Appraisal

7.1 Design Decisions

7.1.1 Authentication of User Many websites offer features and restricted access areas to users who are authenticated and therefore require users to be registered on their website. This was adopted for Restaurant X with the restricted areas mentioned in Chapter Five. With the user logged in, i.e. authenticated, the navigation bar menu items change. The “Log in” option changes to a “Hello {username}” and acts as a dropdown menu for the “User Profile” webpage and “Log Off” option. The “Cart” menu item also appears to the authenticated user which they can access to see any items that they have added to their cart. This can be seen in Figures 40 and 41.

7.1.2 User Profile As with most websites, if a user has been required to register on a website they should be able to view their profile which displays their personal information. Therefore an option was implemented for the user to view their profile. This was built into a dropdown menu in order to save space in the main navigation bar. This can be seen in Figure 42.

Figure 40 – Non-Authenticated User Navigation Bar View

Figure 41 – Authenticated User Navigation Bar View

Figure 42 – Example of Profile view

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7.1.3 Google Maps API To aid the user in locating each branch of Restaurant X, a Google Maps API was implemented in the Locations webpage. Each branch’s address was selected to be located inside a shopping centre and the longitude and latitude coordinates of these shopping centres were found. These coordinates were used for the JavaScript code in order to display an interactive Google Map for each branch including a marker to pinpoint the exact location. An example of the JavaScript can be seen in Figure 43 while the results of the code can be seen in Figure 44 for the Aberdeen branch.

7.1.4 Calendar Date Picker As the online Booking system requires the user to select a date as part of the Booking form, in order to make the process of picking a date more dynamic, a Calendar Date Picker feature was implemented using JQuery. The calendar view is more user friendly and displays days of the week as well as the date. The user simply selects a date and the Date field will automatically populate in date format for the user. This can be seen in Figure 45 below.

Figure 43 – JavaScript code to implement Google Maps

Figure 44 – Result of JavaScript in Figure 43

Figure 45– JQuery Calendar Date Picker

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7.2 Changes to initial designs and requirements

7.2.1 Use Case Specifications Use Case Specification 3 (Book a table online) initially asked the user to fill in three fields – number of people, time, and date. During development, this did not appear to be sufficient information from the user therefore additional fields were added including – booking name, email, phone number, and location.

Initially in Use Case Specification 7, 8 and 9, the administrator was to use the same login portal as the customer to the main website to gain access to the back end of the website in order to perform CRUD operations. With the built-in feature of Django, as mentioned in Chapter Five, the administrator has their own login portal to manage all users, bookings and online orders.

7.2.2 Online Order System The cart for the online ordering system had initially been designed to be displayed on the same page as the list of products so that users could keep track of what they have ordered (Figure 4). However due to time constraints this could not be implemented and therefore a separate web page was built instead to list all added items.

7.2.3 Highlighting the current page As mentioned in Chapter 4, a recommendation was made to highlight the navigation menu item in order to let the user know where they were in the website. This was a simple yet useful feature to implement using Bootstrap’s class=”active” syntax on an unordered list item. The code and result of the feature can be seen in Figures 46 and 47 below.

Figure 46 – Navigation bar menu code to highlight current page

Figure 47 – Result of code in Figure 46

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7.3 Wider Context The aim of the Restaurant X website was to create a website with an online reservation system and online food ordering system. This project and its website can be used in a wider context in future for the following reasons: • The website contains generic web pages such as Contact and Locations which are easily adaptable to any project. Additional webpages could be added as part of the navigation bar. • The booking system could be changed and adapted for an appointments or meetings booking system. • The online shop lists all products available sorted by categories. The types of products and categories can all be changed to reflect the type of products on offer by any company. • Each product’s name is hyperlinked to a more detailed page where a description can be found. There is also the option to add images to each detailed page to give the user a visual representation of the product.

7.4 Self-Appraisal While a schedule was produced at the start of this project, as mentioned in Chapter Three, during the course of this project, the schedule proved difficult to follow and milestones were not always met on time. This was, for the most part, due to unforeseeable difficulties while developing the website. This included importing pre-existing HTML files with finalised stylings applied to the Django Project. Once imported, some stylings of the HTML were incorrect due to the path files to where Django stores its CSS files.

It was also decided that the Bootstrap library would be adopted into the project during mid development in order to make the website mobile friendly. This proved to be a difficult adoption due to the pre-existing stylings within the project meaning restyling was necessary for the second time in the project. It would have been advantageous to have adopted Bootstrap from the beginning to avoid restyling again.

While these difficulties were overcome, this did lead to delays in developing and implementing other features of the website. Having gone through the whole process of this project, with hindsight, it would have been beneficial to have implemented more slack time to certain parts of the project to accommodate unforeseeable situations that caused a delay and also set out longer durations for the bigger features such as the online ordering system as these took longer to develop.

Despite all the issues encountered, this project gave me the opportunity to learn a new skill of developing a fully operational, dynamic website and database, to learn new programming languages, and to experience working with a Framework like Django. With these skills, I was able to successfully implement an online booking and food ordering system which test participants were able to successfully use.