onlyPans.com

case study

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idm232 scripting

Fiery Kung Pao Chicken

Kick up the heat in your weeknight dinner rotation with this flavorful Kung Pao Chicken that'll make you forget about takeout.

Baked Pepper Jack Quinoa Skillet

If you like a broccoli and cheese casserole, you'll love this nourishing skillet bake with only six ingredients.

Mushroom Chicken Skillet with Herbed Cream Sauce

White miso is the secret ingredient in this creamy chicken thigh recipe, perfect to warm you up on chilly nights.

overview

Using HTML/CSS and PHP, I created onlyPans.com, a site for meals that can be made in just one pan or skillet. My site is focused on making cooking fun and quick for users, and I wanted that to be carried over to the admin side as well. In the backend, adding, editing, and deleting recipes are all efficient processes because of the server-side technology. I had a lost of fun designing and branding this site, and learned how database management can be integrated to improve digital experiences for both users and administrators.

context

Over the course of the 10-week term, we were tasked to combine our knowledge of HTML/CSS with PHP to create a functional site to store and display recipes. Instead of individually coding every recipe, we learned how to create "templates" and utilize an SQL database to quickly and efficiently input, edit, and delete information. These changes would be visible on "templates" we created and styled with HTML/CSS. Users can interact with the site and administrators can effortlessly keep information displayed up to date.

process

I went through a lot of changes with my designs and layout, but the timeline and process helped me progress even when I wanted to implement major changes. First, using Figma, I created an alpha design for the layout and visuals of my site. This was used as a guide for the rest of the term. Establishing the interface early on allowed me to focus on learning PHP and scripting solutions for proper functionality.

I changed my site from a "cakery" site, to a site for simple one-pan recipes. I still referred to my original designs for inspiration, but with Tailwind, I was quickly able to create new components and elements to better represent my new idea.

The next few weeks were focused on building, problem solving, getting familiar with mySQL, and working with input and forms.

problem solving

The bulk of my issues had to do with the syntax of PHP and simple mistypings. This was my first time using PHP and found myself making very small mistakes that would completely break the functionality of the entire site. By thoroughly reading through every line and using Visual Studio Code's "replace in files" feature, I was able to fix these problems. This project was a test of my patience, but in a way that improved my ability to problem solve via trial and error.

solution & results

The end result was a fully functional website coded with a combination of HTML, CSS, and PHP. A database in the backend creates efficient processes for keeping the site up to date without even going into the code.

When the page first loads, users can use the search feature if they have an idea of the type of meal they want to make. For a user unsure or just browsing, they can view all the recipes with the link in the navigation bar that says "view all recipes". Once they find a recipe of interest to them, they are directed to the recipe details page where the actual recipe is displayed.

For administrators, or someone overseeing the content management of onlyPans.com, the UX of the database management has also been considered. Simply use the link at the very bottom of the home page titled "admin access". From there, a table will appear with an image of the dish and the name of the recipe as well. Administrators can either add a new recipe or edit a preexisting one. Both actions will direct to a form to type a recipe title, image path, servings, total time, description, ingredients, and instructions. Or if they no longer want a certain recipe to be visible, they can delete it right from the recipe table.

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