

WEBSCRP – INTERIM ONE

Specification and Plan by 663652

Specification

The task is to create a CMS for an online store, using HTML, PHP, JavaScript, MySQL and AJAX. It should support adding and removing products to a database, and present an easy interface for customers to browse and purchase items. Sale information, statistics, and product updating should be available to the store administrator.

This specification will target the two main target audiences of this project to describe its functionality.

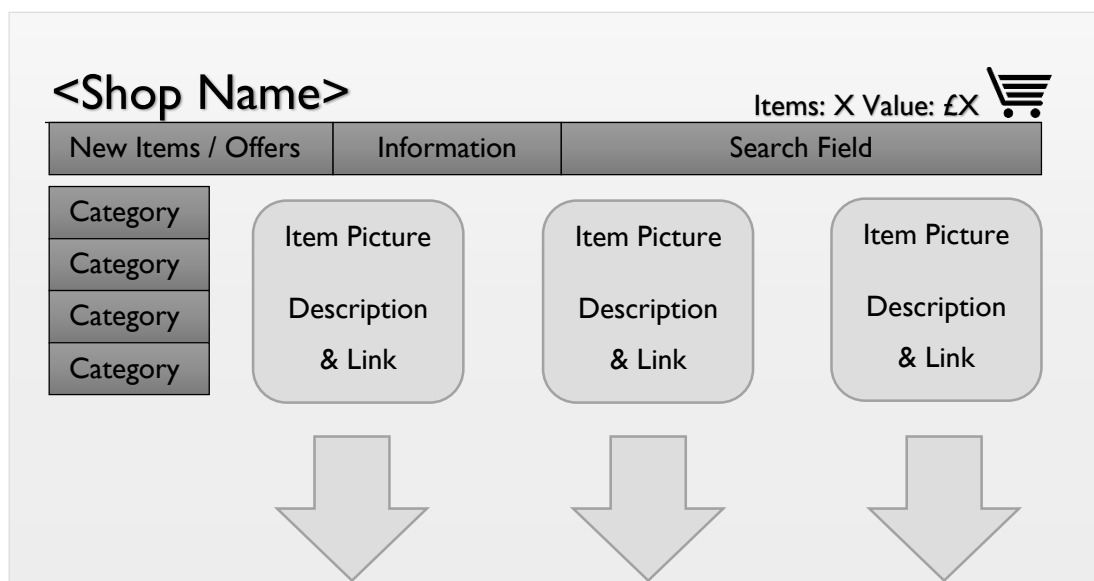
Customer

- Category based navigation through the store.
- Paginated results.
- Breadcrumb interface elements for easy navigation.
- Products can be added to a session-based basket, the running total is displayed on every page.
- Pictures of products in their descriptions.
- Support searching.

Store Admin

- View order statistics.
- Add products with or without images.
- Update stock levels.
- Specify or create categories of products.
- Separated admin directory to facilitate future access control.

Visualisation



Plan

I feel this project will require continuous evolution as it's developed. I will undoubtedly become aware of new development methods and techniques through lectures and research while building the application, and seek to improve aspects already developed. It is possible I will seek to modify and possibly extend my intended functionality depending on time available and knowledge of new web-scripting ideas.

Therefore, I feel the best model for this development approach would be the cyclic "evolutionary" model, where features are planned, designed, coded, tested and implemented – before starting the process again with a new change on a slightly smaller scale.

It is difficult to define exactly how long I expect each aspect of this project to take; but a rough estimate would have heavy focus on the PHP and JavaScript with less on the HTML, CSS and Documentation. My timescales for each area are outlined in the Gantt chart below.

There are certain factors that may affect my progress. Other units will likely affect my progress the greatest. A high mark value programming coursework is likely to have a large effect on progress until early December; but effort will be made to balance time accordingly and keep progress moving forward in every week. Another possible factor would be that of data loss or corruption – which could cause massive damage. To negate this risk, I will be performing continuous backups to a cloud service (Dropbox or SkyDrive). Unexpected events could affect progress at any stage, so a certain amount of slack will be built into the plan to accommodate such.

For the code itself, I will be using Git to manage my revisions and changes – giving me the benefit of reversing changes that damage functionality, and branching experimental features. This repository will be placed on a remote host also (GitHub), providing a backup of changes and allowing access from different locations.

Gantt Chart

