Report

Before I started coding my website, I used mind mapping tool MatchWare MindMap to map some ideas of what type of content my website will consist off. I first decided what type of pages I will have and which page links there will be on the navigation bar. This gave me an idea of how I would want my website to look and what features to add.

< Mind Map Pic>

I then used the software Viso to draw a layout for the home page so I can have a design to work with which I can look at when designing the website. This gave me a clear picture of how I would like my website to look and made it easier for me to style it. I used Photoshop to create my own website logo which I placed on the navigation menu.

I wanted to put an image or image slider at the top of the website and have the navigation bar underneath it. The navigation bar will be fixed into place and by using a bit of JavaScript I will make it stay at the top of the page even when the user scrolls down. Under the navigation bar I wanted to have a picture from each category which the user can click which will navigate to the menu page where they can decide what they would like to order.

< Viso >

My website consisted of 3 layers; the root layer, the customer layer and the admin layer. In the root layer, you can only view the basic pages of the website which are available to everyone. So you can visit the home page, view the menu and browse through the menu items. However, you can’t make an order. To place an order, the user will have to login, so if the user tried to click on the ‘add to cart’ or any other related button, it will show an error telling the user to login, thus navigate the user to the login page. On the login page there will be 2 text field with the labels asking for username and password; there will also be three buttons, the ‘login’ button, the ‘cancel’ button and the ‘forgot password’ button. The cancel button will take the user back to the home page, the login button will take the user to the customer layer’s home page if the details you have provided are correct, in other words the customer will be in a signed in state. If the details you provide are wrong, an error message will be displayed. The third button ‘forgot password’ button will take you to another page where four text fields will be displayed asking for, username, an answer to the security question, typing new password and then re-typing the password to make sure it’s right. If the answer to the security question and the username match with the data in the database then your password will be changed, however if they don’t match, an error message will be displayed. And the cancel button will take you back.

Once you login, you will be welcomed by a ‘Welcome back’ message which will show that you are in a logged in state. Also, the previously restricted features will be available now, so you can place an order, access the cart etc. You will notice there are 2 extra features available on the navigation bar which weren’t there before. The logout button which will log you out and take you back to the home page of the root layer, and the user profile button which will take you to your user profile. On the user profile page, you will see 2 more links if you logged in as a customer; Account details and Change password. The account details page will show you your username, password and your role. Change password page will take you to another page where you can change your password, if you answer the security question correctly.

If you login as an admin, you will be taken to the admin layer and you will see additional features which aren’t visible to normal users. An admin will have 4 additional links, the account details page and the change password page will be the same as the user. However, the new account link will allow the admin to create a new user or admin account; the view invoices will allow you to view all invoices; the user billing information will allow you to select a user and view all their user billing information as well as allow you to edit, delete and add new information as well. Add products link will take you to a page where you can add new products which will be stored into the database. The products will then appear on the order page as well.

I used different master pages for each layer which enabled be to have different views and display different features to the users. I used the session objects which allowed me to determine which layer to send the user, so I would create an admin session if an admin logged in and redirect them to the admin layer and vice versa for the customers. To save or retrieve the user’s data, I used the SQL library and formed a connection with the database and used the SQL commands to manipulate data.