

The following piece, titled Product Summary is from a much larger document detailing the design and implementation of a senior student group project. Product Summary is intended to communicate the practical value of a fully functional website our group built to a non-technical audience.

Product Summary

“SFSU Congre-Gators Market” is a website for SFSU students to buy and sell goods. Congre-Gators is intended to be a hub for students in need of offloading items for cash to link up up to other students in need of picking up used goods at an affordable price.

The home page at Congre-Gators displays the most recently posted items. Users may browse these items or explore other item listings via the search bar without being logged-in. This functionality is akin to “window shopping” and allows the user to peruse the website on an informal trial basis before deciding to register if they haven’t already done so. Users can sort items by price, date and name.

Each posted item presents an opportunity to purchase it by presenting an easily visible button labeled ‘Buy’. Upon attempting to purchase an item, if a user is not already logged in, they will be informed that they must log-in to purchase an item.

Users are also invited to sell items via the button “sell” displayed in the top right corner. Selecting sell will redirect a user to a page where they may upload item images, and write descriptions of their items and set a price. As with buy, when a user who is not logged-in attempts to upload any data they will be informed they must log-in to do so.

Users will have easy access to either log-in or register with the website. Upon logging in, a visitor will be redirected back to the most recently visited page before logging-in. Upon registration, a user will also be redirected back to the most recently visited page before registration.

Logged-in visitors have access to additional functionality general users don’t have. In addition to being able to buy and sell items freely, a user can check their notifications page which records conversations with other users. The notifications page offers the option of helping to coordinate a meetup place between parties by accessing Google Maps.

Finally, a logged-in user may access a drop-down called “My Account” which provides links to a profile page where a user may edit information about themselves as well as a report lightbox which allows one to report misconduct to website administrators, and finally the simple ability to logout.

Congre-Gators is visible to everyone, and anyone may browse for items. However, full functionality is offered only to SFSU students at this time. This visibility and limited functionality will allow relevant users to explore the site and ultimately give it a trial before registration, akin to window shopping.