

Self Design Critique

Summary assessment from user's perspective

The site is pretty straightforward to use, and the page flow is relatively smooth. The informational messages at the top of each page are helpful in guiding the user along and confirming their actions. However, currently, no error messages are displayed if the user enters invalid login/registration information. This is confusing and should be implemented. Email validation would also be helpful.

An additional useful feature would be the ability to select a quantity before adding an item to the cart, to save the user an extra step in case s/he wishes to purchase more than one.

On the shopkeeper front, it would be nice if the shopkeeper were redirected to the admin page upon login instead of the shopper home page. It would also be nice for the shopkeeper to have some way of keeping track of orders, whether by having a "status" column where they can mark the order as "processed" or "shipped," for example, or even just the option to delete an order.

Summary assessment from developer's perspective

The code, for the most part, is well-structured. The model-updating methods are nicely separated from the controller methods. Perhaps it might have been wise to have a controller specific for admin functions; however, all admin functions have a `before_filter` applied to them which authenticate the admin status of the user before allowing them to view the page.

Most and least successful design decisions

Most successful – creating the item model as a snapshot of the products class, with a separate price column that is subject to change. Creating the order model as a class with a one-to-one relationship with a cart, so that most of the cart's attributes can be accessed through the association.

Least successful - limited shopkeeper capabilities in dealing with orders

Analysis of design faults in terms of design principles

The reuse of code in the layouts for the admin and shopper views is not very DRY. Ideally there would be a `shopper.html.erb` which, along with `admin.html.erb`, would inherit from `application.html.erb`, which would contain all the common code.

Priorities for improvement

Fix redirects upon login (redirect to last page if visited, redirect to admin page if admin). Implement cookie expiration so that items in carts cannot be reserved forever, since quantity in stock is decremented when items are added to the cart. Add form validation and error checking for login/registration form.