Specification

On receiving the project my first task was understand the key functions of the system and the different types of users for the system, such as the clients and the client’s customers. I then decided on the perception of the product and how it will look in the clients browser, this led me to start the overall file/ folder structure and HTML and CSS basics to create a shell to which I would add ‘features’.

MySQL and its integration with HTTP through PHP was an important foundation feature that is needed throughout development, I therefore prioritised this. Continuing with PHP, I then made the functions that would implement the key features of the system (e.g. add products, remove products) I then called these within HTML and made sure the PHP was correct and reliable for when I introduce new AJAX requests. Alongside this I began to implement minor Javascript functions to aid users, such as showing and hiding feature on events.

The features began with adding new products to the database. I started with forms that the client would input the products information along with an image. Then I looked into ways of posting the form data to the php files that would be kept server side. My first approach was posting the form data using PHP on the client side, this resulting in the page large amounts of data send when only a small amount was actually necessary. I solved this with AJAX requests from my Javascript functions. This framework is used for the majority of the features of the project including: Display/ Add/ Edit/ Remove Products, Add/ Remove Categories.

What turned out to be my final task was the Basket, I decided upon an approach using Cookies to store the temporary basket data, instead of using MySQL database entries. Resulting in faster loading as less is being done on the server side.