Day 6: Deployment Preparation and Staging Environment Setup:

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Day 6 was all about getting my furniture commerce website, Furniva, ready for deployment. This is where I made sure everything works smoothly in a production-like environment before going live. Imagine it like preparing a car for a race—every part needs to be checked, tuned, and tested. Here's the breakdown of what I did, explained step-by-step.

Objective for Day 6:

Now onto the big task: preparing for deployment. The goal was to set up a staging environment—a place where I could test the application as if it were live but without affecting real users. I focused on ensuring the application runs seamlessly, figuring out deployment strategies, and documenting everything professionally.

Key Learning Outcomes:

By the end of Day 6, I achieved the following:

1. Set up and configured a staging environment for **Furniva**. This included:

   o Picking **Vercel** as the hosting platform.

   o Connecting my GitHub repository.

   o Configuring build and deployment settings to ensure successful staging builds.

   o Setting up environment variables securely within the hosting platform.

   o Validating the application functionality in a production-like environment to identify and resolve any pre-deployment issues.

Steps for Day 6 Implementation:

1. **Hosting Platform Setup:**
   First, I picked **Vercel** as the hosting platform. It's user-friendly and integrates well with GitHub. After linking my repository, I configured build settings and added scripts for deployment.

2. **Configuring Environment Variables:**
   Next, I secured sensitive information like API keys by:

   o   Creating a .env file to store variables locally.

   o   Uploading these variables securely to **Vercel's dashboard**.

3. **Deploying to Staging:**
   Once the configurations were done, I deployed the application to a staging environment. Here, I validated the deployment to ensure there were no build errors and everything functioned as expected.

4. **Staging Environment Testing:**
   Testing in the staging environment was crucial. I conducted:

   o   **Functional Testing:** Checked features like product listings, search, and cart operations.

   o   **Performance Testing:** Used Lighthouse to analyze speed and responsiveness.

   I documented every test case with details like steps, expected results, and actual outcomes in a CSV file.

By the end of the day, I delivered:

1. A fully functional staging environment for **Furniva**.

2. Securely configured environment variables.