



Overview

CarbSense is a health focused site that provides 40 unique and delicious recipes to browse through with separate administrative abilities to add, delete, and edit recipes. The goal of this development project was to utilize PHP to create fully functioning front-end and back-end platforms for users and administrators to easily navigate.

Context & Challenge

Background

PHP is very popular for fast and efficient web development and so it is a great scripting language to become familiar with. To learn the language, I decided to create a recipe website that is powered by PHP and SQL queries in order to grasp its capabilities.

Description

Over these last 10 weeks, I took it upon myself, working individually, to combine PHP, SQL, HTML, CSS, and Javascript to create and develop a recipe site, CarbSense, with front-end visual appeal that displays recipes and back-end admin capabilities to create, edit, and delete recipe data.

The Problem

I have experience with MySQL and several other back-end languages and scripting languages, so adding another language with its own unique syntax was a little bit of a challenge. Sometimes I mixed up other syntax I was familiar with since PHP is so new to me. However,

having experience with MySQL and other languages in general was actually quite helpful when implementing PHP into my website.

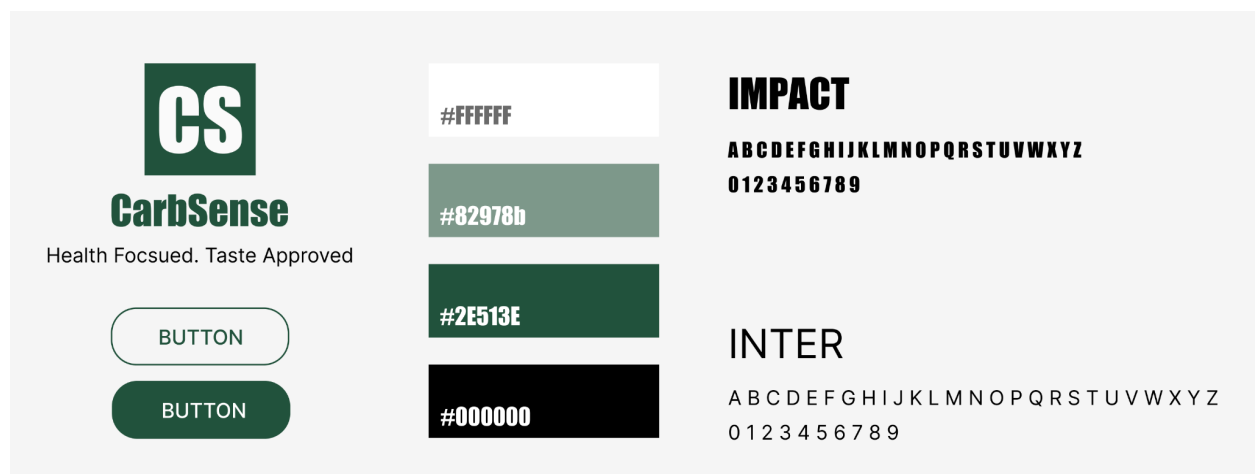
Goals & Objectives

- Successfully display, create, add, and manipulate data using SQL queries and PHP
- Combine JS, HTML, CSS, and PHP for a visually appealing & efficient front-end display
- Become more comfortable with databases and SQL queries and its relation to PHP
- Learn and understand PHP to implement its fundamentals within my website

Process & Insight

Style Ideation

I created an initial style tile to establish a color palette and typography set. I use a simple palette, since images of food have various different colors. CarbSense is health focused, so green is the primary color. For typography, I wanted a bold font for headers and a simple and readable font for copy and button text.



Page Designs

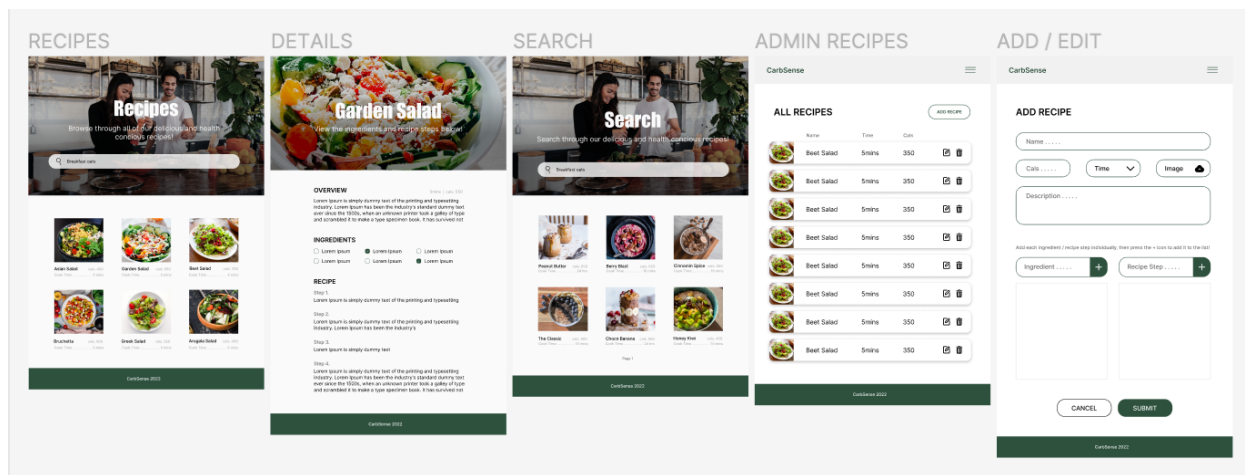
Customer Facing

I created a card style grid system for the recipes for efficient organization. I also have the search bar on the recipe page even though there is a separate search page, since it is a common functionality available on most major pages.

For the recipe details page, I wanted a simple display, so just a quick overview with cook time and calories, followed by the ingredients and recipe steps.

Administration

I created a simple table style for displaying all recipes to quickly view simple information as well as the ability to edit and delete recipes within the row. Additionally, I have the same layout for the create and edit pages so that there is consistency for usability.



Changes

Layout of the admin create / edit pages is a single column and checkboxes are removed from ingredients section in the customer facing recipe details page due to learning more about data input and WYSIWYG fields

Development

Alpha

I coded my pages out in HTML and CSS according to my design before incorporating PHP so that I could learn some of the fundamentals and syntax before diving in head first. Simultaneously I was learning about databases and refreshing myself with SQL queries to prepare myself for adding in PHP and accessing my data.

Beta

I set up my database in PHPmyadmin with my recipes and corresponding information such as title, image, calories, cook time, overview, ingredients, and recipe steps. After setting up main files such as .env, app.php, helper-functions.php, etc., I filled in my pages that had standard HTML structure with PHP paired with SQL queries to access data, and styled my page according to my designs.

The Solution

I feel that my goal for CarbSense to be simple and efficient while showcasing the fundamental functions of PHP, integrated with SQL, was accomplished. My original visions for all of my pages

were carried out and refined based on what I learned over these 10 weeks. I had to make some compromises regarding the dynamic input fields and display of ingredients and recipe steps based on my knowledge of data input, but in the end I now know how to design better with these findings in mind. In the future I would like to incorporate a login system for the admin side of things to push my knowledge of PHP.

[View CarbSense Here](#)

The Results

The final implementation of CarbSense combines my knowledge of HTML, CSS, Javascript, SQL, and PHP to create a dynamic and responsive recipe site that caters to the customer facing and admin facing ends of the website. I feel that I was able to fully accomplish my goals and deliver a successful product.

I learned a lot about debugging and its role in the development process as a whole. Additionally I saw PHP's ability to function as a front-end and back-end language to create a dynamic full functioning website. I also learned first hand how to organize 20+ files in thought out folders and subsections, as well as make use of GitHub and my repo to keep track of my changes and updates.

Overall, I learned about the design and development process as a whole and feel more confident in my organization, debugging, and scripting skills as a developer.