

GROUP 16: MILSESTONE 3

RIPPLE RECIPE SEARCH

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Technology overview:

We as a group were able to implement a recipe search website, we named Ripple. It is a platform that allows its users to search for and discover new recipes based on their ingredients and preferences. The website typically contains a database of ingredients that a user could select from and another of the recipes they match to, organized by the priority of the ingredients.

The website's front-end typically consists of a "homepage", "everyday items page", "ingredients search page" and a "get recipe page" all implemented using a combination of HTML, CSS style sheets and Java Script. We approached this implementation by hardcoding our database for both the ingredients and the recipes before then adding functions to be able to manipulate and interact with the data. We were then able to give the pages a functional, yet visually appealing with the help of some libraries like Google APIs and Font-awesome for the icons. Overall, our recipe search website "Ripple" is a valuable resource for home cooks, foodies and anyone looking for new recipe ideas. By leveraging search algorithms and user-friendly interfaces, the website makes it easy to find and discover delicious recipes that based on ingredients user want to use.

Design deviations and Evolutions:

From our paper prototype, on the get-recipe page, we wanted to display the ingredients chosen by the users openly on the page but upon implementation we decided to go with a basket containing the list of the ingredients the user has selected and have them make changes on the page. This evolution was made to reduce the cluster on the page and have users focus on a task at a time.

Another evolution we made was the addition of a description to the number of ingredients matched to a recipe which was just a fraction. But, upon feedback from a user on the paper prototype we made the change to add a worded description for an easier understanding of what the figure stands for by a user.

Usability “sales pitch”

1. Effectiveness: The webpage focuses on providing recipes to users based on the ingredients they select. This meets the effectiveness of usability. “Rapple” is doing what is generally says it will do.
2. Efficiency: The webpage is efficiency as it won’t spend too much time for a user to get recipes they want. There are only few steps users need to get their recipes: Find ingredients, add them to basket and click get recipe.
3. Safety: Users can undo their choice when they are selecting ingredients. And once user goes to the recipe page, they can go back to the previous page without rechose ingredients.
4. Utility: We provide a search bar which is sufficient to use by searching ingredients. On recipe page, we display the preview of recipes with image, name and ingredients users have out of recipe required. This allows users to quickly scan the search results and identify the recipes that match their needs. Also, recipes are sorted by ingredients you have compare with recipe requires and ranked from high to low.
5. Learnability: User won’t spend too much time learning how to use the website. When they move their mouse around, everything that they can interact with grows when the cursor hovers over it letting the user know that they can interact with that object. There are only few steps users need to get their recipes. Find ingredients, add them to cart and click get recipe. Homepage is shown like a kitchen, you can find your ingredients exactly as you do in real life. Even if you can’t find some ingredients, we provide you a search bar to ensure that you can find everything.

6. Memorability: The system is easy to remember. We named all buttons with what it can do so users will easily understand what each button used for. And we don't make the get recipe process to be complex. Select all ingredients you need and click get recipe, that's all users need to do. If you forget where the ingredients are, you can easily get them by search bar.