YourNextMeal.com

A step closer to food equity



A Project Report Presented to CMPE-272 Fall, 2022

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ABSTRACT

YourNextMeal.com

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At present, the world is facing a hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions. Pre-pandemic, food insecurity affected 135 million people in 53 nations; today, it affects 345 million people in 82 countries (Source: World Food Programme). Climate change and the current conflict in Ukraine are all contributing to the crisis's escalation by raising the price of food, fuel, and fertilizer. In addition, the bulk of extra food is wasted, which is sent directly to landfills and incinerators. A staggering 35% of the 229 million tons of food that were available in 2019 in the U.S. alone went unsold or uneaten. As technology students, our goal is to help people fulfill their urgent food needs by establishing an ecosystem of food donors and recipients so that businesses and individuals who have extra food can donate it to those in need, hence decreasing food waste and lessening the number of people sleeping hungry.

Currently, there appears to be a lack of a network of organizations and volunteers engaged in this activity, and neither donors nor recipients seem particularly motivated to do so. Food wastage as a result of ineffective or delayed distribution is a serious concern as well. "YourNextMeal" is a platform that will bridge the gap between food donors (restaurants and individuals) and those in need of food via the charity organizations advancing this worthwhile cause. In order for the excess food to reach those in need, the donors can use the network of drivers (non-profit organizations) by either giving it to volunteers or by dropping it off in person at food collection sites. The communication between donors and receivers would be facilitated by establishing a system of requests and acknowledgements on "YourNextMeal". Individuals who can drive and are keen to assist with distribution operations can also join as volunteers and help with transportation concerns. By communicating with the distributor through photographs, the donors can further confirm that their food has reached the appropriate people.

Acknowledgements

We'd like to express our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who helped us complete this project. Mr. Andrew Bond, our professor, deserves special mention for his aid, stimulating suggestions, and encouragement throughout the fabrication process and report writing. We are grateful to every one of our classmates, especially our friends, who volunteered their time to help and support us in the development of our project.

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Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 Project goals and objectives

The main goal of "YourNextMeal.com" is to help people fulfill their urgent food needs by establishing an ecosystem of food donors and recipients so that food wastage is reduced and fewer people sleep hungry.

"YourNextMeal.com" is a platform that will bridge the gap between food donors and recipients so that excess food reaches those in need via the network of drivers or through drop-off at food collection centers.

1.2 Problem and motivation

The world is currently experiencing an extreme hunger crisis. Food insecurity afflicted 135 million people in 53 countries prior to the pandemic; it now impacts 345 million people in 82 countries (Source: World Food Programme). Climate change, as well as the present conflict in Ukraine, are all contributing to the crisis's aggravation by rising food, gasoline, and fertilizer prices. Furthermore, the majority of additional food is wasted and is shipped directly to landfills and incinerators. In the United States alone, 35% of the 229 million tons of food available in 2019 went unsold or uneaten. There appears to be a lack of a network of organizations and volunteers involved in this activity at the moment, and neither donors nor recipients appear particularly motivated to do so. Food waste as a result of poor or delayed distribution is also a major concern.

1.3 Project application and impact

"YourNextMeal.com" is a platform that will connect food donors (restaurants and individuals) with those in need of food through the charity organizations who are furthering this good cause. Donors can use the network of drivers (non-profit organizations) to get excess food to those in need by donating it to volunteers or dropping it off in person at food collection sites. Establishing a system of requests and acknowledgements on "YourNextMeal.com" would ease communication between contributors and recipients. Individuals who are able to drive and want to help with distribution operations can also join as volunteers and aid with transportation issues. Donors can confirm that their food has reached the right people by interacting with the distributor through images.

We are confident that this technology can be improved and monetized by charging restaurants and supermarket chains a monthly fee. Subscribers to this service will gain insight into food waste, itemized tax deductions, and the ability to advertise their brand to individuals.

1.4 Project results and expected deliverables

- Components:
 - 1. Donors:
 - Registration
 - Profile
 - Create Donation Request
 - Cancel/Update Created Donation Request
 - View Drop Off Centers
 - 2. Recipients:
 - Registration
 - Profile
 - Search Nearest Pickup
 - View Active Donation Request
 - Accept/Cancel Pickup Request
 - View Pick up Centers
- Project Deliverables:
 - Source Code URL - https://github.com/kotharisanjana/Code_Our_Souls/tree/main/Projec t-YourNextMeal.com
 - 2. Report
 - 3. Presentation
 - 4. Demo Video URL https://youtu.be/lf_JdTrCyO0

1.5 Project report Structure

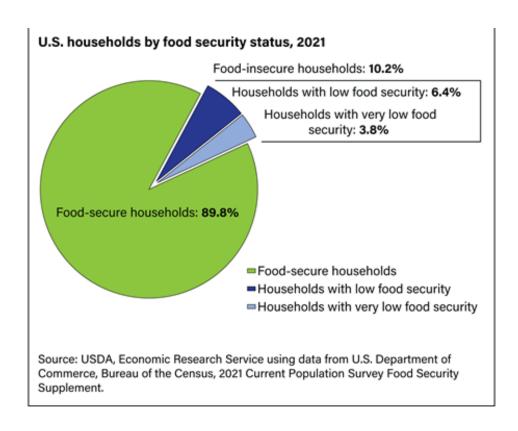
The structure of this project report is followed as per the Table of Contents.

- Introduction
- Project Background and Related Work
- System Requirements and Analysis
- System Design
- System Implementation
- System Testing and Experiment
- Conclusion and Future Work

Chapter 2. Background and Related Work

2.1 Project Background

This idea came up after seeing the data regarding the food wastage and the people suffering from food insecurity.



108 billion pounds of food wasted in the United States each year \$408 billion in food thrown away each year

Nearly 40% of all food in the United States

13.5 million of U.S. households suffered from food insecurity

Source:

Feeding America
U.S. Department of Agriculture

2.2 Project Concept

"YourNextMeal.com" is a platform that will bridge the gap between food donors and recipients so that excess food reaches those in need via the network of drivers or through drop-off at food collection centers. By donating it to volunteers or dropping it off in person at food collecting locations, donors can use the network of drivers (non-profit organizations) to get extra food to those in need. It would be simpler for contributors and recipients to communicate if "YourNextMeal.com" established a system of requests and acknowledgements. Drivers who want to assist with distribution operations can also sign up as volunteers and provide assistance with transportation concerns. Donors can communicate with the distributor through photos to verify that their food has reached the intended recipients.

2.3 Technology Used

Backend

- Django , Rest API Framework
- AWS, Lambda functions, S3
- Send Mail python package for notifications
- JWT based authentication

Frontend

- ReactJS
- BootStrap (Styling)
- Local Storage

Cloud

- AWS
- IGW, ELB, EC2

Database

MongoDB

Architecture

- RestAPI Architecture
- Github, Jenkins

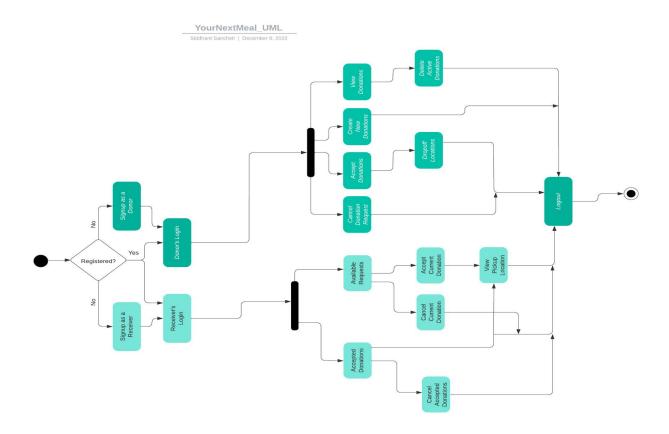
Chapter 3. System Requirements and Analysis

3.1. Domain and business Requirements

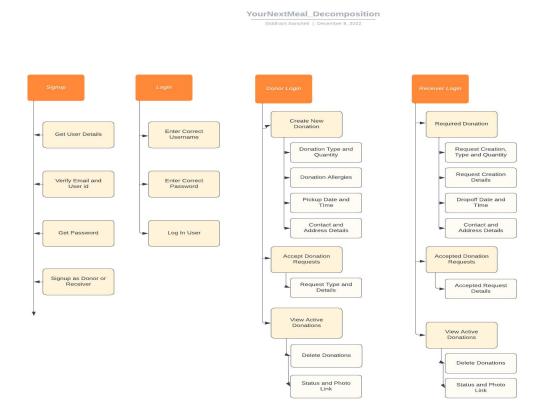
"YourNextMeal" is a food-aid web application that serves as a dual platform for F&Bs, charities, and needy individuals to connect with one another. For the excess food to reach those in need, the donors can use the network of drivers (non-profit organizations) by either giving it to volunteers or dropping it off in person at food collection sites. As a registered donor, he/she should be able to create new donations with details like type and quantity, view active and previous donations, accept/cancel the receiver, and provide pickup and drop off of donated goods. We, herewith, took a stance for those benevolent humans of non-profit charitable organizations, or even individuals in need, and developed a seamless platform to look for live donations. As a registered receiver, an individual should be able to view donations nearby, search for the required donations, and accept and reject the donations. An option to pick up the goods or have them dropped off at the provided location. The communication between donors and receivers would be facilitated by establishing a system of requests and acknowledgments on "YourNextMeal".

This intention was brought keenly to execution and live with the following basic design workflows.

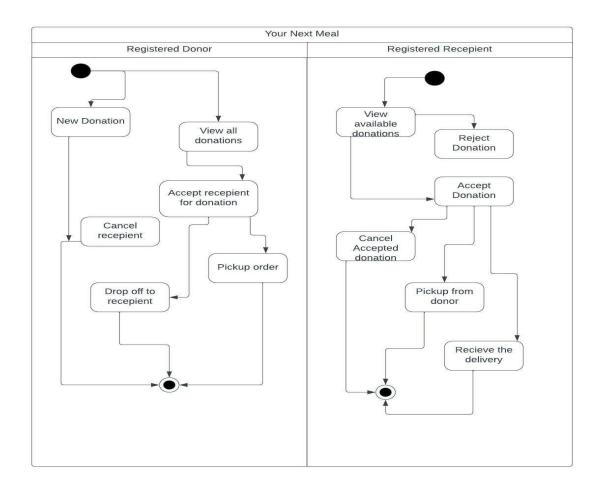
A. UML Activity Diagram:



B. State Decomposition Diagram:



C. State Diagram:



3.2. Customer-oriented requirements

User groups:

• Donors - Individuals, Restaurants, Grocery stores
The donors include those entities that have excess food and wish to donate
to those in need. The food is expected to be fresh and can be consumed
safely by the recipient. Donors include individuals, restaurants and grocery
stores. On "YourNextMeal.com", donors can create donation requests by
specifying the food quantity, description of food, the type of donation
(meals/grocery, etc.). The donor has to also provide the pickup address and
pickup date and time for the recipient.

• Recipients - Individuals, Shelter homes, Social service workers
Recipients on the other hand are those who suffer from food insecurity for
any reason and are willing to accept food donated by others. As a recipient,
you can accept a donation request, therefore notifying the donor of the
recipient coming to pick up their food. Recipients can also cancel a request
that they have already accepted. Food center details are also available so
that recipients can pick up food from there as well.

3.3. System (or component) function requirements

Functional Requirement	Inputs	Output
User signup/registration	Details like name, address, contact, as inputted by the user	Success/Failure message. If registration is unsuccessful, the user is not added.
: Login	Username and password	Login successful/failure message. User session created on successful login.
Donation Request	Form inputting donation details	If a request is created successfully, the donation request will be visible to all recipients on the portal.
Cancel Existing Request	RequestID of the request to be canceled	For the request identified by the ID, the status is changed to 'canceled' and is not available to recipients anymore.
View Active Requests		Displays all active requests to the recipients.
Accept Donation Request	RequestID of the donation accepted by the user	The accepted request is tagged to the recipient who accepted it. This request is removed from the available active requests.
Cancel Accepted Request	RequestID of the donation request that has to be canceled	Request is canceled and removed from the recipient's view who accepted it. The canceled request is now available for other recipients to accept.

Dropoff/ Pickup centers	Displays the food dropoff/ pickup centers along with address and contact details.
Logout	User logged out and session is deleted.

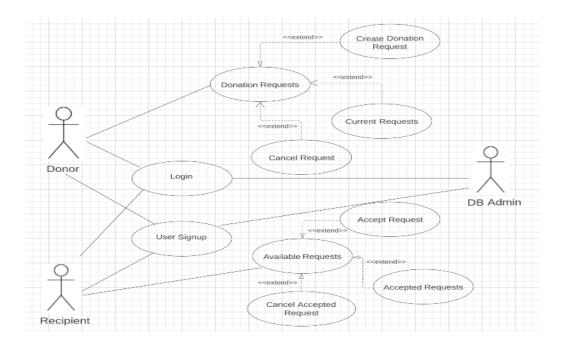
3.4. System performance and non-functional requirements

Performance and Scalability: Should be able to handle 100 Donors and 1000 Recipients for the initial rollout. Concurrent 5 donors and 20 recipients

Security: Should use https and SSL certificates (self signed) for the website to keep secure communication.

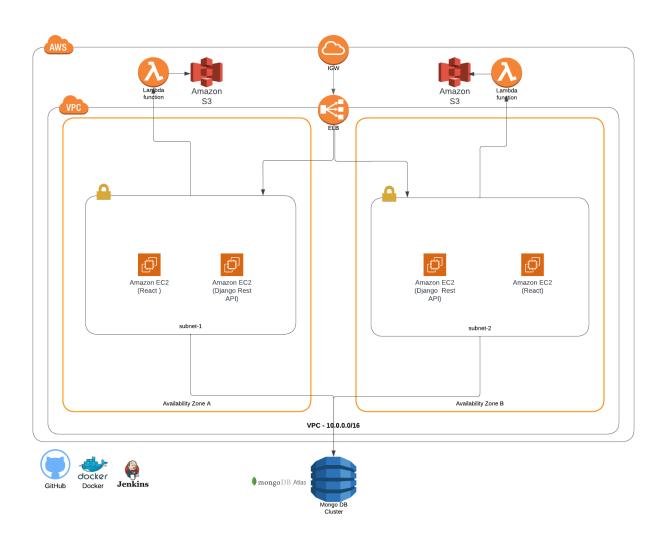
Token Based Authentication : Once a user is authenticated, a token is generated and used for all future transactions during the user session.

3.5. System behavior requirements

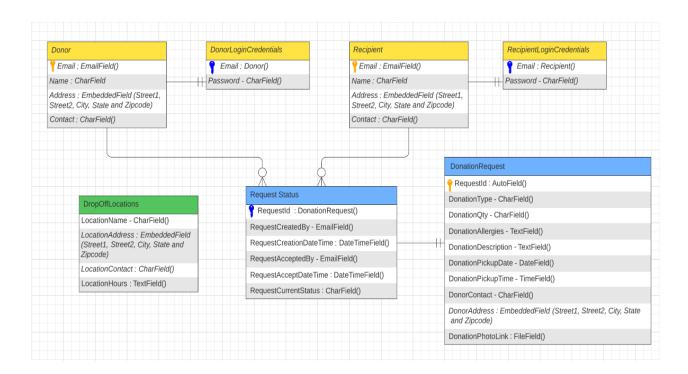


Chapter 4. System Design

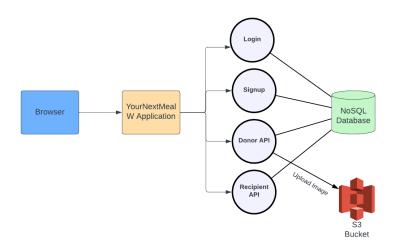
4.1 System architecture design



4.2 System data and database design

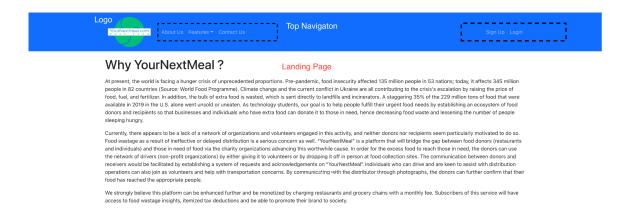


4.3 System interface and connectivity design

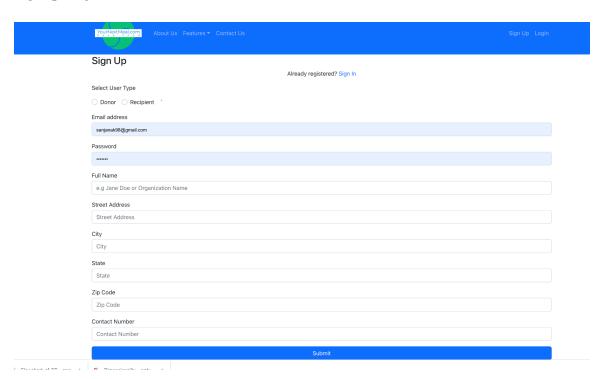


4.4 System user interface design

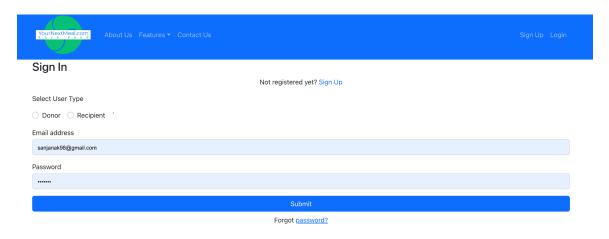
Landing Page



Signup Page:

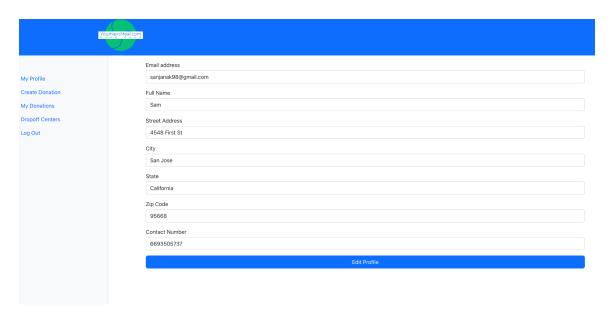


Login Page:

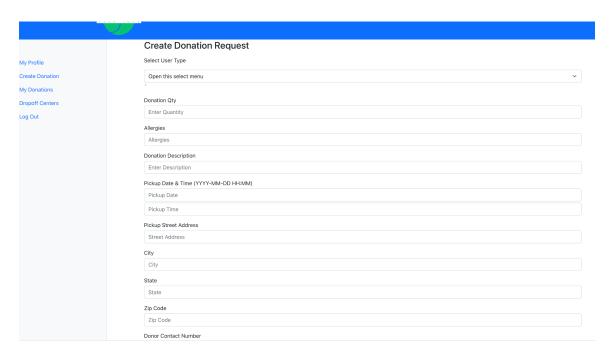


Donor Logged in pages

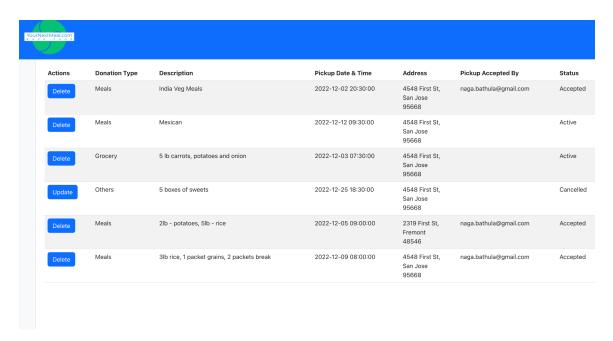
1. My Profile:



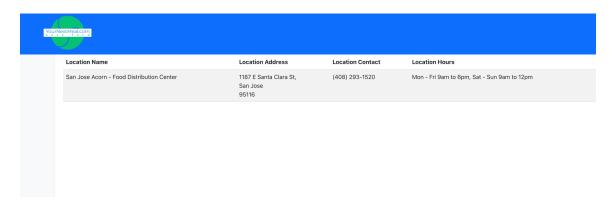
2. Donation Request:



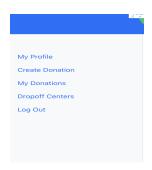
3. My Donations Page:



4. Dropoff locations:



5. Left Navigation:

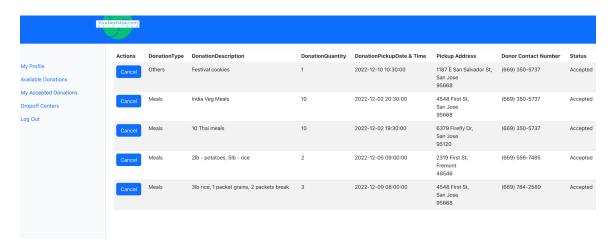


Recipient Logged in Pages:

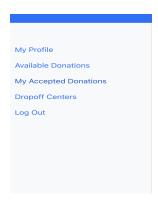
1. Available Donation Requests



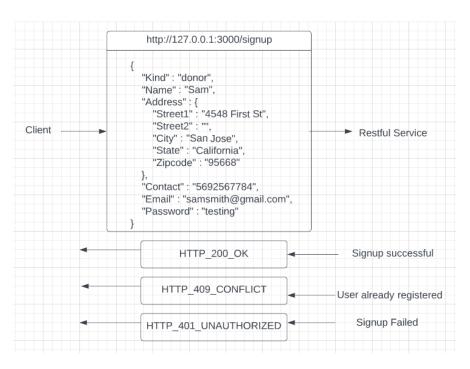
2. View my Accepted Donations

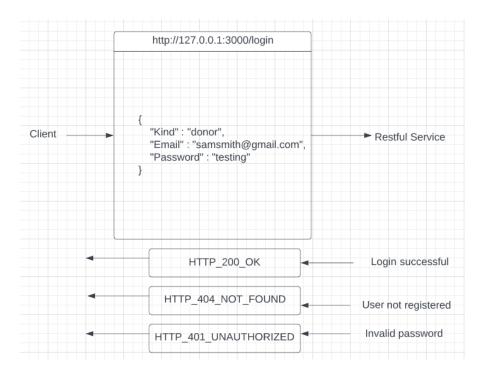


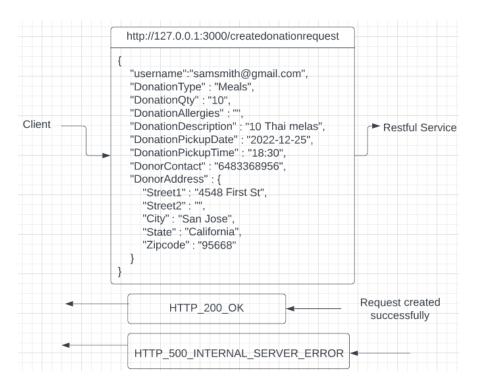
3. Left Navigation

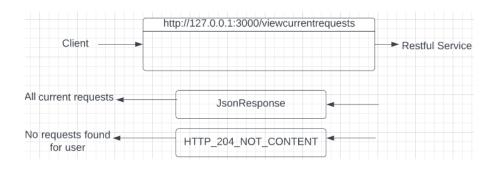


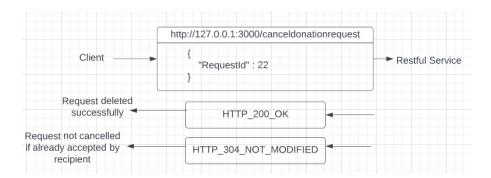
4.5 System component and API logic design

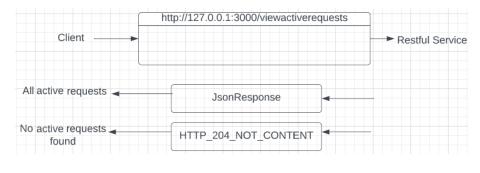


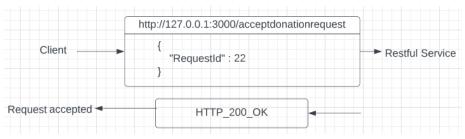


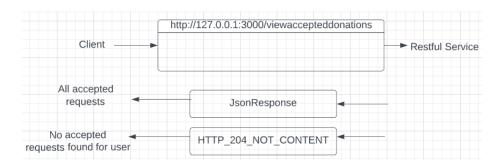


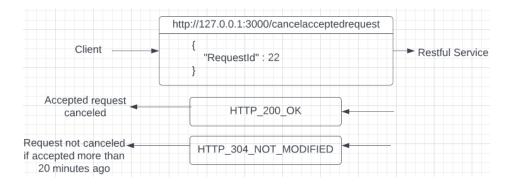


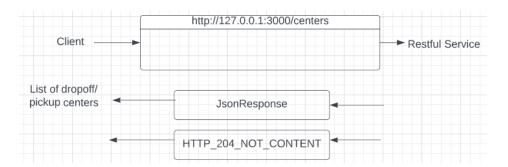












Chapter 5. System Implementation

5.1. System implementation summary

The technologies and tools listed in Section 5.3 are used in the system's implementation. The project planning report's milestones were followed as the system was implemented based on the diagram mentioned in the preceding section. The system is set up to make it simple to administer the necessary "YourNextMeal.com" procedures through the corporate site. The system's implementation employs an iterative process. To accomplish the desired results and successfully complete the application, the system passes through a number of stages. It entails creating websites with user interfaces that are simple to use, a clean backend with the necessary APIs, and a properly maintained database for data storage. The website is always accessible through the system.

5.2. System implementation issues and resolutions

a) Session Management:

Needed userprofile to be stored across various requests once the user logins. Initially opted to store the session on the server side. But this was not straightforward as we were using fetch api for all the requests.

Resolution: Implemented JWT token and as part of the token we are sending user profile information back and forth with all the requests.

b) Cross Origin Resource Sharing (CORS)

React (frontend) and Django(Rest API) applications run on different ports.

Resolution: Excluded CORS for all the methods and whitelisted the frontend app in django app. There is another option available to deploy a react app inside django and run on the same port. We did not implement this.

5.3. Used technologies and tools

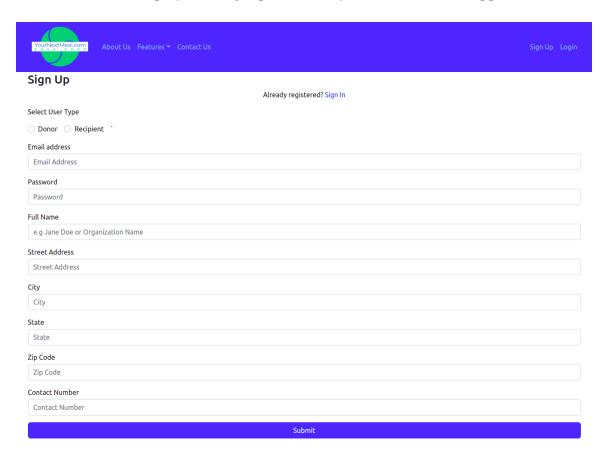
- 1. Backend
 - Django , Rest API Framework
 - AWS, Lambda functions, S3
 - Send Mail python package for notifications
 - JWT based authentication
- 2. Frontend
 - ReactJS
 - BootStrap (Styling)
 - Local Storage
- 3. Cloud
 - AWS
 - IGW, ELB, EC2
- 4. Database
 - MongoDB
- 5. Architecture
 - RestAPI Architecture
- 6. Github, Jenkins

Chapter 6. System Testing and Experiment

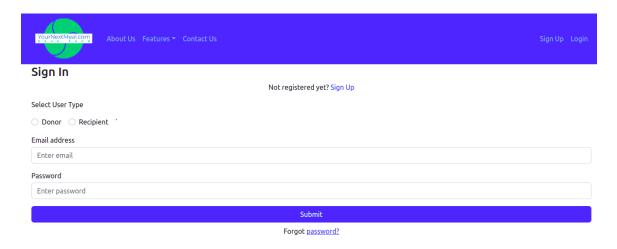
6.1 Testing and experiment scope

Step 1: Registering and authenticating user for yournextmeal.com:

• Localhost displays the signup screen of yournextmeal.com application.

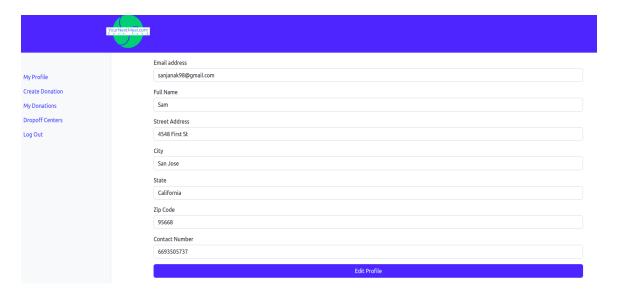


• After successfully registering, login to the application by providing email and password.



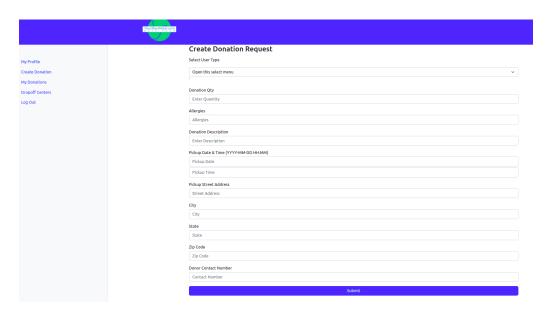
Step 2: User views the profile information:

• Details like name, address, contact information will be displayed here.

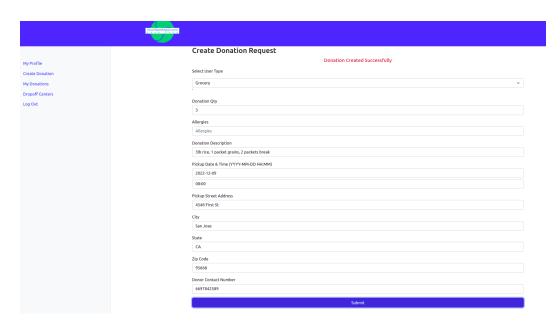


Step 3: Donor creates Donation request and can view the current requests:

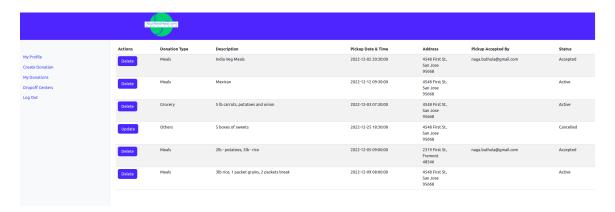
• On clicking the 'Create Donation' button in the left navigation pane, the Donor will be navigated to the Donation form.



• Provide all the information related to donation such as contact information, donation description and click create.



• Once the request is created, it will be reflected in the 'My Donations' page. The status is 'Active' for the created request.



Step 4: Verify Donor is able to cancel and update already created requests:

• Once the donor clicks the Delete button, the request status will change to canceled.

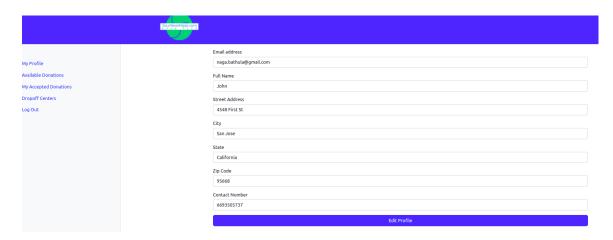


• Click on the Update button to make the request active again.



Step 5 : Recipient Views the profile information:

• User registration and login (similar to shown above). After logging in, details like name, address, contact information will be displayed here.

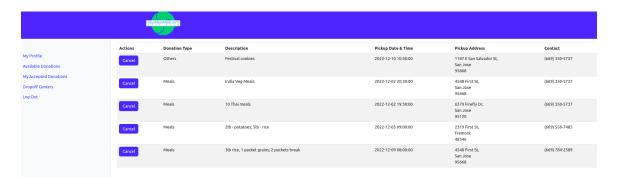


Step 6: Verify if Recipient is able to view Active Requests and able to accept:

• Click on the 'Available Donations' button and be able to view all the active Donation Requests that are made by the Donor (Step 3)



• On clicking the 'Accept' button, the request is visible in the 'My Accepted Donations' page.



• An email is sent to the 'Donor' confirming that the request has been accepted along with name and contact information of the recipient.



• The donor can see in the 'My Donations' page the recipient and the status of the request as accepted.

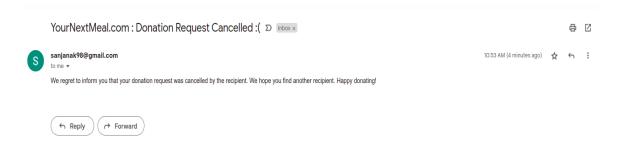


Step 7: Verify if Recipient is able to Cancel accepted Requests:

• Go to 'My Accepted Donations' and click on the 'Cancel' button. Once canceled, it is no longer available in the 'My Accepted Donations' page.



• An email is sent to the 'Donor' informing them that the request that was accepted by the recipient has been canceled by them.



 The accepted request is canceled and is available to other recipients in the 'Available Donations' tab.



Step 8: Both donors and recipients can view Dropoff/Pickup Centers.

• Click on the 'Dropoff Centers' button and be able to view available locations.



6.2 Testing and experiment approaches

Test Plan:

- User Signup: It must register all the basic contact information and authenticate from the first time users.
- **Donor Login:** It must direct to the Donor login page after authentication.
- Recipient login: It must redirect to the recipient login page after authentication.
- Create Donation request: It must create a donation request and it must reflect on the donor page.
- Current Requests: It must reflect all the current requests.
- Cancel Requests: Donors must be able to deny the requests.
- Accept Request: Recipients must be able to accept the requests.
- Available Requests: It must reflect all the available requests.
- Cancel Accepted Requests: Recipients must be able to cancel the accepted requests and requests must reflect on other recipients available requests.

6.3 Testing and experiment results

Functionality	Description	Test Step	Expected Result	Pass or Fail
User Signup	Register all the basic contact information and authenticate from the first time users.	Click on Sign Up button, give all the required details and submit.	User must be registered successfully.	Pass
Donor Login	Login with credentials.	Give email address and password and click on the Login button.	Redirect to the Donor login page after authentication	Pass
Recipient login	Login with credentials.	Give email address and password and click on the Login button.	Redirect to the recipient login page after authentication	Pass
Create Donation request	Be able to create donation requests.	Click on create donation requests, give the contact information like address and phone number and description of the donation.	Create a donation request and it must reflect on the donors page.	Pass

Current Requests	Be able to view current requests.	Click on the current requests button and view the active requests.	Reflect all the current requests.	Pass
Cancel Requests	It must be able to cancel the accepted requests if they no longer want to donate the food.	Clicking on the Delete button cancels the donation request.	Donors must be able to cancel the requests and it should be reflected.	Pass
Accept Requests	Be able to accept the available requests made by donors.	Click on Available requests button then click on accept button.	Donors must be able to accept the requests	Pass
Available Requests	Must be able to view the available requests created by donors.	Click on the Available requests button and recipients must be able to accept any active request.	It must reflect all the available requests created by Donors.	Pass
Cancel Accepted Requests	Requests must reflect on other recipients' available requests and recipients must be able to cancel accepted requests.	Click on the active requests button and click on cancel the accepted requests.	Recipients must be able to cancel the accepted requests and requests must reflect on other recipients available requests.	Pass

Chapter 7. Conclusion and Future Work

7.1 Project summary

"YourNextMeal.com" is an excess and leftover food management website that is very user friendly and can widely be used by restaurants, people who are willing to help people by donating food, people suffering from food scarcity, and even common people who are in need of food. This way the food wastage will be reduced as much as possible and people would not be facing food insecurity.

For the perspective of implementation all the modules we intended to complete have been implemented and are functional. It was a good learning experience on the way to achieving the milestones we set. We are exploring the latest technology frameworks and their features. Working with AWS, DJango, Terraform, React was all an insightful experience.

7.2 Future work

- Build IOS/Android app
- Track the pickup request realtime
- Build a driver network with Volunteers
- Donor Incentives & Analytics
- Admin Feature