Project: Gourmandize

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Concept

Project "Gourmandize" will be an itemized review system meant for a variety of people, from the person searching desperately for the best hamburger in town, to someone who is just in the mood for good mozzarella sticks, to the lowly Karen who wants to write bad reviews because her food wasn't free. Gourmandize will be able to help all of the above and extend past that, in much the same way that Amazon and other online retailers offer individual reviews based on a specific item, restaurants and their menus are incredibly unlikely to offer something like that, and that is where we come in.

For this Project, Joe and I will be building from a previously created work. The aforementioned Project was creating a restaurant review website that would also itemize reviews (i.e. reviewing McDonald's and giving a separate review for the burger and the fries). We had built a semi-complete product with a lot of placeholder art and functionality behaving far worse than expectations. We have many things to touch up, as far as the interface, functionality, performance, and styling are concerned. We are going to add in a section for users to add pictures to their reviews and accounts, as well as having a separate section for restaurant owners/managers to login and manage their own restaurant as well as responding to reviews. We would also like to add moderation tools to the website, better tools for categorizing and grouping items and restaurants. We will fix many various bugs in the data access layer. We will address performance issues and performance disparity between running locally and on Heroku. We need to make many more improvements to the UX and UI and add more effects and sound queues.

Things that we were looking to update and overhaul the existing features:

Ordering reviews by date broken

Adding reviews is currently slow and only semi-sticky

Functionality & performance within Heroku

Category Selection, and Grouping

User Interface and experience

Things that we are looking to add:

Add Restaurant Owner account type

Allow Owner Accounts to respond to reviews and curate their restaurant page

Ex. Choose picture, set open hours, add new restaurant, change item names, add item prices, select featured item

If there is time maybe allow owners access to some basic analytic tools they could use to improve their restaurant

Add some moderation tools

Owners can flag reviews for moderation perhaps

Add upload of photos to site (saved and accessed via MySQL)

Development

Our site will be built with PHP as the backbone of our Project, styling will be using a combination of bootstrap as well as some CSS elements as well. The site stores and access all of the necessary information through MySQL for ease of use for users of the site. The site will be hosted on Heroku until a large company picks it up and makes Joe and I billionaires.