

Developing a Reliable and Economical Web Portal for Meals on Wheels
(Technical Report)

Commercialization and Consumption: Food Waste in America
(STS Research Paper)

An Undergraduate Thesis Portfolio
Presented to the Faculty of the
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Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

by

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Preface

How can hunger in America be reduced? More equitable food distribution and prevention of food waste can help.

How can Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle's volunteer and staff web portal be improved? The staff of Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle, a central Virginia nonprofit dedicated to reducing local hunger, manages volunteers and customers via a web application built by a previous capstone team. The application required maintenance. After examining the code, we determined that rewriting the application was necessary. Our final product is more maintainable with minimal data redundancies, and has an improved user interface.

How do food service establishments, advocacies, charities, and food retailers shape food waste in the United States? Food waste in the U.S. is costly. Farmers and food companies are often blamed, but consumers also generate substantial food waste, and their demands drive business decisions that entail waste. Efforts by food service establishments, advocacies, charities, and food retailers to fight food waste are constrained by their interests in satisfying consumers or supporters.

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