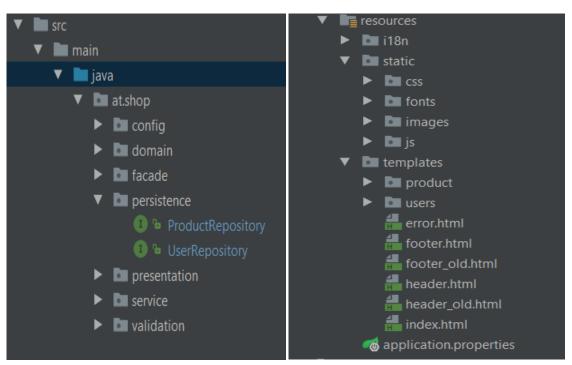
Introduction:

The desired learning outcome was defined with the words: "Design and implement a prototype dynamic web site incorporating database access. "The website I created was meant to be a web shop for selling products to customers. In the end, it would have been out of scope due to the complexity, so as an alternative the website was changed to work as a platform for downloading pictures of the products (for logged in users/employees/admin only). The website provides a Login, Registration and Edit Data function for every user and employees can additionally use the CRUD operations on the products while the admin even has the CRUD operation privilege on the users. A normal user can only see the products and download a specific one and has no rights to change the product data.

Technology:

Spring Boot + Tomcat Server	Open source framework for java application development
Thymeleaf + Thymeleaf security	Template engine for HTML5 and more
Spring Security	Authentication, authorization and more
Bootstrap	Open CSS framework
Maven	Build-management tool
MySQL	Relational database
JPA	Java specification data functions between Java objects and a relational database
Spring Devtools	Improves the development-time experience
Lombok	Reduce "boilerplate" code in the project

Overview:



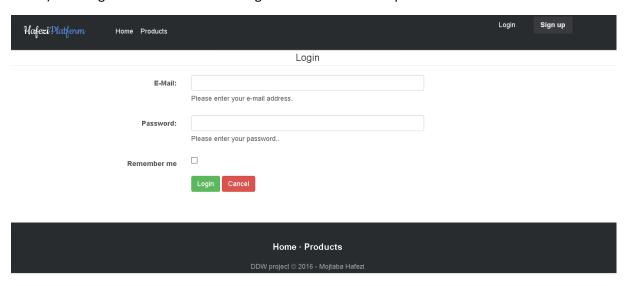
On the left side, the java directories can be seen with the architecture used. On the right side, the resources directories are shown. The façade pattern architecture is used, so any changes on the business logic are done in the façade classes. The domain layer consists of the user and product entities, the repositories use JPA to provide all needed functions between the plain Java objects and

the relational database. The services are the interfaces between the façade and the repositories by providing the CRUD operations. In the presentation layer the controllers exist to use the façades to provide the corresponding views by operating in the way needed. The configurations for the web functions and the Thymeleaf engine are made in the config directory. As an additional feature validators were written to provide a wider control on the validation.

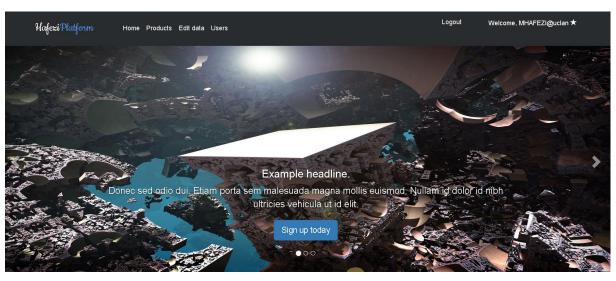
The resources are self-explanatory as they provide the resources needed to present the website.

Requirements:

1.) Existing user should be able to login with username and password:



After successful login, the user gets redirected to the previous page he came from or the standard page if the corresponding rights are not available. On the right upper corner one can see the email address used to login – this could easily be changed for a username etc.

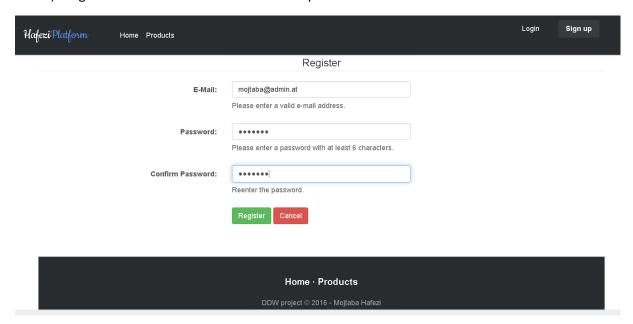




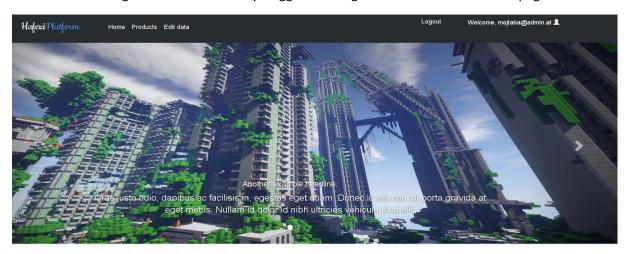




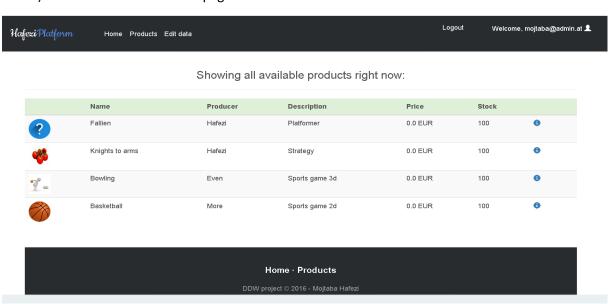
2.) Registration of users with username and password:

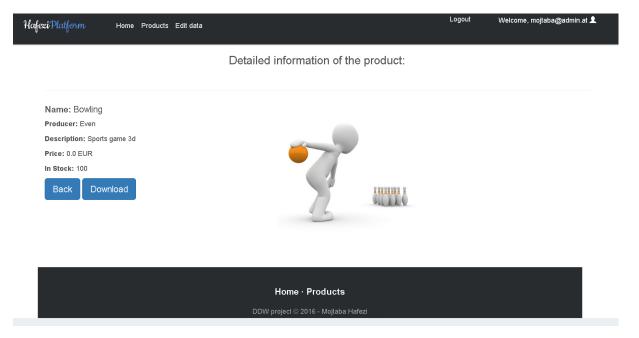


After successful registration the user stays logged in and gets redirected to the homepage.



3.) Persistent state between pages:

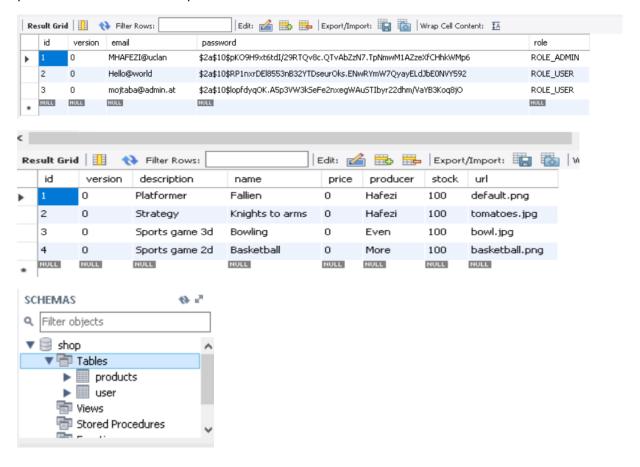




By clicking on the information icon (which only logged in users can see) the user gets forwarded to the detail page where a download function is available to get the showing picture.

4.) Minimum of 2 MYSQL tables for data:

The MYSQL database has 2 tables which are user and products. The user contains the email addresses, the hashed password and the role. The products contain more information about the product with the URL to the picture.



5.) No deprecated methods for connections

By using the spring boot application with correct configuration, the connection to many databases is possible be it SQL or NOSQL databases.

```
#MYSQL setup
spring.datasource.url=jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/shop?useSSL=false
spring.datasource.username=dbuser
spring.datasource.password=dbpass
spring.datasource.driver-class-name=com.mysql.jdbc.Driver
spring.datasource.testWhileIdle = true
spring.datasource.validationQuery = SELECT 1
spring.jpa.properties.hibernate.dialect = org.hibernate.dialect.MySQL5Dialect
spring.jpa.hibernate.ddl-auto=create-drop
server.error.whitelabel.enabled = false
```

The dependencies must be configured correctly too. As one can see, the SSL is disabled for development process. Furthermore the username and password chosen are not safe.

6.) Server and client side validation:

Server validation: By extending the Spring Security validators and adding additional checks the server validation works without problems.

To get the validators working in the controller classes they need to be declared correctly:

```
//validation happens on the modelattribute "user"
@InitBinder("user")
public void initUserBinder(WebDataBinder binder) { binder.addValidators(userValidator); }
@InitBinder("userEdit")
public void initEditUserBinder(WebDataBinder binder) {binder.addValidators(editUserValidator);}
```

This way the Model attributes "user" or "userEdit" have their corresponding validation. With this approach, custom validation can be added to the already included domain validations:

```
@NonNull
@NotNull
@Size(min = 6, max = 150)
@Column(name = "email", unique = true)
@Email
private String email;
```

This code catches all problems occurring and forwards it to the BindingResult to provide the information on the views. Different Validators are used for different validation on users and products.

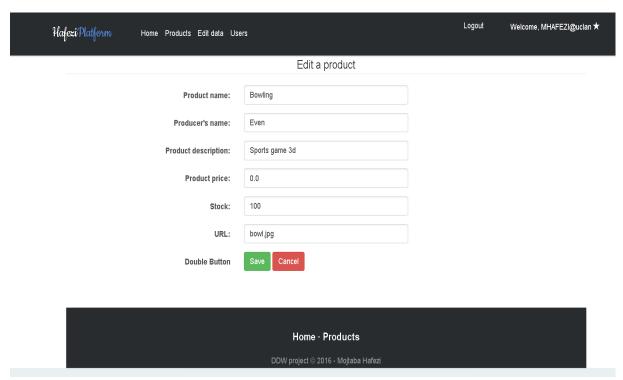
On the client side, I decided to use HTML-validation. Next to auto-populating by giving the "th:placeholer" the current attribute of the field, I also set the min and max values in addition to a simple regular expression for a field of the type DOUBLE.

The required statement in the input demands information from the user and thus the form cannot be submitted without all required fields filled out. With the use of corresponding patterns the minimum length of characters for passwords and other product details are secured. The email has its own validation through a regular expression.

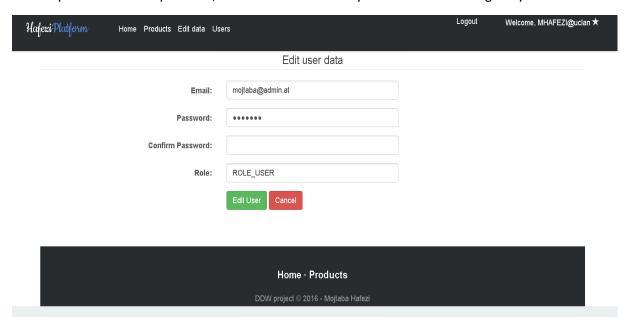
Every form is validated with both approaches for client and server side validation.

Validations can be found in the domain classes, the validators and all views (HTMLs) with a form.

7.) CRUD operations on data:



A **broad range** of information can be changed. The employees and administrators can operate all CRUD operations on the products, while the users can only be viewed and changed by the admin.



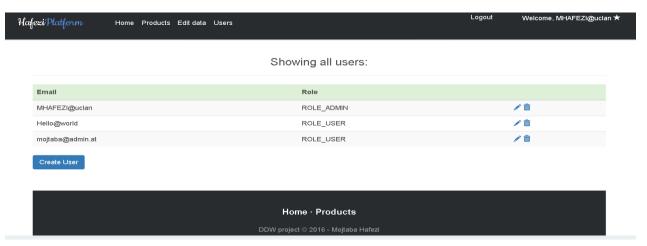
Some of the fields get <u>auto-populated</u>. This is provided mostly through the server but also the html placeholder comes in use (for products for example). Especially in the edit forms the fields are auto-populated to reduce the workload on the users (changes on users or products alike).

The source code for the crud operations are all in the façade classes which make use of the services.

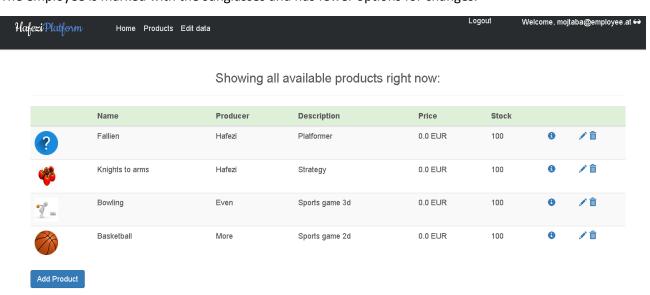
8.) Different users with different rights/views:

To begin with I provide three roles: User, Admin and Employee. The employee can change product data and their own user data like password or email. A normal user has no CRUD rights on any data but his own login credentials. The admin has CRUD rights on all tables and can see the list of users etc.

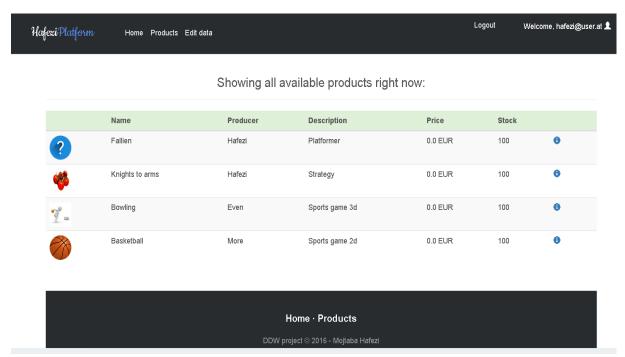
The admin is marked on the upper right corner by a star and the navigation bar shows more options:



The employee is marked with the sunglasses and has fewer options for changes.



The user marked with a user icon, can only edit his/her own data and view/download the products.



To make this possible different approaches were used. Not only the spring security authorization, which is configurable by telling spring which URLs are restricted for which users, but also Thymeleaf security and the method authorization has been implemented.

With the commented ".antMatchers()" method one can add as many URLs with the corresponding authority.

In the situation, a user wants to edit his own credentials but is not an admin, the approach shown above wouldn't make it possible for a simple user to change anything. In this scenario, following approach solves the problem in an elegant way:

```
//Does the current user have access to the user data?
//admins in general and users can only change their own data
public boolean hasAccessEditUser(CurrentUser user, Long id) {
    return user != null && (user.getRole() == Role.ROLE_ADMIN || user.getId().equals(id));
}
```

With the "PreAuthorize" I ask the spring security to check if the method "hasAccessEditUser" returns true or false in the CurrentUserService class (which needs to extend the UserDetailsService to get called with the annotation). So, when a normal user clicks on "Edit Data" on the website to change his own email address or password, his id is used for the get (afterwards post) request and if either the role fits or the id then the access is granted. The integration of spring security here is of importance as the principal is the currently authenticated user.

For providing a bespoke interface for each user the Thymeleaf security dialect is used in the views to provide dynamical checks on the user's current role.

9.) Secure password hashing with additional salting:

After researching many hashing algorithms and possibilities in java I came to the conclusion to use the BCrypt hashing algorithm. It has a salting function, which makes the passwords very safe and is added dynamically. There is no way to decode the hashed algorithm so the match function gets used to check for correctness of the passwords. CSRF_Token was also enabled for better protection.

```
public UserView createUser(@NotNull @Valid CreateUserCommand command) {
    try {
        User user = User.of("", "", Role.ROLE_USER);
        user.setEmail(command.getEmail());

        user.setPassword(new BCryptPasswordEncoder().encode(command.getPassword()));

        //the user has by default the role of user if an incorrect value is passed through user.setRole( Role.noNullReturn(command.getRole().toString()));

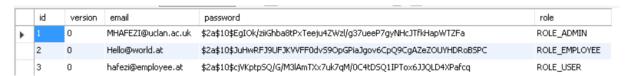
        Optional<User> createdUser = userService.createUser(user);
        return createUserView(createdUser);

} catch (Exception ex) {
        log.warn("Encountered a problem while creating the user.", ex);
        return errorView();
    }
}
```

In the configure method I demand the BCryptPasswordEncoder to be used for encoding all passwords in the checks (Login).

```
//LOGIN
@RequestMapping(value = "/login", method = RequestMethod.GET)
public ModelAndView getLoginPage(@RequestParam Optional<String> error) {
    return new ModelAndView( viewName: "users/login", modelName: "error", error);
}
```

Login Process: The user opens the /login URL and fills up the form to submit it. Meanwhile the LoginController returned a view with the form and after submitting the data the loadUserByUsername() gets called by the UserDetailsService (which I implemented with the CurrentUserService class). The username (as in the configuration shown equals the email) is given to the load method and the CurrentUser is returned from the Service layer. Afterwards the getPassword() method gets called and the comparison with the saved hashed password happens with the matches() method of the BCryptPasswordEncoder class. If any problems occur, the URL is set to login?error where the message "Username or Email is wrong". The actual problem is not visible to make it more secure against intruders. Further details can be viewed in the source code.



10.) Additional security features:

To prevent Cross-site request forgery a CSRF token is created in a cookie, which is deleted after the user logs out again. To make this possible, proper HTTP verbs like GET and POST are used through the complete website. Using the configure method in the WEBSECURITYCONFIG class the application ensures any request to the application requires authentication for specific URLS and allows form based login. Furthermore, the logout is handled by invalidating the session, deleting cookies and redirecting to the login page.

```
http.csrf()
.csrfTokenRepository(csrfTokenRepository());

private CsrfTokenRepository csrfTokenRepository() {
    HttpSessionCsrfTokenRepository repository = new HttpSessionCsrfTokenRepository();
    repository.setSessionAttributeName("_csrf");
    return repository;
}

<input type="bidden" th:name="%{ csrf parameterName}" th:value="%{ csrf token}" ()</pre>
```

This hidden input field needs to be declared in each form to prevent Cross-site request forgery.

Also, the "@PreAuthorize" methods used for handling appropriate access in addition to Thymeleaf security dialect are features as mentioned already.

Found in the controller classes and the CurrentUserService class. The CSRF declarations are in all views with a form included.

The Thymeleaf security feature is used for preventing a user for example to change his own role from a normal user to admin or similar.

So, if the authenticated user has not the role of an admin, he won't be able to see this part of the form. The source code can be found in the user/edit.html.

11.) Additional performance feature:

Caching enabled for specific methods of the repository (get all users for example etc.). Furthermore, by using sprites the performance can be increased a lot. I provided these for the pictures at the end of the website. By adding all the figures in one picture and using CSS to determine where each background starts (with the background position), not only are all four pictures loaded by one single HTTP call but also reduces the overhead and bandwidth used.



Depending on the images used and the sprite created the performance increase differs. In this example the sprite is about 120KB bigger in size but reduces the calls needed from four to only one.

This can be easily accomplished using CSS like in the presented demo or special tools which let you choose the pictures and makes a sprite with the corresponding stylesheet for you. I would rather recommend to create the sprites with compression first and let use a tool to determine the positons for a better optimisation. The autogenerating tool created a sprite with 200kb more in size than the compressed one with the positions determined manually.

```
.sprite { background: url('../images/sprite.png') no-repeat top left; width: 159px; height: 318px; }
.sprite.part1 { background-position: 0 0; }
.sprite.part2 { background-position: -234px 0; }
.sprite.part3 { background-position: -468px 0; }
.sprite.part4 { background-position: -702px 0; }
```

One more features provided, is the adaption of the "Spring Devtools" for raising the developer's productivity. After adding the dependency with Maven, the corresponding configurations in the IDE had to be made (Project settings and within the REGISTRY) to provide required features.

```
spring.thymeleaf.cache=false
security.basic.enabled=false
spring.thymeleaf.mode=LEGACYHTML5
```

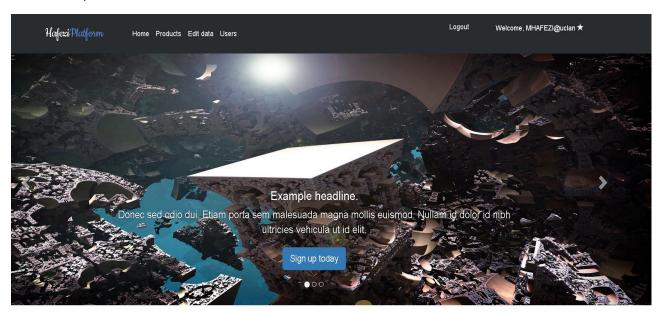
These properties are used to disable caching and allows updating pages without the need to restart the complete application. The mode is set to the LegacyHTML5 to work with the current HTML versions. Any changes made to the project are automatically adapted and only a "build project" is required to update everything (and a refresh on the browser as LiveReload was not installed). As every restart takes about ten to twenty seconds, every minor change a developer makes would result in annoying waiting time and therefore this feature is one of the most developer friendly ones.

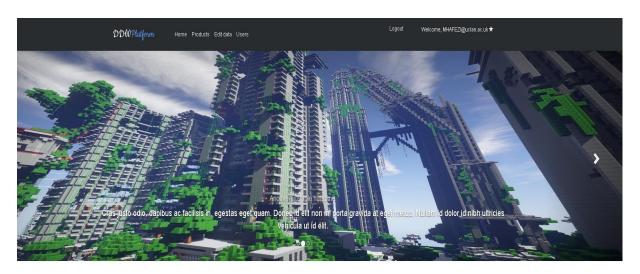
```
: Started ShopApplication in 11.908 seconds (JVM running for 12.64)
```

Finally, by using Lombok the developer's productivity rises even more as boilerplate code can be easily avoided which is seen mainly in the product domain class.

12.) Design, usability and layout:

A well-designed website is provided with responsiveness and usability. More pictures are added in the directory of this document.







Heading

Donec sed odio dui. Eliam porta sem malesuada magna mollis euismod. Nullam id dolor id nibh ultricies vehicula ut id elit. Morbi leo risus, porta ac consectetur ac, vestibulum at eros. Praesent commodo cursus magna.



Heading

Duis mollis, est non commodo luctus, nisi erat portitior ligula, eget lacinia odio sem nec elit. Cras mattis consectetur purus sit amet fermentum. Fusce dapibus, tellus ac cursus commodo, tortor mauris condimentum nibh.



Heading

Donec sed odio dui. Cras justo odio, dapibus ac facilisis in, egestas eget quam. Vestibulum i di ligula porta felis euismod semper. Fusce dapibus, tellus ac cursus commodo, tortor mauris condimentum nibh, ut fermentum massa justo sit amet risus.