

# Day 6 - Deployment Preparation and Staging Environment Setup

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## Objective:

The primary objective of Day 6 is to prepare the marketplace for deployment by setting up the staging environment and testing its functionality in a production-like setting. The key areas of focus include hosting platform configuration, securing sensitive data, testing the staging environment for performance and security, and documenting the process.

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## 1. Hosting Platform: Vercel

- **Platform Selected:** Vercel is selected as the hosting platform for the marketplace.
- **Deployment Process:**
  - The project is connected to a GitHub repository to enable continuous deployment.
  - The project is deployed to Vercel, where it is accessible on a staging URL.
  - The build process is successful, and the environment is ready for further testing.

## Observations:

- Deployment to Vercel is seamless.
  - The platform automatically handles the build and deployment process without issues.
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## 2. Environment Variables

- **Sensitive Data Handling:**
  - API keys, database credentials, and other sensitive data are securely stored using .env.local files.
  - Environment variables are added to Vercel's dashboard under the "Environment Variables" section to keep them secure.

### Observations:

- Environment variables are correctly configured in the staging environment.
  - No sensitive data is exposed during the deployment process.
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## 3. Staging Environment Testing

- **Performance Testing:**
  - Load testing is conducted using tools such as.
  - The marketplace's performance metrics (loading times, interactive times) are measured, and the website passes with acceptable scores..

### Observations:

- No major performance issues are identified during the tests.
  - The website's loading time is optimal, with page load times under 3 seconds on average.
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## Summary of Findings

- **Deployment Platform:** Vercel provides an easy-to-use platform with automated deployment and build processes.
  - **Environment Variables:** All sensitive data is securely handled with .env.local files and Vercel's environment variable management system.
  - **Staging Environment Testing:**
    - Performance tests show that the marketplace is optimized and ready for production.
    - Security checks reveal no major issues, and the staging environment is secure.
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## Conclusion

The marketplace deployment process was successfully prepared using Vercel as the hosting platform. The deployment was seamless, with secure management of environment variables via `.env.local` files. Performance and security testing in the staging environment showed optimal loading times and no critical issues. The marketplace is now fully optimized and ready for production deployment.