SHELF SMART

ShelfSmart

User's Manual

Version 1.4

Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
09/4/24	1.0	Initial ideas, brainstorming requirements, and definitions.	Ansuman Sharma, Yadhunath Tharakeswaran, Shayaan Mohammed, Kundhana Pragnya.
12/4/24	1.1	Finalizing ideas, Declaring functions, Started with backend, initial codings.	Ansuman Sharma, Yadhunath Tharakeswaran, Shayaan Mohammed, Kundhana Pragnya.
14/4/24	1.2	Created the homepage of the website, working further in the backend, connecting to Restful API.	Ansuman Sharma, Yadhunath Tharakeswaran, Shayaan Mohammed, Kundhana Pragnya.
2/5/24	1.3	Testing the functionality of the website through some test cases, and making some final changes to the website before deployment.	Ansuman Sharma, Yadhunath Tharakeswaran, Shayaan Mohammed, Kundhana Pragnya.
2/5/24	1.4	Creating a user manual for the website and adding the final draft of the project to github.	Ansuman Sharma, Yadhunath Tharakeswaran, Shayaan Mohammed, Kundhana Pragnya.

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User manual

1.   Purpose

The purpose of this user manual is to provide users with a detailed roadmap for effectively utilizing Shelf-Smart's functionalities. By offering clear instructions, step-by-step guides, and troubleshooting tips, this manual aims to enhance users' understanding of the platform and enable them to harness its full potential. Whether you're entering ingredients, exploring recipe recommendations, or customizing your culinary creations, this manual serves as your go-to resource for making the most of Shelf-Smart. Additionally, by fostering user proficiency and confidence, this manual contributes to a seamless and enjoyable experience, ensuring that Shelf-Smart remains your ultimate culinary companion for years to come.

2.   Introduction

Welcome to the Shelf-Smart User Manual, your comprehensive guide to navigating and maximizing the capabilities of our innovative recipe creation platform. In today's fast-paced world, where time is often limited and resources are precious, Shelf-Smart empowers users to unleash their culinary creativity using the ingredients already available in their pantry. Whether you're a seasoned chef or a novice in the kitchen, Shelf-Smart provides a user-friendly interface and a wealth of features designed to simplify the recipe creation process and inspire culinary adventures

3.   Getting started

Accessing Shelf-Smart:
- Open any web browser on your device.
- In the address bar, type in "www.shelf-smart.com" and press Enter.
- You will be directed to the Shelf-Smart website's homepage.

Exploring the Interface:
- Upon reaching the homepage, you'll find a user-friendly interface designed to assist you in creating recipes with the ingredients you have in your pantry.
- Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the layout, which includes sections for entering ingredients, managing pantry items, and viewing recommended recipes.

Entering Ingredients:
- To get started, click on the designated section for entering ingredients.
- Input the ingredients you have available in your pantry one by one. You can type the name of the ingredient and specify additional details such as quantity, expiry date, and type if desired.
- After entering each ingredient, click on the "Add" or "Save" button to store it in your pantry.

Saving Pantry Items:
- If you have recurring ingredients in your pantry, you can save them for future use. Once you've entered an ingredient, you can choose to save it for quick access in subsequent recipe creations.

Generating Recipe Recommendations:
- After entering your ingredients, Shelf-Smart will analyze the data and generate three recommended recipes based on the available ingredients in your pantry.
- Browse through the recommended recipes to find one that suits your preferences and the ingredients you have on hand.

Choosing a Recipe:
- Review the details of each recommended recipe, including ingredients, preparation steps, and any additional notes provided.

- Select the recipe that appeals to you the most and fits the ingredients you currently have available.

Experimenting and Customization:
- Don't hesitate to experiment with different ingredient combinations and quantities to discover new recipes tailored to your taste preferences and pantry contents.
- Feel free to explore additional features and functionalities offered by Shelf-Smart to enhance your cooking experience.

4.   Advanced features

Save and Load Pantry Items:
- Shelf-Smart offers users the ability to save their pantry inventory for future use. This feature allows users to store the list of ingredients they have entered, along with associated details such as quantity, expiry date, and type. Users can then reload their saved pantry items at a later time, eliminating the need to re-enter ingredients each time they visit the website. This feature enhances user convenience and streamlines the recipe creation process.

Recipe Customization:
- Shelf-Smart offers advanced recipe customization options to cater to individual preferences and dietary restrictions. Users can adjust recipe quantities, substitute ingredients, or exclude specific items based on personal preferences or ingredient availability. This flexibility empowers users to tailor recipes to their liking and accommodate various dietary needs or culinary preferences.

5.   Troubleshooting

Website Loading Issues:
- Problem: Unable to access Shelf-Smart website or experiencing slow loading times.
- Solution: Check your internet connection and try refreshing the page. If the issue persists, clear your browser cache or try accessing the website from a different browser or device.

Ingredient Entry Errors:
- Problem: Having trouble inputting ingredients into Shelf-Smart or experiencing errors while saving pantry items.
- Solution: Double-check the spelling of ingredients and ensure all required fields are filled correctly. If encountering errors while saving, try refreshing the page and re-entering the information.

Recipe Recommendations Not Generated
- Problem: After entering ingredients, not receiving any recipe recommendations.
- Solution: Ensure that you have entered at least a few ingredients and that they are spelled correctly. If still not receiving recommendations, try adjusting the quantities or types of ingredients entered to broaden the search criteria.

Difficulty Navigating Interface:
- Problem: Finding it challenging to navigate Shelf-Smart's interface.
- Solution: Take a moment to familiarize yourself with the layout and sections of the website. If needed, refer back to the user manual or reach out to our support team for assistance.

Error Messages or Unexpected Behavior:
- Problem: Encountering error messages or unexpected behavior while using Shelf-Smart.

- Solution: Take note of any error messages received and try to replicate the issue. If the problem persists, reach out to our support team for further assistance, providing as much detail as possible about the issue encountered.

Compatibility Issues:

- Problem: Shelf-Smart not functioning correctly on certain browsers or devices.
- Solution: Ensure you are using a supported browser and that your device meets the minimum system requirements. If experiencing compatibility issues, try accessing Shelf-Smart from a different browser or device.

Account-related Problems:

- Problem: Issues related to account creation, login, or accessing saved pantry items.
- Solution: Check your internet connection and ensure you are entering the correct login credentials. If encountering issues with saved pantry items, try logging out and logging back in or clearing your browser cookies.

6.   Examples

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Shelf-Smart Menu:
1. Add Ingredient
2. Display Inventory
3. Recommend Recipes
4. Exit
Enter your choice: 1
Enter ingredient name: Bread
Enter quantity: 1
Enter quantity type (lbs/tsp/count): count
Enter expiry date (YYYY-MM-DD): 2025-05-04
Enter category (1 = meat, 2 = grain, 3 = vegetable, 4 = spice): 2
Enter calories (optional, 0 for none): 0
Ingredient added successfully!

Shelf-Smart Menu:
1. Add Ingredient
2. Display Inventory
3. Recommend Recipes
4. Exit
Enter your choice: 2
Inventory:
- Bread (1 count) - Expires on 2025-05-04

Shelf-Smart Menu:
1. Add Ingredient
2. Display Inventory
3. Recommend Recipes
4. Exit
Enter your choice: 3

Personalized Recommendations:

Shelf-Smart Menu:
1. Add Ingredient
2. Display Inventory
3. Recommend Recipes
4. Exit
Enter your choice: 4
Exiting the program. Goodbye!
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7.   Glossary of terms

Refer to the project glossary document

8.   FAQ

Do I need to create an account to access Shelf-Smart?

- No, you can access Shelf-Smart directly from the website without the need to create an account.

Can I save my recipes for later reference?

-   Yes, Shelf-Smart allows you to save your favorite recipes for future reference.

How does Shelf-Smart recommend recipes?

-   Shelf-Smart recommends recipes based on the ingredients available in your pantry. By inputting your pantry supplies, the platform generates personalized recipe suggestions tailored to your available

How often are new recipes added to Shelf-Smart?

-   New recipes are regularly added to Shelf-Smart to provide users with a diverse range of options. The platform continuously updates its recipe database to offer fresh and exciting culinary ideas.

Is Shelf-Smart free to use?

-   Yes, Shelf-Smart is free to use. There are no subscription fees or hidden charges associated with accessing the platform and its features.

How secure is my pantry data on Shelf-Smart?

-   Shelf-Smart takes user privacy and data security seriously. Your pantry data is encrypted and stored securely, ensuring that only you have access to your inventory information.

Can I export my pantry inventory or recipe collection?

-   Yes, Shelf-Smart offers the option to export your pantry inventory and save recipes for backup or offline access. Simply navigate to the export feature within the platform to download your data in a compatible format.