Loaves & Fishes Worcester App

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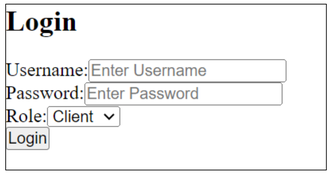
Problem Statement

- The Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Worcester uses an inefficient system to keep track of clients' preferences and volunteer sign up times.
  - Clients must wait in line for hours to get food
  - Clients sign up using paper slips
  - Volunteers and admins must search large paper piles to find client information
  - Volunteers sign up using an email chain

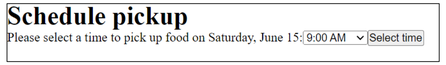
Competitors

- Several apps mimic certain functionality of the Loaves and Fishes app, but lack other important features:
  - Plentiful — tool for food pantries to manage reservations and reduce wait times
    - No tools for managing food preferences or volunteer signups
  - Food Pantry Helper — stores data about clients, inventory, donors, and volunteer schedules
    - Cannot store detailed food preferences
    - No client frontend
  - EZ Pantry — tracks clients and inventory
    - Requires barcodes and gives clients full control over what food they receive

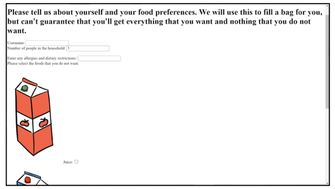
Our Solution



Home page for user to login as a client or admin

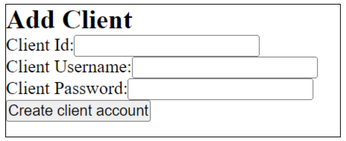


Time selection page for clients to pick the time period they would like to sign up for so they do not have to wait in line for hours



Preferences page for new clients to pick the foods they want/ don't want

Dashboard page for the admin to be able to search for clients to easily find their preferences without having to deal with large piles of paper



Add Client page for admin to create new client accounts

Technologies

- App is coded with MERN stack (MongoDB, Express.js, React.js, Node.js)
- Node.js: JavaScript runtime for web
- React: a JavaScript library for building user interface components
- Express: JavaScript server framework which connects the react frontend to the database
- MongoDB: free cloud storage for a limited amount of data
- React-router-dom library to link the pages to each other and enable page navigation

Future Steps

- Adding volunteer role which can view clients and sign up for volunteer times, but not modify client data
- Allowing admins to modify or delete clients
- Making dates automatically update to the next distribution date
- Automatically clearing client time signup data after each distribution
- Preventing too many clients from signing up
- Adding additional styling