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For this final project, I took a safer route and mostly implemented functionalities that I already mastered because of the limited amount of time I had during the last couple of weeks of the quarter. That being said I still put a lot of effort and consideration into this project and tried to make it the best I could given the amount of time I had.

Unlike previous assignments where there is one HTML and one client-side JavaScript file, implementing a full-stack project required multiple HTML and JavaScript files, and the information retrieved and sent to the server must be handled correctly between these pages. The handling of information and the relationships of these different pages was the most challenging and confusing part of the entire project. Originally, I was trying to put the main page(where user can choose from multiple products), the product page(where user can see the details of one specific product) and the cart page(where user can see the product they selected) on three separate HTML files and handle them separately, but then I realized that in that case, the newly generated HTML page would not be able to easily retrieve the information associated with the previous request. So instead I had to use DOM manipulation to capture the information sent during the click event. Yet this was not the most elegant when it came to the add-to-cart functionality. Since whenever the user navigates away to the FAQ or Contact Us page and later opens up their cart from the main page, they would not be able to see their previously added products because the page has refreshed.

I tried using cookie to store the data of the products in the cart but had a bit of difficulty. First being that when I send the data to the server using the same name, the previously send cookie data will be replaced with the new one; although later I found out that I could append information to existing cookie data entries, I wasn’t very familiar with it at the time. Another issue is that the given the unpredictive nature of user behavior (adding product, deleting product), reading, parsing, updating, and sending cookie data are a bit trickier. I was very pressed on time and decided that I wouldn’t be able to learn all of these cookie manipulations from online and correctly implement them while still hitting the deadline. Yet I am very interested to learn and improve upon my current project.

If I had another week, there are two things I would love to change about the project. First is the handling of the add-to-cart functionality using cookie, for which I had a plan, but it was unfortunately aborted; another one is allowing customers that are logged in/signed up to see the products that were previously added to the cart, which I think would require some manipulations using SQL and/or cookie.

All that being said, I had a great time working and playing with this project, I’m so glad I was able to fully use what I learned and create something of my own using HTML, CSS, client-side and server-side JS and SQL. It was very rewarding to see my creative projects go from a simple HTML page to a project like this, which is an almost functioning e-commerce website; this experience provided me with insight to the inner-workings of a full-stack project and all the different moving pieces involved in it. I truly felt like I gained a lot from this class and will keep on exploring and creating.