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Project 4
CS 3744 GUI

PC Helper

The team decided to move on Ben Woodford's idea from the previous project. This was done after briefly meeting and discussing our different projects. The idea behind our application is to help users build their own desktop computer. The team decided to use this particular idea, however we decided to start the code over from scratch. We had more experience from when the projects were submitted initially and wanted to make improvements from the original projects. For example the views were redone to look better. The controllers were consolidated into one controller that was able to handle everything. The database was also built upon to add more features from the previous projects. The current location of the system is http://ec2-52-36-182-247.us-west-2.compute.amazonaws.com/.

The function of this system is to provide a database of computer parts that the user can look through to build his or her desktop computer. The application currently holds parts for a CPU, video card, motherboard, memory, and storage. The user will be able to filter by part type. The browse parts page will have a drop down menu to filter the types of parts. Each part listed has a price, which is pulled using an Amazon API. The user will be able to add a particular part of a build he or she is working on. The user can select his or her current build using the drop down menu available on the browse parts page. The user will be able to create and work on as many builds and he or she would like.

The user will also be able to view all of the builds he or she are currently working on. The browse builds page will have a drop down menu to select what build he or she would like to view. This will display the different part types and the particular part the user has picked for that part type if he or she has selected on yet. This view will also display the total price of that build.

The application also has a currency converter available. The user will be able to input a price US dollars, UK pounds, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars, and Japanese yen. The user will be able to select what currency to convert into. The system will display the converted value for the user-inputted value. We wanted to include the function to allow users from different regions of the world to use the application and be able to get help building his or her desktop computer.

Above and Beyond:

For this project we updated the CSS to dramatically improve the appearance. The original application had limited CSS. In this iteration, more attention was paid to the aesthetics of the system. We added color and paid more attention to how items were oriented on the screen. We also decided to create 3 databases: users, parts, and builds. The application could work with just users and parts database. However, we wanted to give the application more capabilities for the user. Also, the monetary converter utilizes additional JavaScript to convert difference currencies.