

Topic and Purpose

The topic of my site is reviews on housing locations while mainly being designed for USC students, hence the name “ratemyUSCHousing”. The website can be further expanded to other communities but I wanted to start small. As for the purpose of my site, it is meant to help USC students in their housing search by seeing the perspective and opinion of tenants who have already lived at a given location. Normally, you can only grasp how it is to live at a certain property with brief online information or tours, creating a possibility of dissatisfaction after signing a lease and moving in. Reviews can greatly help students gain additional information about a location that may not be provided by the landlord, such as customer service quality, living quality, emergency preparedness (or lack of it), and things that were bothersome or a benefit. With this additional information from reviews, it becomes a lot easier to decide on proceeding with a landlord’s application process while reducing the uncertainty of being stuck at a location for an entire lease term.

Instructions for Website

The website comes with differing levels of security depending on what you want to do.

Anyone is free to search and browse the website’s home page, search form, and search results without logging in. They can also view the page to add a review, but will be prompted with a warning to log in.

Users logged in can edit and delete their own reviews while being able to create new reviews.

Admins have the same permissions as users, but they are able to edit and delete any review, even if it is not their own.

Admin Credentials:

Username: ADMIN

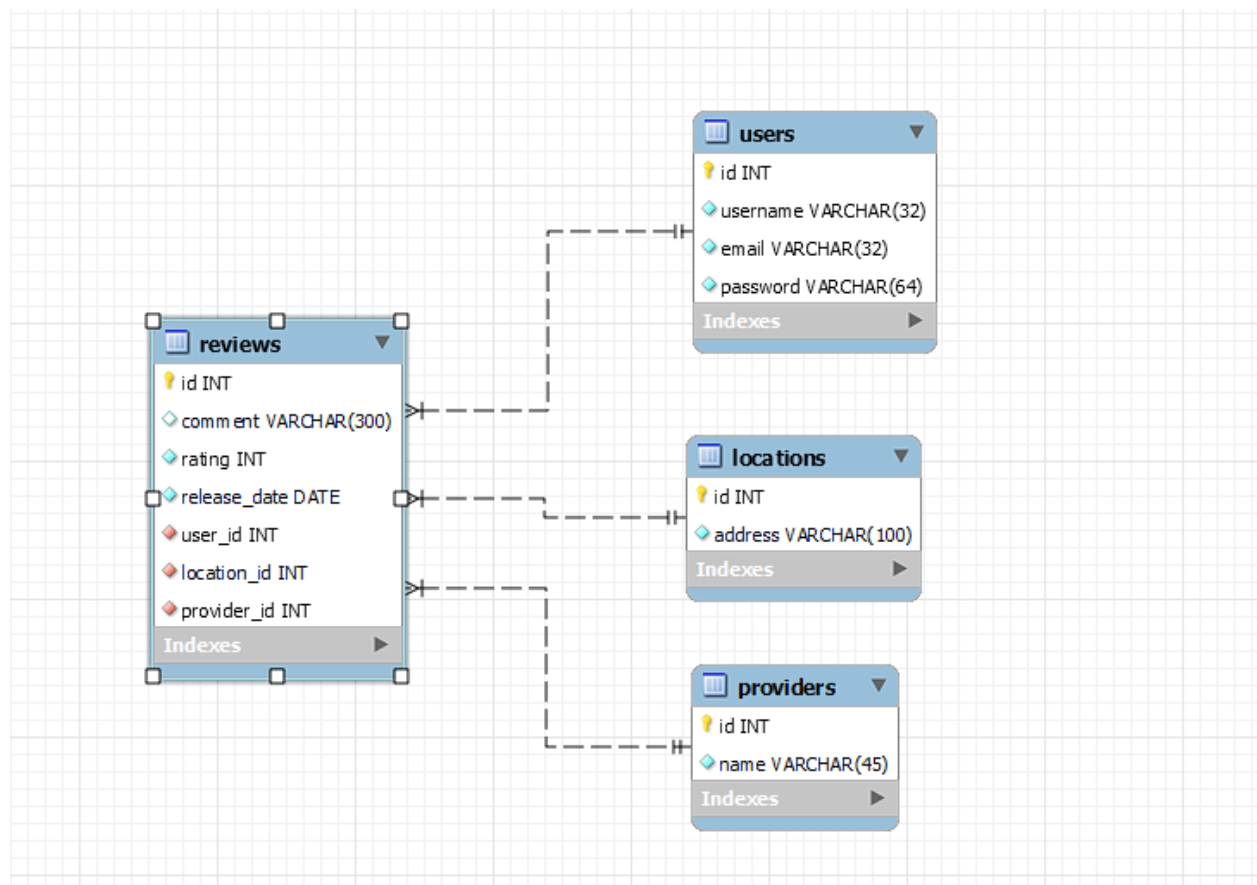
Password: uscItp2022

Source of Data

The source of my database comes from user created accounts who post reviews onto the site.

New data mainly comes through the “Write Your Own Review Page”, which is where users can write a new review on a location. Since reviews require logging in, they are linked to a user's id, and the date is recorded when a review is created or edited.

Database Diagram



Extras Used

- Implemented Extra #3 by generating random results when searching with no parameters given. This is coded on line 62 of **search_results.php**. Note that random results are not generated when one or more parameters are given from **search_form.php**.

- Implemented Extra #5 by using sessions/cookies (also extra #4) to keep track of whether or not users are logged in, and if they are an ADMIN. More specifically, everyone can browse the database. Logged in users can create, update, and delete their own reviews. ADMINS can create, update, and delete any review, even if it is not their own.
- Implemented Extra #7 by mailing a user their newly created review if they selected yes on “Email me my review” on **review_form.php**.