

User Documentation: FoodAsFun Culinary Platform

Introduction

The FoodAsFun platform solves a specific problem for the culinary industry: chefs and tour operators often rely on messy spreadsheets, emails, and generic calendars to run their businesses. This results in lost bookings and frustrated customers.

You, as the platform owner, provide the solution. This application allows you to launch a specialized marketplace where culinary professionals can create professional storefronts, manage schedules, and accept payments. By running this platform, you create a central hub for food experiences and generate revenue through subscription fees or transaction management.

Why This Platform Works for You

As the owner and administrator, this software gives you control without requiring you to write code.

- **Own Your Market:** You control the branding. Change the platform name, logo, and colors to fit your niche, whether it's "Local Cooking Classes" or "Global Food

and where to fit your menu, whether it's local cooking classes or Global Food Tours."

- **Automated Revenue:** You can set a monthly subscription price for providers to use your platform.
- **Zero Payment Headaches:** The system uses Stripe Connect. Providers connect their own bank accounts, and payouts happen automatically. You do not need to manually calculate or transfer funds.
- **Management Dashboard:** You have a dedicated view to see how many users, providers, and bookings are active on your site.

User Roles Explained

The platform is divided into three distinct roles. Understanding these helps you support your users.

1. The Owner (You)

You are the administrator. You access the **Admin Dashboard**.

- **Responsibilities:** Configuring the site identity (name, logo, currency), setting the subscription price for providers, and monitoring platform growth.

2. The Provider (The Chef/Host)

These are your primary customers. They access the **Provider Dashboard**.

- **Responsibilities:** Creating their public profile, listing experiences (classes/tours), setting schedules, managing bookings, and connecting their bank account to receive payouts.

3. The Buyer (The Consumer)

These are the end-users booking the experiences. They access the **Public Storefronts**.

- **Responsibilities:** Browsing listings, booking dates, and paying for experiences.

Quick Start Guide for Owners

Follow these steps to configure your platform immediately after deployment.

Step 1: Access the Admin Panel

Log in to your application. Navigate to `/admin` in your browser address bar.

- **Default Credentials:** Use the credentials provided by your developer (e.g., username: `codeblix`, password: `admin`).

Step 2: Configure Branding

In the Admin Dashboard, locate the **Platform Settings** section.

1. **Site Name:** Enter the name of your business (e.g., "City Food Tours").
2. **Logo URL:** Paste a link to your logo image.
3. **Primary Color:** Enter a hex code (e.g., #FF165D) to match your brand identity.
4. Click **Save Changes**. The entire site will update immediately.

Step 3: Set Your Pricing

Decide how much you want to charge Providers to use your software.

1. In the Admin Dashboard, find **LaunchPad Plan Price**.
2. Enter the monthly amount (e.g., 29 for \$29/month).
3. Set your **Currency** symbol (e.g., \$ or €).
4. Click **Save Changes**. New providers will now see this price when they sign up.

Real-World Use Cases

Scenario 1: A Niche Cooking School Platform

You run a site dedicated solely to Italian cooking classes.

- **Owner Action:** You set the site name to "PastaPros" and update the color scheme to green and red.
- **Provider Action:** Independent Italian chefs sign up, list their "Ravioli Workshop," and sync their availability.
- **Result:** You collect a monthly fee from every chef using the software.

Scenario 2: A City-Specific Tourism Hub

You want to digitize food tourism in New Orleans.

- **Owner Action:** You name the platform "NOLA Eats" and market it to local tour guides.
- **Provider Action:** Tour guides list their "French Quarter Donut Tour." They use the

mobile-friendly dashboard to check in guests on the street.

- **Buyer Action:** Tourists find the site, book a tour for tomorrow, and pay instantly.

Key Features

For the Owner

- **Dynamic Branding:** You are not stuck with the default look. You can rebrand the platform instantly via the admin panel.
- **Revenue Tracking:** The admin dashboard displays total revenue and user counts, giving you a clear view of business health.

For the Provider

- **Digital Storefront:** Providers get a professional public link (``yoursite.com/chef-name``) to share on social media.
- **Stripe Express:** Providers onboard with Stripe quickly. They can track their own earnings and see exactly when money hits their bank.
- **Schedule Management:** Providers set capacity limits and time slots. The system prevents overbooking automatically.

For the Buyer

- **Instant Confirmation:** Buyers receive immediate booking status updates.
- **Visual Search:** A clean, image-heavy interface makes browsing experiences enjoyable.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Key Actions

How to Manage Providers (Owner)

1. Go to the **Admin Dashboard**.
2. View the **Stats Overview** to see the count of active Providers.
3. If a Provider needs assistance, you can look up their details in your database dashboard (Convex) to verify their email or status.

How Providers List an Experience

1. The Provider logs in and clicks **Experiences** in the navigation.
2. They click **Create Experience**.
3. They fill in the title, price, description, and upload a photo.

4. They add specific dates and times under the **Schedule** section.
5. Once saved, the experience is immediately live and bookable.

How Providers Get Paid

1. Upon signing up, the Provider is prompted to **Connect Bank Account**.
2. They are redirected to a secure Stripe page to enter their banking details.
3. Once verified, they are returned to the dashboard.
4. When a Buyer pays \$100 for a class, the funds are routed to the Provider's connected Stripe account automatically.

FAQ

Is technical knowledge required to run this? No. Once the application is deployed, all daily operations—branding, pricing, and monitoring—are handled through visual dashboards.

How secure are the payments? Extremely secure. All payment data is processed by Stripe, a global leader in payment processing. Neither you nor the providers store sensitive credit card data on the platform servers.

Can I change the subscription price later? Yes. You can update the "LaunchPad Price" in your Admin Dashboard at any time.

What happens if a provider cancels a class? Providers can update the status of a booking to "Cancelled" in their dashboard. They are responsible for communicating with the buyer regarding refunds or rescheduling, keeping the platform owner out of minor disputes.

Pricing & Monetization Strategy

You have two primary levers for revenue:

1. **SaaS Subscription:** The primary model. You charge providers a recurring monthly fee (e.g., \$29/mo) to have a storefront on your platform.
2. **Expansion:** As your platform grows, you can increase this fee for new users or