

Specification, Prototype, & Design

Dan Rix | CS 371

Executive Summary

The meal planning web app enables users to be quick and creative in their meal planning by adding and updating meals to drag and drop onto their meal calendar.

Persona

Jackie is a 35 year old stay at home mom who loathes monthly meal planning because she lacks the time and drive it takes to plan out her monthly meal calendar. She usually pencils into her calendar the dinners her family will eat for the coming month wishing the process could be quicker.

Scenario

Through her Google Chrome browser, Jackie opens the meal planning web app which shows this month's meal calendar. With a single click she goes to the next month. She adds several meals to the calendar by dragging them from her list of meals and dropping them on the appropriate days. Having seen a cool new recipe on Pinterest she creates a new meal, adds the recipe info and then drags the newly created meal onto her calendar. Done! She has a great looking calendar with a new promising meal, knowing her family will enjoy dinner this month.

Evaluation Criteria

Priority 1: Jackie needs to be able to fill out her monthly meal plan while possibly creating new meals in an hour (Efficiency).

Priority 1: Jackie needs a way to create new meals quickly with a few keystrokes and clicks (Efficiency).

Priority 1: Jackie needs to be able to view the entire month's meals (Visibility).

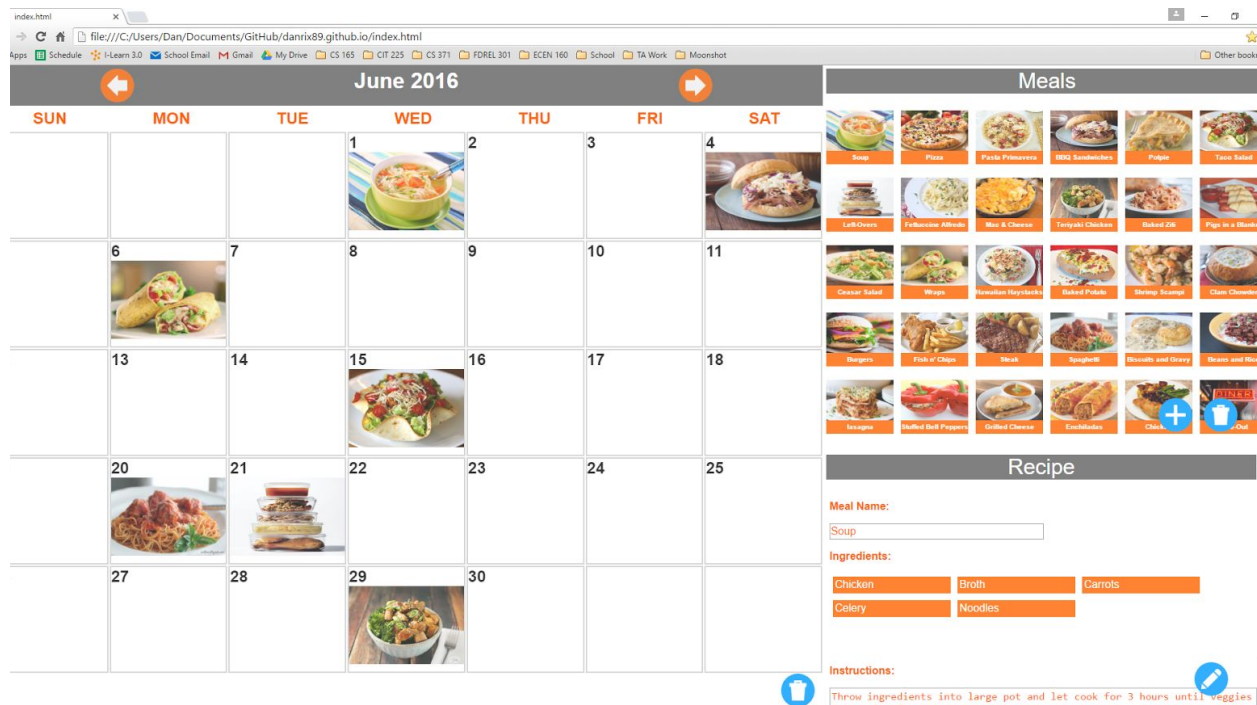
Priority 1: Jackie needs to see saved meal information: meal name, ingredients, and recipe instructions (Visibility).

Priority 2: Jackie should be familiar enough with the meal planning interface to be able to navigate through, add/remove items, and see meal data (Familiarity & Learnability).

Priority 3: Jackie would like a more appealing interface to make this mundane process more fun (Motivation).

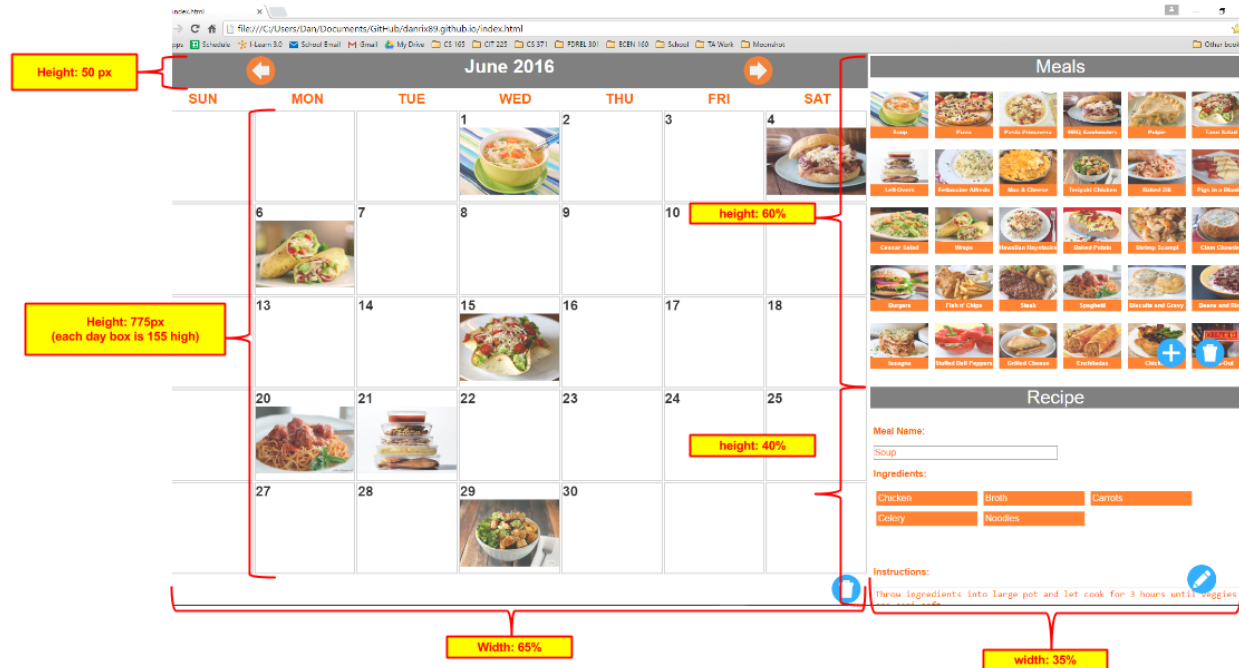
Prototype

Meal planner interface:



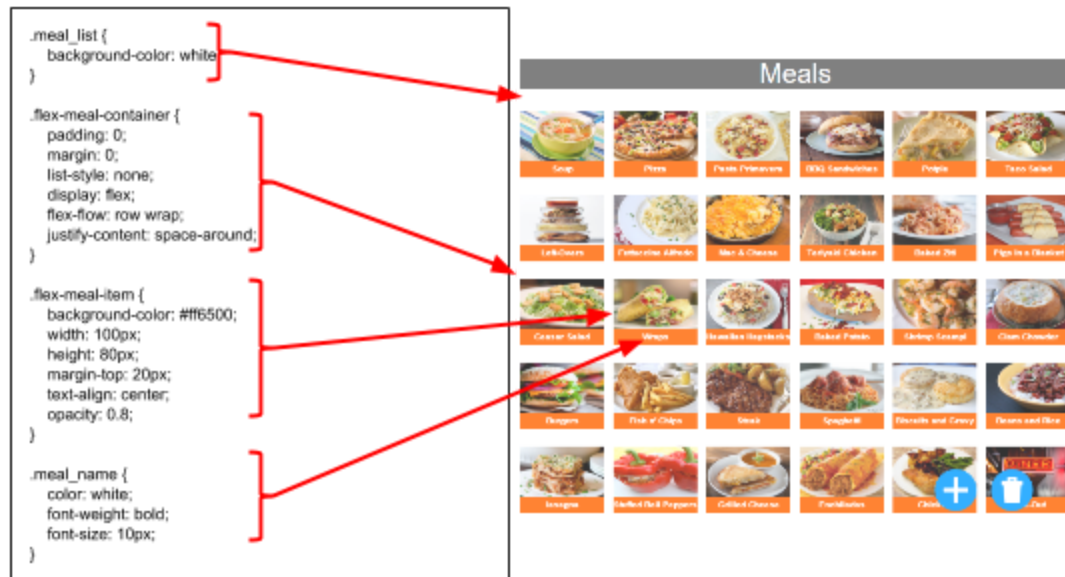
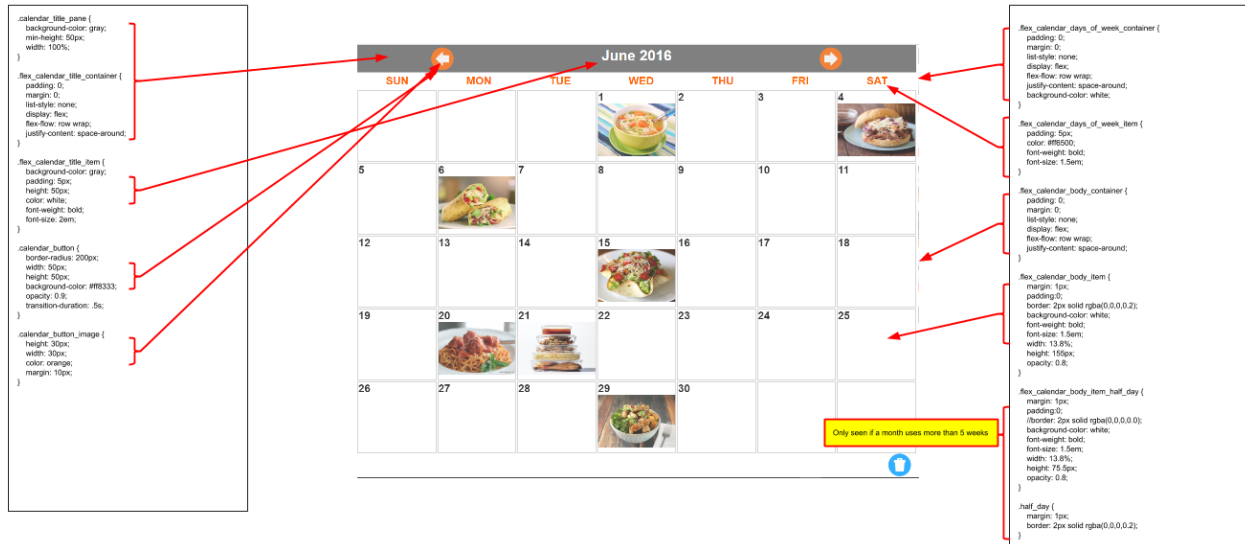
Detailed Design

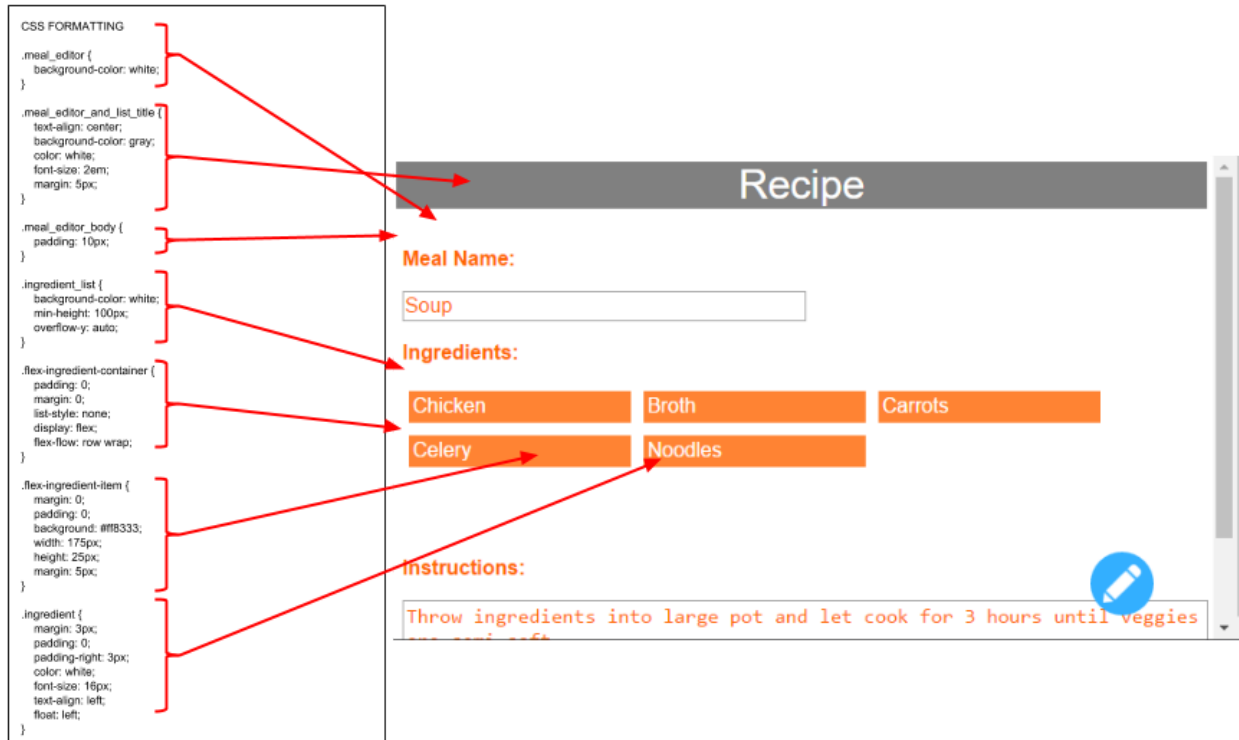
Layout Measurements & Styling:



Overall Schemes (NOT IN EDIT MODE):

- All fonts font-family: Arial
- Only 5 colors used: #ff8333 (orange color), #33afff (blue color), white, gray, & black
- Circle button size properties: (w50px / h50px)



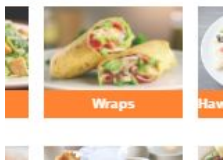
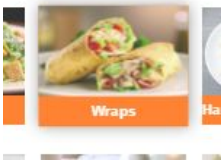
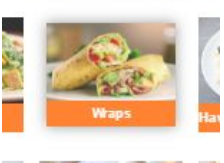
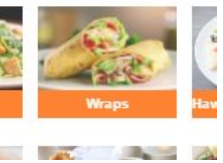
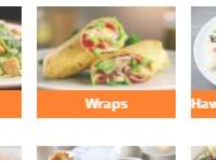
























Edit Mode vs. Non-Edit Mode Views:

Non-Edit Mode Recipe View	Edit Mode Recipe View

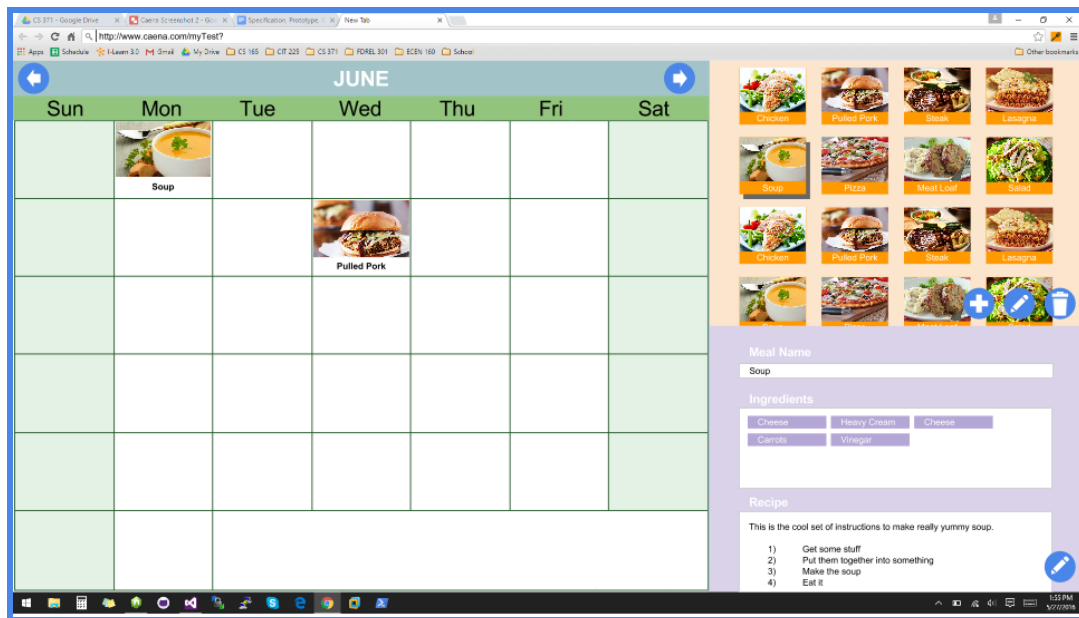
Buttons:

Button	Hover	Clicked (active)	Edit mode	Non edit mode
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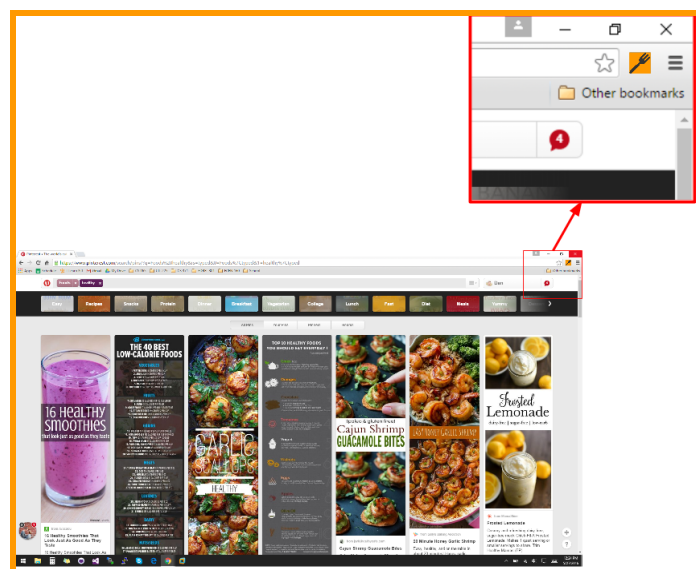
				
 til vegg	 til vegg	 til vegg	 til vegg	 til vegg
 ours unt	 ours unt	 ours unt	 ours unt	N / A
				
Chicken	Chicken	Chicken	Chicken x	Chicken
			N / A	
				N / A

Appendix A: Previous Designs

The color scheme changed after our class learning about color theory. The colors shown below obviously clash and needed to be changed. I also removed the “pen” button from the meal list pane (round blue button with the pen image in the orange pane next the the garbage button). The button was redundant since it existed below in the meal recipe pane.



Another great feature that had to be cut due to time constraints was the Google Chrome extension. This extension was meant to parse a currently viewed page and extract recipe information that would then be saved to the user's list of meals to be used as a new meal.



Appendix B: Usability Plan / Testing Cautions

It is very important to note that the website is ONLY a working prototype. Meaning, users can interact with the web app but their changes and interactions only last during the page session. If they click to another site or close the browser their changes will be lost. This is due to the fact that I do not have a good enough server to host the website with proper back-end support. Since the point of this project is to design interfaces, the focus has been put on the interface design and functionality not the overall ability to save data over a long period of time.

Appendix C: Specification History

A few items changed since the last draft of the specification. The executive summary changed to exclude the meal parsing Google Chrome extension. The scenario also changed to exclude the use of the Google Chrome extension. Lastly the images and design details were updated to the now implemented prototype.