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Academic Year 2023 /2024 UECS3294 Advanced Web Application Development

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Work Distribution

	Chia Jia	Choong	E Zhong	Lee Boon
	Shin	Kah Yang	Lin	Нао
Part 1				<u> </u>
Comparison of different web			✓	
development frameworks				
Key capabilities of modern web				✓
application				
Personal preference and perspective				✓
Software Design Pattern	✓			
Benefits and Drawbacks of MVC		√		
Practical Scenarios		√		
Part 2				
Database Migration	✓			
Model	✓			
Controller				√
View	✓	✓	✓	
Route		√		
Authentication Implementation			√	
Authorization Implementation				√
Session Implementation				✓

1. <u>Part 1</u>

1.1 Web Application Framework

1.1.1 Comparison of five popular web development frameworks

	Laravel	Django	Ruby on	Spring Boot	Express.js
			Rails		
Advantages	• Open-	• Fast	• Suited	• Rapid	• Powerful
(Clark J.,	source	developmen	with agile	application	routing
2024)	framework	t since it has	developmen	development	module
	• MVC	ORM that	t	• Auto	• Easy
	architecture	make	• Good	configuration	integration
	pattern	database	scalability	• Embedded	with third-
	• Eloquent	management	and easy to	servers	party
	ORM	easy	add new	• Provides a	libraries
	system and	• Follow	functions.	set of defaults	• Flexible
	database	DRY	• Built-in	and	and
	migration	principle,	testing	conventions	customizable
	tools	can reuse	functions.		
		code.			
Disadvantage	• Slow	• Steep	• Steep	• Steep	• Security
s (Clark J.,	developmen	learning	learning	learning	issue
2024)	t	curve	curve	curve	Manage
	• Limited	• Slower	• Slower	• Consume	database
	built-in	than others	performance	more memory	with third-
	support	• Not the	than others	• Limited	party
	compared to	best option	• Updates	flexibility	libraries
	Django and	to build	cause issues		• Not good
	Ruby on	highly	on older		for rich user
	Rails	customized	versions of		interface
		web	Rails		
		applications			
Suitability for	Modern and	Robust and	Fast	Complex,	Small and
Project Types	full-stack	scalable	developmen	enterprise-	medium web

(Johns R.,	web	data-driven	t of high-	level	applications
2024)	applications	web	quality,	applications	and Restful
	for PHP	application	maintainabl	and	APIs using
			e web	microservices	Node.js
			applications	in Java	
			with Ruby		
Community	Strong	Large	Active	Large	Active
Support &	community,	community,	community,	community,	community,
Ecosystem	extensive	Django	Ruby gems	Spring	NPM
	packages	packages		ecosystem	packages
Development	Artisan	Django	Generators,	Maven/Gradl	Minimalistic
Experience	command,	Admin,	convention-	e build tools,	, Flexible
	easy to user	Pythonic	based	annotations	
		syntax			

1.1.2 Key Capabilities of a modern web application

Key capabilities of modern web application:

Cloud-Based and Scalable

- Ex: AWS, Azure, Google Cloud
- Offer unlimited bandwidth and storage through Virtual Machines, means can serve more users
- Improve security
- Access data and applications anytime at anywhere

Modular and Decentralized/Distribute

- Use microservices, breaks down entire applications into seperate smaller components or services
- These decentralized and loosely coupled services can be developed, tested, deployed and maintained independently.

Compatible accross platforms

- Offer consistent, highquality performance regardless of the screen size, pixel density and others.
- When system has responsive design and interaction, you get a superior user experience.

AI can definitely play a huge role in developing web applications since it can produce personalized design, layout, and content, analyse customer's habits and behaviours, provide recommendations by memorizing customer choices online, and develop a AI-tailored chatbot that can engage with a customer and adapt to the responses with the actions accordingly. (Kvernadze L., 2024).

Generative AI, which can create unique content, has revolutionized many aspects of web application development. It allows automatic generation of code, optimization of user interfaces, and creation of dynamic content that adapts to user needs. The breakthrough from generative AI shows how deeply this technology can change the landscape of web applications, making them smarter and more flexible. (Konarski M., 2024)

1.1.3 Personal Preferences and Perspectives

Based on the research above, we prefer Laravel because security features are easy to set up on any website to improve security and protect sites from hackers. For example, Laravel uses the Bcrypt hashing algorithm, which means it never stores real passwords in the database. Besides that, it is easy for the developers to lay out the logic for user authorization and authentication, since Laravel has its plug-and-play user authentication system.

Furthermore, Laravel supports an MVC (Model-View-Controller) structure that automatically provides a separation between logic and expression syntax. This separation makes it easier for frontend developers to improve the user interface without disrupting development or core functions. Moreover, Laravel integration makes life much easier for backend developers, especially its Artisan line tool. This tool allows you to generate base MVC files and generate custom commands while creating skeleton code, database architecture, and migrations.

1.2 Software Design Pattern

1.2.1 Description of Five Software Design Patterns

Design Pattern	Key Characteristics	Sample Project
Singleton	A class only has one instance and provides a global	Singleton
pattern	point of access to it. It involves a private constructor,	<u>Pattern</u>
	static method for instance retrieval, and a static	
	instance variable (Shalinda, 2023).	
Observer	Define a one-to-many dependency between objects so	<u>Observer</u>
Pattern	that when one object changes state, all its dependents	<u>Pattern</u>
	are notified and updated automatically (Shalinda,	
	2023).	

Strategy	Define a family of algorithms, encapsulates each	Strategy Pattern
Pattern	algorithm, and makes them interchangeable. It allows	
	the appropriate algorithm at runtime (Shalinda, 2023).	
Decorator	Allow behaviour to be added to individual object	Decorator
Pattern	dynamically, without affecting the behaviour of other	<u>Pattern</u>
	objects from the same class.	
Factory	Defines an interface for creating objects but allow	Factory Method
Method	subclasses to alter the type of objects created. Provides	<u>Pattern</u>
Pattern	a way to delegate instantiation logic to subclasses	
	while ensuring clients work with an interface rather	
	than concrete class (Shalinda, 2023).	

1.2.2 Benefits and Drawbacks of using MVC architecture

Benefit (Charles N.C.,	Enhance maintainability.
2023)	Promote reusability.
	Allow component to be employed across various sections
Drawback	Add complexity to small project.
	• Require time to adapt to this architecture for new developers.
How MVC architecture	• Divide application into three interconnected components:
separates and organizes	Model, View, Controller.
concern (Charles N.C.,	Separate the application logic from business logic
2023)	

1.2.3 Practical Scenarios

Design Pattern	Practical Scenario
Singleton pattern (Team	Manage a centralized configuration object for an application to
T.E., 2019)	avoid inconsistency.
Observer Pattern (Team	Implement an event-driven system for handling user
T.E., 2019)	interactions in GUI, where changes in a model state trigger
	updates in various UI components

Strategy Pattern (Team	Implement different payment methods in an e-commerce	
T.E., 2019)	application, where each method follows a common interface	
	but has distinct implementations for processing payments.	
Decorator Pattern	Enhance input/output stream processing in a file handling	
	system, such as adding buffering or encryption capabilities to a	
	basic file input stream.	
Factory Method Pattern	Develop a report generation framework supporting various	
(Team T.E., 2019)	formats, where each report format is implemented as a subclass	
	of a ReportFactory, enabling clients to create reports using	
	different formats.	

2.0 Part 2

2.1 Title and description of web application

The title of the web application is Laravel-based news portal system. It is built based on the open-source project with the link of https://github.com/devriazul/news-portal-php. The news portal project that has been created in this link is a PHP project created based on the raw PHP and MySQL. The author of this open-source project is Nirob Hassan who has vast amount of experience in development of web applications using PHP, JavaScript Library's, CMS, API's. He is an expert in transforming the business requirements into technical solutions.

There are three types of users in our user: Admin, Author, and User. The first-time user for the system needs to register an account first. After that, he or she can view all the post and its details. Furthermore, he or she can contact the admin by leaving a message in the 'Contact Us' tab. He or she can also check the status of the message that has been created. The message status will be changed to 'complete' when the admin has updated it. Our system allows the author to create a news post. Besides that, the author can also update the post that he or she has created. Meanwhile, admin in this system can manage category, district, and user table. Besides that, he or she can also delete and update feedback status in the feedback table as well as delete any post. The following table shows the functions of each type of users.

Function	Admin	Author	User				
Login/Register	Login/Register						
Login	✓	✓	✓				
Register	✓	✓	✓				
Category							
Create	✓						
Read All	✓						
Update	✓						
Delete	✓						
District							
Create	✓						

Read All	✓					
Update	✓					
Delete	✓					
Feedback						
Create		✓	✓			
View All	✓					
View Own		✓	✓			
Update	✓					
Delete	✓					
Post						
Create		✓				
View All	✓	✓	✓			
View Own Post		✓				
View Post Details		✓	✓			
Update		✓				
Delete	✓					
User	User					
Create	✓					
Read All	✓					
Delete	✓					
Update	✓					

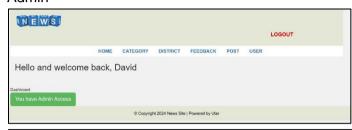
2.2 Sample Screen

Login/Register

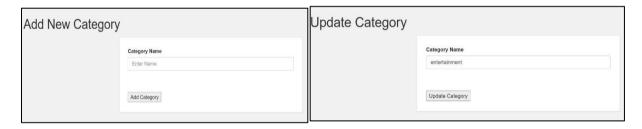




Admin





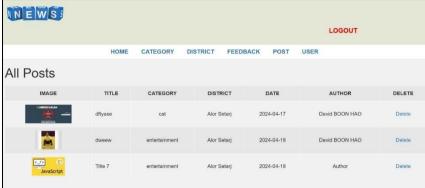




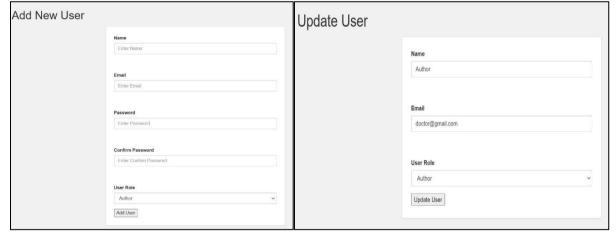








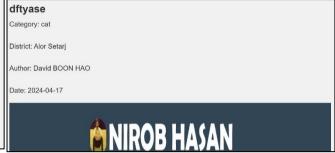


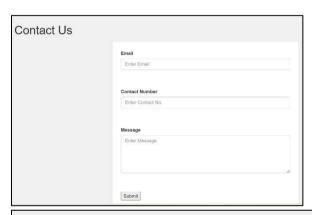


User











Author













2.3 Code Listing

2.3.1 Database Migration

Create_authors_table.php

```
class CreateAuthorsTable extends Migration
      * Run the migrations.
    public function up()
          Schema::create('authors', function(Blueprint $table) {
               $table->string('name');
$table->string('email')->unique();
$table->string('password');
$table->boolean('is_editor')->default(false);
                $table->rememberToken();
$table->timestamps();
```

Add_role_columns_to_users_table.php

```
Schema::table('users', function (Blueprint $table) {
   $table->enum('role', ['user','author','admin'])->default('user');
```

Create_categories_table.php

```
class CreateCategoriesTable extends Migration
   public function up()
       Schema::create('categories', function (Blueprint $table) {
          $table->id();
           $table->string('name');
           $table->timestamps();
```

```
Create_districts_table.php
class CreateDistrictsTable extends Migration
    public function up()
         Schema::create('districts', function (Blueprint $table) {
             $table->id();
             $table->string('name');
             $table->timestamps();
```

Create_feedbacks_table.php
class CreateFeedbacksTable extends Migration

```
public function up()
      Schema::create('feedbacks', function (Blueprint $table) {
            $table->id();
            $table->string('email');
$table->string('contact');
$table->string('message');
            $table->string( message );
$table->integer('user_id');
$table->integer('status');
            $table->timestamps();
```

Create_posts_table.php
class CreatePostsTable extends Migration

```
public function up()
        Schema::create('posts', function (Blueprint $table) {
    $table->id();
                 $table->int();
$table->string('title');
$table->text('description');
$table->integer('category_id');
                 $table->integer( category_id );
$table->date('post_date');
$table->integer('user_id');
$table->integer('district_id');
$table->string('post_img');
                  $table->timestamps();
```

2.3.2 Route

```
/ (/category Controller:
/ Phylips | (/category Con
```

2.3.3 Controllers

CategoryController

FeedbackController

DistrictController

UserController

```
| Content of the cont
```

PostController

2.3.4 Models

Admin Author

Category

```
1   <?php
2
3    namespace App\Models;
4
5    use Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Factories\HasFactory;
6    use Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Model;
7
8    class Category extends Model
9    {
10        use HasFactory;
11
12        public $timestamps = false;
13
14        protected $fillable = ['name'];
15    }
16</pre>
```

District

```
1   <?php
2
3    namespace App\Models;
4
5    use Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Factories\HasFactory;
6    use Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Model;
7
8    class District extends Model
9    {
10        use HasFactory;
11
12        public $timestamps = false;
13
14        protected $fillable = ['name'];
15    }
16</pre>
```

Feedback

Post Post

User

2.3.5 Authentication Validation

1. LoginController

```
$this->validate($request, [
```

2.RegisterController

```
protected function createAdmin(Request $request)
     $this->validator($request->all())->validate();
Admin::create([
    'name' => $request->name,
    'email' -> $request->name,
    'email' -> $request->name,
    'password' -> Hash::make($request->password),
         Author::create([
    'name' => $request->name,
    'email' => $request->email,
    'password' => Hash::make($request->password),
```

2.3.6 Gate Implementation

1. Register in AuthServiceProvider.php

```
$this->registerPolicies();
// define an administrator user role
Gate::define('isAdmin', function ($user) {
    return $user->role == 'admin';
// define an author user role
Gate::define('isAuthor', function ($user) {
    return $user->role == 'author';
// define a user role
Gate::define('isUser', function ($user) {
    return $user->role == 'user';
```

2.Use in Blade Template

a. home.blade.php

```
@can('isAdmin')
@include('header')
@include('userHeader')
```

b. authorUser.blade.php

```
@can("isAuthor")
   <a href="/addPost">Add Post</a>
   <a href="/myPost">My Post</a>
@endcan
```

3.Use in Route

```
//Post Controller
Route::get('/post', [PostController::class, 'index'])->middleware('can:isAdmin');
Route::get('/allPost', [PostController::class, 'allPost'])->middleware('isUserOrAuthor');
Route::get('/singlePost/{id}', [PostController::class, 'singlePost'])->middleware('isUserOrAuthor');
Route::get('/myPost', [PostController::class, 'myPost'])->middleware('can:isAuthor');
Route::get("/addPost", [PostController::class, 'showAddPost'])->middleware('can:isAuthor');
Route::get("deletePost/{id}", [PostController::class, 'addPost'])->middleware('can:isAuthor');
Route::get("updatePost/{id}", [PostController::class, 'showPost'])->middleware('can:isAuthor');
Route::post("updatePost/{id}", [PostController::class, 'showPost'])->middleware('can:isAuthor');
Route::post("updatePost/{id}", [PostController::class, 'updatePost'])->middleware('can:isAuthor');
```

2.3.7 Session Implementation

1. Register a session (HomeController.php)

```
public function index(Request $req)
{
    $name = Auth::user()->name;
    $id = Auth::id();

    $req->session()->put(['user' => $name, 'id' => $id]);
    return view('home');
}
```

2. Use the session

a. home.blade.php

b. allPost.blade.php

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Assessment

Criteria

Part 1 (40%):

COs	Criteria	Poor	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
		(0)	(1-20)	(21-60)	(61-80)	(81-100)
CO1	Analogy of	No comparison or	Inaccurate or incomplete	Basic comparison,	Clear comparison,	Comprehensive comparison
	Web	irrelevant	comparison, lacks	limited	reasonable	of frameworks, clear
	Frameworks	information.	understanding of	strengths/weaknesses,	strengths/weaknesses,	strengths/weaknesses,
	(15 marks)		strengths/weaknesses.	no personal perspective.	some personal opinion.	insightful personal
						perspective.
CO1	Software	No discription of	Misunderstanding of	Basic explanation of	Good explanation of	In-depth explanation of
	Design	software design	patterns, inaccurate	patterns, some	patterns, reasonable	patterns, clear
	Patterns	patterns or	benefits/drawbacks, or	understanding of	benefits/drawbacks,	benefits/drawbacks,
	(15 marks)	irrelevant	irrelevant information.	benefits/drawbacks, no	limited discussion of	discussion of alternatives.
		information.		discussion of	alternatives.	
				alternatives.		

CO1	Quality of	Difficult to	Unclear, disorganized,	Organized, some errors,	Clear and concise, few	Well-organized document,
	report writing	understand,	numerous errors,	inaccuracies in technical	errors, mostly accurate	free of errors, uses technical
	(5 marks)	disorganized,	incorrect technical terms.	terms.	technical terms.	terms correctly.
		significant errors,				
		inaccurate or				
		irrelevant				
		information.				
CO1	Visuals and	Irrelevant or	No visuals or citations.	Few or irrelevant	Some visuals or	Relevant and informative
	Citations	misleading visuals,		visuals, inconsistent or	citations used,	visuals enhance
	(5 marks)	incorrect or		missing citations.	inconsistent or unclear.	understanding, consistent
		missing citations.				citation style.

Part 2 (60%):

	COs	Criteria	Poor	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
			(0)	(1-20)	(21-60)	(61-80)	(81-100)
	CO1	View/Controller	No or non-	Incomplete	Basic	Well-defined	Well-defined
A		/Model	View/Controller	view/controller/mode	view/controller/mo	view/controller/model,	view/controller/model,
		(20 marks)	/Model.	l or missing key	del, limited	following some best	following best practices.
				features.	organization.	practices.	
	CO1	Database	No database	Incomplete database	Basic database	Well-defined database	Well-defined database
		migration	migration.	migration or missing	migration, limited	migration, following some	migration, following best
		(5 marks)		key features.	organization.	best practices.	practices.
	CO2	User	No	Missing	Limited	Multiple user types, basic	Distinct user types,
		Authentication	authentication.	authentication	authentication,	authentication, some	appropriate authentication,
		(10 marks)		features or insecure	insecure	authentication	secure authentication
				authentication	authentication, or	implementation.	mechanism.
				mechanisms.	unclear		
					implementation.		
n	CO2	User Roles and	No roles or	Missing role-based	Limited roles or	Multiple roles, basic	Distinct roles, appropriate
		Permissions	permissions.	features or insecure	permissions,	permissions, some access	permissions, secure access
В		(15 marks)		access control	insecure access	control implementation.	control using
				mechanisms.	control, or unclear		policies/middleware.
					implementation.		

CO2	Code Quality	Unusable code	Poorly written code,	Unorganized code,	Mostly readable code, some	Clean, well-organized
	and	or no	difficult to	limited readability,	organization issues, basic	code, clear documentation
	Documentation	documentation.	understand, missing	incomplete	documentation information	with presentation of app
	(10 marks)		or inaccurate	documentation.	with presentation of app	screens.
			documentation.		screens.	