

SENG 401

FINAL REPORT – StudySync

TEAM 38

Team Members:

Adhil Ashraf, Anfaal Mahbub, Al Farhana Siddique, Arvind Krishnaa, Mehvish Shakeel, Varshiny Gogulanathan

Purpose:

The primary goal of StudySync is to empower students in their academic journeys by providing a comprehensive platform designed to optimize their study routines, foster collaboration, and support their mental well-being. By integrating various features, StudySync aims to address the challenges students face in managing their academic responsibilities and navigating their courses effectively.

Context:

StudySync is developed based on extensive research into the challenges students encounter in their academic pursuits, as well as feedback gathered from prior related work and direct input from students. Through this process, key areas where students could benefit from additional support and tools have been identified and targeted for improvement.

Features such as the ability to create, edit, and delete posts tailored to specific courses are carefully crafted to meet the unique needs and pain points of students. This flexibility allows users to engage with peers, seek assistance with coursework, form study groups, and share valuable insights, thereby fostering a supportive and collaborative academic environment.

The overarching objective of StudySync's design is to enhance student satisfaction, promote academic success, and improve retention rates. By focusing on delivering a user-centric experience and continually refining the platform based on user feedback and emerging needs, StudySync aims to serve as a valuable resource for students throughout their academic journeys.

Detailed Design:

Initial Plan

Overall System Architecture:

Our StudySync will adopt a microservices-based architecture, providing modularity, scalability, and maintainability. The front-end will be developed using JavaScript and React.js. At the back-end, we will use Node.js with Express.js and MySQL for structured data storage. Real-time updates will be facilitated through a Pub/Sub pattern using a message broker (e.g., RabbitMQ). We also plan to integrate third-party APIs for mental health tips and room availability.

User Interaction:

Users will access StudySync through a web interface. The platform will offer features such as an exam date scheduler, study group finder, mental health tips, course finder/feedback, and room finder. User authentication and authorization will be implemented using Passport.js.

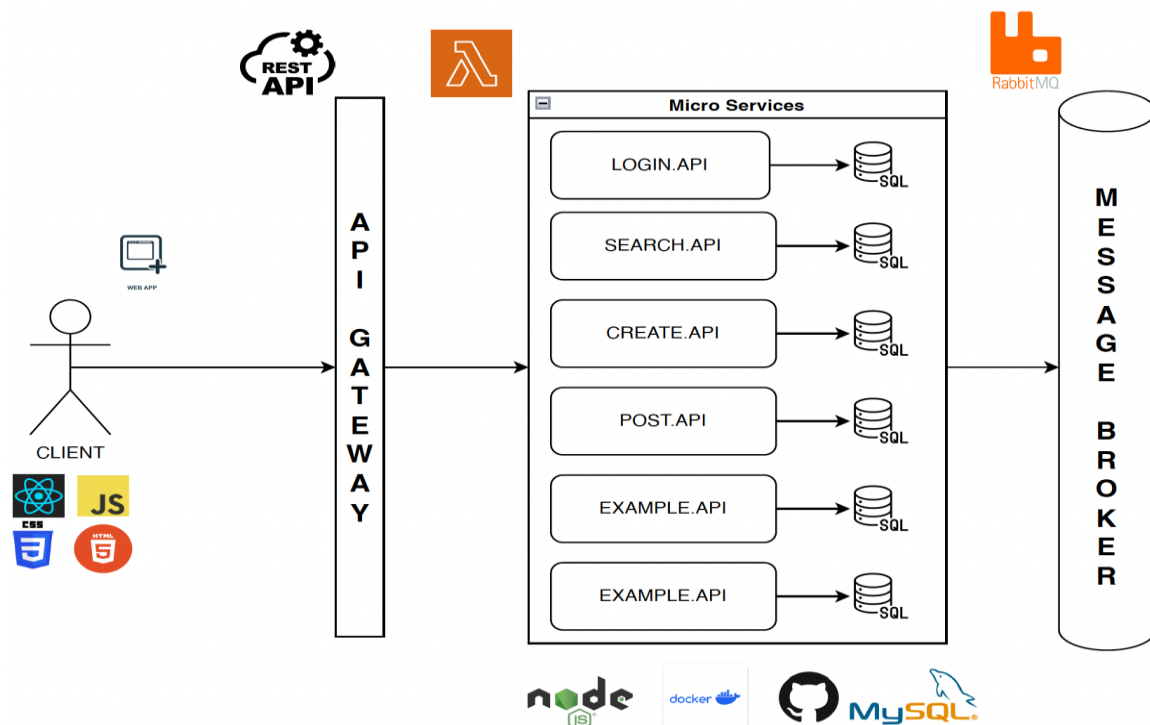
Software Components Interaction:

The front-end components will communicate with back-end microservices through a RESTful API. Real-time updates will be achieved through the Pub/Sub pattern.

Data Flow:

User inputs and requests will flow from the front-end to the back end for processing and storage in the MySQL database. Real-time data updates, such as study group notifications and room availability, will flow through the message broker to relevant components.

Design Diagram:



Final Implementation:

Overall System Architecture:

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User Interaction:

Users will access StudySync through a web interface. The platform will offer features such as an inbuilt discussion board, study group finder via posts, mental health tips, course finder/feedback. User authentication and authorization will be implemented using Passport.js.

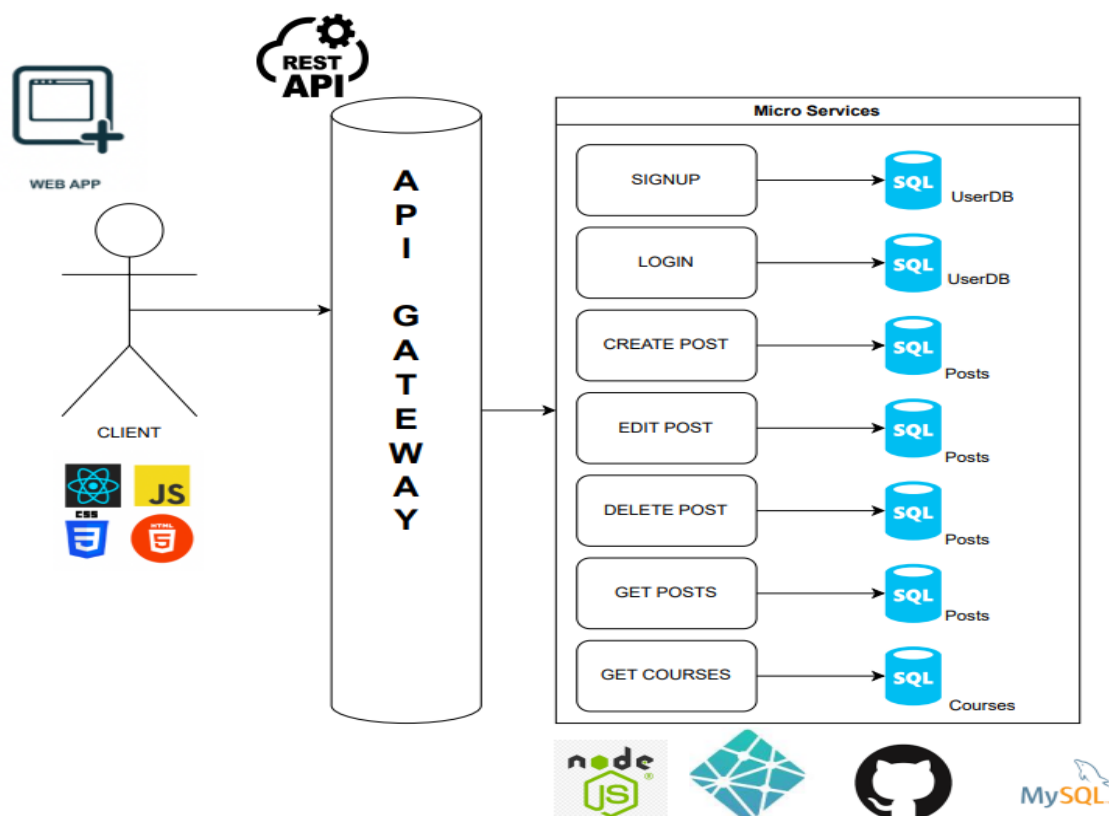
Software Components Interaction:

The front-end components will communicate with back-end microservices through a RESTful API.

Data Flow:

User inputs and requests will flow from the front-end to the back end for processing and storage in the MySQL database.

Design Diagram:



Database Design:

DataBase: UserDB

Table: User

ID	F_name	L_name	Email	Program	Password	Year

DataBase: Posts

Table: Content

PostID	UserID	Title	Content	CourseID	Program

DataBase: Courses

Table: Biomedical Engineering

ID	Course_Name	Year

Table: Chemical Engineering

ID	Course_Name	Year

Table: Civil Engineering

ID	Course_Name	Year

- Similar tables exist for other engineering major

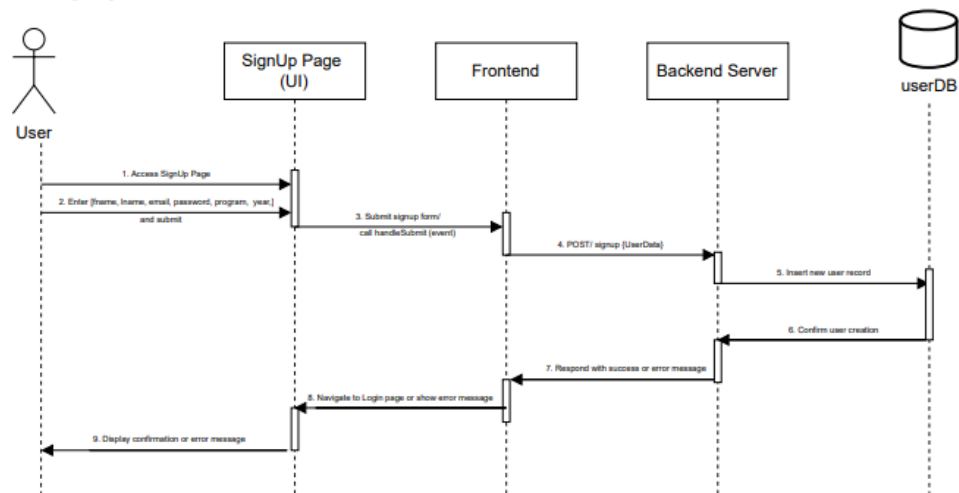
Why we did not go for an OOP approach with this project?

1. **Scope of the Project:** The project primarily focuses on frontend presentation and styling with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for interactivity. Given the relatively small scope of the project and its straightforward requirements, opting for a simpler, more direct approach without heavy reliance on OOP was deemed sufficient.
2. **Functional Requirements:** The project involves rendering static content, implementing basic user interactions, and ensuring responsive design across different devices. These requirements do not necessitate complex data models or extensive business logic that typically benefit from an object-oriented architecture.
3. **Skillset and Familiarity:** The development team comprises individuals who are more proficient in procedural or functional programming paradigms. Given the team's familiarity and expertise with these approaches, it was decided to leverage their existing skills rather than introducing the overhead of learning and implementing OOP principles.
4. **Project Constraints:** The project is subject to constraints such as tight deadlines and limited resources. In light of these constraints, prioritizing simplicity and efficiency in the development process was essential. Opting for a straightforward approach without extensive OOP design allowed the team to meet project requirements within the given constraints.
5. **Performance Considerations:** Performance considerations, particularly rendering speed and interactivity, were key factors in the decision-making process. For frontend-focused projects like ours, the immediate priority is to deliver a responsive and visually appealing user experience. Complex object-oriented designs might introduce unnecessary overhead and potentially impact performance negatively.

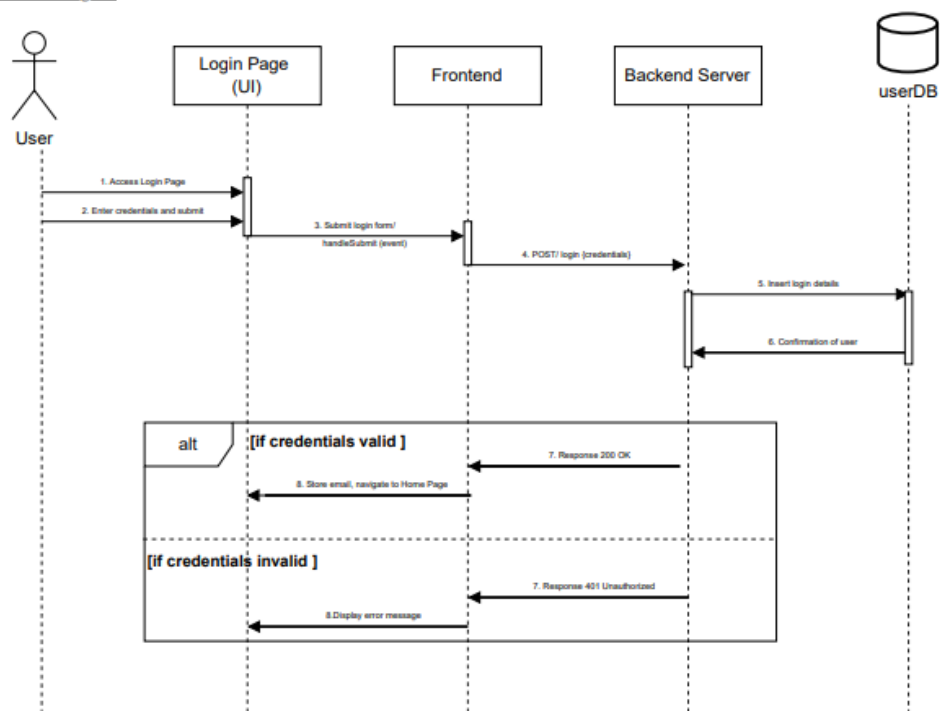
In conclusion, while Object-Oriented Programming offers numerous benefits in terms of code organization, modularity, and extensibility, it was not deemed necessary or appropriate for the current project. By prioritizing simplicity, efficiency, and the utilization of existing skillsets, the team was able to deliver a satisfactory solution that meets the project's objectives effectively.

Sequence Diagrams:

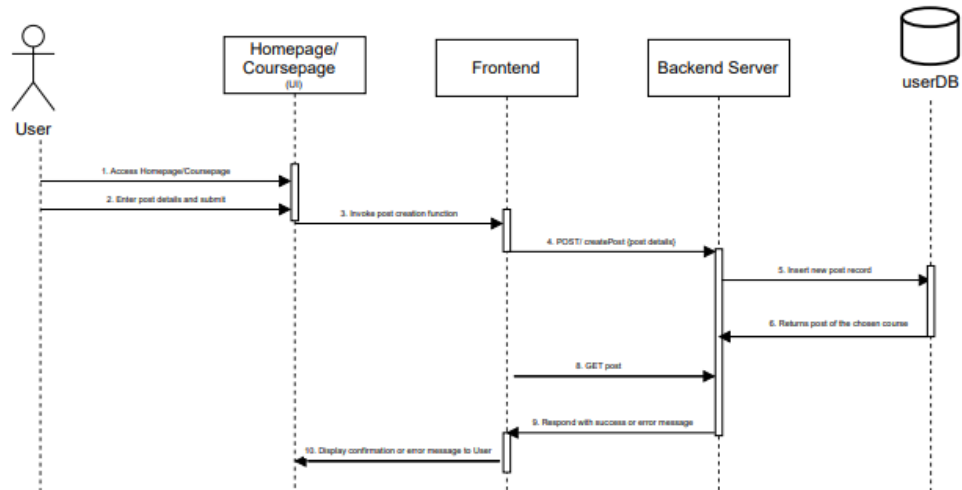
Scenario 1: When a user signs up



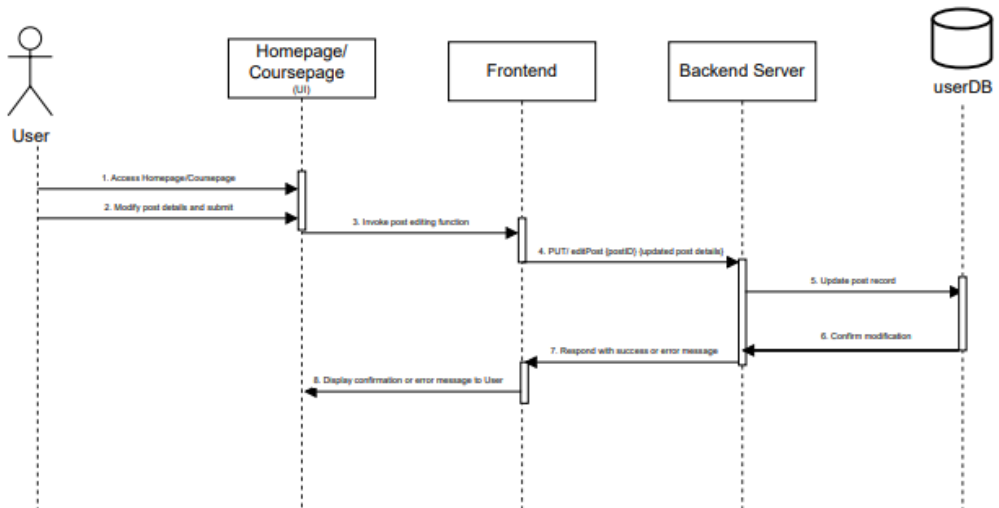
Scenario 2: When a user logs in



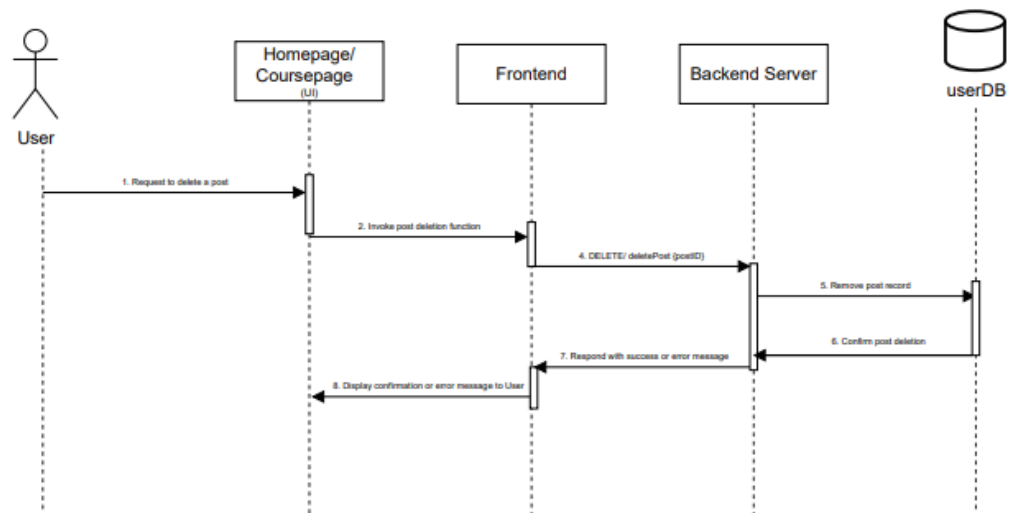
Scenario 3: When a user makes a post



Scenario 4: When a user edits a post



Scenario 5: When a user deletes a post



[illegible]

RTM:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Requirement ID	Functional/Non-Functional	Test Case ID(s)	Functionality Tested	Requirement
2	#RID_1	Functional	#TC1_F, #TC1_B	User signs up	Users must be able to sign up successfully.
3	#RID_2	Functional	#TC2_F, #TC2_B	User logs in	Users must be able to log in with valid credentials.
4	#RID_3	Functional	#TC3_F, #TC3_B	Create Post	Users must be able to add a new post to a specific course.
5	#RID_4	Functional	#TC4_F, #TC4_B	Delete Post	Users must be able to delete their posts.
6	#RID_5	Functional	#TC5_F, #TC5_B	Edit Post	Users must be able to edit their posts.
7	#RID_6	Functional	#TC6_F, #TC6_B	Word limit on post title	Posts must adhere to the specified word limit for the title.
8	#RID_7	Functional	#TC7_F, #TC7_B	Word limit on post body	Posts must adhere to the specified word limit for the body.
9	#RID_16	Functional	#TC21_B	Create Post	Users must not be able to create a post if required data is missing.
10	#RID_17	Functional	#TC23_B, #TC24_B, #TC25_B	Get Post ID	Users must receive valid post ID for valid data and notifications if post is not found or if course ID is invalid.
11	#RID_18	Functional	#TC26_B, #TC27_B, #TC28_B, #TC29_B	Get Post By ID	Users must receive valid post data for a valid post ID and notifications if post is not found or if ID is missing or empty.
12	#RID_19	Functional	#TC30_B, #TC31_B, #TC32_B, #TC33_B	Check authorization	Users must be authorized to perform certain actions and receive notifications for unauthorized attempts or missing/invalid data.
13	#RID_8	Non-Functional	#TC8_F, #TC8_B	User inputs non-existent email	Users must not be able to log in with a non-existent email.
14	#RID_9	Non-Functional	#TC9_F, #TC9_B	User inputs wrong email	Users must provide a valid email format for login.
15	#RID_10	Non-Functional	#TC10_F, #TC10_B	Leaves signup page incomplete	Users must fill in all required fields for sign up.
16	#RID_11	Non-Functional	#TC11_F	Dark mode functionality	Users must be able to switch between dark and light modes.
17	#RID_12	Non-Functional	#TC13_F	Swapping between different courses	Users must be able to switch between different courses.
18	#RID_14	Non-Functional	#TC9_B, #TC10_B, #TC11_B	Get posts	Users must receive valid posts for a valid course ID and a notification if no posts are found.
19	#RID_15	Non-Functional	#TC12_B, #TC13_B, #TC14_B, #TC15_B	Delete posts	Users must be able to delete their posts and receive notifications for invalid data or missing IDs.

Project Planning:

Team Organization:

We have divided into two teams: Front-end and Back-end Development

Front-end Development	Backend Development
Adhil Ashraf Al Farhana Siddique Mehvish Shakeel	Anfaal Mahbub Arvind Krishnaa Varshiny Gogulanathan

We split evenly between front-end and back-end tasks. Front-end developers focus on client-side functionality, while back-end developers handle server-side logic and database management. We held weekly meetings to discuss project progress, address any challenges, and coordinate upcoming tasks. Additionally, we use an organized Discord server with channels for tasks, deadlines, and specific project areas like front-end and back-end. We also used a WhatsApp groupchat for quick reminders and conversations.

Schedule:

Week 1-2 (Feb 6 - Feb 19): Detailed Design and Setup

Front-end Team:

- Design UI mockups and wireframes (Feb 6 - Feb 10)
- Task 2: Set up React.js environment (Feb 10 - Feb 12)

Back-end Team:

- Design system architecture and database schema (Feb 6 - Feb 10)
- Set up Node.js, Express.js, and MySQL environment (Feb 10 - Feb 12)

Both Teams:

- Set up version control system (e.g., Git/GitHub) (Feb 14 - Feb 19)

Week 3-4 (Feb 20 - Mar 4): Front-end and Back-end Development

Front-end Team:

- Develop UI components for exam date scheduler and study group finder (Feb 20 - Feb 26)
- Integrate authentication using Passport.js (Feb 27 - Mar 2)

Back-end Team:

- Implement RESTful API endpoints for backend to frontend integration/ information transfer (Feb 20 – Feb 26)
- Set up MySQL database and implement data storage logic (Feb 27 - Mar 2)

Week 5-6 (Mar 5 - Mar 18): Feature Implementation and Testing

Front-end Team:

- Develop UI components for mental health tips and course finder (Mar 5 - Mar 11)
- Conduct UI/UX testing and refinement (Mar 12 - Mar 14)

Back-end Team:

- Implement RESTful API endpoints for mental health tips and course finder/feedback (Mar 5 - Mar 11)

Both Teams:

- Integrate all features for comprehensive testing (Mar 15 - Mar 18)

Week 7-8 (Mar 19 – Mar 27): Testing and Deployment Preparation

- Develop and execute unit tests, integration tests, and end-to-end tests (Mar 19 - Mar 25)
- Document deployment process and rollback mechanisms (Mar 25 – Mar 26)
- Conduct final system testing and bug fixing (Mar 26 -27)

Milestones/Accomplishments:

- System Design and Architecture Planning: Create the system's architecture and design.
- Front-end Development : Develop front-end components for exam scheduling and study group finding.
- Back-end Development (User authentication, Database setup): Implement user authentication and set up the database.
- Front-end Development (Mental health tips, Course finder/feedback): Develop front-end components for mental health tips and course-related features.
- Back-end Development (RESTful API): Implement the back-end components including RESTful API.
- Testing and Quality Assurance (Unit, integration) Conduct comprehensive testing to ensure system functionality and quality.
- Deployment and Scaling - Deploy the system on local machine.

Appendix:

- Initial Rough Sketch of Databases

DataBase: UserDB

Table: Login

userID	Email	Password

Table: Signup

userID	F_name	L_name	Email	Program

DataBase: Courses

Table: Fall 2024

userID	Course_1	Course_2	Course_3	Course_4	Course_5

- Similar tables will exist for other courses

DataBase: Posts

Table: Content

userID	Course	Content