

Day 6: Planning for Payments and Shipping - Furnishful

Introduction

On Day 6 of the Furnishful hackathon, we focused on planning how to add payment processing and shipment tracking—key features for any online store. Because of the limited time, we didn't fully build these features yet, but we made important plans for how to do it in the future.

Planning for Stripe (Payments)

What is Stripe?

Stripe is a service that lets businesses easily accept online payments. It handles all the technical details of processing credit cards and other payment methods securely.

Our Plan

Our goal was to make checkout easy and safe for users. Here's what we planned:

- Set up a Stripe account and get the necessary codes (API keys).
- Use Stripe's tools (Stripe.js) on our website's checkout page.
- Create parts of our website's code to manage payments and confirm them with Stripe.
- Make sure all payment info is handled securely.

Planning for ShipEngine (Shipping)

What is ShipEngine?

ShipEngine is a platform that helps businesses manage their shipping. It connects to different shipping companies and offers tools to calculate shipping costs, print labels, and track packages.

Our Plan

We wanted to give users accurate shipping costs and tracking info. Our plan included:

- Set up a ShipEngine account and get the necessary codes.
- Use ShipEngine's tools (API) to calculate shipping costs based on where the package is going, how much it weighs, and how fast it needs to be delivered.
- Show the tracking info to users after they order.

Challenges and Solutions

Understanding API Requirements

One of the main challenges was understanding how to use the Stripe and ShipEngine tools (APIs). Each one has its own rules and requirements.

Solution

We carefully read the instructions (documentation) for each API. We looked at:

- Which parts of the API we needed to use for payments and shipping calculations.
- What kind of information we needed to send to the API.
- How to keep our codes safe and secure.

Next Steps

Here's what we plan to do next:

- Fully integrate Stripe so users can make payments.
- Fully integrate ShipEngine to show shipping costs and tracking.

- Test everything to make sure it works correctly.

Key Learnings

This planning stage helped us learn about:

- How to use outside tools (APIs) to add important features to a website.
- Why it's important to understand the instructions for each API.
- How to plan a safe and easy checkout process.