Recipe Creator And Sharing Site With Shopping List Creation Tool

Introduction

For my web-based major project, I will be creating a site that will allow users to create and share recipes with other users online. As well as sharing these recipes the user will be able to save these recipes into a weekly meal planner.

The customers/users of this site will be close friends and family members who have an interest in cooking and want a more streamlined way to plan meals and shopping trips. These customers will be able to access this site with their mobile phones to create and view their planners and lists, meaning that the site will have to have a mobile-first design. The aim is to bring the users together with the food they make to encourage everyone to share recipes.

What The Site Will Cover

When the users first enter the site they will first see a login screen that will require their login details that, for now, will be set up by an administrator. Once they have logged in, the home page will be displayed which will have a "social media-like" page that the user will be able to scroll through to see what other users have made and added to the site. From this page, the users will be able to use the navigation bar to see their planner, shopping list and a full selection of recipes with a search bar.

The planner will have a table-like page that will have an empty planner on their first time using the site. The table will have seven rows, one for each day, that will have the name of the recipe, a toggle button to select or deselect that day, a button to select a new recipe and the day of the week. Clicking on these recipes will take the user to the full recipe to see everything that is needed to make the meal as well as the steps to do so.

As well as including the recipe and ingredients, the recipe page will include a picture and a brief description. There may also be a way to "quick add" the recipe straight to a selected day.

The recipes that users can see will also have to be added so there will be a form for users to add a new recipe. This form will have the ability to add pictures, a full list of ingredients and a set of instructions.

Finally, an information page will be provided to help new users to navigate the site as well as some accessibility features that can be toggled as needed.

Complexity Of The System

The site will include a small database that will store user login details, their planners as well as the recipes they create which will be accessed through several pages including the planner page. The user information will be used to display who created which recipe so a user can filter by who created recipes.

The most challenging aspect of this project is ensuring that the database is set up properly and having passwords hashed and stored correctly to avoid accidentally sharing passwords or user data.

Proposed Technology

The technology I intend to use while working on this project is HTML, CSS and Bootstrap for how the site looks, JavaScript, Ajax and PHP for functionality as well as some testing tools including Postman for some testing.

The code for this project will be stored in a Git repository and the data, including users and recipes, will be manipulated in PostgreSQL.

Related sites

Some sites are similar to this project: including the BBC Food that contains many recipes as well as a button that displays a shopping list. What makes this site different from this is that there will be options for users to add their recipes and share them with the few people who have access to the site. BBC Food does not provide a way to create a meal planner to help users create a shopping list for a whole week instead it allows the creation of a list for just one recipe.

Another site that is similar to this project is "Simply Recipes" which provides users with a range of recipes made by verified cooks. They also use another site to create an online shopping list for the user called "Relish". These sites provide a similar service to my project but require the user to use two separate sites instead of having it all in one place.

The final site that provides a similar service to my project is "Allrecipes". They provide a range of recipes as well as short videos to show the user how to make the recipe with a visual aspect.