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Course: CPEN 208 - Software Engineering Lab

Semester: 2nd Semester, 2024/2025 Academic Year

Computer Engineering Department Management System using Next.js & PostgreSQL

Project Overview This system is designed to streamline administrative operations within the Computer Engineering Department by offering separate registration and login portals for students and lecturers. The platform supports seamless data entry, validation, authentication, and provides a responsive dashboard interface for interaction.

Technologies Used

• Frontend: React with Next.js 14

• Backend: Node.js API routes (App Router in Next.js)

• Database: PostgreSQL

Styling: Inline CSS and external CSS modules

Version Control: Git & GitHub

Features

- Separate registration and login pages for Students and Lecturers
- UI/UX designed with clean, professional forms and dashboard
- Database schema using custom IDs (e.g., student_id, lecturer_id)
- Secure password input and client-side validation
- API routes connected to PostgreSQL for data storage and retrieval
- Responsive layout and form controls

Database Schema Description

Students Table:

- student_id (PK)
- first name
- last_name
- email

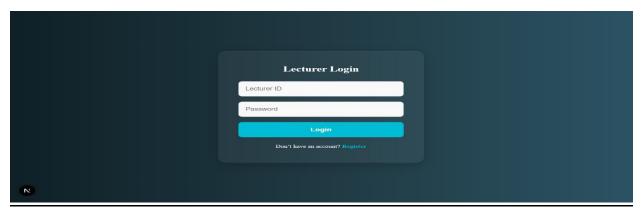
- password
- phone
- address
- date_of_birth
- gender

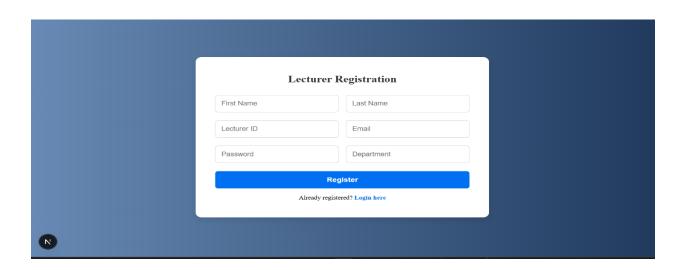
Lecturers Table:

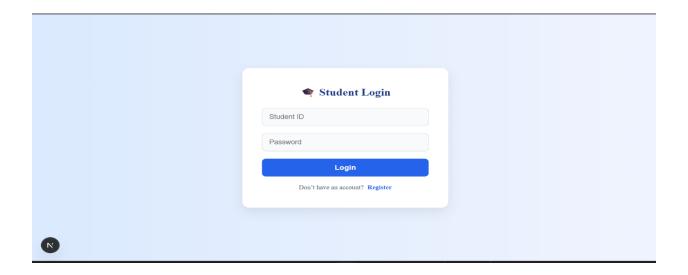
- lecturer_id (PK)
- first_name
- last_name
- email
- password
- department

Screenshots











Sample API Request and Response

```
POST /api/student/login

{
    "student_id": "STU123",
    "password": "securePass"
}

Response

{
    "student": {
      "student_id": "STU123",
      "first_name": "John",
      "last_name": "Doe"
    }
}
```

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Designing separate flows for lecturers and students taught us how to organize scalable component folders in Next.js.
- Handling PostgreSQL connections securely using environment variables was essential.
- Debugging issues with UI responsiveness and CSS specificity improved frontend confidence.

Conclusion, this project provided hands-on experience in building a real-world full-stack application. I learned how to integrate frontend forms with backend APIs and a relational database while maintaining clean and professional design.

GitHub Repository

https://github.com/Amgbo/software_eng_ass