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The development of an integrated home stock database system

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Github: <https://github.com/struansharpe/COMP3000>

Office Planner: https://tasks.office.com/live.plymouth.ac.uk/en-US/Home/Planner/#/plantaskboard?groupId=51183dd1-11c6-4690-bd02-516a07d72881&planId=0xvt9-VuyUe9GYloTswMRJYABu-K

# Chapter 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Summary

#### Summary

Project name: Stokk

Stokk is a home database system. This application is created in consideration of everyone who owns a home and has access to the internet; this application can assist with shopping, choosing meals and keeping stock at home, in one application.

This project comes in four main components, the database, the Application Programming Interface (API), the API Exerciser and a prototype User interface.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Figure 1, Stokk Prototype UI Homepage

## 1.2 Introduction

With Smart home systems on the rise the desire for a fully integrated smart home environment would be a nirvana for smart home technologies. There are already many smart systems out there in the world which are used to great effect to increase convenience at home. Smart systems allow the user to control aspects of the home by using technology i.e., heating, lighting and resource usage, they achieve this by creating a simple portable interface which allows the user to interact with the smart system, creating a smart home environment.

The Initial idea for Stokk came from looking at smart fridge technology where various means are used to determine what item was placed inside; this information was then sent to the cloud where the system uses this information to tell the user what meals they could make from the ingredients inside (Qiao, et al., 2017). This was an interesting concept, creating an application which echoes this for other items in the house would be a step closer to having a smart integrated home or smart home environment.

Initially the idea was to attach the information to QR stickers and attach that to the items for the phone to scan. But with smart systems, when expectations were not met it was usually due to “the effort required to set up and control systems, rather than the lack of functionality.” (Oliveira, et al., 2020). So constantly placing new QR codes on items would be the opposite of what the application is trying to achieve in efficiency and convenience as it adds extra steps for functionality.

So, the next logical step would be to create an application that attaches to multiple external API such as Tesco, barcode readers and shopping carts, which utilise these APIs to scan the items a user has, or if shopping online get the items from the cart. This cuts out the middle of having to manually put data into a system but still allow the user to alter and add items if they wish, whilst still being able to stock control/ shop and recipe handle, this would then be a smart home system.

## 1.3 Objectives

#### Problems That Were Set Out to Solve

The problems that the application strives to solve, are that of stock control. The main functionality of Stokk is to modernise the archaic and less efficient ways of keeping a record of what is in the home, seeing what recipes a person can make and what is needed to be bought at the shop with a shopping list which is automated but can be changed manually as well.

The problem of not knowing what is needed when shopping, allowing the user to write a shopping list using the app, and have the system automatically place items in the shopping list when they are getting low or are out.

The problem of not knowing what meals a user can cook with the ingredients they have in the house, showing them what they can make with what ingredients they have, also show other meal options by showing what they need to shop for.

There are many applications out in the world which give a user a great collection of recipes, but the functionality stops there - these applications do not tell you if you have all the ingredients. The purpose of Stokk is to integrate home and errand life into an application that simplifies all the tasks by having one application that has a wide range of functionality, with the capability to share people’s recipes from around the world and add your own, as well as automatically change stock or shopping lists.

#### Goals

To make an application that makes the home life i.e., cooking and shopping more convenient and integrated.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Goal** |
| **1** | Increase home convenience by use of application for shopping, cooking, and stock control. |
| **2** | Steppingstone to smart home technology based in kitchen. |
| **3** | Make chores/errands easier. |
| **4** | System which utilises automation to help create a smart home environment, but also allow users to still add and edit if they wish. |

## 1.4 Critical Success Factors

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Critical success factor** |
| **1.** | Having a database created which can be the backbone of a home database system. |
| **2.** | Having an API that is published which allows access to data through the use of API endpoints. |
| **3.** | Have an application that allows reading, creation, editing and deleting (CRUD)of all the tables’ data. |
| **4.** | Have automation on the shopping list functionality so that once items run low, they are added to the shopping list.  If item quantity runs out to remove from the household items and add an urgency attribute to the item in the shopping list. |
| **5.** | Display recipes if the user can make them with the current ingredients and retain separate ones where extra ingredients are needed. |
| **6.** | Once meal has been chosen the ingredients are removed from the household stock list. |
| **7.** | If meal needs ingredients, those ingredients can be added to the shopping list. |

## 1.5 Scope and Limitations

### Designing for a Larger Scope

#### External API

The Project itself would be made far more effective and efficient if it could be attached to multiple external API, such as Tesco API, barcode readers/ QR scanners. Having many External API involved was taken into consideration during development, and it was decided that although the final product would ideally have these feature to help the convenience, the early versions of the application, the one used for this project will not have them connected. This is due to the fact that connecting numerous API could take up a lot of time and money to get access to, so instead following core functionality to avoid scope creep. Although the literal API were not implemented a work around was used. A solution of simulating the connection using mock adapters and interfaces to simulate data coming in from an API. With this, it allows the application to demonstrate how the connection would be, using mock data to simulate the interaction, this can be seen in the barcode and shopping mock adapters and interfaces within the API application.

#### User Functionality

The Core functionality originally was very user oriented, so much so that one of the first coding sprints desired was to be the creation of the login and user creation page; this was more difficult than anticipated spending more time on the sprint than desired. The project started from other functionality and left the user detail till later, prioritising the storage and shopping functionality. Due to this, most user functionality had to be simulated and hard coded into the application.

#### User Interface

Although the project aims to be a user-friendly experience, as most smart home systems strive to be, trying to make the interface between home functionality and the user as intuitive and easy as possible, it may be hard to make the application as user friendly as initially anticipated. Instead of having the web flow like the UI mock designs, a far simpler UI made for just core functionality was made, to accommodate testing main functionality over gold plating an application that does not work.

#### Variation in User Usage/Fuzzy Logic

During development, it was realised that not every user is the same, and therefore when using a recipe every user will use slightly different amounts. Originally, the system would allow the users to just add their own recipe variations, so that if they did not like another recipe, they could just add their own. But realising not everyone would be interested in constantly typing out all their recipes, if there was a way to instead, track how much they used of each item in comparison to others. The idea to eventually implement some form of fuzzy logic where there is an attribute that is a float, which has a value of 0.0-1.0 (where 0.5 is the average and normal amount), if the user states that they used more ingredients than the actual recipe then the value of this float increases and assumes that the user slightly overuses ingredients based on this float, which then increases the ingredient amounts for recipes for that household. Many issues arose with this as it hard to change the values of every ingredient in a recipe, so although it may be easy to implement with recipes which use 100g of flour, it is hard to change a recipe when only using one or 2 eggs, as a part of an egg cannot be used or taken from the storage. Even in this instance the algorithm would have to decide whether to keep it at one egg or change to two, although it seems logically sound, the difference in cooking between having one egg and 2 is vastly different, and as such meals would be inconsistent and not necessarily nice compared to its original form.

#### Modals

Given the change in architecture, the design decision to have modal popups over certain pages was dropped. As the MVC architecture already has numerous page views for each controller, so flow of functionality was already functional; as well as the uncertainty of being able to use modals within an ASP.net MVC application.

#### Rating System

A rating system would be an important user aspect of the application, eventually a user would be able to view different recipes and be able to tell if other users enjoyed the meal, and when searching for new recipes the user will be introduced to the more popular meals first, and to help the user further a collection of their highest rated meals could be grouped together as well for easy access.

# Chapter 2 Literature Review

## 2.1 Statistics on Smart Home Systems

### Smart Home Revenue Forecast Worldwide Until 2025

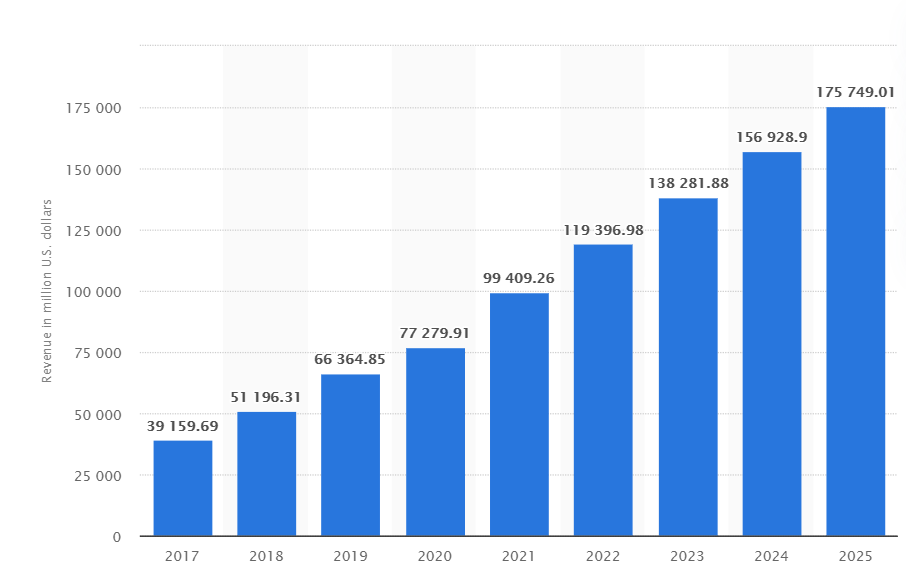
 (Lasquety-Reyes, 2020)

Figure 2, This statistic presents a forecast of the revenue in the Smart Home market worldwide until the year 2025(in millions), According to the Digital Market Outlook.

### Smart home Usage by Household

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated (Lasquety-Reyes, 2020)

Figure 3,This statistic presents a forecast of the number of Smart Homes in the Smart Home market worldwide until the year 2025(in millions). According to the Digital Market Outlook.

As seen by figure 3 smart home systems are projected to rise in usage, at a steady rate, that eventually leads to a possible 482 million households using some form of smart home technology by 2025. This shows how many possible households could eventually lean towards using the application that this project wishes to develop. Along with this, Figure 2 presents the forecasted revenue, which if the calculations are accurate, by 2025 would be close to $175,750,000,000. If the application being created was able to hook the market by being a one-of-a-kind application that is a first on the scene, with minimal or no competition as there are not alternatives, then the possible revenue stream would be large as well as steadily increasing over the years.

## 2.2 Study on Digital Hybrid Shopping Lists

Whilst researching the area of digital shopping lists to help with the assistance of shopping, there was a study which touched on the area of hybridised digital shopping lists. Where the authors wanted to create a hybrid of writing a shopping list physically with a digital format to store the information. The authors postulated that “Shopping is one of the most frequently occurring tasks in our daily lives…small tasks that are carried out repeatedly” (Heinrichs, et al., 2011). Although I disagree that shopping is one of the most frequently occurring tasks, as normally a person usually shops 1-2 times a week, compared to other tasks in the household. But due to the sheer amount that a person cooks and shops throughout their life, an application which assists with these aspects of the home by adding elements of automation would be more convenient for a user than a pen and paper.

## 

## 2.3 Smart Home Environment - Concepts and Solutions

This paper covers the introduction to the concept of a smart home environment, as Florian Kazmierzak puts it; smart home environments are “environments that try to facilitate the life of the user in many different ways and make it more comfortable by using technology” (Kazmierzak, 2012). Since Stokk desires to implement automation to help users shop and cook, the application is helping to make the kitchen a more integrated smart home environment.

## 2.4 Intelligent refrigerator using ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In this study, Schweta is creating a smart System which operates in a refrigerator, which can tell the user when items are going out of date. In this Schweta states that ”Developing Smart Appliances is directly proportional to Developing Smart Home environment. It is a critical factor in the realization of the smart home environment.” (Shweta, 2017). This desire to create an integrated smart home environment where almost everything is eased by the use of technology, is what the project vision desired to be, and is indeed the end goal of most smart systems. Schweta also believes that the “Kitchen is one of the most important places for a Smart home as it consists of many Appliances which provide better services to the household.” (Shweta, 2017), which is true as eating is one of the most important functions for the survival of a human. The environment a user works in to achieve sustenance (the kitchen), if made more streamline through smart home technologies, could save the user vast amounts of time in the long run, if Stokk were to implement these ideologies in the design, then it would be one step closer to being a smart system.

## 

## 2.5 Smart home technology—comparing householder expectations at the point of installation with experiences 1 year later.

This study sets out to analyse the expected benefits and anticipated challenges to the introduction of smart home technology. They did this over studying 19 households, where they took questionnaires after a year of having the system. There were two findings that were interesting in this study, firstly that the “Results showed that approximately a year after installation, many of the initial expectations of the benefits were met” (Oliveira, et al., 2020) This shows that if a user goes in knowing what they want from a smart system then most of the time it works out as the user expected. The only times expectations were not met was usually “due to the effort required to set up and control systems, rather than the lack of functionality.” (Oliveira, et al., 2020), which is what Stokk desires to avoid. So, if Stokk has a good design which allows users to utilise functionality without having to add extra steps then Stokk would be one step closer to being a successful Smart home system.

## 2.6 Summary of Studies

For the success of Stokk, it must be realized that all the factors considered in these studies contribute towards Stokk’s design. Additionally, for Stokk to be a smart home system, it needs to bring convenience to its users whilst being desirable and innovative enough for the user to deviate from other archaic methods.

# Chapter 3 Existing Products

This chapter shows research into products that are like Stokk, applications that were chosen to be reviewed share similar functionality and approaches, the applications share some similar elements but differ on how they interact with the user and what their reach of functionality is.

## 3.1 BBC Good Food /BBC Food

For the Web based websites both bbcfood.com and Goodfood.com were studied, and since they were so similar in functionality and design they have been grouped together.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Figure 4, BBC goodfood website home pageGraphical user interface, website

Description automatically generated

Figure 5, Home page for BBC food website

#### Key Features

on the main page of BBC food, it shows some suggested possibly seasonal meals, with some choices to navigate to other selections of recipes. They have a navigation bar at the top for quick access to pages.

#### Speculative Functionality

Could use a feature of suggested meals either by popularity or by season, this would help users get meals which are deemed as better (user can still use their own recipes which they input).

A rating system for meals could be possible, after eating a meal, ask the user what they thought of the meal and what they would rate it on a scale of 1-10. Alternatively, the app could follow how many people used it and how many people wanted to save it to favourites.

## 3.2 Paprika

One of the applications most like Stokk’s vision was paprika, which is a mobile application which does recipe handling as well as storage control and groceries. This is one of the only other applications that encapsulates nearly all the functionality needed for Stokk, excluding automated shopping list features.

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generatedA picture containing shape

Description automatically generated

Figure 6, Paprikas, side bar navigation Figure 7, Paprikas recipe search feature Figure 8, Paprikas pantry page

#### Key Features

Paprika has a google API attached to the Recipe page, seen in figure 7, where a user can search any website and add the recipe to their collection, Paprikas pantry page which contains a user’s ingredients which can be seen in figure 8.

Instead of going for a main page design, paprika elects for a side navigation bar to go from page to page, which gives quick easy access to the user without having visual clutter of different page buttons, only showing when the user requests, as seen by figure 6.

#### Speculative Functionality

The storage feature will be included with Stokk, where the user can say which room or cupboard the ingredient is in.

The recipe and shopping list functionality will be similar but adapted so that a user can see what meals they can make with the ingredients they have available in their household.

The use of a search feature using Googles API would be a great addition to the application, although not within scope of this project but within the vision of what Stokk would be if in development on market. The recipes for this project will all be stored in the system so anyone can view any recipe and add their own.

## 3.3 Yummly

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, text, application

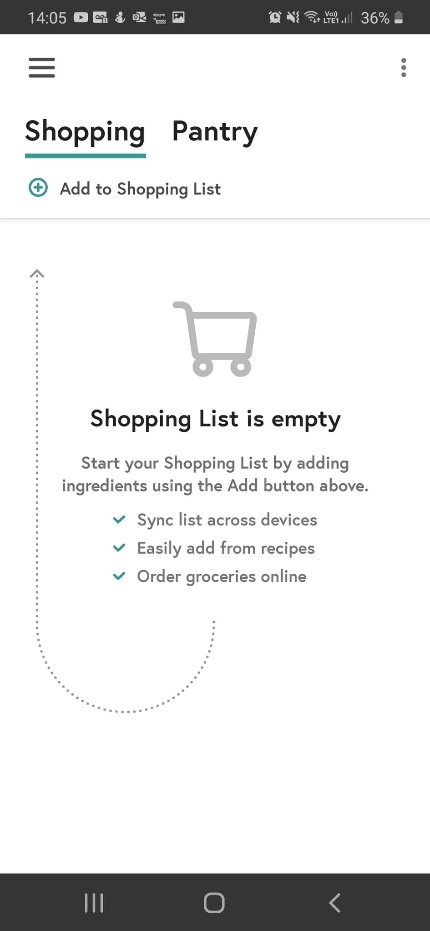
Description automatically generated

Figure 9, Yummly Home page Figure 10, Yummly Pantry page Figure 11, Yummly shopping list

Similar to Paprika Yummly has shopping list and pantry (stock) functionality. But Unlike Paprika, Yummly elects to have a home page for navigation through pages.

#### Speculative functionality

The option to view seasonal meals related to the time and the trending now features seen in figure 9, Yummly’s home page. This was another great feature to help the user decide what to cook but not within scope of this project.

# Chapter 4 Method of Approach

The desired product at the end of this project is a system which can facilitate the functionality of day-to-day kitchen use for a user that helps accommodate recipe handling, shopping list and stock taking functionality. The end product will simulate connections to mock adapters which simulate connections to external API.

## 4.1 Legal Social and Professional Issues

Two questionnaires which can be found in appendix B, were carried out during the development for Stokk, the initial questionnaire was used to gauge if people would be interested in an app like this, and another later to test the mock User interface. Ethics approval for the use of Plymouth University student led responses to the questionnaire was obtained from the university ethical board located in appendix C. This means that the ethical principles of nonmaleficence, transparency and informed consent were adhered to.

None of the questionnaires aimed to mislead or misdirect anyone, for the first questionnaire simple questions were asked around the subject area, to gauge if users around the 18-25 age range would use an application like Stokk.

As the application only holds dummy data (data in which the developer implemented) no one’s personal data is at risk, as the system is not fully complete including security features. It would be irresponsible to hold genuine information about a user in this form, as even the passwords are only a varchar currently, later implementations would include security.

## 4.2 Functional Requirements

#### 4.2.1 Unauthenticated Users

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Unauthenticated users’ Functional requirement |
| 1 | Create an account |
| 2 | Sign into an account |
| 3 | Request a password reset |

#### 4.2.2 Authenticated Users

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Functional requirements for Authenticated users |
| 1 | Add Household |
| 2 | Edit Household |
| 3 | System creates Shopping list for Household |
| 4 | Add Storage space |
| 5 | Add Room |
| 6 | Edit Room |
| 7 | Edit storage space |
| 8 | Add item |
| 9 | Add item type |
| 10 | View households’ items |
| 11 | System Household Items ordered by room and storage space |
| 12 | Add household item |
| 13 | System sets Desired Stock quantity |
| 14 | Edit household item |
| 15 | Remove household item |
| 16 | System adds to shopping list |
| 17 | System adds urgency and removes item from household item when depleted |
| 18 | Add to shopping list |
| 19 | Remove from shopping list |
| 20 | Delete shopping list item |
| 21 | Add Recipe |
| 22 | View Recipes |
| 23 | System displays recipes which can be cooked with current ingredients, separated by those that cannot be made. |
| 24 | System can add ingredients needed for meal into shopping list |

#### 4.2.3 Non-Functional Requirements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Non-functional Requirements |
| 1 | Usability |
| 2 | Consistency |
| 3 | Convenience |

#### 4.2.4 Functionality Iterations

Functional requirements change, research found the idea of telling the user where the items are before a meal is unnecessary as most people know where their items are.

There was an issue with determining how much of the ingredient the user used and keeping track of it. The system is flawed if the user must manually input data every time there is a minor change in a recipe, for this project it is assumed that the user can just add their own recipe with minor changes top other similar recipes with slight variants.

## 4.3 Architecture

This section goes through numerous diagrams which display design choices in architecture for the system.

### System Level Design

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 12, low level architecture design

Figure 12 shows a simple architecture of how the system would work, including the external API, the applications API is communicating with both the database, and through adapters within the API, it is able to communicate with external API such as Tesco API and Barcode Reader APIs. The front end MVC application receives information and displays it using the API endpoints, here if the front-end application CRUD’s any data, then it should be reflected in the Database.

Chart, diagram, box and whisker chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 13, Developer version architecture

Figure 13 demonstrates the architecture of the system during development. The database was hosted on the University server, the API after being published is hosted on the web Socem server. Instead of being attached to real APIs this system merely simulates a connection to one by having mock adapters/ interfaces that create some mock data, which on a query can display the relevant item for both the mock barcode and shopping adapters. Finally, the front-end application was tested on LocalHost.

Chart, box and whisker chart

Description automatically generated

Figure 14, production version architecture

Figure 14 is the Desired Architecture if ever brought into further development/ production, as the University would not have space for hosting after the project being finished, it would have to be hosted on another service. Where everything could essentially be hosted on Azure, this was avoided as it would cost money to get hosting space.

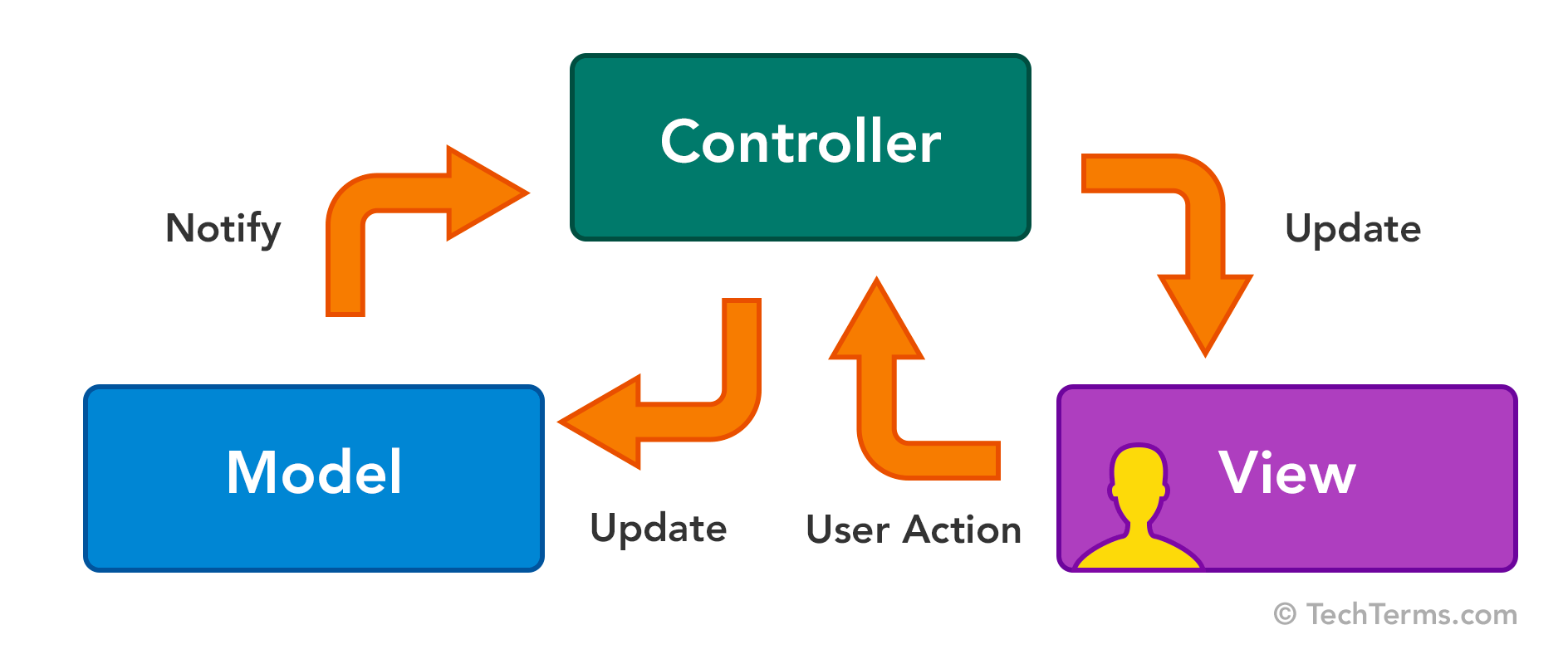


Figure 15, MVC Design pattern/architecture

The front-end application has the architecture of MVC, this is where the different components of the structure of an application are kept into their separate compartments. The model is the shape of the data, like a schema, these models are essentially the same models seen within the API. The View deals with the User Interface and what the user interacts with, within ASP.Net, the view is represented by numerous files for different controller pages and within those files are cshtml files or razor pages.

The controllers deal with the functionality, they have the methods as well as the connections to the API, once an action takes place a function is usually called which updates the model data. The controller should then be notified of the changes and as such updates the view to either display the new data or go to another page.

Implementation started off with the database following the database first methodology, using Microsoft SQL server manager to create database tables using queries, including some triggers and sequences for IDs, this database is on the Universities Socem System.

Then an ASP.Net API was created, this is where the ADO Entity models were utilised to connect to the desired database tables, here the API Endpoints are created. Once created it is then published and hosted on Web Socem, so the endpoints are reachable by typing into the URL of any internet browser.

This is where The API Exerciser was created to help test connection and interactions between applications, while practicing the technologies involved for the application, here each table can be viewed and fully capable to CRUD while using the published API Endpoints.

Finally, a prototype user interface using Adobe XD, to create a mock design that captured the image of what Stokk would look like if it went into production.

## 4.4 Technologies

#### Database Microsoft SQL

Was created using Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio, where Queries were used to create tables, sequences, and triggers for the systems core functionality (SQL statements for the creation of the tables and triggers are in the appendix A).

#### API ASP.Net

The API is developed in ASP.NET framework and is a web application, the API Application is in the architecture of MVC, where the models hold the shape of the data from the desired tables, so for each table in the database there is a model to accompany it, these were created by adding an ADO Entity Model. The API application has a set of API controllers which create the API endpoints for all the Get, Post, Put and Delete request, these are autogenerated from the wizard, choosing the data entity model that each controller works with, these controller classes derive from the API Controller class rather than the usual controller class used by MVC applications. The views in this application did not have much use apart from a home page where it can direct to the raw data (xml), of each API GET endpoint.

This API Application was published so a separate front-end Application could be made in parallel to receive the API endpoints and push the data to and from the database using the URL web.socem.plymouth.ac.uk/FYP/SSharpe/.

This proved beneficial as testing could be done using the endpoint instead of local host, so FortiClient did not have to be used, as well as not having to run 2 applications at once for testing.

#### Front End (API Exerciser) ASP.Net MVC

The desire to keep confusion to a minimum and abide by the separation of concerns was prioritised, and as such a separate application was created for the front end, the front-end application is an ASP.NET MVC web application, it has sort of the same structure as the API application apart from the fact that the Model does not derive from an ADO entity model, and the controllers do not derive the API Controller class.

##### Model

This means that the models within the MVC application are just a mirror of the Model.cs files within the API application, where it has the same attributes as the selected table, with gets and sets within each.

##### Controller

The controllers in the MVC application are used to control the pages and the functions within them, by calling the API endpoints for the relevant page. Although the views were pretty much ignored in the API application, the front-end application will be dealing with the User, so the views were utilised.

##### View

After creating a controller, a folder is created which has the same name as the controller, this folder holds the cshtml files for each page/controller. Within the User Folder there are many cshtml files which were created using the wizard where each table has an Index, Edit, Create, Details and Delete cshtml page. Within the User Folder There are methods for each page and functionality, which all interact with the API endpoints.

#### Adobe XD

Although the first mock design for the user interface was created using PowerPoint, the second UI however was created using Adobe XD, as it was able to create a more complex real prototype for testing. Adobe XD allows to make realistic and user-friendly UI experience through creating a interactive slideshow where the functionality can be displayed without having to connect to the API for testing. For instance, the prototype application created, when a user desires to add ingredients for a meal, the application tells the user the items have been added the user can view the shopping list, although these are not connected to the API and database, this slide show is hard coded to follow the flow of this functionality. As soon as returning to the home page, if the shopping list is clicked on again these values will not be in as that functionality page flow did not place values anywhere only simulated the UI interaction with the user.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 16, displays Adobe XD menu interactions between pages in mock UI.

#### Postman

Postman was used extensively to test API endpoints, this application allows a developer to send and retrieve data from API endpoints by using get and post, streamlining testing necessary for the creation of API. This meant that if testing a new API build, the API could be tested before publishing and committing changes, as the API could be run in local host and the endpoint tested within Postman before publishing and creating the MVC frontend to accompany it.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

Figure 17, Postman Get shopping lists from API endpoint.

#### Requirements for Application

Internet connection and access to an internet browser, and when user functionality would be implemented a user will require an email which must be verified.

## 4.5 User Interface Design

For this project, two prototype user interfaces were created. The process involved creating an initial mock UI which was simple using PowerPoint, test it with users, then create another more complex User Interface using Adobe XD improving upon design with the input of the user testing.

#### Usability Testing

Between each of the iterations, questionnaires were given to test users to gauge if the design was desirable, the questionnaires can be found in appendix B.

After the first round of testing, it was clear what changes need to take place on the user interface of Stokk. One prominent complaint was that the users did not like the idea of not having a form of navigation bar or a form of quick navigation through the pages. This can be seen implemented on the second prototype where at the bottom of the page there are symbols representing each function page, as well as a home button that takes them to the main page, for reference see figure 16.

Other improvements were made such as that of the colour pallet used, in the initial design the idea to use a theme of blue, but users found it too unattractive, so in the second design uses more vibrant colours as well as having a mix, while still staying in the relative colour area.

The tested users also noted that the use of having images would be a good feature that would help the see both the ingredients and the finished meal looked like.

These are some examples of the UI design and the changes that were implemented.

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generatedFigure 18, initial mock Login page Figure 19, prototype Login page using adobe XD

In figures 18 and 19 the prototype login pages are displayed. Simple Login Page where the user must input username and password to enter the main page. If a user does not have an account yet, the sign-up button allows the user to create an account, similar design in both the mock and prototype.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generatedDiagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 21, prototype main page using adobe XD

Figure 20, initial mock main page

Figures 20 and 21 display the main page for the mock/ prototype UI design this will act as the first page a user will see once they log in, this page works as a hub to direct to other pages.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generatedEach button on the main page navigates to the other pages of functionality, Shopping list, recipe handling and stock control.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generatedSign out button signs the user out and redirects the user to the login page.

Figure 23, Meal’s page prototype, adobe XD

Figure 22, Meals mock UI page

The meal page is displayed in figures 22 and 23, the initial design includes a main page button to take user back to main page directory, the adobe XD prototype prefers a navigation bar which has a house denoting the home/ main page.

On the meal page, a user can view meals that they can make, much like a recipe book, allowing the user to view other recipes made by others, or add their own.

This is separated out into meals they can currently make with the ingredients they have and the other section being all the other meals, where the user will be told what ingredients they need to buy to successfully make that meal; possibly here the user would be asked if they wanted to add those ingredients to the shopping list.

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, text

Description automatically generatedOnce a meal is selected, a modal popup will come over the current page for the user to interact with, where the user will see the ingredients involved and how it is made.

Figure 24, mock UI selected meal

Figure 25, prototype UI selected meal, adobe XD

If the user presses find ingredients the user is given another pop-up modal which shows each of the ingredients and where they are positioned, this was elected to be removed from the later versions, and so is not seen on the adobe XD prototype.

Once the meal is complete the user then presses recipe complete in figure 24 or use in figure 25 where the database will take away the ingredients used in the meal away from the database.

Possibly here is where we could ask the user how they would rate the meal.

Graphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

Description automatically generated

Figure 26, mock UI ingredients needed for meal

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, text, application, chat or text message

Description automatically generatedFigure 26 shows the page used to direct the user to the ingredient’s location, but this feature was avoided as it can be assumed that a user will know where the location of the ingredients are in their house, making the flow of the pages more simplified.

Figure 27, Mock UI for storage Figure 28, Mock UI for a storage space

These pages displayed by Figures 27 and 28 were deemed to be ineffective, and instead the rooms and storage spaces would be used to help order ingredients in a specific household. On this page, all ingredients would be shown but still grouped by the room and storage space, but it is not necessary for the user to navigate through all the rooms and storage spaces to see if they have an ingredient.

A picture containing text, monitor, screen, screenshot

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generatedMost of the shopping list functionality will be attained by utilizing triggers within the database, to remove data from one table and move to the shopping list, although both designs in figures 29 and 30, allow the user to edit the shopping list and add to them if they so wish.

Figure 30, Prototype UI shopping list, Adobe XD

Figure 29, Mock UI for shopping list

Although the application could not be made as a mobile application the use of web-based applications can help bring a wider audience of users as well as keeping the UI to a shared and conformed design.

This means that no matter if the user uses a mobile phone or desktop the application will share the same UI features and as such “Accuracy of recall was higher at longer retention intervals, in contrast to the usual fall of accuracy with time, which is seen when retention is measured over a period of minutes or longer.” (Crawford, et al., 1966).Even though this is from 1966 it still speaks true, this means that no matter which system a user chooses, they will be able to remember the flow of the web page as they are the same.

## 4.6 Database Design

SQL code for the tables and sequences can be found in Appendix A.

Within the Database, there are triggers in place for certain functionality, such as the creation of a households shopping list once a household is created, removing items from household item, and adding them to the shopping list, if the household item reaches 0 it is removed from household item and the urgency Boolean is added to the shopping list item. And the final trigger is one which creates a desired stock value, which is used for the functionality of the shopping list, as the quantity changes with every meal or usage. Once an item is added to the shopping list from the household items it needs to refer to the amount that the user desires to buy, not the current value, so when a user places an item into household item the original QTY is stored.

Similarly, to achieve the functionality of removing an item from the shopping list, when the QTY = 0 then the item is removed from the shopping list and added to the household item with the original QTY before being turned to 0.

These functions all work similarly, to start with the trigger declares variables which will hold the separate values for QTY both before the update and after the update, using the updated value to check if the function shall execute and the other value used as the QTY to be transferred.

### Entity Relationship Diagrams Through Development

A picture containing text, sign, screenshot, sale

Description automatically generated

Figure 31, Initial ERD for system

figure 31 was the initial ERD which was conceived early in the project design phase, although this is ideally how the final database design would look like (without the correct relations), a simpler form of the application was built initially to try and build up the functionality, with a simple table that contains the Item with its relevant information such as quantity and the location of the item by room and cupboard attributes.

In this design, it was important to make sure that each item was connected to a user so that a user could see their own storage spaces as well as items within them. The next step was to connect the user table and storage table where Username is a foreign key that is attributed to each item.

A realisation formed about the system, as in a household there could be numerous people living there, so even though there are many users they would still be using the same ingredients and spaces, so instead, it was decided the system should be based around households. A household can have a primary user or admin user and then there is the secondary user or restricted user which has limited functionality compared to the admin.

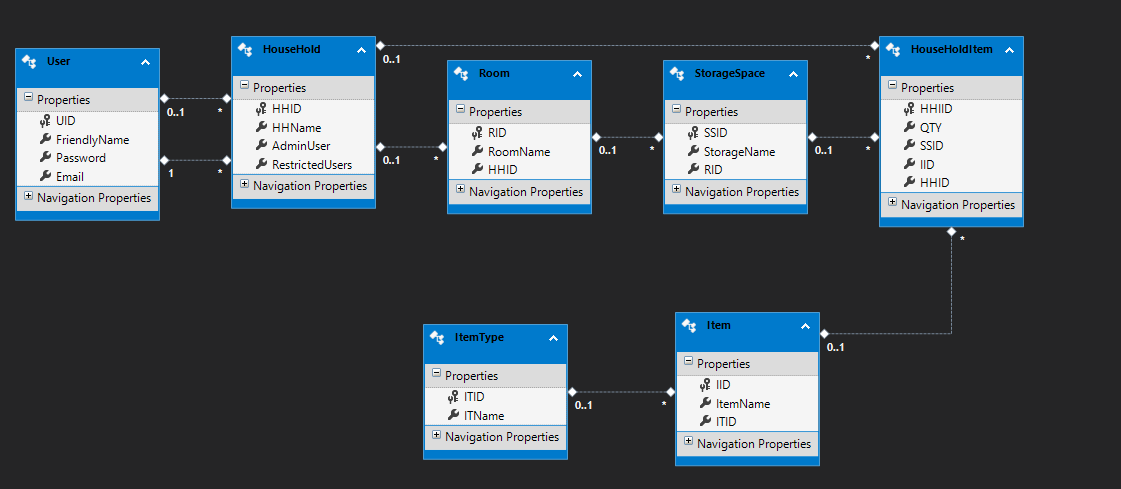
To fully understand how this should be implemented correctly the database was redesigned from the bottom up, starting off with core functionality so just stock keeping, ignoring the recipe handling and shopping list functionality was left out to start with.

Figure 32, ERD for first phase of database, storage functionality

As shown in figure 32 the redesign took place, during which another interesting architectural idea came to form and that was that a household would have an instance of an item. This item references from the Item table which has the branded name of the Item for instance Heinz Beans, which also references Item type which is the abstract type of the item so for the Heinz beans item type would be beans. This way Multiple brands and shops can be chosen from, while still being connected to the core abstract that it is a tin of beans.

It was realised that rooms and storage spaces seemed like redundant data as it was not necessary for the user to know where items are as it can be assumed a user of a household (unless they are children) would know where most ingredient are. However, the tables were kept in to help display a household’s items by room and storage space, this was kept in order to have some order to the household items, hopefully using the rooms and storage spaces to order the household items table on display. Another reason for keeping the tables in is that, essentially the application can be used for other storage/ stock control, by giving the user the ability to add items and item type a user could even add non meal related items.

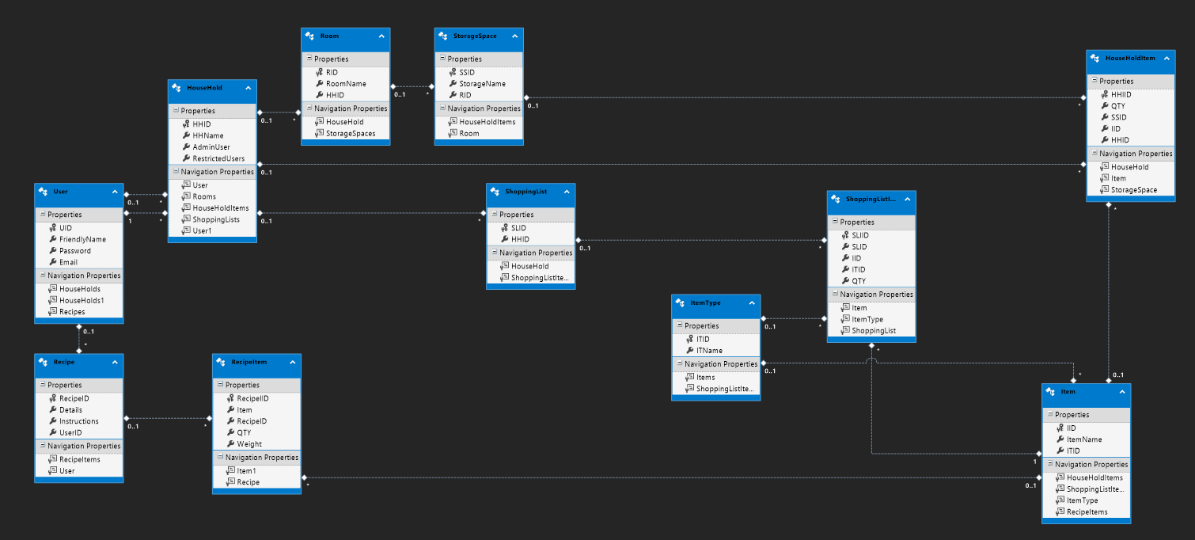
From this database a simple API was created/tested and a front-end application which was able to CRUD the data was created to get the practice and connections necessary for the final product, and so that data could be manipulate and viewed so the API endpoints were tested and there were no flaws with that current system.

Figure 33, ERD Phase 2, shopping list and recipe functionality added.

After the first build, figure 32, was finished and tested, the shopping list and recipe tables were added to the database as seen by figure 33. Both tables have 2 tables for functionality – firstly, for the shopping list, there was a shopping list table and shopping list item table. Shopping list is a simple table which has the household as a foreign key and has the shopping list ID as the primary key, this table is used to cross reference which list is owned by which household.

And the shopping list items table has the item, QTY, and which shopping list it is a part of through SLID.

The Recipe Table has the recipeID, details of the meal and instructions for the meal as well as which user created it as a foreign key.

Recipe Item has the collection of ingredients needed for every meal where the recipeID is a foreign key as well as Item.

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

Figure 34, ERD with implemented Desired stock table.

In figure 34 the ERD went through some further changes, such as the table of desired stock was added. This table’s purpose is to hold the ideal QTY that a user wants of an item, when being added to the shopping list. This table is heavily utilised by the triggers in the database system, it is assumed that at some point either when during a user’s first shop or after, a user will input the items that had bought into the household items table, as this value is the just bought QTY which means it is their preferred buying quantity and as such its itemID household and qty is saved. This table is then used when an items QTY in the household item table reaches 1 and 0, as the triggers fire on update and checks the QTY values, if it is 1, then it is added to the shopping list items table, once it is 0, the item is removed from household items and the urgency Boolean is changed to true. In the mentioned function as the update relies on the changing of the QTY value, it is impossible to use it as a reference point as to what quantity of an item they want to have on their shopping list and buy.

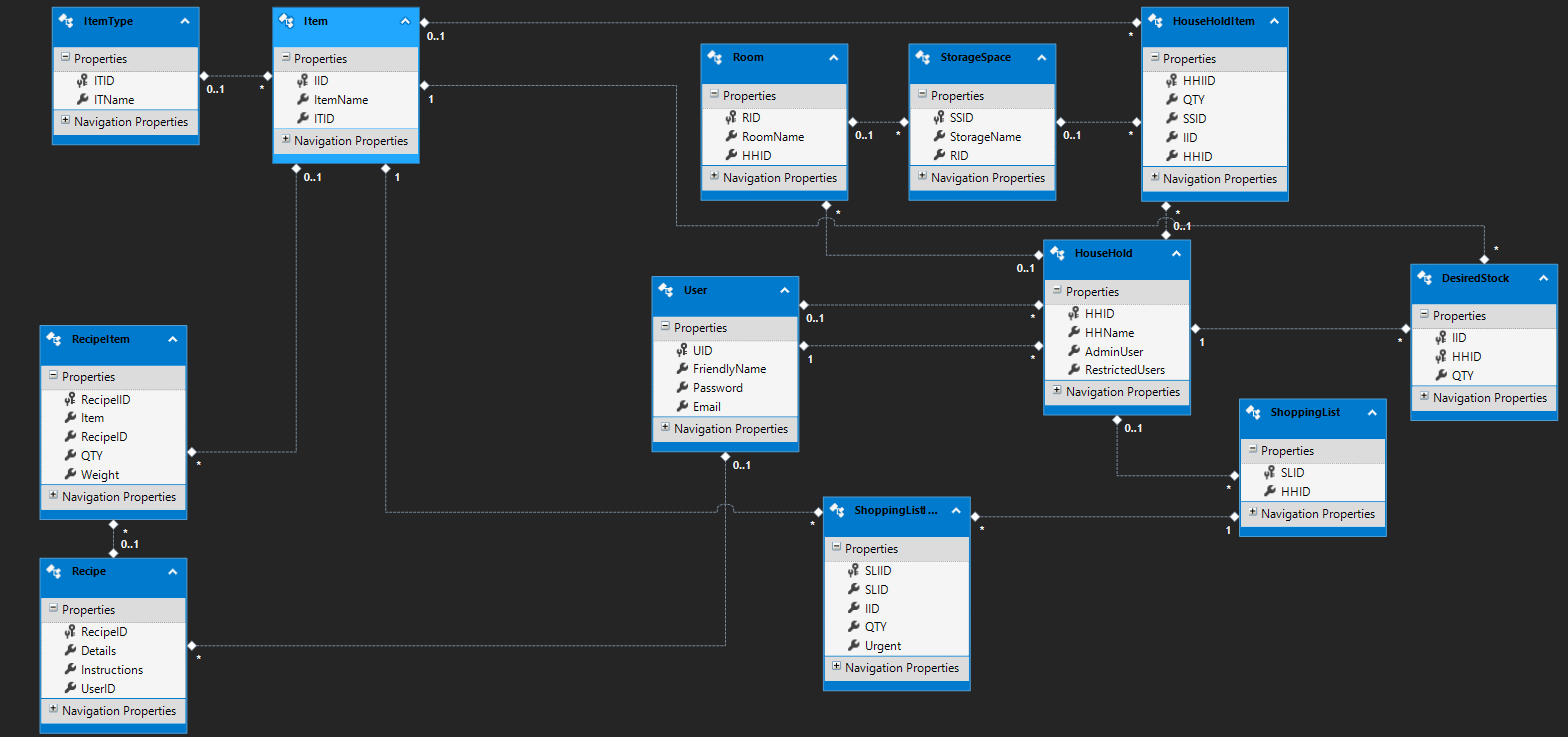


Figure 35, final ERD of system

Other changes can be seen in figure 35, such as adding urgency Boolean to shopping list items, this will help to display the shopping list in order of urgency, so most urgent items are top priority and displayed first, and item type attribute removed from shopping list item table as the item table already references item type.

One noticeable feature is that most of the tables have their own Primary key IDs, this was to help with the construction of the web API, as most API calls with asp.net refer to an individual ID for Updating, Deleting and Reading specific sets of data, so it would help for development to have IDs on most of the tables for easier reference.

For reference to code, a code walkthrough for some functionality can be found in appendix E.

4.7 Diagrams throughout development

### Activity Flow Diagrams

These diagrams were created to help understand how the flow of the system would be, when a user interreacts with it, this stage greatly helped with gaining knowledge on specific functionality and buttons needed for each page.

In most of the diagrams a reference to a modal pop up is suggested, although this was not achieved as a web application was undertaken instead of a mobile application. The prototypes for the UI are still displaying a UI for mobile but hopefully these features can be shared to the MVC application.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 36, Activity diagram for log in page

Figure 36 Displays a simple interaction between the user and the system for the logging in functionality, features included are logging in and signing up for an account.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 37, activity diagram for meals/ recipe functionality

Figure 37 contains the activity diagram for the recipe/ meals functionality for the Stokk system, adding meal is directed to another page for separate functionality which takes user input for the creation of a recipe. A user views the possible meals and chooses a meal, this should take the ingredients out of their store in the database. The functionality of telling the user where ingredients are was abandoned.

A picture containing text, map, sky, indoor

Description automatically generated

Figure 38, Activity diagram of main/ home page

Activity diagram for the home/ main page is displayed in figure 38. The functionality of this page is simple to redirect to other pages for their functionality, within the prototypes for the UI the main page format is kept as well as having a bottom navigation bar which acts the same as the home page.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 39, Activity diagram for shopping list functionality

Figure 39 displays the activity diagram for shopping list functionality which includes viewing the shopping list, adding items, and editing items.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 40, Activity diagram for storage space functionality

The activity diagram for adding, editing for storage space and items within those spaces can be seen within figure 40. This design to have a desired page which allows a user to create a room and a storage space would be separate from the household items functionality, to not confuse the user.

### Class Diagrams

These class diagrams display the classes within the project, for the API application created in asp.net and the MVC application (API exerciser), they display the functions and data held within each page. Both applications share the MVC structure, and both are connected as the Published API endpoints are consumed by the front end MVC application.

#### API class diagrams

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Figure 41, UML for API Controller Figure 42, UML for API Models

Both the controller and models for shown in figures 41 and 42 are within the API application, these diagrams show the functions within each of the controller and model classes. The API does not need the use of Views as the front end is handled by a separate MVC application that handles the then endpoints created by this application.

#### MVC application (API exerciser) class diagrams

Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

Figure 43, MVC application Controllers

Figure 43 displays the Classes for the controllers of the MVC application, which deals with the function which interact with the user and the models.

Graphical user interface, diagram

Description automatically generatedDiagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 44, MVC application Models Figure 45, MVC application Views.

The models displayed in figure 44 are of the MVC application, these models are like that of the API application, although these are created manually rather than having an Ado Entity model created.

In figure 45 the Folders containing the view pages, each of which have a different functionality displaying different kinds of data at different points, like displaying all the data or filtered objects by a certain parameter.

#### Conceptual Design diagram

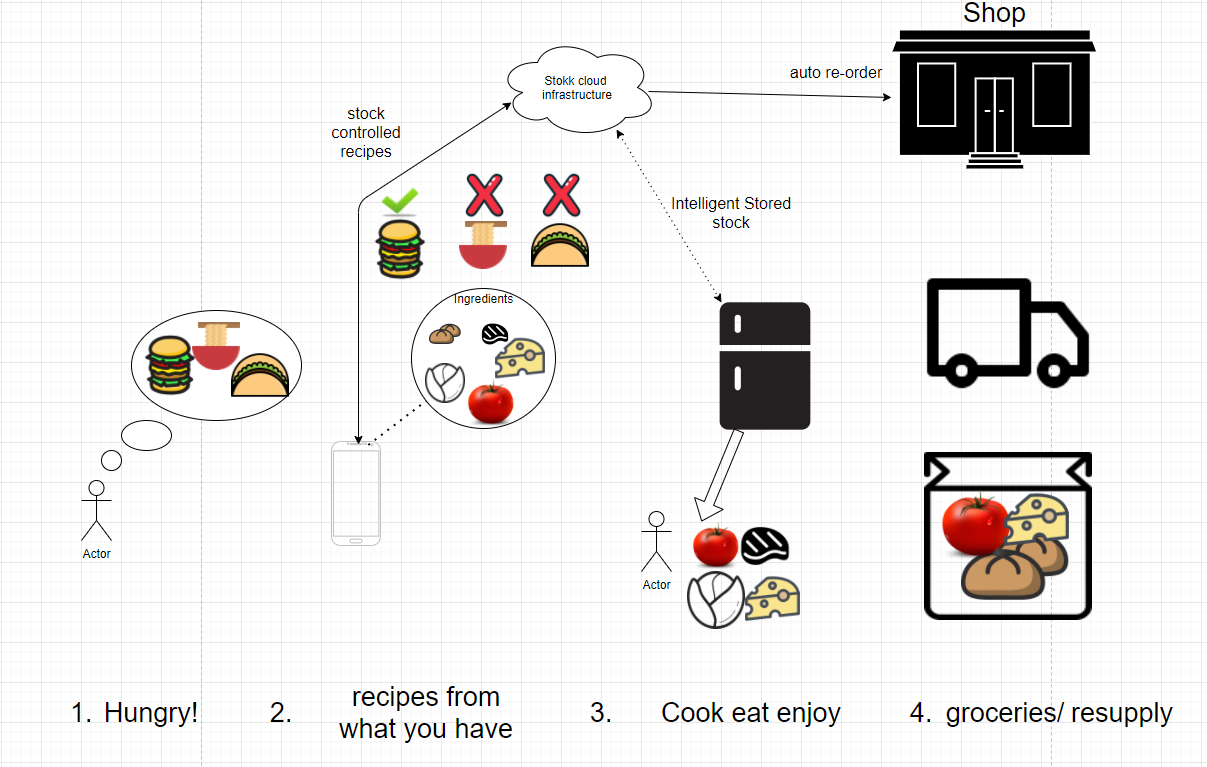


Figure 46, conceptual diagram for system

Figure 46 displays the conceptual design for the application, giving an inciteful but simple explanation of the application, this was used with in the poster.

## 4.8 User Stories

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Figure 47, User case diagram

Figure 47 displays the first initial user case diagram; this would be one of the first steps for figuring out what the core functionality should and help for the creation of user stories.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | User story |
| 1 | As a user I want to View my houses shopping list |
| 2 | As a user I want to Edit/Add the shopping list |
| 3 | As a user I want to view my household’s ingredients |
| 4 | As a user I want to view Recipes |
| 5 | As a user I want to be able to choose a recipe from the ingredients I have in the household. |
| 6 | As a user I wish to add my own recipe. |
| 7 | As a user I wish to choose a recipe and the system should remove the items from household items |
| 8 | As a user I want a to be able to look at my shopping list and see what items are getting low and what items are needed Immediately. |
| 9 | As a user I want to be able to log in and out of the system so they can check their stock. |
| 10 | As a user when I am low on an item, I want the system to add that item to my shopping list |

# Chapter 5 Implementation

## 5.1 Project Management

For project management it was decided that the Agile methodology would be the most efficient, as it gives developers an environment which prioritizes individual interactions and working software over comprehensive documentation. Agile was chosen over waterfall, as it is less rigid, allowing for constant changes in requirements and less documentation for speeding up development.

The agile manifesto has twelve principles to abide by to try and achieve a truly agile project, the most important of which are as follows (these were the ones that were attempted to be implemented within the project management environment).

“satisfy customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software” (Beck, et al., 2001). For this, gold plating was avoided, trying to bring constant functionality that works over unimportant features. An initial version was released on the 31st march, and some improvements were made since then for quality.

“welcome changing requirements” (Beck, et al., 2001). During development, the entire architecture for the application had to be completely restarted, this was due to problems with technologies and how they interacted with the developing hardware. So, even though the project started from the ground up, the structured environment it was being processed in was more than accommodating. Along with this many ideas which were key in the initial design were phased out in later development such as telling the user the location of the ingredients for a meal. After consolidation it was realised that a user would tend to know where they placed their own ingredients meaning there would just be an extra step in the cooking process for no reason.

“working together with businesspeople daily” (Beck, et al., 2001). Working together was hard to achieve as COVID made face to face meetings very difficult, and there was no real end user to collaborate with, so the next best alternative was for numerous meetings with a separate tutor 2 times a week, which effectively worked as stand-up meetings. These helped with the progression of the project making sure key pieces of functionality were met, these were also accompanied by the modules bi-weekly meetings. Another process used, was messaging a person on heavy days of coding to act as a daily stand up, explaining what the goals that were wanting to be achieved for the day, and at the end of the day what was achieved, what were the issues and what was the plan for the next day.

“most efficient way of conveying information is face to face conversation… At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.” (Beck, et al., 2001) As previously mentioned, fortnightly stand-ups and blog posts were implemented with the project supervisor, as well as biweekly meetings with a separate tutor to try and maximize face to face communication, to help understand the project and help other people understand the project, and reduce the amount of paperwork needed, speeding up development time, blog posts can be found in appendix D.

“The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge from self-organizing teams… build around motivated individuals.” (Beck, et al., 2001) As a solo project this was difficult to achieve, as it was more like building an environment around the single developer to make sure that they achieved the most optimal amount of work, making sure key functionality was prioritised to avoid gold plating or scope creep.

“Simplicity--the art of maximizing the amount of work not done--is essential… working software primary measure of progress” (Beck, et al., 2001). And as such key functionality for the software was prioritized over making a user-friendly User interface within MVC, believing the prototype UI in adobe XD could convey the ideas while saving time on trying to get the system functioning.

“good design enhances agility” (Beck, et al., 2001)with the attempted application of good programming practices such as SOLID/ OOP principles. Each Method within the controllers has their own functionality, with accompanying MVC view pages, abiding by the single responsibility principle. Most of the methods and classes can be used by other functions but cannot be modified directly, which appeases the open closed principle. The database is almost entirely based on the abstraction of home ingredients, that’s why item type has the abstract item such as cheese, item holds a specific type of item such as cathedral city cheese, and then there is the household item which is the data representation of an item in a user’s stock, this abides by the dependency inversion principle. Within the project the use of adapter classes to help simulate connection to external APIs, with these classes the project could have a simulated connection to an API which may abide by the Interface Segregation Principle.

## 5.2 Stages of Sprints

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sprint | Topic | What was achieved |
| Sprint 1,2 | Conception and Design | - Created simple ERD of a proposed system, State visualisation, Mock UI’s and research on other applications similar in design.  - Tried to normalise data  - Report writing done a little bit every stage  - Tutorials on the technologies was done  - Write the Create table statements for possible tables. |
| Sprint 3 | Attempted Xamarin/ UI | - Wanted to start off with User creation and Logging in functionality, but issues  - created second prototype UI after testing. |
| Sprint 4-6 | Redesign/Building test environment | - Redesign considered and taken place based on household.  - Tutorials for Web forms, MVC and Asp.net API were done.  - Many practice projects created.  - Test environment Created with 1 test table, Fully CRUD front end that interacts with API endpoints. |
| Sprint 7 | System Build Start | - Created some tables of the system not including shopping and recipe functionality.  - Created and published API, which interacts with current tables  - Create CRUD MVC web application (API exerciser)  - Add filtering on certain pages |
| Sprint 8/9 | Finishing off system and having fully finished API Exerciser | - Recipe and Shopping list tables added to the database  - Endpoints created and published for those tables  - Fully CRUD frontend added for the new tables, with some filtering  - Added triggers for shopping list functionality  - Added sequences for the ID’s  - Not allow user to Edit the ID  - some mock adapters were created in the API to mock a connection to a barcode and shopping basket API. |
| Sprint 10/11 | Report Writing and bug fixing | - writing report.  -proof read report  -improve the report  - bug fix any issues |

## 5.3 Security

Achieving successful prototypes of each feature was prioritised, and as such security was not deemed as a high priority, although security is a very important feature within a consumer product, if this app were to go further into production many features would be implemented for the safety of the users.

#### Security/Error Handling

In the final system security would be a very important feature to have, as eventually the application may have personal user data that is needed to be kept safe. For the purpose of testing, many sets of data were placed into the system to test the API exerciser and its CRUD capabilities, these were all made up and hold no personal details of any real people, so that security could be more relaxed in this prototype as to not breach any ethical concerns with any user’s personal data.

For this many precautions would be implemented to the project to make sure the safety of its users was paramount, this would be done through hashing the passwords. Now the system only uses varchar for the use of the password, but in the final developed product the passwords will be of a password datatype as well as having a hashing algorithm which hash/salts the passwords, so even if anyone gained access to the system, passwords will not be readily accessible. Error handling has been placed in some functionality as to avoid multiple issues, such as repeated data. Users are not able to edit the ID Primary keys of most of the tables, as they are sequencing the system gives inputted data its own individual ID, this avoids duplicate data, which can cause major issues, as most of the ASP.Net API calls are made using an id as a reference.

## 5.4 Functionality Testing

Between the changing of technologies many tutorials were taken, and mock projects created to test if the architecture would work and practice those skills, it was decided that here a test environment should be created to demonstrate a full system connection of the chosen technologies.

For testing some of the API endpoints early on in development, Postman was used, this was helpful in that a front-end application was not needed to test if the API endpoints were published correctly and working as intended. Thus, it was possible to go into development for the front-end application knowing that the API worked.

For the purpose of testing and practicing the technologies, an API Exerciser was created, this application was a ASP.net MVC web application, which had fully CRUD capabilities (Create, Read, Update, Delete).

This application has the key components necessary for the main application, such as displaying data from the database using API endpoints, having the capability to edit certain rows of data, being able to create a new set of data, delete a row of data as well as filter certain pages by an ID such as filtering the shopping list items table by each Shopping list. So, most of the Code within the application was reusable for the main application.

## 5.5 Evaluation

No project goes exactly as planned, which is why more recent methodologies have started to loosen up on strict planning and control of how a project is managed and implemented. With the use of the Agile methodology, the issues which did occur during production were mitigated by having smart goals which were spread out into controllable sprints. As previously mentioned, Agile helped when it came to starting the project from scratch as it had the goals already laid out in a manageable manner. And when extra face to face meetings were needed to excel in the project Agile was very accommodating, while also having mitigation tactics in place, so that the developer is conscious of the possible faults and issues that may occur (risk assessment can be seen in appendix E).

Although the Project did not get as far as desired (meal functionality not fully completed), the logic and process behind creating the functions were still conceived. Such as the desire to add a servings table, this would help the system understand different weight values and different types of measurements and have a way to bring them all together into a serving relation. For instance, rice, if needing to serve for 2 would have the value 200g within the table but say if a user desires to make something with bread. The system at the moment only has the weight and quantity of the item, and as bread will have the quantity of 1, then there will be issues in trying to reduce that number after use. So instead, the weight category could be used, the only issue of this is that the user must know the weight of every single slice of bread they use, which would increase the amount of work done needed for the application to work, meaning it would be one step away from being a successful smart system. The serving table would then be able to say for a serving a slice of bread but would have the weight value possibly attached to it.

Another issue was that the way the system was implemented, the system has the tables of item and item type, item type is the abstract item (beans), item is the branded item (Heinz baked beans), this was to help the user in choosing specific items for the shopping list which hopefully then could connect to external shopping API, so they could buy specific items. The issue lies within the meal functionality as a generic meal would refer to the generic abstract ingredients so that the user could have free range in what brand the item was, but the items which are within household item are items rather than item type so when looking from a recipe and checking if the ingredients are within a household, problems in logic would occur. This would lead to a very convoluted function which compares multiple tables and joins, which would make the function very slow to respond.

# Chapter 6 Conclusion

## 6.1 Post-mortem

During the development for the application some issues arose which needed to be resolved so the project could continue.

One of main visions of the project was to make the application mobile friendly, hence why Xamarin was initially chosen. One of the key issues was that Xamarin was not working as expected. Previously when using Xamarin, all the work had been done within the university, in a Smeaton lab that has access to Xamarin and the necessary libraries. Due to COVID access to the lab was hindered. The assumption was that the computers that I had access to would be capable of coding in Xamarin like the lab, but there were continuous issues following through. On the main desktop where the project was originally created, due to having an AMD processor the computer was not able to run the emulator to run and test the front end. To try and resolve this issue a laptop with an Intel CPU was used. This got passed the issue of being able to use the emulator, but another problem arose, where no matter what version of NuGet packages was used none would ever install correctly due to different versions, making development come to a standstill. As progression was halted, another solution had to be put in place, so instead of using Xamarin for the front end, a web based front end was considered. Although the application will not be able to be on the application store, the ability to access the application on any device that can access the web will increase the number of possible users able to access the application. To make sure the user is still getting the experience that the project desired the application will be scaled for mobile phones, so the UI is still user friendly to those using phones with smaller screens, although this may never be achieved within this project.

After having decided a web based front end was best, many practice projects were used to both go through the tutorials of ASP.Net web forms, MVC and asp.net API. Web forms was attempted, but this was traded out for an MVC Front end.

To say that smart home systems are a necessity is a far cry, the desire to make homes more automated and convenient to control by means of smart technology, is mostly driven by the developers and sellers of the technology, which often fills a hole that never needed to be filled. Take the problems Stokk is trying to solve, there are already systems in place which can solve the issues, a simple pen and paper can create a shopping list, so what is the need for the application? Galen Gruman when speaking about smart home technologies mentioned that “They're mainly solutions in search of a problem” (Gruman, 2014), which at the start of the project was true. The Stokk system had to go through a few iterations before reaching the conclusion that to create a system that helped in the home it first needed to be convenient for the user to use, compared to the physical alternatives that have been used for hundreds of years.

This links with another issue that occurs when using smart home systems, that when systems did not work as expected it “was usually due to the effort required to set up and control systems, rather than the lack of functionality.” (Oliveira, et al., 2020). So, an issue with going forward with the system was finding solutions which benefited the user, by not adding additional steps, to achieve the core functionality thus why the QR design was dropped.

## 6.2 Main Functionality Not Fully Achieved

#### Recipe Formatting

Although the initial plan was to have the ingredients displayed per recipe by looping through all the recipeitems with a certain ID, instead join tables were created within the API, so these custom API endpoints can join 2 separate tables of data, and then the MVC application can sort through them. Although this method would be slow as join tables tend to take a longer time to execute but was the successful in displaying all recipes in a group with the ingredients listed, and the desire to filter by recipe which only displays the, the join table shows the friendly names of items.

#### Recipe Handling

Although recipe handling was one of the core features of the applications conception, being able to filter what meals a household could make with their current ingredients became a struggle to do, as time being spent on failed algorithms was taking its toll in other areas such as the report and other features. So, although this current application does not filter and display which meals a specific household can make, the page just displays a list of the meals. Eventually this would also include a Button which meant that the user had cooked the meal and that the system should remove the items that were used in the recipe.

#### Bought functionality

For the functionality of having a user say they bought an item, a button which says “bought” would reduce the value of QTY on that row to 0 subsequently setting off the Trigger in the database that adds that row from the shopping list items table, over to the household items table. Although the trigger was fully created and the functionality can be tested by editing the QTY value to 0, the button to do this functionality was never finished, as MVC is very rigid, a function within the controllers must have an accompanying view, so instead the user is directed to another view page that allows the user to edit the QTY value and nothing else, with instructions at the top to tell the user to reduce the value to 0 if bought.

#### Friendly names

Within the project, for a working front end to be fully implemented a user must understand what they are looking at, to assist with this process numerous join tables were created to connect the friendly name of items, users, and households, so that when a user would use the system they would not be confused. These join tables are within custom API endpoints which slow down execution slightly but display the information that is necessary for a user to understand the system.

#### Successfully implemented functionality.

The core functionality of the application was almost fully met, the application can CRUD all tables fully allowing editing, deleting and creation of data within the database through the use of published API endpoints. The triggers in the database allow for users to reduce the quantity of items and the system adds that item to the shopping list, partnering this the removal of an item from the shopping list to then go into a user’s household. Join tables which display information in a more understandable manner for the user rather than seeing IDs, and the recipe items were sorted in relation to the recipe.

## 6.3 Final Conclusion

Stokk is an aspiring smart home system that was created to help the user with shopping, stock keeping and recipe handling, with the use of automation to help create an integrated smart system for the kitchen and home, which can help be a stepping stone towards achieving a fully integrated “smart home environment” (Kazmierzak, 2012). Although not fully implemented the architecture for the database and API have been fully implemented with only minor tweaks to get the system to a higher standard for production. Stokk is not currently a smart home system but with a few adjustments it is well on the way to creating a smart home environment within the kitchen and when shopping, so the user’s tasks can be streamlined.

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# Appendices

## Appendix A SQL Statements with comments

USE COMP3000\_SSharpe

GO

**-Within these code blocks all ID’s are sequences**

**-Create user table where UID is primary key, friendly name is the users first name they want to be referred by, password and email**

CREATE TABLE [User]

(UID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT AK\_UID UNIQUE(UID),

CONSTRAINT PK\_UID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (UID),

FriendlyName varchar (50) NOT NULL,

[Password] varchar (50) NOT NULL,

Email varchar(50) NOT NULL

);

GO

**-create household table PK Household Id, HHName is the house name, admin user is the primary user of a household and has full control of household, the users are foreign keys from the user table**

CREATE TABLE HouseHold

(HHID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT AK\_HHID UNIQUE(HHID),

CONSTRAINT PK\_HHID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (HHID),

HHName varchar (50)NOT NULL,

AdminUser int NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT FK\_AdminUser FOREIGN KEY (AdminUser)

REFERENCES [User] (UID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

RestrictedUsers int,

CONSTRAINT FK\_RestrictedUsers FOREIGN KEY (RestrictedUsers)

REFERENCES [User] (UID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION

);

GO

**- Create Room table Room ID is PK RoomName is the name of the room , and The House Hold ID as a FK from HouseHold**

CREATE TABLE Room

(RID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT AK\_RID UNIQUE(RID),

CONSTRAINT PK\_RID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (RID),

RoomName varchar (50)NOT NULL,

HHID int CONSTRAINT FK\_HHID FOREIGN KEY (HHID)

REFERENCES HouseHold(HHID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION

);

GO

**- Create StorageSpace table where storage space id is PK, storage name is its name and Room ID as FK**

CREATE TABLE StorageSpace

(SSID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT AK\_SSID UNIQUE(SSID),

CONSTRAINT PK\_SSID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (SSID),

StorageName varchar (50)NOT NULL,

RID int CONSTRAINT FK\_RID FOREIGN KEY (RID)

REFERENCES Room (RID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION

);

GO

**-Create Item Type table that has item type ID as pk and Item Type name this is the generic item like beans, sausages**

CREATE TABLE ItemType

(ITID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT AK\_IYID UNIQUE(ITID),

CONSTRAINT PK\_ITID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (ITID),

ITName varchar (50) NOT NULL

);

GO

**- Create item table that has Item ID as the primary key, itemName which is the specific name or brand of an item like Heinz beans, with Item Type ID as a foreign key**

CREATE TABLE Item

(IID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT AK\_IID UNIQUE(IID),

CONSTRAINT PK\_IID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (IID),

ItemName varchar (50) NOT NULL,

ITID int CONSTRAINT FK\_ITID FOREIGN KEY (ITID)

REFERENCES ItemType (ITID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION

);

GO

**-Create HouseHoldItem table that has HouseHold Item ID as PK, and has HouseHold ID Item ID and storage space as Foreign Keys**

CREATE TABLE HouseHoldItem

(HHIID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT AK\_HHIID UNIQUE(HHIID),

CONSTRAINT PK\_HHIID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (HHIID),

QTY int NOT NULL,

SSID int CONSTRAINT FK\_SSID FOREIGN KEY (SSID)

REFERENCES StorageSpace (SSID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

IID int CONSTRAINT FK\_IID FOREIGN KEY (IID)

REFERENCES Item (IID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

HHID int CONSTRAINT FK\_HHoldID FOREIGN KEY (HHID)

REFERENCES HouseHold(HHID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION

);

GO

**- create shopping list table, has shopping list id as primary key and household id as a foreign key**

CREATE TABLE ShoppingList

(SLID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT PK\_SLID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (SLID),

HHID int CONSTRAINT FK\_HouseholdID FOREIGN KEY (HHID)

REFERENCES HouseHold (HHID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

);

GO

**Create shopping list item shopping list item ID as Primary key, shopping list ID as foreign key Item ID, QTY int and Urgent as a Boolean.**

CREATE TABLE ShoppingListItems

(SLIID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT PK\_SLIID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (SLIID),

SLID int CONSTRAINT FK\_SLID FOREIGN KEY (SLID)

REFERENCES ShoppingList (SLID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

IID int NOT NULL

CONSTRAINT FK\_ItemID FOREIGN KEY (IID)

REFERENCES Item (IID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

QTY int NOT NULL,

Urgent bit NOT NULL

);

GO

**- create recipe table with Recipe ID as primary key, has details and instructions for meal and UserID as foreign key**

CREATE TABLE Recipe

(RecipeID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT PK\_RecipeID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (RecipeID),

Details varchar (200) NOT NULL,

Instructions varchar (MAX) NOT NULL,

UserID int CONSTRAINT FK\_User FOREIGN KEY (UserID)

REFERENCES [User] (UID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION

);

GO

**- Create RecipeItem for ingredients of a recipe, Recipe Item ID as pk, Item as Item Id and Recipe ID as FK with QTY and Wight attributes.**

CREATE TABLE RecipeItem

(RecipeIID int IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,

CONSTRAINT PK\_RecipeIID PRIMARY KEY NONCLUSTERED (RecipeIID),

Item int CONSTRAINT FK\_RecipeItemID FOREIGN KEY (Item)

REFERENCES Item (IID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

RecipeID int CONSTRAINT FK\_RecipeID FOREIGN KEY (RecipeID)

REFERENCES Recipe (RecipeID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

QTY int NOT NULL,

Weight int

);

GO

**- Create desire stock, to dictate how much a user wants of each item and is the qty we add to the shopping list.**

CREATE TABLE DesiredStock

(IID int

CONSTRAINT FK\_DSIID FOREIGN KEY (IID)

REFERENCES Item (IID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

HHID int

CONSTRAINT FK\_DSHHID FOREIGN KEY (HHID)

REFERENCES HouseHold (HHID)

ON DELETE NO ACTION

ON UPDATE NO ACTION,

CONSTRAINT PK\_HHIDIID PRIMARY KEY (IID,HHID),

QTY int NOT NULL

)

**-Create trigger that after a houseHold is inserted Insert a New Shopping List where HHID== the one just created**

CREATE TRIGGER CreateHouseHoldShoppingList ON HouseHold

AFTER INSERT

AS

BEGIN

INSERT INTO ShoppingList(HHID)

SELECT i.HHID

FROM

inserted i;

END

GO

USE [COMP3000\_SSharpe]

GO

**- create / altered trigger for adding item to shopping list once low or 0**

ALTER TRIGGER [dbo].[addingToShoppingList] ON [dbo].[HouseHoldItem]

For UPDATE

AS

//declare variables to hold values from differnt tables, to hold the household id

DECLARE @HouseHoldID int

SELECT @HouseHoldID = HHID

FROM inserted

//item id from item

DECLARE @ItemID int

SELECT @ItemID = IID

FROM inserted

//QTY From theHouseholdItem

DECLARE @ActualQTY int

SELECT @ActualQTY = QTY

FROM HouseHoldItem

WHERE HHID = @HouseHoldID

AND IID = @ItemID

//Shopping list ID from Shopping List

DECLARE @ShoppingListID int

SELECT @ShoppingListID = SLID

FROM ShoppingList

WHERE HHID = @HouseHoldID

//Desired QTY from desired stock

DECLARE @DesiredQTY int

SELECT @DesiredQTY = QTY

FROM dbo.DesiredStock

WHERE HHID = @HouseHoldID

AND IID = @ItemID

//declare Urgency if the actual QTY is more than 1 return the function trigger, if QTY =0 Delete from household item where QTY =0 and add to Shopping list with urgency is true, else urgency is false.

DECLARE @Urgency bit

if(@ActualQTY> 1 )

RETURN;

if(@ActualQTY=0)

BEGIN

DELETE FROM HouseHoldItem

WHERE QTY = 0;

SET @Urgency = 1;

END;

ELSE

SET @Urgency = 0;

//select attributes from shopping list items where the created variables = the accompanying attribute in Shopping List Items, update the database, set urgency, and insert into Shopping List Items

BEGIN

IF EXISTS (SELECT \* FROM ShoppingListItems WHERE @ShoppingListID = SLID AND @ItemID = IID)

UPDATE dbo.ShoppingListItems

SET dbo.ShoppingListItems.Urgent = @Urgency

ELSE

INSERT INTO ShoppingListItems VALUES (@ShoppingListID,@ItemID, @DesiredQTY, @Urgency)

END;

**-Create trigger on shopping list item, a button should make the value of qty = 0, when this happens item is removed from the shopping list and added to the household item table**

CREATE TRIGGER AddFromShoppingListToHHI ON ShoppingListItems

AFTER UPDATE

AS

DECLARE @TransferrableQTY int

SELECT @TransferrableQTY = QTY

FROM deleted

DECLARE @ShoppingListItemID int

SELECT @ShoppingListItemID = SLIID

FROM deleted

DECLARE @CheckingQTY int

SELECT @CheckingQTY = QTY

FROM inserted

DECLARE @ShoppingListID int

SELECT @ShoppingListID = SLID

FROM deleted

DECLARE @HouseHold int

SELECT @HouseHold = HHID

FROM ShoppingList

WHERE SLID = @ShoppingListID

DECLARE @BoughtItem int

SELECT @BoughtItem = IID

FROM deleted

DECLARE @CurrentStock int

SELECT @CurrentStock = QTY

FROM HouseHoldItem

WHERE IID = @BoughtItem AND HHID = @HouseHold

DECLARE @NewStockAmount int

SET @NewStockAmount = @CurrentStock + @TransferrableQTY

IF(@CheckingQTY = 0)

BEGIN

DELETE FROM dbo.ShoppingListItems WHERE SLIID = @ShoppingListItemID

IF EXISTS (SELECT \* FROM HouseHoldItem WHERE IID = @BoughtItem AND HHID = @HouseHold)

UPDATE dbo.HouseHoldItem

SET QTY = @NewStockAmount

WHERE IID = @BoughtItem AND HHID = @HouseHold

ELSE

INSERT INTO HouseHoldItem VALUES (@TransferrableQTY, null, @BoughtItem, @HouseHold)

END;

**-create trigger for adding desired stock values on inserting into household item**

USE COMP3000\_SSharpe

GO

CREATE TRIGGER AddToDesiredStock ON HouseHoldItem

AFTER INSERT

AS

DECLARE @InsertedHH int

SELECT @InsertedHH = HHID

FROM inserted

DECLARE @InsertedItem int

SELECT @InsertedItem = IID

FROM inserted

Declare @InsertedQTY int

SELECT @InsertedQTY = QTY

FROM inserted

IF EXISTS (SELECT \* FROM HouseHoldItem WHERE IID = @InsertedItem AND HHID = @InsertedHH)

RETURN;

ELSE

INSERT INTO DesiredStock VALUES (@InsertedItem, @InsertedHH, @InsertedQTY)

## Appendix B Questionnaire Questions

#### Questionnaire 1: concept assistance.

Do you use an application to help with cooking?

Do you use an application to help with shopping lists?

Do you use an application for stock control?

Would you use an application that helped with cooking?

Would you use an application that helped with shopping?

Would you use an application that helped with stock control?

Would you use an application that integrated all the previously mentioned functionality?

#### Questionnaire 2: Usability testing of Mock Design

Users shown design prototype demo.

What did you think of the design?

What would you change?

Would you use this application?

And why would you use this application?

## Appendix C – Ethical Approval Confirmation



24 April 2020

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Shirley Atkinson

School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics

Dear Shirley

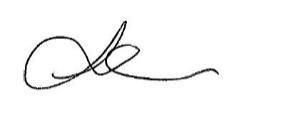
***Ethical Approval Application***

Thank you for submitting the revised ethical approval form and details concerning your project:

Requirements Gathering and Usability Testing of Software for Computing Undergraduate Project modules - Revision to cover remote usability testing in response to COVID-19.

I am pleased to inform you that this has been approved via Chair’s Action

Kind regards



Rebecca Waghorne

Secretary to Faculty Research Ethics Committee

Mrs Jayne Brenen, Head of Faculty Operations, Faculty of Science and Engineering, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus,

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## Appendix D – Blog posts

Wednesday, 28 April 2021, 3:21 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

Due to a misunderstanding, i thought that the hand in was in for the 31st of march so everything was already handed in on the 30th of march this included finishing the report. So for the first few weeks of April no progression was made, later in the month it was found out and some changes were made to the applications.

firstly custom api endpoints were created to join tables with queries, this was done so that friendly names could be returned instead of ID which would have confused users. this was done for returning the item name for household item, recipe item and shopping list item. then the returning name for admin user in household and from users friendly name, returning friendly name for room and storage space in the storage space and room tables respectively.

secondly the conception of a servings table for weight and quantity functionality was pondered.

New blog post

Monday, 8 March 2021, 10:17 AM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

Rest of the tables built for shopping list/ recipe functionality.

A new table called desired stock was added to help with shopping list functionality.

Along with this triggers for, creating a shopping list for a household when a household is created.

the first time an item is added to household item the QTY stored in desired stock.

once an item on household item reaches 1 it is added to the shopping list, once the HHI reaches 0 the item is removed from the urgency bit in Shopping list is set to true.

for adding back from the shopping list, there is a trigger which places the item into HHI once the value is changed to 0, (there will be a button which reduces the QTY value to 0 which sets off the trigger).

Cleaned up some of the report for the project, now in relevant sections, and some more architectural diagrams of the different versions of the system.

New blog post

Friday, 19 February 2021, 5:11 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

Basic Database built not including full tables but basis for building applications around.

API built using asp.net, and was published so endpoints could be reached by application

Front end application built using MVC asp.net, all calls are made from API endpoints, is fully CRUD with create, delete, edit, details and index pages. Ability to filter Household items by Households, Items by item type and rooms by household. Mostly asynchronous.

A dummy interface and adapter classes were made in the API application to mock a connection to a barcode API.

New blog post

Sunday, 14 February 2021, 8:39 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

Due to technical complications with using xamarin architecture had to be redesigned.

A web application was chosen for the application using asp.net web forms or mvc (razor pages).

Many tutorials and test projects were done over the previous weeks to try and gauge what was the best method and what was possible. After attempting to use web forms for the front end, it was decided to use the razor pages where i was able to create a test environment where the application could display information from the database onto the web page using the api endpoints.

a redesign of how the database would be formatted was taken where it is based on house hold rather than a user base(users also included), as well as adding an item type for each item, the tables have been built and the next steps are to create the api application.

New blog post

Friday, 18 December 2020, 2:51 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

This past week the priority has been writing up what sections that are possible of the report, and it has reached a few thousand words, still struggling to find studies and papers on the area, more research is still required.

New blog post

Friday, 4 December 2020, 12:10 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

This last week I have been working on the report and planning further of the application.

For planning, some issues arose when mentally going through how the user would interact with the system, and how the system would respond at that point, so initial activity diagrams were created, along with some beginning user case diagrams. This helped flesh out how I wanted the vision of this project to pan out.

Had some issues with report as finding it hard to get literature around the subject of using technology to improve the home, or even efficiency in using technology in the home, but maybe looking into the increase in efficiency due to technology in another area.  
Due to the difficulty of finding literature, i then looked towards other applications in the area of recipe handling and home storage, many websites and applications were researched, where I use them as reference to features they have and what I would like to adapt to mine (hopefully, use this to Segway into HCI principles and reason for UI decisions and use literature there).

New blog post

Thursday, 26 November 2020, 12:18 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

Due to moving house and some family issues, productivity for the last 2 weeks has not been optimal, only being able to do 6 hours over the previous 2 weeks.

To combat this over the coming weeks more hours will be put in than regular.

New blog post

Friday, 6 November 2020, 11:22 AM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

During the last 2 weeks I have covered some ground on the initial development of the application, although not as much as desired as I have been distracted with finding housing.

An initial ERD was created for how the database would be laid out.

Paper prototype for UI was created, this was followed by prototypes on computer to show how each page would be laid out as well as how the user would interact with the pages (state diagrams), this was done to help flesh out what pages were needed and how to represent some pieces of data.

Made mock UI using XAML and Xamarin forms, the modal popups  still need to be done along with 2 other pages, the designs were kept simple as to avoid gold plating.

Some create statements for the SQL tables were made, not all create statements finished.

Some revision on SQL, Xamarin and ASP.NET has been done.

Blog post 2

Thursday, 22 October 2020, 3:09 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

This week (sprint 0/1) due to being ill, productivity towards the project has not been fully achieved.

The project initiation document was finished, as well as contact with the project supervisor was reached.

Initial sprint plan was created in trello, but will have to be transferred to office 365, and the supervisor will be linked in, the github repository was created.

Did some initial research into which technologies to use and the compatibility between them.

next week:

plan to fix the sprints, create ERD for database as well as data dictionary.

revise over the technologies and create a mock ui (possibly application state visualization).

do research into other similar applications and find out what features people would want for an application of this kind.

Project initiation

Friday, 16 October 2020, 12:03 PM

by [Struan Sharpe](https://dle.plymouth.ac.uk/user/view.php?id=98854&course=47605)

For the first phase of the project, I spent time trying to get the main idea and concept for my application in full swing, getting the functionality fleshed out. What was concluded was that a mobile application which helped people in home or out and about, would be a good idea. Using SQL, Xamarin (c#), xaml would be the best technologies to use as the desired project would be a mobile application for ease of usability. A Trello board was started up and a list of functionalities was added.

Project name:

Stokk

Multipurpose home database system

Functionality:

Shopping list

Stock intake/output

Meals that can be done with current ingredients in house (once chosen current ingredients removed)

fully customizable for individual user (they can name the rooms and cupboards)

ingredient-cupboard-room-user

 initially start by inputting the data which seems overdrawn so if there is time then using tesco api or vision processing for the receipts (this is not a priority and other functionality will come first, but interesting feature)

application:

-          notifies user when getting low on an item/ingredient

-          adds item when 1 qty left to shopping list

-          when 0 added to urgent part of shopping list

-          user can see possible meals from the ingredient they have in their cupboard

-          once meal chosen application will tell user when the list of ingredients for the meal are located

-          user can see their cupboards and what ingredients are in them (with qty and or weight)

lots of the functionality like the adding ingredients to lists and notifying the user can be done with triggers within the database

the next stages for me will be:

-          planning out the sprints so that my management goals are actualized and planned out in a coherent and logical order (primary functionality first to avoid scope creep)

-          set up GitHub and arrange meetings with project supervisor

-          plan out and do prototypes for the application this is to help gauge the full range of functionality and where and when functions will be called

-          do some event state diagrams and ERD for application

-          realizing and normalizing the database system, and checking it through with a member of staff as to make sure it would work without complications

## Appendix E – Code Walkthrough

This code walk through covers the MVC functions within the API exerciser, with examples of the displayed data and how it was achieved.

### Index (GET) Function

Text

Description automatically generated

Figure A, Index function in MVC application

This code goes through the index user function within the MVC application (API Exerciser), this function would be used to display all the data within the user table.

The base address or Baseurl “web.socem.plymouth.ac.uk/FYP/SSharpe/” sits at the top of all the MVC controllers. In figure A the index function Initialises a list with the User datatype, this will hold all of the data from the API call.

List<User> UsersInfo = new List<User>();

Then it initialises a new http client by using the “using” action word.

using (var client = new HttpClient())

Within this using Http client, it gives the client a base address by passing the base URL.

client.BaseAddress = new Uri(Baseurl);

Then it defines request data format, the data being dealt with is Json.

client.DefaultRequestHeaders.Accept.Add(new MediaTypeWithQualityHeaderValue("application/json"));

Then it sends a request to find the web API REST service resource, as this is a get function client.Getasync is used where the string parameter notates the desired endpoint. So for index users, the base URL is used and within the Getasync it’s parameter is the string “api/Users” to reach the desired endpoint.

HttpResponseMessage Res = await client.GetAsync("api/Users");

The function then checks res to see if it reached success status code, if not the function returns null, if success then.

It then Stores the response details received from the API into UserResponse using readAsStringAsync function.

var UserResponse = Res.Content.ReadAsStringAsync().Result;

The function then deserializes the response received from web API and stores it into the list using Json.Convert and deserializeObject.

UsersInfo = JsonConvert.DeserializeObject<List<User>>(UserResponse);

Then the User List is returned to the view.

return View(UsersInfo);

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceFigure B, shows index page for users.

Figure C, MVC app, User, View Index page

Figure B shows the displayed index page for the users, the index function is used when looking at any of the collections of the tables on the index pages (this one for the user), it displays all values in a table which is based off the model within the MVC application. At the bottom of the cshtml page (which is used as the View page) seen in figure C you can see the action links for other pages, these redirect to another page taking in User ID as a parameter.

#### Get Deserialize Function

Most Get functions within the MVC application are similar in structure to the Index function, although instead of a list, the datatype of the model is used, so instead these functions return the information of a single user.

Also instead the client.GetAsync function uses (“api/Users/” + id ), as a parameter, passing an individual ID after the desired endpoint.

HttpResponseMessage Res = await client.GetAsync("api/Users/" + id);

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Figure D18, MVC page showing details of specific user.

The Get Deserialize Function is used on many pages’ controllers. Get Users Details, Get Users Edit, Get Users Delete, all relocate to the desired page passing the ID of an individual user across to the delete, details and edit pages as seen in figure D. The only other GET function that does not use GetDeserialize is the Create User page, as data doesn’t need to be passed to the page, it only needs a blank template to send the information across.

### Post/Put Functions

All post functions don’t require the 2 lines using client.DefaultRequestHeaders, as they are not receiving any data only posting.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

Figure E, View for creation of user

#### Create Functions

Create user is a Post function using PostAsJsonAsync method, this converts the body to Json format sends it to the API. Once completed the user is redirected back to the index page after, the function uses client.PostsAsJsonAsync, as it takes in the input boxes form the cshtml page as seen in figure E.

var postTask = client.PostAsJsonAsync<User>("Users/", user);

#### Delete Functions

Delete User, although a delete Async is used, the cshtml page passes the information in post format so [httpPost] needs to be declared before the function, but still uses DeleteAsync, this function also redirects back to the index page at the end of execution.

var deleteTask = client.DeleteAsync("api/Users/" + id.ToString());Graphical user interface

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure F , delete user view page

#### Edit Function

Edit User takes in the parameters of user for the body of changes and ID to refer to the user’s ID and endpoint. Yet again, due to the way cshtml pages send data this function had to be denoted as [httppost]

Even though it uses putAsJsonAsync, which also serializes the input for the API endpoint.

var putTask = client.PutAsJsonAsync<User>("api/Users/" + id, user);

#### Filter Function

Certain controllers have a filter function and page. For instance, the items table can be filtered by ItemType using the function FilterByIT. where the action link in the index cshtml page calls the function FilterByIT and passes the Item type ID as a parameter, then redirects to the filter page (Which is in the list format like the index page).

The function is similar to the Index function up until the last, which instead of just returning the ItemInfo list will filter it where item.ITID (itemID) is the same as the id passed through as a parameter.

return View(ItemInfo.Where(Item => Item.ITID == id));

A picture containing table

Description automatically generated

Figure G, Index item page displaying the filter by Item type

So if the user clicked the filter by IT Button on the first item as seen in figure G, the ITID of the generic beans which is 1 is passed to the filterByIT function where it returns the Filter list page where Items ITID == 1.

Application

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Figure H, filter items by item type

Once pressed, the page displays all items under the item type of beans which is Heinz beans and Branston beans as seen by figure H.

#### Mock Adapter for External API/ Barcode and Shopping Cart

To simulate different API being connected to the system, a folder was created in the API application called Adapters, this folder holds for each desired connection a C# interface class that defines the adaptor’s interface and a class that conforms to the interface, along with some adaptations to how the model is formatted.

For example, there is a dummy barcode adapter and interface named ImpBCDUmmy and IBarcodeAdapter respectively. The Ibarcode interface defines item findproductByBarcode passing barcode as an int parameter.

Item FindProductByBarcode(int barCode);

Within the Model, Item.cs, this code was added so the data being passed conforms to the model structure, where it can be passed no parameters, parameters of string or id, or those and TypeID.

public Item() { }

public Item(int ID, string Name)

{

IID = ID;

ItemName = Name;

ITID = null;

}

public Item(int ID, string Name, int TypeID)

{

IID = ID;

ItemName = Name;

ITID = TypeID;

}

}

ImpBCDUmmy class creates a dictionary collection of fake data called BCValue, this dictionary has integer and item data being passed to it. Fake data was input where the first number of the dictionary is the id of the barcode that it receives from the external Barcode API. Additionally, in the second section of the dictionary a new item is created with item name and id being given for that item.

IDictionary<int, Item> BCValue = new Dictionary<int, Item>() {

{ 88887777, new Item(1234567, "Beans")},

{ 77776666, new Item(2345678, "Sausages")};

There is also a class that returns the data in the format of the datatype Item

private Item ReturnTranslate(object data)

{

return (Item)data;

}

The system has another class called findProductByBarcode that takes int item as a parameter, it then returns the ReturnTranslate function where BCValue[item] is the parameter.

public Item FindProductByBarcode(int item)

{

return ReturnTranslate(BCValue[item]);

}

Another similar dummy adapter was also created for receiving shopping from a basket online, where instead of looking at the Item Table it looks at the HouseHoldItem Table.

For each of these dummy adapters an API endpoint was created, to use the adapter the code below had to be instantiated at the start of the main class.

private IBarcodeAdapter barcodeAdapter = new ImpBCDummy();

Making sure that the Response type is the Item data type, calls the GetBarcode function.

[ResponseType(typeof(Item))]

public async Task<IHttpActionResult> GetBarcode(int barCode)

{

return Ok(barcodeAdapter.FindProductByBarcode(barCode));

}

If using postman or browser, the endpoint can be reached by typing:

“http://web.socem.plymouth.ac.uk/FYP/SSharpe/api/Items?barCode={88887777}”

Which displays the dummy data related to that barcode lookup which is beans.

## Appendix F – Risk assessment

Table, calendar

Description automatically generated

Figure I, risk assessment plan