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Job Application Tracker - Project Report

Developer: Kaysarul Anas

Technology Stack: Django REST Framework + React (Vite)

Report Date: February 8, 2026

Project Status: Active Development

Executive Summary

I built the Job Application Tracker as a full-stack web application to help job seekers like myself organize and manage job applications efficiently. The system provides secure user authentication, comprehensive job tracking capabilities, file management for resumes and cover letters, and a modern, responsive user interface.

What I've Accomplished

- Implemented secure JWT-based authentication with Google OAuth integration
 - Built a RESTful API with Django REST Framework
 - Created a modern React frontend with Tailwind CSS v4
 - Ensured user-specific data isolation and security
 - Developed file upload and management system
 - Designed responsive dashboard with multiple view modes
 - Configured production-ready deployment setup
-

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1. Problem Statement

The Challenge I Identified

As a job seeker myself, I noticed several pain points: - **Disorganization:** Difficulty tracking multiple applications across different companies - **Lost Information:** Forgetting which resume version was sent where - **Missed Follow-ups:** Losing track of application statuses and interview

dates - **Scattered Data:** Job descriptions and notes stored in various locations - **No Analytics:** Unable to see patterns in my application success rates

Target Users

I designed this for: - Recent graduates entering the job market - Career changers managing multiple applications - Active job seekers applying to 10+ positions simultaneously - Anyone who wants organized job search records

2. My Solution

Core Features I Implemented

Secure Authentication

- Email/password registration and login
- Google OAuth integration for quick access
- JWT token-based session management
- Automatic token refresh mechanism

Application Tracking

- Track company name, position, and application status
- Record application dates and deadlines
- Store job post URLs for easy reference
- Save job requirements for interview preparation
- Add personal notes and observations

File Management

- Upload multiple files per application (resumes, cover letters, portfolios)
- Track which version of documents was sent to each company
- Secure file storage with user-specific access control

Dashboard & Analytics

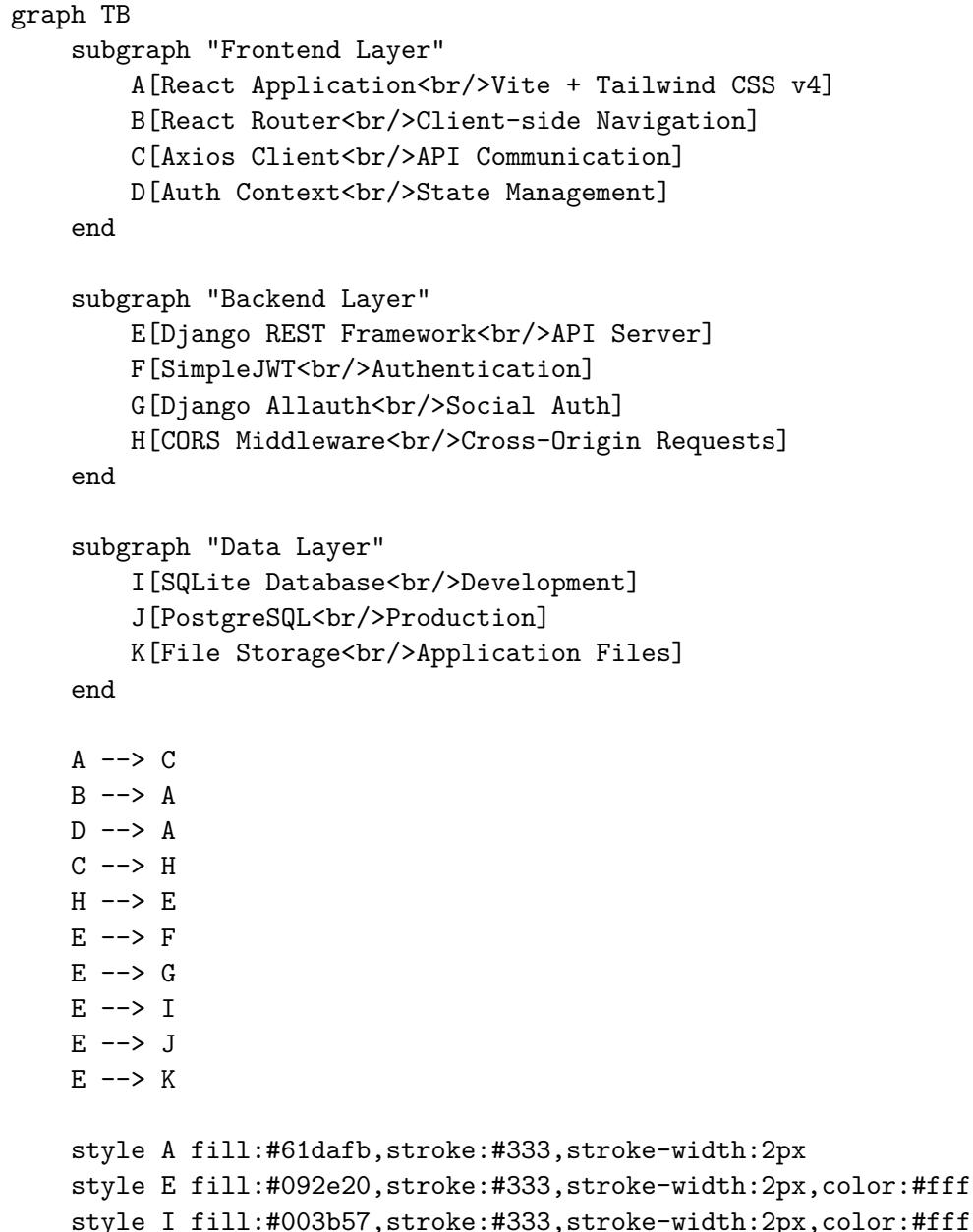
- Visual statistics showing application status breakdown
- Board view (Kanban-style) for organization
- List view for detailed information display
- Search and filter capabilities
- Demo mode for exploring features without login

User Feedback System

- Submit reviews and ratings
 - Public testimonials for homepage
 - Moderation system for review approval
-

3. System Architecture

High-Level Architecture



Technology Stack I Chose

Layer	Technology	Why I Chose It
Frontend	React 19.2	Modern, component-based UI
	Vite 7.2	Fast dev server and builds
	Tailwind CSS v4	Rapid styling with utilities
	React Router v7	Robust client-side routing
	Axios	Clean API integration

Layer	Technology	Why I Chose It
Backend	Django 5.2	Batteries-included framework
	Django REST Framework 3.16	Powerful API toolkit
	SimpleJWT 5.5	Industry-standard auth
	Django Allauth 65.14	Easy social auth
Database	SQLite	Simple for development
	PostgreSQL	Scalable for production
DevOps	Gunicorn	Production WSGI server
	WhiteNoise	Efficient static files
	Docker	Containerization

4. Backend Development

4.1 My Backend Setup

I built the backend with **Django 5.2** and **Django REST Framework 3.16** for a robust, scalable API.

Dependencies I Used

```
# requirements.txt
Django==5.2.11
django-restframework==3.16.1
django-restframework_simplejwt==5.5.1
django-allauth==65.14.0
django-cors-headers==4.9.0
dj-rest-auth==7.0.2
gunicorn==23.0.0
psycopg2-binary==2.9.10
dj-database-url==2.3.0
whitenoise==6.9.0
python-dotenv==1.2.1
```

4.2 Database Models I Created

Application Model The core model for tracking job applications:

```
from django.db import models
from django.contrib.auth import get_user_model

User = get_user_model()

class Application(models.Model):
    # Status choices
    APPLIED = 'Applied'
    INTERVIEW = 'Interview'
    OFFER = 'Offer'
```

```

REJECTED = 'Rejected'

STATUS_CHOICES = [
    (APPLIED, 'Applied'),
    (INTERVIEW, 'Interview'),
    (OFFER, 'Offer'),
    (REJECTED, 'Rejected'),
]

# Relationships
user = models.ForeignKey(
    User,
    on_delete=models.CASCADE,
    related_name="applications"
)

# Core fields
company_name = models.CharField(max_length=255)
position_title = models.CharField(max_length=255)
notes = models.TextField(blank=True, null=True)

# Job details
job_post_url = models.URLField(blank=True, null=True)
job_requirements = models.TextField(blank=True, null=True)

# Status tracking
status = models.CharField(
    max_length=50,
    choices=STATUS_CHOICES,
    default=APPLIED
)
applied_at = models.DateField(blank=True, null=True)

# Timestamps
created_at = models.DateTimeField(auto_now_add=True)
updated_at = models.DateTimeField(auto_now=True)

def __str__(self):
    return f"{self.company_name} - {self.position_title}"

```

My Design Decisions: - User foreign key ensures data isolation - Status choices provide consistent data - Timestamps track creation and updates - Optional fields allow flexibility

ApplicationFile Model I created this to handle multiple file uploads per application:

```

class ApplicationFile(models.Model):
    application = models.ForeignKey(
        Application,

```

```

        on_delete=models.CASCADE,
        related_name="files"
    )

file = models.FileField(upload_to="application_files/")
file_type = models.CharField(max_length=50)
original_filename = models.CharField(max_length=255)

created_at = models.DateTimeField(auto_now_add=True)

def __str__(self):
    return self.original_filename

```

Review Model For user feedback and testimonials:

```

class Review(models.Model):
    user = models.ForeignKey(
        User,
        on_delete=models.CASCADE,
        related_name="reviews"
    )
    rating = models.IntegerField(default=5)  # 1-5 stars
    comment = models.TextField()
    is_public = models.BooleanField(default=False)  # For moderation

    created_at = models.DateTimeField(auto_now_add=True)
    updated_at = models.DateTimeField(auto_now=True)

    def __str__(self):
        return f"Review by {self.user.username} - {self.rating} stars"

```

4.3 Database Relationships

```

erDiagram
    USER ||--o{ APPLICATION : creates
    USER ||--o{ REVIEW : writes
    APPLICATION ||--o{ APPLICATION_FILE : contains

    USER {
        int id PK
        string username
        string email
        string password
        datetime date_joined
    }

    APPLICATION {
        int id PK

```

```

    int user_id FK
    string company_name
    string position_title
    text notes
    string job_post_url
    text job_requirements
    string status
    date applied_at
    datetime created_at
    datetime updated_at
}

APPLICATION_FILE {
    int id PK
    int application_id FK
    file file
    string file_type
    string original_filename
    datetime created_at
}

REVIEW {
    int id PK
    int user_id FK
    int rating
    text comment
    boolean is_public
    datetime created_at
    datetime updated_at
}

```

4.4 API Views I Implemented

I used ViewSets for clean CRUD operations:

ApplicationViewSet

```

from rest_framework import viewsets, permissions

class ApplicationViewSet(viewsets.ModelViewSet):
    serializer_class = ApplicationSerializer
    permission_classes = [permissions.IsAuthenticated]

    def get_queryset(self):
        # Only return applications belonging to current user
        return self.request.user.applications.all()

    def perform_create(self, serializer):

```

```
# Automatically set user to current logged-in user
serializer.save(user=self.request.user)
```

Security Features I Added: - Authentication required - User-specific data filtering - Automatic user assignment - No cross-user data access

5. Frontend Development

5.1 My Frontend Stack

I chose modern React ecosystem tools for optimal developer experience:

```
{
  "dependencies": {
    "react": "^19.2.0",
    "react-dom": "^19.2.0",
    "react-router-dom": "^7.13.0",
    "axios": "^1.13.4",
    "@react-oauth/google": "^0.13.4",
    "lucide-react": "^0.563.0"
  },
  "devDependencies": {
    "vite": "^7.2.4",
    "tailwindcss": "^4.1.18",
    "@tailwindcss/vite": "^4.1.18",
    "@vitejs/plugin-react": "^5.1.1",
    "eslint": "^9.39.1"
  }
}
```

5.2 Component Architecture

I organized my components into:

```
src/
  components/
    AuthLayout.jsx      # Auth page wrapper
    Navbar.jsx          # Navigation
    Footer.jsx          # Footer
    LandingHero.jsx     # Homepage hero
    Features.jsx        # Feature showcase
    Testimonials.jsx   # User reviews
    dashcomp/
      # Dashboard components
      DashboardHeader.jsx
      StatsSection.jsx
      BoardView.jsx
      ListView.jsx
      ApplicationCard.jsx
      SearchControls.jsx
```

```

        ReviewForm.jsx
context/
    AuthContext.jsx      # Authentication state
pages/
    HomePage.jsx
    LoginPage.jsx
    SignupPage.jsx
    Dashboard/
        DashBoard.jsx
api/
    axios.js            # API client

```

5.3 API Integration

I configured Axios with interceptors for automatic token management:

```

// src/api/axios.js
import axios from 'axios';

const api = axios.create({
  baseURL: import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL || 'http://127.0.0.1:8000/',
  headers: {
    'Content-Type': 'application/json',
  },
});

// Request interceptor: Attach JWT token
api.interceptors.request.use(
  (config) => {
    const authEndpoints = ['/api/auth/token/', '/api/auth/registration/'];
    const isAuthEndpoint = authEndpoints.some(endpoint =>
      config.url.includes(endpoint)
    );

    if (!isAuthEndpoint) {
      const token = localStorage.getItem('access_token');
      if (token) {
        config.headers.Authorization = `Bearer ${token}`;
      }
    }

    return config;
  },
  (error) => Promise.reject(error)
);

export default api;

```

6. UI/UX Design

6.1 My Design Philosophy

I focused on:

1. **Minimalism:** Clean, uncluttered interfaces
2. **Responsiveness:** Mobile-first design approach
3. **Accessibility:** Semantic HTML and ARIA labels
4. **Performance:** Optimized assets and lazy loading
5. **Consistency:** Unified color scheme and typography

6.2 Design System

I use Tailwind CSS v4 with custom configuration:

```
/* src/index.css */
@import "tailwindcss";

@theme {
  --font-sans: Inter, -apple-system, BlinkMacSystemFont, "Segoe UI", sans-serif;
}

body {
  @apply font-sans;
}
```

Color Usage: - **Primary:** Blue tones for CTAs and interactive elements - **Success:** Green for positive actions (Offer status) - **Warning:** Yellow/Orange for pending states (Interview) - **Danger:** Red for rejections and destructive actions - **Neutral:** Gray scale for text and backgrounds

7. Authentication & Security

7.1 My Authentication Implementation

I implemented a dual-authentication system:

1. **Email/Password:** Traditional credentials-based auth
2. **Google OAuth:** Social authentication for convenience

7.2 Security Measures I Added

Token Management Access Token: - Lifetime: 60 minutes - Storage: localStorage - Usage: Attached to all API requests

Refresh Token: - Lifetime: 1 day - Storage: localStorage - Usage: Obtain new access token when expired

Data Isolation Every API endpoint I created implements user-based filtering:

```
def get_queryset(self):
    return self.request.user.applications.all()
```

This ensures users can only access their own data.

7.3 Challenges I Overcame

During development, I encountered and resolved several issues:

Challenge 1: Registration Failures **Problem:** Backend rejected valid registration data

Solution: Added password2 field for confirmation

Challenge 2: Google OAuth 500 Errors **Problem:** Django Sites framework misconfiguration

Solution: Corrected SITE_ID and linked Social Application

Challenge 3: 401 Unauthorized Loop **Problem:** Axios interceptor attached tokens to login requests

Solution: Excluded auth endpoints from token attachment

8. Database Design

8.1 Schema Overview

My database consists of 4 main tables:

1. **User** (Django built-in)
2. **Application** (Custom)
3. **ApplicationFile** (Custom)
4. **Review** (Custom)

8.2 Migrations

I use Django's migration system:

```
# Create migrations
python manage.py makemigrations
```

```
# Apply migrations
python manage.py migrate
```

9. API Documentation

9.1 Base URL

- **Development:** <http://127.0.0.1:8000/>
- **Production:** <https://your-domain.com/>

9.2 Authentication Endpoints

POST /api/auth/token/ Obtain JWT access and refresh tokens.

Request:

```
{  
  "email": "user@example.com",  
  "password": "securepassword"  
}
```

Response:

```
{  
  "access": "eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGc...",  
  "refresh": "eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGc..."  
}
```

9.3 Application Endpoints

GET /api/applications/ List all applications for authenticated user.

POST /api/applications/ Create new application.

Request:

```
{  
  "company_name": "Microsoft",  
  "position_title": "Frontend Developer",  
  "status": "Applied",  
  "applied_at": "2026-02-08",  
  "notes": "Applied through LinkedIn"  
}
```

PUT /api/applications/{id}/ Update application.

DELETE /api/applications/{id}/ Delete application.

10. Deployment

10.1 Development Setup

Backend

```
cd backend  
python3 -m venv venv  
source venv/bin/activate  
pip install -r requirements.txt  
python manage.py migrate  
python manage.py runserver
```

Frontend

```
cd frontend  
npm install  
npm run dev
```

10.2 Environment Variables

Backend (.env)

```
SECRET_KEY=your-secret-key
DEBUG=True
ALLOWED_HOSTS=localhost,127.0.0.1
CORS_ALLOWED_ORIGINS=http://localhost:5173
```

Frontend (.env)

```
VITE_API_URL=http://127.0.0.1:8000/
VITE_GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID=your-google-client-id
```

11. Testing

11.1 Testing Approach

I plan to implement:

- Unit tests for all models
- API endpoint tests
- Authentication flow tests
- Component unit tests
- Integration tests
- E2E tests with Playwright

11.2 Example Test

```
# applications/tests.py
from django.test import TestCase
from .models import Application

class ApplicationModelTest(TestCase):
    def test_create_application(self):
        app = Application.objects.create(
            user=self.user,
            company_name='Test Corp',
            position_title='Developer',
            status='Applied'
        )
        self.assertEqual(str(app), 'Test Corp - Developer')
```

Conclusion

What I've Accomplished

I successfully built a full-stack job application tracker that demonstrates:

Full-stack Development - Modern React frontend with Tailwind CSS v4 - Robust Django REST Framework backend - Secure JWT authentication with OAuth integration

Software Engineering Best Practices - RESTful API design - Component-based architecture - Database normalization - Security-first approach

User-Centric Design - Intuitive dashboard interface - Responsive mobile design - Demo mode for exploration

Technical Skills I Demonstrated

Backend: - Django ORM and migrations - DRF serializers and viewsets - JWT authentication - Social OAuth integration - File upload handling

Frontend: - React hooks and context - React Router navigation - Axios interceptors - Tailwind CSS styling - Component composition

DevOps: - Docker containerization - Environment configuration - Static file serving - CORS configuration

This project is part of my portfolio demonstrating full-stack development capabilities.