

## **Evaluation**

### Critique

#### Summary assessment from user's perspective

As a user, the use of AJAX to update the cart was an effective functionality that allowed the monitoring of what was inside the cart. Having the cart displayed to the right allows the user to immediately understand the purpose of the site, and allowing the user to add items to the cart without logging in makes the shopping experience easy. A user is only required to login only when submitting an order, and orders are saved automatically so a user can leave the shopping site and return to the same cart. A cart can also be emptied, so that a user can remove all items at once when needed.

The shopping cart is automatically updated, and concatenates the same items for easy readability. A remove button placed right next to the item also makes it convenient to remove items from the cart.

#### Summary assessment from developer's perspective

Separation of concerns by implementing different methods and validations in the relevant models and controllers meant that the whole application was very clean. User accounts were properly encrypted and authenticated, and stored with different 'types in the user database. Multiple controllers were used so that each controller had a minimal amount of methods; this was to ensure clarity in code. The use of adding items to line\_items in each cart, and adding these line\_items to an order was a good decision as it separated the cart from the order. This made it easier to add, remove and save items to the cart without messing up the order.

Overall, the generous use of controllers and controller methods made the application easy to understand, and allowed easy manipulation of database elements.

### Successful

1. Different user accounts to display different pages and control user access
2. Basic implementation of internationalization
3. Separating methods into multiple controllers for ease of use and understanding
4. Use of AJAX to asynchronously add and remove from cart to greatly improve user experience

### Unsuccessful

1. Cart sometimes show up in unneeded pages
2. Product descriptions are not internationalized as there is no option of allowing seller to do so

### Priorities for improvement

1. Make internationalization more flexible so that product descriptions and admin pages also offer this feature

2. Maybe allow multiple sellers so that different substores can be created.

### Reflection

The most successful aspect of the project was the use of multiple controllers to separate out the needed methods. This meant that adding and removing items to the cart, and submitting this cart as an order was simple and effective. I felt that I did a good job in satisfying the requirements, and created a shopping cart that was easy to use for both customer and seller.

The least successful aspect of my project was allowing product descriptions and admin access to also be internationalized. While most of the store was internationalized, I did not allow the seller the option of adding product descriptions in other languages, which was not ideal. The admin pages should also have the option of being internationalized.

What I've learnt and can improve on is to provide complete functionality, rather than the bare minimum. This allows for a more well rounded user experience.