meetings on Fridays and the meetings with our supervisor. We managed to achieve most of the things we set out to do, from the add, update and delete to the shopping cart, we had achieved it all within the time frame but in reality we didn’t get everything done, we had set out to add a user forum in which users could come together and discuss the items on the store or talk amongst themselves and an admin could manage it all, as well as sending all the orders into a file for the admin to see the overall sales at the end of the month but unfortunately in the real world we didn’t meet all of the set goals but if given some more time would definitely be able to achieve these goals. For the improvements of the website we were thinking about further updating the overall design, we would like to be able to get the search function to work completely as all websites have a key function like that.