Waste To Taste

User Manual

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1. Introduction

Welcome to Waste To Taste, a community-driven platform designed to inspire users to share, discover, and manage culinary recipes with an emphasis on reducing food waste and embracing sustainable cooking practices. Whether you're here to find your next favorite dish or to share your culinary secrets, Waste To Taste offers a rich set of features tailored to enhance your cooking journey.

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2. Getting Started

Accessing Waste To Taste

To begin your culinary adventure with Waste To Taste, follow the steps below. These instructions assume you have the necessary software and access permissions:

1. **Start Compass**: Open MongoDB Compass to connect to your database. Ensure you have the correct connection details, including the database address, port, and credentials.
2. **Connect to Database**: Use Compass to establish a connection to your Waste To Taste database. This step is crucial for managing and accessing your application's data.
3. **Start Server**: Open your terminal or command prompt. Navigate to your project's server directory and run the command npm start. This command initiates the server-side application, enabling API access and server-client communication.
4. **Start Client**: In a new terminal window, navigate to your project's client directory. Execute the command npm start to launch the client-side application. This step will usually open a browser window automatically, pointing to the client interface of Waste To Taste.

Please check (Read.Me) file for any specific versions or details.

Creating an Account

On the homepage, click the "Sign Up" button.
Fill in the required information, including your email address, a secure password, and your username.
Submit the form to receive a verification email.
Open the verification email and click the provided link to activate your account.

Logging In

Return to the homepage and select "Login".
Enter your credentials and click "Submit" to access your personalized dashboard.

Logging In As Admin

Navigate to the login page.
Enter the preset admin credentials:
- Email: wastetotaste222@gmail.com
- Password: CAP_stone24

At this point, you should now be currently logged in as an admin, and automatically directed to the admin dashboard, where you can view the different admin functionalities such as:
- User Profile Management
- Recipe Management
- Culinary Techniques
- Strategic Saving and Storage

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3. Navigating the Interface

Upon logging in (as a user), you'll be greeted by the dashboard. Here's a quick overview of the key sections:

- **Dashboard**: Your main hub, showcasing recent recipes, profile information, recommended content, and your notifications, all in one page.

- **Recipes:** This is the part of the web app which includes all core recipe functionalities, including:
    - **Create New Recipe**: This is where the user can create new recipes and save it into their own personal repository of recipes(View All Recipes).
    - **View All Recipes**: This is where users can access all of their created recipes from Create New Recipe or saved recipes from Explore New Creations.
    - **Explore New Creations**: This is where the user can explore all of the recipes that are shared from other users. Users may view the recipes and save the recipes into their own repository(View All Recipes) if they choose to.
    - **Create Foodlists**: This is where the users can create separate lists to organize their recipes based on their own preferences. For instance you can create a foodlist called "Cheap eats" that contain just recipes that are extremely affordable

with a description"A list of cheap foods for college students". They may create as many foodlists as they want with whatever description or preference they want

- **Culinary Techniques:** This part of the web app includes informational content on different culinary techniques including proper usage of pots & pans, safe usage of your culinary tools such as knives and utensils, and general safety around the kitchen, raising awareness to keep a clean and safe environment while preparing your food.

- **Strategic Savings & Storage:** This part of the web app also includes informational content for our users, to help familiarize them with techniques on saving money shopping for their ingredients and also tips on food storage and how to make your stored food stay fresh as long as possible.

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4. Features Overview

User Authentication

Secure login and registration ensure that your account and recipes are safe.

Easy Navigation

With the help of the Navbar, which automatically displays for any logged-in, authenticated user, navigation through the web app is made easy, allowing the user to navigate through different pages and go back to their starting point with one click.

Recipe Management

Create, edit, and share your recipes with ease. Each recipe can include description, ingredients, instructions, tags, and videos(optional).

Recipe Discovery

Use the Explore New Creations to find new recipes that are shared by everyone. You can sort recipes based on their tags, alphabetical, or date added. You can also choose to save recipes from here into your personal repository.

Foodlist

Organize your recipes into lists in any preferences you want for easy viewing and access for any occasion.

Informational Content

Learn new culinary techniques and sharpen your knowledge and skills in the kitchen. There's also content on saving money while shopping for ingredients and techniques on storing foods included.

Admin Dashboard

Admin route for managing users, recipes & content.

Responsive Design

Fully responsive, ensuring a great experience on both desktop and mobile devices. Supports multiple screen sizes.

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5. How-To Guides

Resetting Your Password

Objective: Recover access to your account if you forget your password.

> **Forgot Password**: On the login page, click the "Forgot Password?" link.
> **Email**: Enter the email associated with your account and submit.
> **Reset Link**: Check your email for a reset link, click it, and enter a new password.
> **Log In**: Once redirected to the login page and enter your new password.

Updating Profile Information

Objective: Keep your user profile current by updating your information.

> **Profile Settings**: Access your profile settings from your dashboard.
> **Edit**: Choose the information you wish to update (First Name, Last Name, Email, password).

Submit Changes: After making your edits, submit the changes.
Confirmation: You'll receive a notification confirming the update was successful.

Creating a Recipe

Objective: Take your ideas and turn them into culinary creations with the Waste To Taste community.

Log In: Ensure you're logged into your account.
Navigate: Click on the "Recipe" button found on your dashboard. And then click on "Create New Recipe" button in the "Recipe" Page
Fill Out the Form:
  ● **Title**: Give your recipe a name.
  ● **Ingredients**: List the ingredients required.
  ● **Instructions**: Describe the preparation steps.
  ● **Description**: Add a brief or long description of your recipe.
  ● **Videos**: Optionally, include a YouTube link for video instructions.
  ● **Tags**: Add relevant tags (e.g., healthy, gluten-free) to help others find your recipe.
  ● **Allergens**: Add relevant allergens to alert users for their safety.
Submit: Review your entry, then click "Submit" to share your recipe.
Confirmation: You'll receive a notification confirming your recipe has been published.

Saving a Recipe

Objective: Save your favorite recipes for quick access later.

Find a Recipe: Use the "Explore New Creations" section to find a recipe you like.
View Recipe: Click on the "View Recipe" button of a recipe to view it's content.
Save Recipe: Click on the "Save Recipe" button at the bottom if you like the recipe and decide to save it.
Confirmation: A message confirms the recipe is saved to your "View All Recipes" page.

Managing Recipes

Objective: Edit or delete your recipes, keeping your content up-to-date.

Editing a Recipe:

Access Your Recipes: Go to "View All Recipes" in your profile.

Choose a Recipe: Select the recipe you wish to edit and click the "View Recipe" button to view a recipe.

Entering Edit Mode: While viewing the recipe, click on the golden "Edit" button in the top right of the recipe to enter the editing mode.

Make Changes: Update the title, ingredients, instructions, tags, etc as needed.

Save: Submit your changes. And the user will see a confirmation message and will be brought back to the recipe's viewing mode.

Deleting a Recipe:

Select: From "View All Recipes", choose the recipe you want to remove, and click on it's "View Recipe" button.

Edit:Click on the golden "Edit" button to the edit mode.

Delete: Click "Delete" and confirm your decision. The recipe will be permanently removed.

Searching for Recipes

Objective: Discover new recipes based on specific criteria like ingredients or dietary needs.

Navigate: Use the search bar at the top of the "Explore New Creations" or "View All Recipes" page.

Enter Criteria: Type keywords related to your search (e.g., "vegan", "healthy", "affordable").

Browse Results: Scroll through the search results to find recipes of interest.

View Details: Click on a recipe to see its full details, including ingredients and instructions.

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6. FAQs

Q: How do I reset my password?

A: If you've forgotten your password, simply click the "Forgot Password?" link on the login page. Enter the email address associated with your account, and we'll send you a link to reset your password. If you are logged in already, and just want to reset your password, navigate to the user dashboard, then go to account management, edit profile, and the reset password button should be below the user account information.

Q: Can I edit a recipe after it's been published?

A: Yes! Navigate to your recipe and click the "Edit" button. Make any changes you need, and click "Submit" to update your recipe.

Q: How do I delete my account?

A: If you wish to delete your account, please navigate to the user dashboard, then go to account management, edit profile and the delete account button should be below the user account information. Click on the "delete account" button and then confirm your deletion once the pop-up message displays asking if you are sure. Once you confirm the pop-up message, your account and information will be deleted from the system.

Q: Is it possible to download or print a recipe?

A: Currently, our platform does not support direct downloading or printing of recipes. However, you can easily copy the recipe text into a document which then you may print yourself.

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7. Troubleshooting

Issue: I didn't receive the account verification email.

Solution: Make sure the email service you are using allows for external emails to be received and viewed. If your email service allows this but you still can't see the verification email in your inbox, check your email's spam or junk folder.

If you still can't find the verification email, please contact wastetotaste222@gmail.com for further assistance.

Issue: The website is loading slowly or not at all.

Solution: Ensure you have a stable internet connection. Try refreshing the page or clearing your browser's cache. If the problem persists, it may be a temporary issue on our end, so please try again later.

Issue: I can't find my saved recipes.

Solution: Ensure you're logged in to your account. Navigate to the "Recipes" section of your dashboard. Once in the recipes section, click on "View All Recipes" to view all of your saved recipes.

If your saved recipes aren't showing up, please reach out to wastetotaste222@gmail.com for help.

Issue: Error messages when trying to create or edit a recipe.

Solution: Ensure all required fields are filled out correctly. Pay special attention to format requirements for certain fields, like ingredient quantities. If you've checked all fields and the issue remains, please contact our support team with details of the error message you're receiving.

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8. Contact Support

For further assistance, please contact our support team at wastetotaste222@gmail.com. We're here to help!