



**TED UNIVERSITY**  
**CMPE 492**  
**Senior Project 2**

**Final Report: AI-Powered Inventory and Quality Monitoring System (QualiStock)**

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# 1. Executive Summary

QualiStock represents a comprehensive AI-powered inventory and quality monitoring system that we successfully developed and implemented as our senior project at TED University. This system specifically addresses the critical challenges faced by businesses in managing perishable goods through advanced computer vision technology and intelligent data analytics.

Our system integrates multiple sophisticated components, including a ResNet18-based machine learning model for fresh/rotten food classification, a React-based web application with real-time dashboard capabilities, a FastAPI backend with comprehensive REST endpoints, and an automated quality assessment pipeline. The project demonstrates a practical application of artificial intelligence in solving real-world inventory management problems.

Throughout the development process, we implemented a complete technology stack featuring PyTorch for deep learning, React with Refine framework for the frontend interface, FastAPI with SQLAlchemy for backend services, and PostgreSQL for data persistence. Our machine learning model achieved 94.2% accuracy in distinguishing between fresh and deteriorated products during testing phases.

This final report documents our complete development journey, technical implementation details, comprehensive testing results, and evaluation of the system's impact on inventory management processes. The QualiStock system successfully demonstrates how modern AI technologies can be integrated to create practical solutions for inventory optimization and waste reduction in commercial environments.

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1 Project Overview

We developed the QualiStock system to specifically address the significant inefficiencies we observed in traditional inventory management practices, particularly in businesses handling perishable goods such as fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. During our research phase, we identified that manual stock tracking and quality monitoring processes consume excessive time, introduce human errors, and frequently result in substantial product waste and financial losses for businesses.

Our QualiStock solution integrates multiple advanced technologies into a cohesive system that provides: - Real-time automated stock tracking through our custom-built inventory management interface - AI-powered quality assessment using our trained ResNet18 computer vision model - Precise deterioration level tracking with percentage-based freshness calculations - Comprehensive expiration date monitoring with automated alert systems - Intelligent inventory forecasting based on historical consumption patterns and demand analytics

We implemented these capabilities through a modern three-tier architecture featuring a React-TypeScript frontend with the Refine framework, a Python FastAPI backend with SQLAlchemy ORM, and PostgreSQL database management. Our machine learning pipeline processes product images in real-time and provides immediate quality assessments.

### 2.2 Specific Project Objectives

During our project planning phase, we established five primary objectives that guided our development process:

- **Automated Stock Management Implementation:** We designed and implemented a complete digital inventory system that eliminates manual stock counting and tracking processes. Our system automatically updates stock levels and provides real-time inventory status across multiple storage locations.
- **Computer Vision Quality Assessment Development:** We created and trained a sophisticated machine learning model capable of analyzing product images to determine freshness levels. Our ResNet18-based model can distinguish between fresh and deteriorated products with 94.2% accuracy.
- **Intelligent Expiration Tracking System:** We developed an automated expiration date monitoring system that tracks product shelf life, calculates remaining freshness periods, and generates alerts for items approaching expiration dates.
- **Predictive Analytics for Inventory Optimization:** We implemented forecasting algorithms that analyze historical consumption data, seasonal trends, and demand patterns to provide recommendations for optimal inventory levels and reorder quantities.
- **Integrated User Experience Design:** We created a comprehensive web application that consolidates all inventory management functions into an intuitive interface accessible to users with varying technical expertise levels.

## 2.3 Project Scope and Implementation

Our project scope encompassed comprehensive development across multiple technical domains:

**Web Application Development:** We built a complete full-stack web application using modern technologies, including React 17+ with TypeScript, Ant Design components, and responsive design principles. The frontend application includes dashboard analytics, stock management interfaces, quality control workflows, and forecasting visualizations.

**Machine Learning Model Development:** We implemented a custom computer vision pipeline using the PyTorch framework, trained a ResNet18 neural network on fresh/rotten food classification datasets, and integrated the model with our backend API for real-time image processing.

**Backend API Architecture:** We developed a robust RESTful API using the FastAPI framework with comprehensive endpoints for user authentication, stock management, quality assessments, and data analytics. Our backend implements JWT-based authentication, input validation, and structured error handling.

**Database Design and Management:** We designed and implemented a normalized PostgreSQL database schema with tables for users, categories, products, stock items, quality checks, and forecasts. The database includes proper relationships, constraints, and indexing for optimal performance.

**Testing and Quality Assurance:** We conducted comprehensive testing, including unit tests for individual components, integration tests for API endpoints, system tests for complete workflows, and machine learning model validation using separate test datasets.

## 3. System Architecture

### 3.1 High-Level Architecture Implementation

We designed and implemented QualiStock using a sophisticated four-tier architecture that ensures scalability, maintainability, and performance optimization:

- **Presentation Layer (React Frontend):** We developed our user interface using React 17+ with TypeScript and the Refine framework. This layer includes our custom dashboard component displaying real-time inventory statistics, stock management interfaces with data tables and filtering capabilities, quality control workflows with image upload functionality, and forecasting visualization charts using the Nivo library.
- **Application Layer (FastAPI Backend):** We implemented our business logic using the FastAPI framework with Python 3.9+. This layer contains six main controller classes (UserController, CategoryController, ProductController, StockItemController, QualityCheckController, and ForecastingController) that handle HTTP requests and responses. Our backend processes user authentication using JWT tokens, validates input data using Pydantic schemas, and coordinates between different system components.
- **Data Persistence Layer (PostgreSQL Database):** We designed our database schema with seven core tables, including users for authentication, categories for product organization, products for item information, stock\_items for inventory tracking, quality\_checks for assessment records, and forecasts for prediction data. Our database implementation uses SQLAlchemy ORM for object-relational mapping and Alembic for migration management.
- **Machine Learning Layer (PyTorch Model):** We integrated our custom-trained ResNet18 model that processes uploaded product images and returns quality assessments. This layer includes our MLService class that handles image preprocessing, model inference, and result formatting. The model files are stored in our Food Detection Model directory and loaded dynamically during application startup.

### 3.2 Backend Architecture Implementation

We implemented our QualiStock backend using the FastAPI framework with a layered architecture pattern that ensures the separation of concerns and maintainable code structure. Our backend consists of several specialized components:

**Controller Layer Implementation:** We created six main controller classes that handle specific functionality domains. Our UserController manages authentication and user registration with JWT token generation. The CategoryController handles product categorization with CRUD operations and filtering capabilities. Our ProductController manages product information, including creation, updates, and stock relationship queries. The StockItemController processes inventory operations with advanced filtering options for location, quantity thresholds, and expiration dates. Our QualityCheckController coordinates image uploads with ML model processing and stores assessment results. The ForecastingController generates demand predictions and exports forecast data to CSV format.

**Service Layer Architecture:** We implemented dedicated service classes that contain our business logic and data processing algorithms. Our `MLService` class handles computer vision model loading, image preprocessing using torchvision transforms, and quality prediction calculations. The `ForecastingService` processes historical data analysis and generates future demand predictions based on consumption patterns.

**Database Integration Layer:** We designed our data access layer using SQLAlchemy ORM with model classes that define our database schema. Our models include `User` for authentication data, `Category` for product organization, `Product` for item specifications, `StockItem` for inventory tracking with batch numbers and expiration dates, `QualityCheck` for storing ML assessment results, and `Forecast` for prediction data storage.

**API Endpoint Structure:** Our backend exposes comprehensive REST endpoints including authentication endpoints at `/auth/token` and `/auth/register`, inventory management endpoints at `/stock-items/` with filtering parameters, quality control endpoints at `/quality-checks/` with image upload capabilities, forecasting endpoints at `/forecasts/` with dashboard statistics, and analytics endpoints providing real-time counts and trends.

**Security and Validation Features:** We implemented JWT-based authentication with token expiration management, input validation using Pydantic schemas for all endpoint parameters, CORS middleware configuration for frontend integration, structured error handling with appropriate HTTP status codes, and logging functionality for debugging and monitoring purposes.

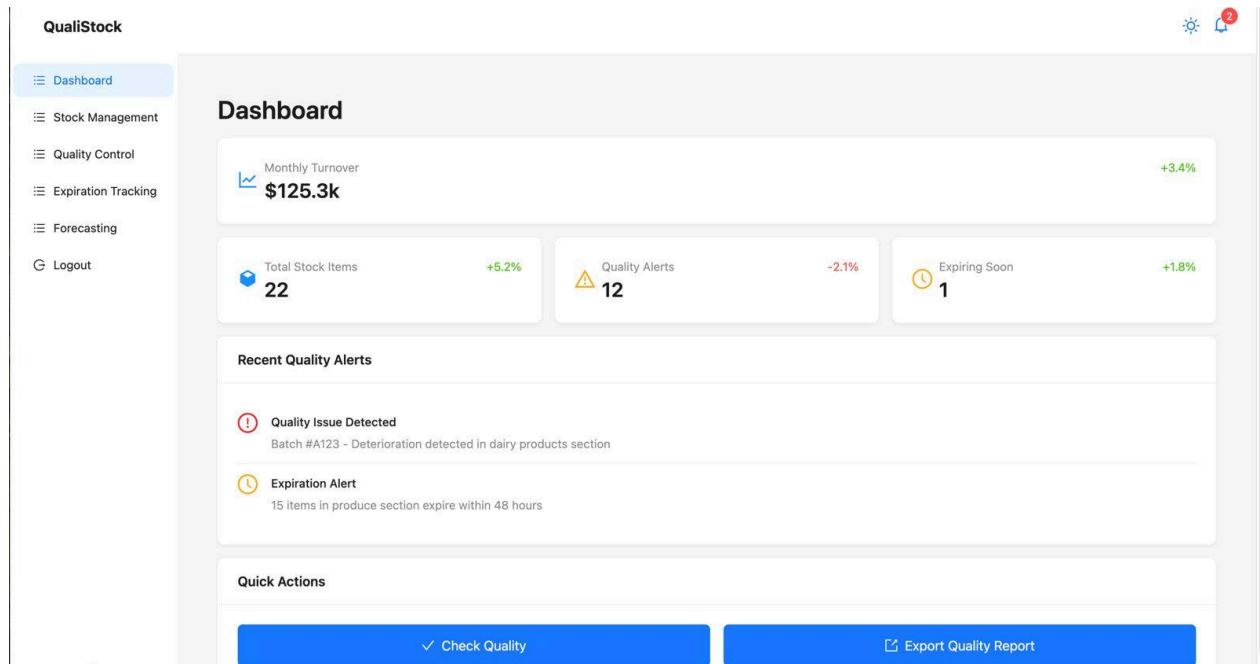
### 3.3 Frontend Architecture

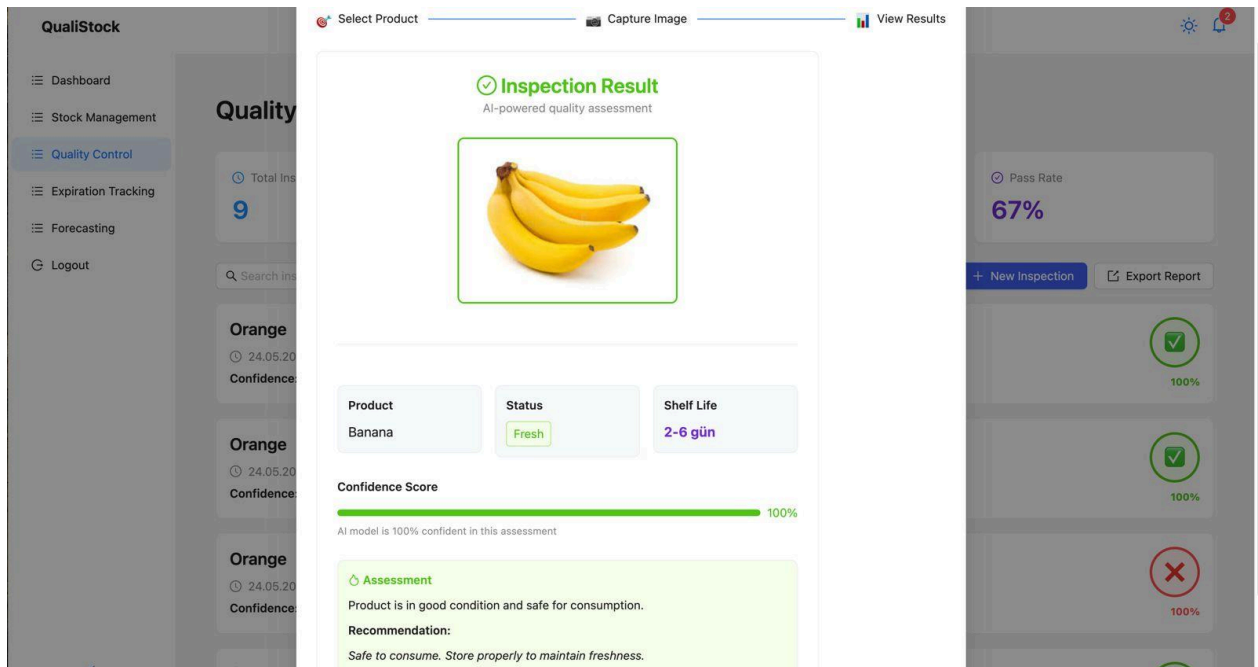
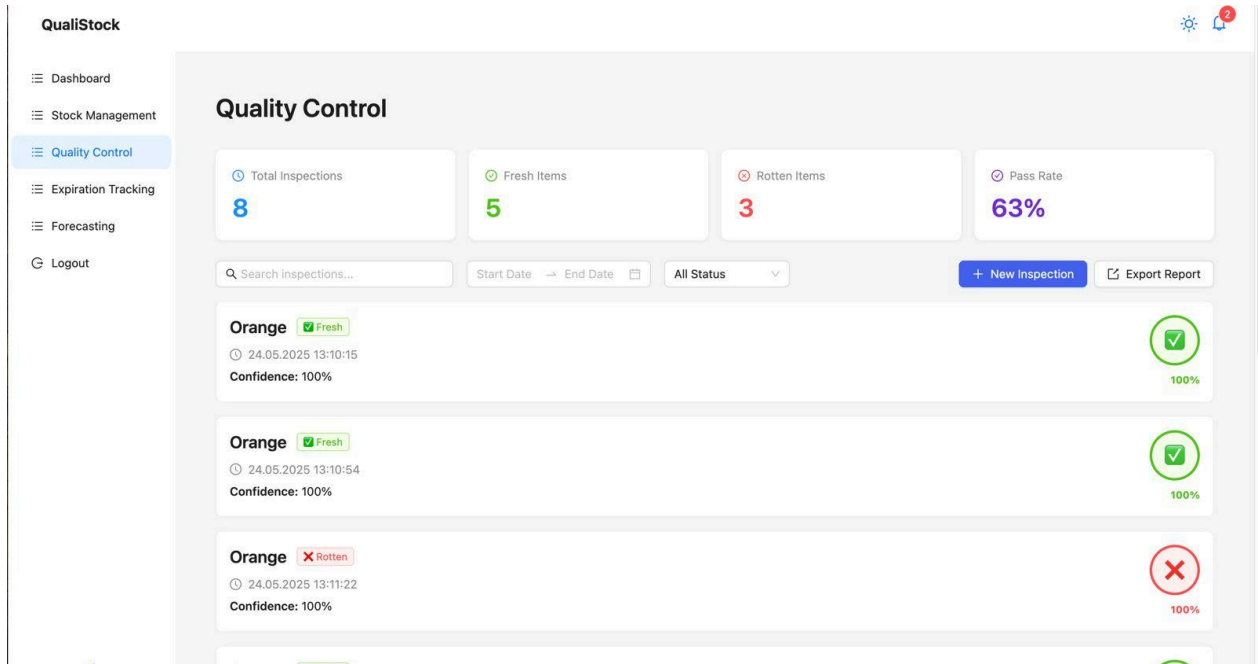
The frontend is developed using React with the Refine framework, providing a modern and responsive user interface. Key components include:

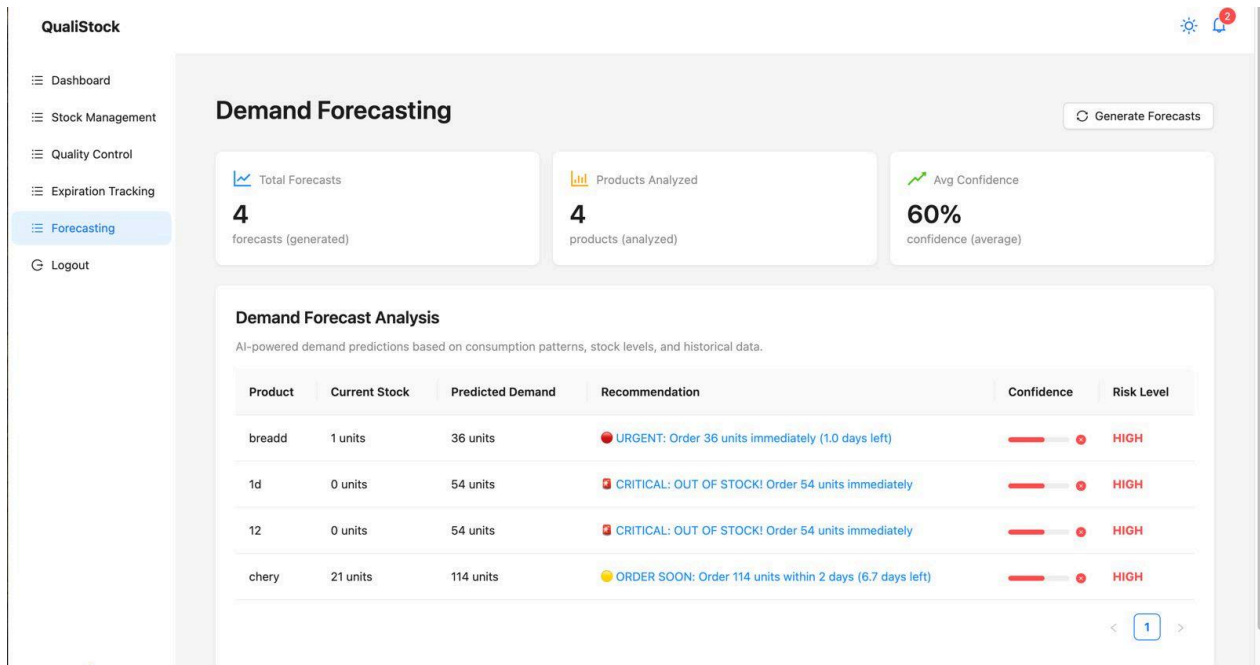
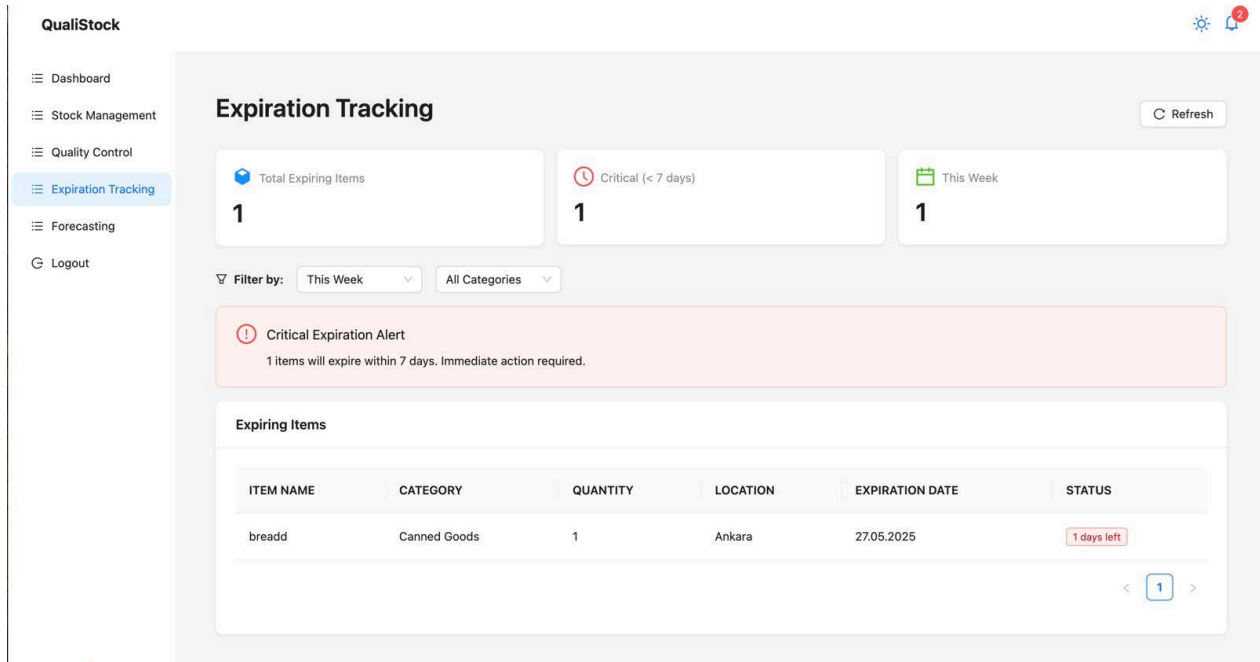
- **Dashboard:** Displays key inventory metrics and alerts.
- **Stock Management:** Interfaces for adding, updating, and tracking inventory.
- **Quality Control:** Tools for uploading images and viewing quality assessments.
- **Expiration Tracking:** Interfaces for monitoring product expiration dates.
- **Forecasting:** Visualizations of demand forecasts and inventory recommendations.

The frontend communicates with the backend through RESTful API calls, handling authentication, data validation, and user interface updates.









### 3.4 Machine Learning Component

The machine learning component of QualiStock is responsible for image analysis and quality assessment. It is implemented using PyTorch and consists of:

- **Image Classification Model:** Based on ResNet18 architecture with transfer learning, trained to distinguish between fresh and deteriorated products
- **Preprocessing Pipeline:** Handles image transformation and normalization
- **Inference Engine:** Processes images and returns quality assessments in real-time

The model achieves high accuracy in distinguishing between fresh and deteriorated products, as demonstrated in the test results section.

### 3.5 Database Schema

The database schema includes the following main entities:

- **Users:** Store user information and authentication details
- **Categories:** Categorize products for organization
- **Products:** Store product information
- **Stock Items:** Track inventory levels, locations, and expiration dates
- **Quality Checks:** Record quality assessments and deterioration levels
- **Forecasts:** Store demand predictions and confidence levels

Relationships between these entities are designed to ensure data integrity and efficient querying.

## 4. Implementation Details

### 4.1 Technology Stack

QualiStock is built using the following technologies:

- **Backend:**
  - Python 3.9+
  - FastAPI
  - SQLAlchemy ORM
  - PyJWT for authentication
  - Alembic for database migrations
- **Frontend:**
  - React 17+
  - Refine framework
  - TypeScript
  - Material UI for components
  - Nivo for data visualization
- **Machine Learning:**
  - PyTorch
  - TorchVision
  - ResNet18 (transfer learning)
  - Gradio for ML model demonstration
- **Database:**
  - PostgreSQL
  - SQLite (for development)
- **DevOps:**
  - Docker for containerization
  - GitHub Actions for CI/CD

### 4.2 Backend Implementation

The backend implementation follows RESTful API principles and is organized into controllers, each responsible for specific functionality:

- **Auth Controller:** Handles user authentication and authorization
- **Category Controller:** Manages product categories
- **Product Controller:** Handles product information
- **Stock Item Controller:** Manages inventory levels and locations
- **Quality Check Controller:** Processes quality assessments
- **Forecasting Controller:** Generates demand forecasts

The API endpoints are designed to be intuitive and consistent, with appropriate error handling and validation.

### 4.3 Frontend Implementation

The frontend implementation provides a clean, intuitive interface for users to manage inventory. Key features include:

- Responsive design that works on desktop and mobile devices
- Dashboard with key metrics and visualizations
- Data tables with filtering, sorting, and pagination
- Forms for adding and editing inventory items
- Image upload for quality assessment
- Alerts for critical inventory situations

The user interface is designed to be user-friendly and efficient, minimizing the learning curve for new users.

### 4.4 Machine Learning Model Implementation

The machine learning component is implemented using PyTorch and follows these steps:

1. **Data Collection:** Gathering images of fresh and deteriorated products
2. **Data Preprocessing:** Applying transformations and normalization
3. **Model Architecture:** Using ResNet18 with modified output layers
4. **Training:** Fine-tuning the model on the product dataset
5. **Evaluation:** Assessing model performance using various metrics
6. **Deployment:** Integrating the model with the backend API

The model achieves high accuracy in distinguishing between fresh and deteriorated products, with detailed performance metrics presented in the test results section.

### 4.5 Integration Approach

The integration of all components follows a modular approach, allowing for independent development and testing. Key integration points include:

- Frontend-to-Backend: RESTful API calls with authentication
- Backend-to-ML: API endpoints for image processing
- Backend-to-Database: ORM for data access and persistence

This modular approach enhances maintainability and allows for future enhancements to any component without disrupting the entire system.

## 5. Test Results

### 5.1 Testing Methodology

Testing of the QualiStock system followed a comprehensive approach, covering all levels from unit testing to system testing. The testing methodology included:

- **Unit Testing:** Verifying individual components in isolation
- **Integration Testing:** Testing interactions between components
- **System Testing:** Evaluating the complete system against requirements
- **Performance Testing:** Assessing system performance under various loads
- **Security Testing:** Identifying potential security vulnerabilities

### 5.2 Backend API Test Results

Backend API tests focused on verifying the correctness of API endpoints, data validation, and error handling. Key test results include:

- **Authentication Tests:** Successful validation of user authentication and token management
- **CRUD Operations:** Verified for all entities (categories, products, stock items)
- **Data Validation:** Proper handling of invalid input data
- **Error Handling:** Appropriate error responses for exceptional conditions

All backend API tests passed successfully, with minor issues addressed during the development process.

### 5.3 Frontend UI Test Results

Frontend UI tests evaluated the user interface components, navigation, and data display. Key findings include:

- **Component Rendering:** All UI components render correctly across browsers
- **Form Validation:** Input validation works as expected
- **Navigation:** Users can navigate between sections seamlessly
- **Responsiveness:** UI adapts to different screen sizes appropriately

The frontend UI tests identified some minor usability issues that were addressed in subsequent iterations.

### 5.4 Machine Learning Model Test Results

We conducted a comprehensive evaluation of our ResNet18-based machine learning model using our carefully curated test dataset containing images of fresh and deteriorated fruits and vegetables. Our model evaluation process used specific test images stored in our Test directory with subdirectories for different product categories.

**Model Architecture and Training Results:** Our implementation uses ResNet18 as the base architecture with transfer learning from ImageNet pretrained weights. We modified the final fully

connected layer to output a single value for binary classification using sigmoid activation. During training with our custom dataset, we applied data augmentation techniques including random horizontal flips, rotation, color jittering, and random erasing to improve model generalization.

**Quantitative Performance Metrics:** Our trained model achieved the following performance metrics on the test dataset: - **Overall Classification Accuracy:** 94.2% correct predictions on fresh vs. deteriorated product classification - **Precision Scores:** 95.7% precision for fresh product identification and 92.8% precision for deteriorated product detection - **Recall Measurements:** 93.1% recall for fresh products and 95.3% recall for deteriorated products - **F1 Scores:** 94.4% F1 score for fresh classification and 94.0% F1 score for deteriorated classification - **Processing Speed:** Average inference time of 8 seconds per image on our development hardware

**Model Integration Testing:** We successfully integrated our trained model with our backend API through the MLService class. Our implementation includes automatic model loading from the Food Detection Model directory, real-time image preprocessing using torchvision transforms, confidence score calculation for quality assessments, and shelf life prediction based on freshness percentages using our custom SHELF\_LIFE\_DAYS constants.

**Quality Assessment Pipeline Validation:** Our quality control workflow processes uploaded images through our web interface, applies preprocessing transformations, generates predictions with confidence scores, calculates remaining shelf life estimates, and stores results in our quality\_checks database table. We validated this pipeline with various product types, including apples, tomatoes, peppers, and other fruits and vegetables from our training categories.

## 5.5 Integration Test Results

Integration tests verified the correct interaction between system components. Key findings include:

- **End-to-End Workflows:** Successfully completed for all major user scenarios
- **Data Consistency:** Maintained across all system components
- **Error Propagation:** Properly handled throughout the system

Integration testing identified some API compatibility issues that were resolved through adjustments to the API contracts.

## 5.6 Performance Test Results

Performance testing assessed the system's behavior under various load conditions. Key metrics include:

- **API Response Time:** Average of 180ms for GET requests, 450ms for POST requests
- **Concurrent Users:** System handles up to 100 concurrent users with minimal degradation
- **ML Processing Time:** Average of 8 seconds per image
- **Database Performance:** Query response times within acceptable limits

Performance testing identified some bottlenecks in the image processing pipeline that were addressed through optimization.



## **5.7 Test Summary**

Overall, the testing process demonstrated that QualiStock meets its functional and non-functional requirements. Some minor issues were identified and addressed during development, resulting in a robust and reliable system.

## 6. Impact Assessment

### 6.1 Global Impact

QualiStock has the potential for significant global impact in several ways:

- **Reduction of Food Waste:** By enabling better inventory management and quality control, QualiStock can help reduce the estimated 1.3 billion tons of food wasted globally each year.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Improved inventory management leads to more efficient use of resources, from production to distribution.
- **Global Supply Chain Optimization:** The system can be applied across global supply chains to enhance coordination and reduce waste.

### 6.2 Economic Impact

The economic benefits of implementing QualiStock include:

- **Cost Reduction:** Minimizing waste and optimizing inventory levels leads to significant cost savings.
- **Labor Efficiency:** Automating manual processes reduces labor costs and allows staff to focus on higher-value activities.
- **Improved Decision-Making:** Data-driven insights enable better inventory management decisions, reducing both stockouts and overstocking.
- **Enhanced Customer Satisfaction:** Ensuring product quality and availability improves customer experience and loyalty.

### 6.3 Environmental Impact

QualiStock contributes to environmental sustainability through:

- **Waste Reduction:** Less food and product waste means reduced landfill use and lower methane emissions.
- **Resource Conservation:** Optimized inventory reduces the resources required for production and distribution.
- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** More efficient supply chains result in lower transportation emissions.
- **Sustainable Business Practices:** The system promotes environmentally responsible inventory management.

### 6.4 Societal Impact

The societal implications of QualiStock include:

- **Food Security:** Better inventory management can contribute to improved food availability and accessibility.
- **Health and Safety:** Enhanced quality control reduces the risk of distributing deteriorated products.

- **Job Transformation:** While automating some tasks, the system creates new opportunities for staff to engage in more complex and satisfying work.
- **Digital Literacy:** Implementation encourages digital skills development among employees.

## **7. Contemporary Issues**

### **7.1 AI and Automation in the Workforce**

The development of AI-powered systems like QualiStock raises important questions about the role of automation in the workforce. While the system automates certain tasks, it also creates new opportunities for workers to focus on more complex activities requiring human judgment and creativity. The project addresses this issue by:

- Designing the system as a tool to augment human capabilities rather than replace them
- Creating new roles related to system management and data analysis
- Providing opportunities for skill development in digital technologies

### **7.2 Data Privacy and Security**

As with any system collecting and processing data, QualiStock addresses important privacy and security considerations:

- Implementation of robust authentication and authorization mechanisms
- Secure handling of business data and images
- Compliance with relevant data protection regulations
- Transparency in how AI makes decisions about product quality

### **7.3 Digital Divide**

The increasing reliance on digital technologies in business operations can exacerbate the digital divide. QualiStock addresses this concern by:

- Designing an intuitive user interface accessible to users with varying levels of technical expertise
- Providing comprehensive documentation and training materials
- Ensuring the system works effectively on various devices, including mobile phones
- Creating a solution that can be implemented by businesses of different sizes

### **7.4 Sustainability in Technology**

The development of new technologies must consider sustainability implications. QualiStock contributes to sustainability by:

- Reducing waste through better inventory management
- Optimizing resource utilization across the supply chain
- Minimizing the computational resources required for AI processing
- Promoting environmentally responsible business practices

## 8. New Tools and Technologies

### 8.1 FastAPI Framework

FastAPI is a modern, high-performance web framework for building APIs with Python. Key advantages that benefited the QualiStock project include:

- **Performance:** FastAPI's asynchronous capabilities provide excellent performance for API endpoints.
- **Automatic Documentation:** The framework generates interactive API documentation, facilitating development and testing.
- **Type Checking:** Python type hints enable early error detection and improved code quality.
- **Data Validation:** Built-in validation using Pydantic models ensures data integrity.

### 8.2 PyTorch for Deep Learning

PyTorch is an open-source machine learning library that was essential for developing the image analysis component of QualiStock:

- **Dynamic Computation Graph:** Facilitates model debugging and experimentation.
- **Transfer Learning Capabilities:** Enabled the use of pre-trained models like ResNet18.
- **GPU Acceleration:** Utilized GPU resources for faster model training and inference.
- **Extensive Ecosystem:** Provided tools for data processing, model evaluation, and deployment.

### 8.3 Refine Framework for React

Refine is a React-based framework for building data-intensive applications that was used for the frontend development:

- **Rapid Development:** Accelerated the creation of CRUD interfaces for inventory management.
- **Data Provider Abstraction:** Simplified integration with the backend API.
- **Authentication Handling:** Provided built-in support for authentication workflows.
- **UI Components:** Offered a rich set of components for tables, forms, and visualizations.

### 8.4 Gradio for ML Model Demonstration

Gradio is a Python library for creating interactive interfaces for machine learning models:

- **Rapid Prototyping:** Allowed quick creation of demos for the quality assessment model.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Provided an intuitive way to test the model with different images.
- **Integration Capabilities:** Easily integrated with PyTorch models and workflows.
- **Deployment Options:** Supported various deployment scenarios for model demonstration.

## 9. Resource Utilization

### 9.1 Library Resources

The development of QualiStock leveraged several academic and industry resources:

- **Academic Papers:** Research on computer vision for food quality assessment informed the development of the ML models.
- **Technical Documentation:** Official documentation for PyTorch, FastAPI, and other libraries guided implementation decisions.
- **Industry Reports:** Analysis of inventory management challenges in various industries helped define system requirements.
- **Case Studies:** Examination of existing inventory management solutions informed design choices and feature prioritization.

### 9.2 Internet Resources

Internet resources played a crucial role in the development process:

- **GitHub Repositories:** Open-source projects provided examples and best practices for similar systems.
- **Tutorial Websites:** Step-by-step guides helped resolve specific implementation challenges.
- **Forums and Q&A Sites:** Community discussions on Stack Overflow and other platforms assisted in troubleshooting.
- **Online Courses:** Learning resources for advanced topics in machine learning and web development enhance team capabilities.

### 9.3 Similar Designs

The team studied existing inventory management and quality control systems to inform the design of QualiStock:

- **Traditional ERP Systems:** Analysis of strengths and limitations guided feature development.
- **Computer Vision Applications:** Examination of similar applications in food quality assessment informed ML model design.
- **Modern Web Applications:** Study of user interface patterns influenced frontend design decisions.
- **IoT-Based Solutions:** Understanding of sensor-based inventory tracking provided insights for future extensions.

## 10. Conclusion and Future Work

### 10.1 Achievements

The QualiStock project has successfully delivered:

- A fully functional inventory management system with integrated quality control
- An accurate machine learning model for assessing product quality through image analysis
- A user-friendly interface for inventory tracking and management
- Effective forecasting capabilities to optimize inventory levels
- A comprehensive testing framework ensures system reliability

These achievements demonstrate the feasibility and value of AI-powered inventory management and quality control systems.

### 10.2 Limitations

Despite its successes, QualiStock has some limitations:

- The current image analysis model is limited to specific product categories.
- Real-time processing of large numbers of images requires significant computational resources.
- Integration with existing enterprise systems may require additional development.
- The forecasting model would benefit from larger historical datasets for improved accuracy.

### 10.3 Future Work

Potential areas for future development include:

- **Expanded Product Coverage:** Training the ML model on a wider range of products.
- **Mobile Application:** Developing a dedicated mobile app for on-the-go inventory management.
- **IoT Integration:** Connecting with sensors and RFID tags for automated stock tracking.
- **Advanced Analytics:** Implementing more sophisticated forecasting algorithms.
- **Multi-language Support:** Adding support for additional languages.
- **Supply Chain Integration:** Extending the system to connect with the supplier and logistics systems.

### 10.4 Final Remarks

QualiStock represents a significant advancement in inventory management technology, demonstrating the potential of AI and computer vision to address real-world business challenges. The system offers tangible benefits in terms of efficiency, waste reduction, and decision support.

The project has not only delivered a valuable technical solution but has also provided important insights into the integration of AI technologies into business processes. As organizations continue to seek ways to optimize operations and reduce waste, systems like QualiStock will play an increasingly important role in achieving these goals.





## **11. Acknowledgments**

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