

Library Application Report

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Web Programming Project

Title: Development of a library management system using ASP.NET Core Identity and Entity Framework

Introduction

This project aims to manage a simple library application that can perform CRUD operations, authentication, layouts, viewbag/viewdata, tag helpers, forms, and validations.

The system allows user to login and the students to register, and additional functions that differ and resemble according to the users.

The application consists of 3 controllers, 17 views including the default views of the application.

Project Overview

Technologies Used :

- ASP.NET Core Identity for user authentication and role management.
- SQLite for database storage.
- Entity Framework Core for data access.
- ASP.NET MVC for the web interface.

Features

User Registration and Authentication

- Registration integrates with ASP.NET Core Identity to create users and assign roles.
- Students can register and login.
- The librarians can login they aren't suitable for registration

Student Specific Features

- Additional properties for users are implemented.
- Students can borrow books and return books
- Can leave and list reviews.
- View the list of books
- View the categorized book list.

Librarian Specific Features

- Additional properties for users are implemented.
- Librarians can perform CRUD operations like;
- Adding book, genre, author and book category
- Updating and Deleting books.

Both of the Users

- Can search the books
- List the books
- Can View their User Info
- List the reviews

Implementation Details

For the users

- The User entity inherits from the IdentityUser and the Student and Librarian is inheriting from the User entity.

Contollers

- 3 controllers were enough to handle the application
- Home Controller that first directs to the Account Controller then the Dashboard Controller.
- The Account Controllers handles the login and registration actions
- The Dashboard controller has the actions, contains the main functions for the application.

Total Models

- User
- Student
- Librarian
- Author
- Category
- Genre
- Review

SeedData

- Created multiple seed data files
- To populate the application before hand.
- There are Views for almost all the actions.

Challenges faced

A lot of errors were faced such as ;

- SQLite Error 19 due to UNIQUE constraint violations in AspNetUsers.
- SqliteException: SQLite Error 19: 'UNIQUE constraint failed:AspNetUsers.NormalizedUserName'.
- Unable to track an entity of type 'User' because its primary key property 'Id' is null.
- An exception occurred in the database while saving changes for context type 'Project.Data.LibraryDbContext'.
- SqliteException: SQLite Error 19: 'FOREIGN KEY constraint failed'.
- The model item passed into the ViewDataDictionary is of type 'Project.Models.Book', but this ViewDataDictionary instance requires a model item of type 'System.Collections.Generic.IEnumerable1
- The request matched multiple endpoints.
- Student field is required.
- System.NullReferenceException: 'Object reference not set to an instance of an object.'

And a lot more but resolved all of them.

Conclusion

This project successfully demonstrates how to build a simple Library Application using ASP.NET Core Identity. It highlights key concepts such as role-based access control, custom user attributes, and integration with a relational database.

Potential future improvements.

Future enhancements include adding more roles, improving the UI/UX, and expanding functionalities like notifications or advanced analytics for student performance.

References:

- Youtube Identity core Tutorials
- StackOverflow
- ChatGPT
- Professors Documents

