Sealand Entitlements Web Store, Interim Progress Report

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1 Currently implemented features

1.1 User Front End/Order Fufillment

For the user shopping experience, the following features have been fully implemented:

Without having to log in to the web site, users can browse for items and dynamically build and maintain a shopping cart that will be persistent for the current session or until a order is completed. When users browse for items, they can search for items by key word or category. Additionally, users can view a description and a picture for each item in the database. Items can be added and removed from the cart in addition the adjusting the quantity of a given item. If a customer removes all items from the cart, the system recognized that the cart is empty, updating the status as opposed to maintaining an empty cart.

Users can complete their order using the payment information stored in their profile by logging into the website. They will be prompted with payment choices available for the current purchase. Users are able to determine their log in status through feedback from the website. If a user is not logged in when they attempt to complete their order, the user is prompted for log in information which is validated against customer accounts in the database.

Once a user is logged in, they will remain logged in for the current session. When an order is completed, a transaction occurs to generate order and shipment information. At this time the customer is presented with the shipping information including a shipping and order number for tracking purposes. Order and shipping numbers are generated dynamically by the system at the time the order is processed.

1.2   User Front End/Customer Accounts

A user can sign up for a new account. The Manage Account page requires the user to enter contact information. If a required field is left blank, the font color of the label that describes the field becomes red, indicating the missing information. If all the necessary information is submitted, the data is stored into the database. The user is then able to either modify his personal information, or to add one or more payment methods.

When the user clicks on the 'Add' button under the payment methods, a new page appears which asks the user to enter credit card information. The user can select between three type of credit cards. The user must enter a card number and must select an expiry date from the drop down boxes. The page verifies that all needed information is entered correctly and indicates missing data if necessary. If all required data is submitted, the page stores the payment method in the database and returns to the Manage Account page. On the Manage Account page, the user will have the possibility to modify or delete existing payment methods.

Once the customer made some orders, he can check the orders and the corresponding status from within the Manage Account page. At the bottom of the page, all orders of the customer are listed with a link to a page that displays the details of the corresponding order. The customer is able to write a review for the products in the order.

1.3   Back End

The database is implemented according to the design in the design document[1]. MS SQL Server was chosen as database due to performance reasons and due to easier implementation of foreign keys. The database is currently on the

server `cssql.ok.ubc.ca`.

However, because of this and the fact that the website is hosted outside of UBC, a VPN connection had to be made between the site's web server and the UBC Okanagan VPN. This causes a lot of trouble. If someone tries to connect to the server from within the UBC network, the connection will timeout. To get past this problem a VPN connection must be made to UBC Okanagan from within UBC. Then the user can connect to the server from the internal IP address. There is no problem connecting to the server from the external IP.

1.4 Website Management

For website management a product management page has been implemented. From this page a manager can insert new products. When inserting a Product the manager is presented with a form for the information about the product. The manager can also upload a jpeg image for the product. The manager can also update the current information about the product or remove the product from the database entirely.

There is also a category management page with similar features as the product page. A manager can insert, update, and remove categories.

2 Desired features for final implementation

2.1 User Front End

Upon browsing for items, inventory levels are not currently displayed, nor has a link been fully implemented between the order management system and the inventory management systems. Reviews are not currently shown in the product catalog. Additionally, customers do not have the ability to save their cart from the current session but this feature is planned to be in the final implementation.

A logout feature in not currently supported for the web site. When completing a transaction, customers can not yet select the method of shipping. In terms of order fulfillment and inventory management, features need to be

implemented to allow the movement of product from inventory to shipping in addition to the release of the shipments.

The customer review on the orders page that is accessible through the Manage Account page is currently not stored in the database. This will be implemented in the final product.

2.2   Website Management

A session based login for managers, which is separate from the Front End login is planned for the management section of the website. From the management section a manager will be able to add, remove, and track inventory levels of products that are for sale from the website. A store manager will also be able to add, remove, and track inventory levels of products that are for sale from their stores.

Text based sales reports will be able to be generated for the website.

References

[1] S.Fazackerley, M.Henderson, V.Koch, *Project Design Document for SealandEntitlements Online Store*