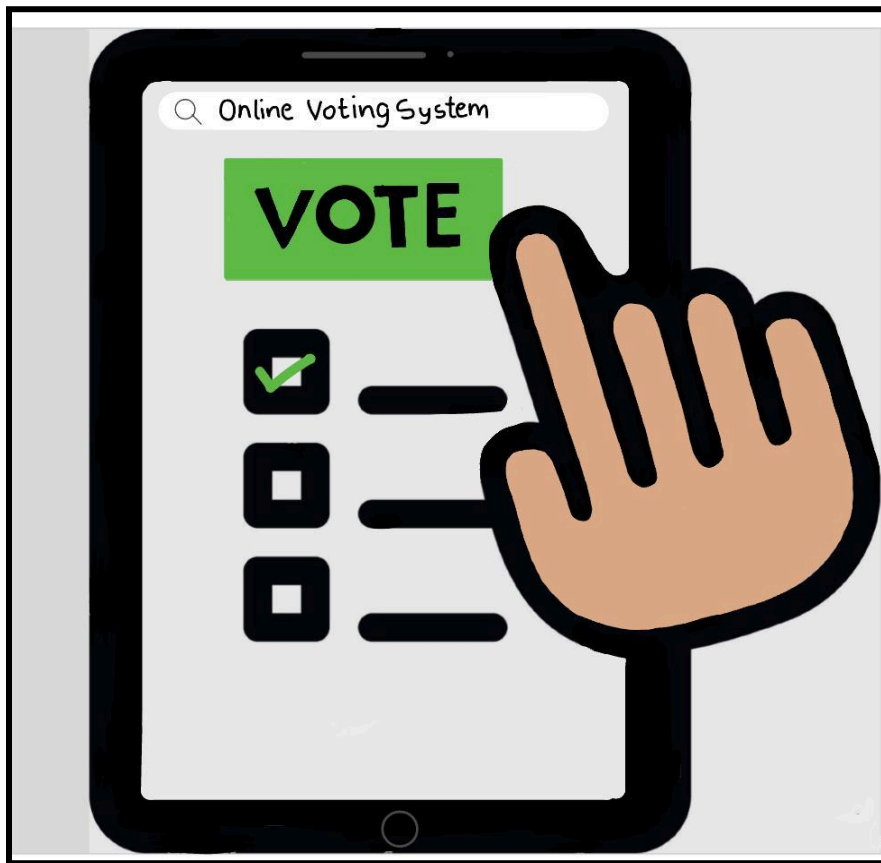


USER MANUAL
FOR
ONLINE VOTING SYSTEM



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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Online Voting System, where the election process is made easier and more accessible, more secure and more transparent, with this web-based application. With this system, voters who have registered can place their votes for candidates in a simple and reliable way. This system aims to make voting the most accessible, trustworthy way of users input, free from malpractice or fraud, ensuring an accurate electoral process.

Other Features:

- User Registration and Authentication: Users can register securely for an account or log in to use the voting platform.
- Voting Dashboard: A dedicated dashboard for voters to view candidates and cast their votes.
- Candidate Dashboard: A dedicated dashboard for candidates where they can see other candidates. (but cannot cast a vote)
- Live Voting Maturity: It will reflect if the user voted, changing from "not voted" to "voted" once they finalize their vote.
- Vote Successful Message: Voters are sent a confirmation message if their vote is successfully cast.
- Candidate Management: Admins can add, edit, and remove candidates to maintain current electoral options.
- Results Management: Real-time voting results are available for admins, offering transparency and accuracy in the electoral process.

Technology used:

- Front end: HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- Back end: PHP
- Database: MySQL

Online voting system user manual serves as a comprehensive guide to using the Online Voting System, covering the setup and registration process, voting, and managing candidates. It aims to simplify the system and assist both end-users (voters) and administrators in navigating it smoothly.

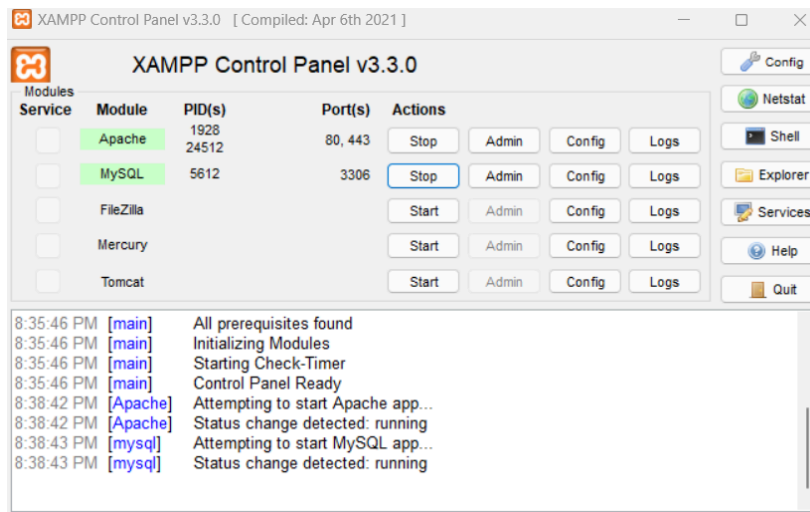
Sections:

- Getting Started: Instructions on accessing the website, registering, and logging in.
- How to Use: Guides on the voting process, user account management, and using the dashboard.
- Admin Guide: Instructions for admins on managing candidates, viewing results, and handling user accounts.
- Troubleshooting: Solutions to common problems and a FAQ section.

With this guide, users and administrators can utilize the full features of the Online Voting System, making voting easy and efficient.

2.Installation

1. Download XAMPP and Install it into your laptop by accessing the link below:
<https://www.apachefriends.org/download.html>
2. Download the online voting folder from github and save it in the htdocs folder available in XAMPP.
<https://github.com/Satxsa/online-voting>
- 3.



Start Apache and MySQL and then on the browser type <http://localhost/phpmyadmin/> and access MyPHPAdmin to create a database called voting.

- once the database is created access the user accounts and click on the username to access the login information

User accounts overview

	User name	Host name	Password	Global privileges	User group	Grant	Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any	%	No	USAGE		No	Edit privileges Export Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	localhost	sathsa	Yes	ALL PRIVILEGES		Yes	Edit privileges Export Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	pma	localhost	No	USAGE		No	Edit privileges Export Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	root	127.0.0.1	No	ALL PRIVILEGES		Yes	Edit privileges Export Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	root	::1	No	ALL PRIVILEGES		Yes	Edit privileges Export Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	root	localhost	No	ALL PRIVILEGES		Yes	Edit privileges Export Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	root	sathsa	Yes	ALL PRIVILEGES		Yes	Edit privileges Export Lock
<input type="checkbox"/>	sathsa	localhost	Yes	ALL PRIVILEGES		Yes	Edit privileges Export Lock

- Change the login information according to the image below and change the password to **voting@123**

Edit privileges: User account 'sathsa'@'localhost'

Change login information / Copy user account

Login Information

User name: Use text field ▼ sathsa

Host name: Local ▼ localhost ⓘ

Password: Do not change the p ▼ Strength: —

Re-type:

Authentication plugin: Native MySQL authentication ▼

Global Database **Change password** Login Information

Edit privileges: User account 'sathsa'@'localhost'

Change password

☐ No Password

☒ Password:

Enter: Strength:

Re-type:

Password Hashing:

Generate password

6. Use the database codes in the **database codes voting.txt** file available in the online voting folder, copy/paste the text in SQL query like the image below.

Server: 127.0.0.1 » Database: voting

Structure SQL Search Query Export Import Operations Privileges Routes

Run SQL query/queries on database voting: ?

```

1 CREATE TABLE admin (
2   adminId INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
3   username VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,
4   password VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL
5 );
6
7 INSERT INTO admin (username, password)
8 VALUES ('admin', 'admin123');
9
10 CREATE TABLE register (
11   id INT AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,
12   username VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,
13   password VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,
14   dob DATE NOT NULL,
15   phone_number VARCHAR(15) NOT NULL,

```

7. Type [http://localhost/online voting](http://localhost/online%20voting) on your browser and the online voting system will be up and running.



Secure & Transparent Online Voting Platform.

Virtual Voting is a leading online voting platform that provides a secure, transparent, and accurate way for organizations to conduct elections.

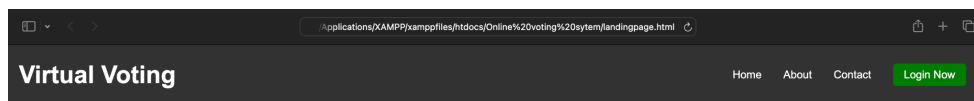
Please log in using the button above to start voting.

3. Getting Started

3.1 Accessing the Website

Accessing the Website To use the Online Voting System, you have to open a web browser.

- Open the web browser of your choice.
- Type the ip address of the admin laptop followed by online voting in the address bar and press Enter. (e.g., <http://172.20.10.2/online%20voting/>)
- Now you have successfully entered the index page. Index page gives you brief information about the online voting system.



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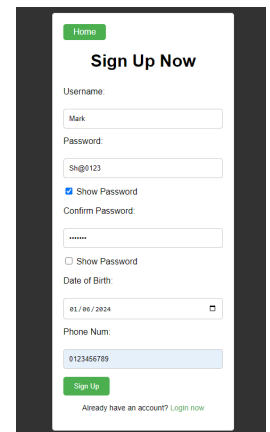
Please log in using the button above to start voting.

3.2 User Registration

User Registration If you are a new user or do not have an account, you need to register to use the online voting system.

3.2.1 Registering a New Account

- Navigate to the Registration Page :
 - Click on the "Register" or "Sign Up" link on the landing page.
- Fill in the Registration Form:
 - Username: Enter a unique name.
 - Date of birth: Enter your DOB.
 - Password: Create a strong password
 - Confirm Password: Re-enter your password.
 - Phone Number: Provide your Phone number
- Submit the Form:
 - Click the "Register" button to submit your details.
- Registration Complete:
 - After registration you will receive a confirmation pop up message and you will be redirected to the login page.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Sign Up Now". At the top left is a "Home" link. The form fields include: "Username:" with a text input containing "Mark"; "Password:" with a text input containing "Sh@123" and a "Show Password" checkbox that is checked; "Confirm Password:" with a text input; "Date of Birth:" with a date picker showing "01/06/2024"; and "Phone Num:" with a text input containing "0123456789". At the bottom is a green "Sign Up" button. Below the button, it says "Already have an account? Login now".

3.3 User Login

Now Users Login Once you have registered and verified your account, you can log in to access the voting system.

- Navigate to the Login Page:
 - Click on the "Login" link on the landing page.
- Enter Your Credentials:
 - Username: Enter your registered username
 - Password: Enter your password.
- Submit the Form:
 - Click the "Login" button.
- Access Your Dashboard:
 - Upon successful login, you will be redirected to your voter dashboard.

3.4 User Dashboard Overview

The user dashboard is your primary interface to see the candidates and cast your vote.

- Welcome Message: A welcome message will pop up.
- Voting Status: An indicator showing whether you have voted or not.
- Candidates List: A list of all available candidates with brief profiles and voting buttons.
- Navigation buttons: Link to system help, and log out.
- Vote Button: A Radio button next to each candidate's profile allowing you to choose your candidate and a voting button to cast your vote.

By following these steps, you will be able to successfully access and navigate the Online Voting System, enabling you to participate in the voting process.

Voter Dashboard

Voter Details

Name	yui
Phone	0123456789
Date of Birth	2024-06-01
Status	Not Voted

Candidates

	Candidate Name
<input type="radio"/>	tuka
<input type="radio"/>	muka
<input type="radio"/>	suka
<input type="radio"/>	luka
<input type="button" value="Vote"/>	

[View Results](#)[Back](#)[Logout](#)

4. How to Use

4.1 Voting Process

The Main functionality of the Online Voting System is to allow users to cast their votes in a simple and secure manner. User will be able to cast votes once Admin has started the voting period Follow these steps to cast your vote:

4.1.1 How to Cast a Vote

1. Log In to Your Account:
 - Ensure you are logged in to the Online Voting System. Refer to the User Login section if you need assistance.
2. Navigate to the Voting Section.
 - On your dashboard, find the section that lists the available candidates.
3. Review Candidates:
 - Review the profiles of the candidates to make an informed decision.
4. Select a Candidate:
 - Select the candidate by clicking on the radio option and then Click the "Vote button" to submit your vote.
5. Successfully Voted:
 - A confirmation message will appear, Verifying that user has successfully voted

4.1.2 Receiving Confirmation

1. **Vote Confirmation Message:**
 - After confirming your vote, you will receive a confirmation message indicating that your vote has been successfully cast.
2. **Email Notification (Optional):**
 - If the system is configured to send email notifications, you will receive an email confirming your vote.

4.1.3 Changing Voting Status

1. Automatic Status Update:
 - Once you cast your vote, your voting status on the dashboard will automatically change from "not voted" to "voted".
2. View Your Status:
 - You can view your updated status on your dashboard, which indicates that you have successfully participated in the election.

Voter Dashboard

Voter Details

Name	Mark
Phone	0123456789
Date of Birth	2024-06-01
Status	Voted

Candidates

	Candidate Name
<input type="radio"/>	tuka
<input type="radio"/>	muka
<input type="radio"/>	suka
<input type="radio"/>	luka

Vote

View Results

Back

Logout

4.2 Managing User Profile

To make an online voting system integrity, Users are not granted permission to update their profile information, only admin can do that and securely log out of the system. Follow these steps to manage your profile:

4.2.1 Editing Profile Information

As only Admin can update your profile, you can directly email Admin to change your certain information.

- On the voters dashboard at the bottom find the "contact us" button.
- After clicking the button the user will be directed to the Help page where Admin's email is provided.
- Send the admin an email about what needs to be changed.

4.2.2 Signing Out

1. Locate the Logout Button:
 - On your dashboard, find the "Logout" button in the navigation menu.
2. Click Logout:
 - Click the "Logout" button to securely log out of your account.
3. Confirmation:
 - You will be redirected to the login page, confirming that you have successfully logged out.

4.3 Accessing Voting Results

After the voting period has ended, users can view the election results to see the outcome.

4.3.1 Viewing Results

1. Log In to Your Account:
 - Ensure you are logged in to the Online Voting System. Refer to the User Login section if you need assistance.
2. Navigate to the Results Section:
 - On your dashboard, find the "Results" button.
3. View the Results:
 - The results page will display the voting outcomes once the voting period has ended, displaying the number of votes each candidate received and the winner of the election and also displaying the Encrypted table of votes.

Voting System Result

Results	
Name	Votes
tuka	0
muka	0
suka	0
luka	1

Winner: luka

Encrypted Results Table					
id	username	candidate_a	candidate_b	candidate_c	candidate_d
1	Mark	Yk8XQcRTqiln KMkvacPzA2p5 cUtseHA2MFB6 UkNaRitITVJdX c9PQ==	boBTvqSN1bE LqO5XXcbYlc zZGRKS1kydX RCbVpDaWdFe WRuNVE8PQ= =	sBUgpDhT9vVx k+Ycfx1kyXVYZ GcwdlF4LzA0Q W9VMDcyeTB1 OVE9PQ==	bY4ABaPvSIXi OXkeNBprjdsN EhzRjM2ZWpy Z3RiNEVINWN FNXc9PQ==

5. Admin Guide

The Admin Guide provides detailed instructions for administrators to manage the online voting system, including handling candidate information, viewing voting results, and managing user accounts.

5.1 Admin Login

Administrators need to log in to access the admin functionalities of the system.

1. Navigate to the Admin Login Page by clicking the link on the landing page.
2. Enter Your Credentials
3. Submit the Form by clicking the "Login" button.
4. Upon successful login, you will be redirected to the admin dashboard.

5.2 Managing Candidates

Administrators have the ability to add, edit, and remove candidates from the voting system.

5.2.1 Adding a Candidate

1. Navigate to the Candidates Section, click on the "Candidates" link in the navigation menu.

2. Click the "Add Candidate" button to open the candidate addition form.
3. Fill in Candidate Details
4. Submit the Form By clicking the "Add" button to add the candidate to the system.
5. A message will appear confirming that the candidate has been successfully added.

5.2.2 Editing Candidate Information

1. Navigate to the Candidates Section by clicking on the "Candidates" link in the navigation menu.
2. Select a Candidate by clicking the "Edit" button next to the candidate you wish to update.
3. Modify the candidate's information as needed.
4. Click the "Save" or "Update" button to apply the changes.
5. A message will appear confirming that the candidate's information has been successfully updated.

5.2.3 Removing a Candidate

2. Navigate to the Candidates Section by clicking on the "Candidates" link in the navigation menu.
3. Select a Candidate to Remove and Click the "Delete" button next to the candidate you wish to remove.
4. Confirm the deletion in the confirmation dialog that appears.
5. A message will appear confirming that the candidate has been successfully removed.

5.3 Viewing Voting Results

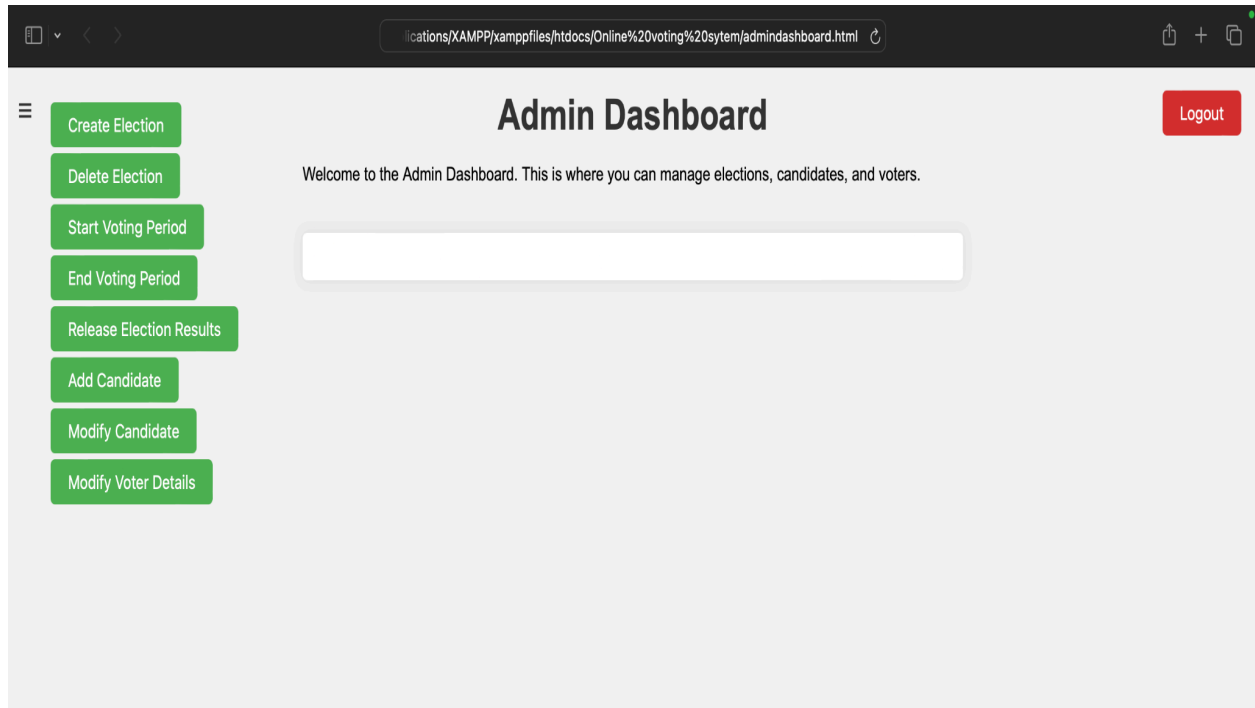
Administrators can view the results of the election in real-time.

1. **Navigate to the Results Section:**
 - On the admin dashboard, click on the "Results" link in the navigation menu.
2. **View the Results:**
 - The results page will display the voting outcomes, showing the number of votes each candidate received and the winner of the election.(only available while voting period has started)
3. **Export Results (Optional):**
 - If the system supports it, you can export the results to a file (e.g., CSV or PDF) by clicking the "Export" button.

5.4 Managing User Accounts

Administrators can manage user accounts, including activation, deactivation, and deletion.

1. On the admin dashboard, click on the "Users" link in the navigation menu.
2. Click the "Activate" or "Deactivate" button next to the user account you wish to modify. Confirm the action in the confirmation dialog that appears.
3. Click the "Delete" button next to the user account you wish to remove. Confirm the deletion in the confirmation dialog that appears.
4. A message will appear confirming that the user account has been successfully updated or deleted.



6. Troubleshooting

The Troubleshooting section provides solutions to common issues that users and administrators might encounter while using the Online Voting System. Additionally, it includes a FAQ section to address frequently asked questions.

6.1 Common Issues and Solutions

6.1.1 Login Problems

Issue: Unable to log in to the system.

Solution:

- **Check Credentials:** Ensure you are entering the correct username and password.
- **Reset Password:** Use the "Forgot Password" link to contact the Admin for password change.

6.1.2 Registration Issues

Issue: Unable to register a new account.

Solution:

- **Unique Username:** Make sure the username you are using is unique and not already registered.
- **Password Requirements:** Ensure your password meets the required criteria (e.g., length, special characters).

6.1.3 Voting Problems

Issue: Unable to cast a vote.

Solution:

- **Login Status:** Ensure you are logged in to your account.

- **Voting Period:** Check if the voting period is currently open.
- **Multiple Votes:** Verify that you have not already cast your vote (one vote per user).
- **Page Refresh:** Refresh the page or log out and log back in, then try voting again.

6.1.4 Admin Access Issues

Issue: Admin unable to log in or access admin features.

Solution:

- **Admin Credentials:** Ensure you are using the correct admin credentials.
- **Permissions:** Verify that your account has admin privileges.
- **Browser Cache:** Clear your browser's cache and cookies, then try again.

6.2 FAQ

Q1: How do I register for the Online Voting System?

A: Click the "Register" link on the landing page, fill out the registration form, and submit. You will receive a confirmation message box.

Q2: What do I do if I forget my password?

A: Use the "Forgot Password" link on the login page to contact Admin for password change request.

Q3: How can I update my profile information?

A: Use the "support" link on the login page to contact Admin via email for updating information requests. Users are not allowed to change their information to maintain the integrity of the e-ballot.

Q4: Can I change my vote after I have cast it?

A: No, once a vote is cast, it cannot be changed. Make sure to review your choice before confirming your vote.

Q5: How do I know if my vote was successfully cast?

A: After voting, you will receive a confirmation message on the screen, and your voting status will update to "voted."

Q6: How can I view the election results?

A: After the voting period ends, navigate to the "Results" section on your dashboard to view the election outcomes.

Q7: How do I contact support if I encounter an issue?

A: Look for a "Contact Us" or "Support" link on the website to get in touch with the support team. Provide detailed information about your issue for faster assistance.