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Project Proposal and Specifications Draft:

The Cookbook (thecookbook.com)

Problem Statement:

Users do not have an environment to share personal or unique food recipes with the rest of the world.

Objective:

Create an open environment/social network that empowers users with the ability to publish their own recipes and to share them with friends, family, and the rest of the world.

Description of end product:

The product will be a .NET web application powered by a Windows Server instance (for now). This product will be accessible through an Internet browser. The reason why we need this recipe network is because other recipe websites do not harness the creativity and ingenuity of everyday citizens. Most of these recipe sites use external vendors and popular restaurant chains to populate their databases. In contrast, the content of the project will be entirely user-generated. Users will be able to upload videos and pictures, and have followers. There will be a “newsfeed” aspect, in which the people you follow’s posts will show up. Categories of recipes will be user-generated, via a custom tagging system.

Importance/Need:

There is no existing product that we are aware of that fosters an extensive Facebook-like social network for recipe sharing. This product would also fill a need for users to be able to access their “cookbook” from any device.

Similar Systems and Why Our Project Is Innovative:

Most recipe sites (allrecipes.com) have a user system and a forum aspect (ratings/comments), but they do not facilitate a fun Facebook/Pinterest type sharing environment, where users can build a follower-base.

Additionally, many popular recipe sites (foodnetwork.com) support and popularize “third party” contributors rather than the everyday user.

Technologies:

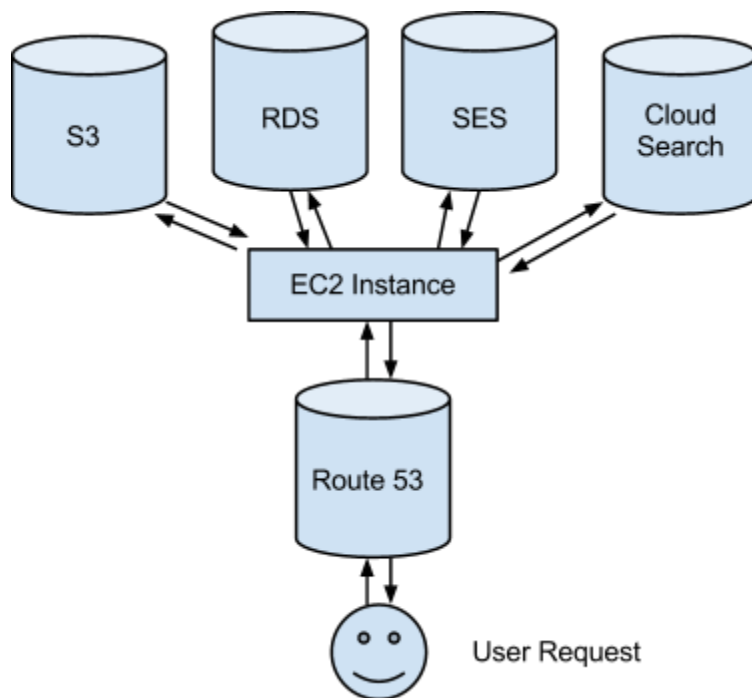
- ASP.NET MVC4
- MSSQL (via RDS)

- AWS (EC2, S3, Route 53, RDS, SES, CloudSearch)
- Visual Studio 2012
- HTML/CSS
- Javascript

Computer Science Concepts:

- Model-View-Controller Architecture
- Software Engineering Process
- Modularity
- Database Design/Management

Diagrammatic Representation of System Boundary:



Services:

- EC2: Used to run a Microsoft Server instance that would run the web application
- Route 53: Sets up the DNS information for our server
- RDS: Runs a Microsoft SQL Server instance to store recipes and other information
- S3: Used to store large files, such as pictures
- SES: Sends email notifications to users
- Cloud Search: Manages search functions

Links:

Wiki: <http://borowsky333.github.com/cookbook>

Gantt Chart: <http://www.tomsplanner.com/public/cookbook/>