Gompei's Goat Cheese

Gompei's Goat Cheese (GGC) is a non-profit, student-run business at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. GGC sells goat cheese produced by Westfield Farm in Hubbardston, MA. The students of GGC volunteer year-round to learn the intricacies of running a small business. GGC handles processing orders, promoting products, and managing customer relations, but does not interact with the production nor shipping of the cheese to the customer.

System Design

The goal of our project was to begin development of a new order and invoice tracking system for GGC so that they may Improve and grow operations. We believe that this system will provide Gompei’s Goat Cheese with benefits such as improved transparency, centralized order and invoice tracking, and more effective communication with their partner farm. As a project team, we completed research with the Gompei’s Goat Cheese team and their partner farm, created system requirements for how the system should function, designed many system mockups and a hi-fi prototype, started production of the front end of the site, and created documentation to help GGC continue the project in the future.

The Future System Data Flow

Underline is to indicate critical feedback from users and team members for changes during the requirements elicitation phase of our project.

The Inside Scoop

1. Both GGC and Westfield Farm prefer to use desktop applications, rather than mobile, when using their respective operations systems.
2. Interaction with the current GGC operations system ranges from a few times a semester to nearly every day.
3. The GGC system is simple and easy to use, and everyone has access to it except for Westfield Farm.
4. GGC and Westfield Farm use different reference numbers to track orders in their respective systems.
5. Westfield Farm processes Gompei’s Goat Cheese orders manually, rather than automatically like its normal orders.
6. For both GGC and Westfield Farm, processing information into their current systems takes too long; there is a lot of redundancy.

Acknowledgements

Thank you so much to the Gompei’s Goat Cheese team and Westfield Farm for helping us start this project by taking time out of their busy schedules to interview them. Also, congratulations to GGC, who is approaching their 10-year anniversary on April 18, 2023! We wish them the best and hope to see them thrive in the coming years.

We would also like to thank our advisors, Professor Jim Ryan and Professor Therese Smith, for supporting us through this experimental MQP. We are grateful for your guidance and for your positivity throughout this past year.