

Coding Assignment: Secure and Reliable .NET Application

Duration: 90 minutes

Objective: Implement a simple .NET application that demonstrates best practices in security, reliability, and error handling. Write unit tests to validate the implementation.

Problem Statement

You are tasked with developing a basic .NET application that includes secure user authentication, data encryption, and reliable error handling. The application should be a simple user management system with the following features:

1. **User Authentication:** Users should be able to register and log in securely.
 2. **Data Encryption:** Sensitive user data should be encrypted.
 3. **Error Handling and Logging:** Implement proper error handling and logging mechanisms.
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User Stories and Expectations

User Story 1: User Authentication

- **As a user**, I want to be able to register and log in securely.
- **Acceptance Criteria:**
 - The system should allow users to register with a username and password.
 - Passwords should be hashed before storing them in the database.
 - The system should allow users to log in using their username and password.
 - On login, the system should verify the hashed password and authenticate the user.

User Story 2: Data Encryption

- **As a developer**, I want to ensure that sensitive user data is encrypted.
- **Acceptance Criteria:**
 - User passwords should be hashed using a secure hashing algorithm (e.g., SHA-256).
 - Implement encryption for any sensitive data stored in the application (e.g., user details).
 - Use .NET libraries for encryption (e.g., `System.Security.Cryptography`).

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User Story 3: Error Handling

- **As a developer**, I want to handle errors reliably and log them appropriately.
- **Acceptance Criteria:**
 - Implement try-catch blocks to handle potential exceptions.
 - Log errors to a file or a logging service (e.g., using NLog, Serilog, or log4net).
 - Ensure that sensitive information is not exposed in error messages.

User Story 4: Logging

- **As a developer**, I want to monitor the application health and track errors through logging.
 - **Acceptance Criteria:**
 - Implement logging for successful operations and errors.
 - Log relevant information such as timestamps, error messages, and stack traces.
 - Ensure that logs are saved to a file or a logging service for later review.
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Coding Assignment

Task 1: Implement User Authentication

1. **Create a User Model:**
 - Properties: Username, HashedPassword
 - Methods: Register(), Authenticate()
2. **Password Hashing:**
 - Use a secure hashing algorithm (e.g., SHA-256) to hash passwords before storing them.
3. **Login System:**
 - Create a login method that verifies the hashed password and authenticates the user.

Task 2: Implement Data Encryption

1. **Encrypt Sensitive Data:**
 - Use .NET's encryption libraries to encrypt sensitive user details (e.g., AES encryption).
2. **Decrypt Data:**
 - Implement a method to decrypt data when needed.

Task 3: Implement Error Handling and Logging

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1. **Error Handling:**

- Use try-catch blocks to handle exceptions and ensure that errors are managed gracefully.

2. **Logging:**

- Set up a logging framework (e.g., NLog, Serilog, or log4net).
- Log errors and important events to a file or logging service.

Task 4: Write Unit Tests

1. **Test User Authentication:**

- Verify that users can register and log in correctly.
- Ensure that passwords are hashed and verified properly.

2. **Test Data Encryption:**

- Verify that sensitive data is encrypted and decrypted correctly.

3. **Test Error Handling:**

- Simulate errors and ensure that they are handled and logged appropriately.

4. **Test Logging:**

- Verify that logs are written correctly and contain relevant information.
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Expectations

- **Code Quality:** Your code should follow best practices for security, reliability, and error handling.
- **Unit Tests:** Ensure that all tests are written to cover the scenarios described and are passing.
- **Documentation:** Include comments and documentation where necessary to explain your code and tests.
- **Submission:** Submit your implementation of the application and unit tests as a single project.

This assignment will assess your ability to design a secure and reliable .NET application, implement secure coding practices, and handle errors effectively.