



Eduvos
Your Education. Your Future.

Project Deliverable 3 – User Manual

Faculty Name: Information Technology
Module Code: ITECA3-12
Module Name: Web Development and e-Commerce
Content Writer: Marc Kishinkwa
Copy Editor: Kyle Keens

Student Name	JARRYD ROBSON
Student Number	WFQ2FNX46
Project Title	ITECA USER MANUAL
Submission Date	12/06/2025

Table of Contents

- 3.1 INTRODUCTION 3
- 3.2 BASICS: ACCESSING YOUR WEBSITE AND ADMIN..... 3
- 3.3 PRODUCTS: ADDING, REMOVING, AND UPDATING PRODUCTS 4
- 3.4 SHIPPING OPTIONS 4
- 3.5 ORDERS 5
- 3.6 UPDATING A PAGE ON YOUR SITE 5
- 3.7 PAYMENTS..... 5
- 3.8 CHECKING WEB TRAFFIC AND STATISTICS..... 6
- 3.9 APPENDIX (WEBSITE SETUP) 6

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Background

This platform enables buyers and sellers to interact securely in a digital marketplace. It includes functionality for user registration, product browsing, adding items to a cart, and processing a dummy checkout. Admins can manage all users, products, and orders, and generate role-specific reports.

3.1.2 About this website

The platform is developed using HTML, CSS, JavaScript (jQuery), PHP, and MySQL. Bootstrap was used for responsive design. The system is hosted on Amazon AWS EC2, ensuring public accessibility and deployment. No content management system (CMS) is used, as per project requirements. The platform supports multiple user roles (buyer, seller, admin) and enforces strict access controls accordingly.

3.2 Basics: Accessing your website and Admin

3.2.1 Accessing the website

Sellers, buyers and admin all log in at same url. User permissions are stored in DB so when they log in the functionality available to them will be based on their respective permissions.

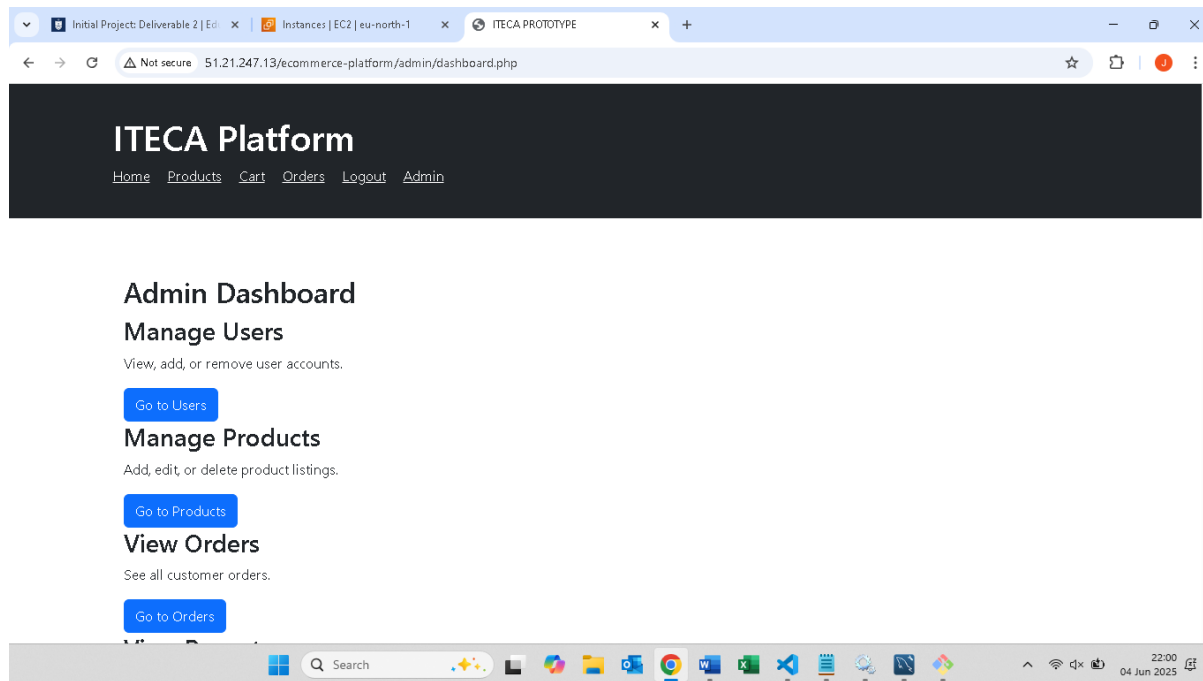
Link: [ITECA PLATFORM](#) Link: [Github](#)

3.2.2 The Admin Area

The admin area allows platform administrators to:

- Manage users (create, edit, delete)
- Manage all products
- View all orders
- Generate basic reports

Admin Dashboard:



3.3 Products: Adding, removing, and updating products

3.3.1 Adding and Removing Products

Sellers:

- Navigate to the Products page after logging in.
- Click "Add Product" to upload a new item.
- To delete, click the "Delete" button on a product you created.

Admins:

- Go to Manage Products in the Admin panel.
- Add/edit/remove any product.

3.3.2 Updating Products

- Click "Edit" next to the product.
- Update name, description, price, or stock.
- Click Save to apply changes.

3.4 Shipping Options

Shipping is not integrated. A dummy checkout is implemented and no weight-based or price-based logic exists. Orders are marked as paid immediately during checkout.

In a future evolution of the site, shipping functionality could be handled in a similar manner to that of Takealot.co.za, which handles the logistics. For instance, the website may use third-party courier APIs like The Courier Guy, DHL, or Pargo to compute delivery fees in real-time according to the customer area, weight of the goods, and urgency of delivery.

The customers can be grouped into shipping districts—for instance, Johannesburg or Cape Town—each with a varying delivery fee (such as a local delivery for R60, or a delivery nationally for R85). Optional delivery types, such as Standard Delivery (cheaper, 3–5 business days) or Next-Day Delivery (premium for faster delivery), may also be available. Sellers could also be able to predefine their own delivery methods at listing time, to provide further control over delivery methods for goods.

The customer could then be presented with available options at the time of checkout, and the fee would be included in the total upon order acceptance. This shipping system would make the site more comparable with actual e-commerce functionality and increase consumer experience by making delivery logistics more adaptable and transparent.

3.5 Orders

- When a customer checks out, an order is created in the orders table.
- Items are saved in order_items.
- A transaction is recorded with a status of Paid.
- Admins can view all orders in the admin panel.
- Customers can view their order history.

3.6 Updating a page on your site

As per instructions, there is no CMS. Pages must be updated manually in the .php files using a code editor and then injected via SSH on your EC2 instance (see 3.9 for more details on using scp to send files to the running instance code base).

3.7 Payments

Only dummy payment processing is used.

- There is no real payment gateway integration.

- Orders are auto-marked as paid.
- Future enhancement can include PayFast or PayPal API.

3.8 Checking Web Traffic and Statistics

Not included in current version of platform.

In future versions, traffic tracking could be implemented by creating a Google Analytics account and then writing some kind of tracking script which would be added to the .php code base.

3.9 Appendix (website setup)

1. Create an AWS Account

Go to <https://aws.amazon.com> and create a free account.

2. Launch an EC2 Instance

- Go to the EC2 Dashboard in the AWS Console.
- Click "Launch Instance".
- Choose Amazon Linux 2 AMI.
- Select t3.micro instance type
- Choose or create a new key pair and download the .pem file (e.g., ITECA_KEY_PAIR.pem).
- In Security Group settings, allow:
 - HTTP (port 80) from 0.0.0.0/0
 - SSH (port 22) from your IP address
- Launch the instance.

3. SSH into Your EC2 Instance

- Open your terminal or command prompt.
- Navigate to the folder where your .pem file is saved.
- Run:
 - `chmod 400 ITECA_KEY_PAIR.pem`
 - `ssh -i ITECA_KEY_PAIR.pem ec2-user@<your-ec2-public-dns>`

4. Install LAMP Stack

On your EC2 instance, install required packages:

- `sudo yum update -y`
- `sudo yum install -y httpd php php-mysqli mariadb105-server`

- Start and Enable Apache (Web Server)
 - `sudo systemctl start httpd`
 - `sudo systemctl enable httpd`
5. Upload Project Files to EC2
- From your local machine:
- `scp -i ITECA_KEY_PAIR.pem -r ecommerce-platform ec2-user@<your-ec2-public-dns>:/home/ec2-user`
6. Move Project Files to Web Directory
- On your EC2 instance:
- `sudo mv /home/ec2-user/e-commerce-platform /var/www/html/`
 - `sudo chmod -R 755 /var/www/html/e-commerce-platform`
7. Start MySQL Server
- `sudo systemctl start mariadb`
 - `sudo systemctl enable mariadb`
8. Access MySQL and Create Database
- `sudo mysql`
 - `CREATE DATABASE deliverable2;`
 - `USE deliverable2;`
9. Import MySQL Schema and Dummy Data
- Upload .sql and run:
 - `mysql -u root deliverable2 < schema.sql`
11. Verify File Permissions
- `sudo chown -R apache:apache /var/www/html`
 - `sudo chmod -R 755 /var/www/html`
12. Open your browser and go to `http://<your-ec2-public-ip>/ecommerce-platform/`