

# **Personal Finance Tracker**

## **A PROJECT REPORT**

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# Personal Finance Tracker



## BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report "**Personal Finance Tracker**" is the Bonafide work of "**Anshul Sharma, Shivam Tiwari, Anmol Kumar, Sai Tharun**" who carried out the project work under my/our supervision.

**Examiner**

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# **Chapter 1: Introduction**

## **1.1 Introduction to the Project:**

In the modern world, personal finance management has become an essential skill for individuals to achieve financial stability and independence. With the increase in digital transactions, people often struggle to monitor their expenses, savings, and income efficiently. The **Personal Finance Tracker** project aims to address this issue by providing a simple yet powerful **Java-based application** that helps users record, manage, and analyze their financial activities.

This desktop application enables users to track income and expenses, categorize transactions, visualize spending patterns, and generate monthly summaries. It is built using **Java (Swing/JavaFX)** for the interface and **MySQL** for data management, ensuring both usability and reliability.

By integrating key financial management features such as expense categorization, graphical reporting, and budget tracking, this project serves as a digital assistant for users who wish to monitor their financial health efficiently.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem:**

Most individuals find it difficult to keep track of their daily expenses and savings, leading to unplanned spending and lack of financial control. Traditional methods such as manual record keeping or spreadsheets are time-consuming and error-prone.

The main problems identified are:

- Lack of automated tools for expense tracking.
- Difficulty in understanding financial patterns from raw data.
- Inability to set and monitor personalized budgets effectively.
- No centralized system to visualize financial history.

The **Personal Finance Tracker** provides a solution by offering a structured digital platform that automatically records and categorizes financial transactions, generating real-time summaries and insights.

## **1.3 Importance of the Study**

The study of the **Personal Finance Tracker** is important because it addresses a critical gap in the way individuals manage and analyze their financial data. In today's digital world, where expenses are distributed across various online and offline platforms, people often lack a centralized and organized system to monitor their spending, savings, and income. This project introduces an automated software solution that simplifies personal finance management by allowing users to record transactions, categorize expenses, and generate insightful reports in real time.

By doing so, the system significantly enhances financial awareness, helps users make informed decisions, and promotes the habit of budgeting and saving effectively. It also reduces manual errors associated with spreadsheet-

based tracking and provides instant visibility into one's financial health. Moreover, this study holds strong **educational and practical value**, as it demonstrates how object-oriented programming principles, GUI development, and database integration can be applied to solve real-world financial problems through technology. From an industrial perspective, the project highlights the growing relevance of **financial automation systems** in personal and small business environments. As financial literacy and data-driven decision-making become increasingly important, tools like the Personal Finance Tracker empower users to take control of their finances through smart automation and analytics.

Overall, this study is significant because it combines **software engineering principles** with practical financial management needs—resulting in an efficient, reliable, and user-friendly application. In addition, it promotes innovation in developing accessible financial tools and contributes toward the broader goal of enhancing digital financial literacy and sustainable money management practices.

## **1.4 Scope of the Project:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker** project aims to develop a comprehensive, user-friendly, and secure desktop application that helps individuals effectively monitor and manage their financial activities. Its primary focus is to simplify personal finance management by automating record keeping, categorizing transactions, and providing analytical insights into income and expenditure patterns. The system allows users to make informed financial decisions by offering real-time summaries, visual reports, and budgeting tools, all within an intuitive Java-based interface.

The project focuses on achieving financial transparency for users by tracking various parameters such as income sources, expense categories, and spending trends. For example, the system enables users to record daily transactions, assign them to relevant categories (like rent, groceries, entertainment), and generate monthly summaries that visually represent financial behavior. It provides a detailed overview of how money is earned, spent, and saved over time.

The scope of the **Personal Finance Tracker** includes the design and implementation of the following integrated modules:

1. **Transaction Manager:** Allows users to add, edit, and delete income or expense entries with category classification and timestamps.
2. **Budget Planner:** Enables users to set spending limits for specific categories and track adherence to budget goals.
3. **Report Generator:** Produces visual and tabular reports summarizing income and expenses across different time periods.
4. **Database Management System:** Handles secure storage and retrieval of financial data using MySQL.
5. **Authentication and Security Module:** Ensures safe access to personal finance data through password encryption and validation.
6. **Graphical User Interface (GUI):** Provides an interactive and user-friendly experience through Java Swing or JavaFX components.

This project serves both **academic** and **practical** purposes. Academically, it provides students and developers an opportunity to apply Java programming, database management, and GUI design concepts to solve a real-world financial problem. It demonstrates how object-oriented principles, data persistence, and event-driven programming can work together to create a robust software solution.

From a practical and industrial perspective, the Personal Finance Tracker serves as a digital financial assistant for individuals and small businesses seeking to improve their money management habits. It can be customized and expanded to include features such as multi-user access, currency conversion, tax estimation, and integration with online banking APIs.

The project's scope also extends toward incorporating **data analytics and predictive insights** in future iterations, allowing users to forecast expenses or receive automated alerts when nearing budget limits. Additionally, cloud synchronization can be introduced to enable cross-device access and data backup. However, the current version focuses on **core financial management functionalities**—income and expense tracking, budgeting, and report generation—without integration of external financial systems or advanced AI components.

## Chapter 2: Background Study

### **2.1 Personal Finance Tracker – Concept and History:**

#### **Concept:-**

The Personal Finance Tracker (PFT) is an intelligent and user-friendly software system designed to help individuals manage and monitor their financial activities efficiently. Instead of relying on manual calculations or spreadsheets, the system automates the process of recording income, expenses, and savings. It allows users to categorize transactions, view summaries, and analyze financial patterns through graphical reports.

The concept behind this project is to create a digital financial assistant that simplifies budgeting and promotes better money management habits. By integrating Java's object-oriented programming with a MySQL database, the application ensures data reliability, accuracy, and long-term storage. The system acts as a central hub for personal financial information, providing insights into spending behavior and helping users make informed financial decisions.

#### **History:-**

The idea of personal finance management software emerged as individuals and small businesses sought better ways to organize their financial data digitally. Early systems were simple spreadsheet templates and manual ledger programs. Over time, desktop applications like Microsoft Money and Quicken introduced automation and data visualization features. With advancements in programming languages like Java and the rise of database-driven applications, more intelligent and secure finance tracking tools became possible.

The Personal Finance Tracker builds on these innovations by offering a lightweight yet powerful Java-based solution. It combines core financial management functions—expense tracking, budgeting, and reporting—into a single integrated platform. By doing so, it represents a modern evolution of traditional financial tools, focusing on accessibility, automation, and analytical precision for everyday users.

### **2.2 Existing Solutions and Techniques:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** incorporates several modern software development and data management techniques to achieve efficient, secure, and user-friendly financial tracking. These techniques ensure that the system accurately records user data, processes transactions, and generates insightful summaries for better financial decision-making.

#### **1. Transaction Recording and Categorization:-**

The system allows users to record income and expenses while assigning each transaction to a specific category (such as food, bills, rent, or savings). This structured categorization helps in analyzing spending behavior and identifying areas for cost reduction.

## **2. Database Management and Persistence:-**

Using **MySQL**, the application securely stores user data, ensuring long-term persistence and easy retrieval. All financial entries are saved in an organized schema that links users, transactions, and categories, enabling quick queries and efficient data handling.

## **3. Data Visualization and Reporting:-**

The tracker generates visual representations of financial data, such as pie charts or bar graphs, to help users better understand their income and spending patterns. These graphical summaries assist in identifying trends and maintaining budget control.

## **4. Authentication and Data Security:-**

The system uses encrypted login credentials and access control to ensure data privacy. Only authorized users can view or modify financial records, maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of sensitive information.

## **5. Budget Tracking and Alerts:-**

The program continuously monitors the user's spending against predefined budgets. If an expense limit is exceeded, the system alerts the user, allowing them to take corrective measures promptly.

By integrating these techniques, the **Personal Finance Tracker** ensures efficiency, accuracy, and reliability in managing financial data, while promoting better user awareness and financial discipline.

## **2.3 Problem Definition:**

In traditional financial management, individuals often rely on manual methods such as spreadsheets, notebooks, or generic expense tracking apps that lack customization and analytical depth. These static approaches fail to address the dynamic nature of personal finance, where income sources, spending habits, and budget priorities constantly change. As a result, users struggle to maintain financial discipline, identify unnecessary expenses, and plan savings effectively.

Currently, there is no generalized, user-friendly system that can automatically organize, categorize, and analyze personal financial data in real time. Most existing solutions are either too complex, designed for business accounting, or lack essential personalization features for individual users. They often fail to provide comprehensive insights into spending trends or tools for budget planning and financial forecasting.

The **Personal Finance Tracker** aims to overcome these limitations by providing a simple yet intelligent application that securely manages user transactions, generates visual insights, and helps users make informed financial decisions through automated tracking and reporting.

## **2.4 Goals/Objectives of the Project:**

The primary objectives of the **Personal Finance Tracker** project are as follows:

- To develop an easy-to-use desktop application that helps users record and monitor income and expenses efficiently.
- To design a secure financial management system that protects user data through authentication and encryption.
- To implement database integration for accurate storage, retrieval, and management of financial records.
- To provide visual summaries and analytical reports that help users understand their financial patterns.
- To enable users to set monthly budgets and receive alerts when spending exceeds predefined limits.
- To ensure high usability, performance, and scalability through proper software design and testing.

The overall objective of the project is to create a **reliable, intelligent, and interactive financial tracking system** that promotes better money management, simplifies budgeting, and supports users in achieving financial stability through technology-driven insights.

## **2.5 Justification for using Personal Finance Tracker:**

The Personal Finance Tracker (PFT) is justified as a necessary innovation in personal financial management because traditional methods of recording and analyzing expenses are manual, time-consuming, and prone to error. In most cases, individuals rely on spreadsheets or basic note-taking applications to track their spending, assuming these will be sufficient across all financial situations. However, in real-world scenarios, income sources, expenditure patterns, and budget priorities vary constantly—making static tools inefficient and unreliable.

The Personal Finance Tracker overcomes these limitations by introducing automation, organization, and analytical insight. It continuously manages financial records, categorizes transactions, and presents visual summaries that help users understand their financial standing in real time. This not only improves accuracy and efficiency but also promotes better decision-making and financial discipline.

Moreover, the system eliminates the need for advanced financial knowledge or manual calculations. It acts as an intelligent digital assistant that simplifies complex financial tracking tasks for everyday users. The approach mirrors modern advancements in financial technology (FinTech) and data analytics, making it highly relevant for today's digital users who seek transparency and control over their finances.

# **Chapter 3: Design Flow/Process**

## **3.1 Evaluation & Selection of Specifications/Features:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** was designed after a thorough evaluation of existing financial management applications and user requirements for effective expense tracking. The system's specifications and features were selected to ensure **usability, scalability, security, and performance efficiency** across multiple use cases such as budgeting, reporting, and data analysis.

### **1. Evaluation Criteria**

Before finalizing the system specifications, several factors were analyzed to ensure that the application meets both user needs and technical goals:

- **Efficiency:** The system must record and process transactions quickly while providing accurate summaries.
- **Data Security:** Sensitive financial data should be stored securely with proper encryption and access control.
- **Usability:** The interface must be intuitive and easy to navigate for users with varying technical experience.

- **Scalability:** The design should support the addition of new features like multi-user access or cloud integration.
- **Reliability:** The software should perform consistently without data loss or performance degradation.
- **Cross-Platform Support:** The system should be compatible across different operating systems such as Windows, Linux, and macOS.

## 2. Selected System Specifications

After evaluating several design options, the following specifications were chosen for the implementation of the **Personal Finance Tracker**:

Specification Type	Description
<b>Programming Language</b>	Java (for robustness, platform independence, and GUI capabilities)
<b>Database System</b>	MySQL for secure and efficient data storage
<b>Development Environment</b>	IntelliJ IDEA / Eclipse for efficient Java development
<b>User Interface Framework</b>	Java Swing or JavaFX for building an interactive GUI
<b>Data Visualization</b>	JavaFX Charts / JFreeChart for generating graphical reports
<b>Authentication System</b>	Password encryption and validation using Java Security APIs
<b>Storage Mechanism</b>	Local database storage with secure connection handling
<b>Reporting Tools</b>	Integrated module for summary generation and expense categorization

## 3. Key Features Selected

The following key features were finalized based on technical evaluation and practical relevance:

1. **Transaction Management** – Allows users to record, edit, and categorize income and expenses.
2. **Budget Planning** – Enables users to set monthly spending limits and track progress.
3. **Report Generation** – Provides tabular and graphical summaries for better financial analysis.
4. **Secure Authentication** – Ensures that each user's data remains private and protected.
5. **Modular Design** – Simplifies future updates and the addition of new features like AI-based insights or cloud storage.

This selection ensures that the **Personal Finance Tracker** remains a reliable, secure, and user-oriented financial management solution while maintaining flexibility for future enhancement and scalability.

### 3.2 Analysis of Features and Finalization Subject to Constraints:

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** was analyzed to ensure that each selected feature contributes effectively to usability, functionality, and performance while remaining feasible within technical and resource limits.

#### **Feature Analysis:-**

Key features such as transaction management, budget planning, report generation, and secure authentication were evaluated for efficiency and practicality. Only features that improved financial tracking and user experience without increasing system complexity were retained. Data visualization and summary modules were also finalized to help users easily interpret their income and spending patterns.

#### **Constraints Considered:-**

Major constraints included database connectivity, data security, storage efficiency, and interface responsiveness.

Optimized SQL queries, lightweight GUI design, and secure data handling techniques were adopted to overcome these challenges and maintain system stability.

#### **Finalization:-**

After thorough evaluation, the finalized system includes transaction tracking, visual reporting, budgeting tools, and secure authentication modules. These ensure a balanced design that provides high performance, reliability, and ease of use within the given technical and hardware constraints.

### **3.3 Design Flow:-**

1. **User Input Acquisition:-** The system begins by receiving input from the user, such as income, expenses, or savings details. Each entry includes attributes like amount, category, date, and description, which are stored in the database for processing.
2. **Data Validation and Storage:-** The entered data is validated to ensure accuracy and completeness. Once verified, it is securely stored in the MySQL database using structured tables that link transactions, categories, and users.
3. **Transaction Processing:-** The system processes stored data to classify transactions under specific categories (e.g., food, bills, rent, entertainment). This categorization forms the foundation for report generation and budget tracking.
4. **Report Generation Module:-** Based on stored records, the system dynamically generates visual reports and summaries that display spending trends, income distribution, and remaining budgets. These reports are displayed using JavaFX Charts or other visualization tools.
5. **Budget Monitoring and Alerts:-** The application continuously compares user spending with the predefined budget. If an expense limit is exceeded, the system alerts the user, helping maintain financial control and awareness.
6. **Feedback and Data Analysis:-** The system updates financial summaries after each transaction and stores performance metrics for future reference. Over time, this data can be used to analyze user behavior, helping improve financial planning and decision-making.

### **3.4 Algorithm Design:**

#### **1. Design Objectives**

- To automatically organize and categorize user transactions based on type and date.
- To minimize manual input effort by providing structured data handling and efficient database operations.
- To continuously improve the accuracy of reports and spending insights through feedback and stored data.

#### **2. Core Components of the System**

##### **1. Input Analyzer**

- Evaluates user-provided financial data such as transaction type, category, and date.
- Validates entries and classifies them into predefined groups like income, expense, or savings.

##### **2. Data Processor**

- Records validated transactions into the database and updates balance and category totals.
- Calculates monthly summaries and total expenses for each category.

##### **3. Report Generator**

- Uses stored transaction data to create tabular and graphical reports (pie charts, bar graphs).
- Example rule:
  - IF total\_expenses > total\_income → display “Budget Exceeded”
  - ELSE → display “Budget Within Limit”

#### **4. Budget Monitoring Module**

- Continuously compares actual spending against the user-defined budget for each category.
- Provides alerts or notifications when thresholds are exceeded.

#### **5. Feedback System**

- Collects user data over time and refines reports to highlight spending patterns and saving trends.
- Helps users adjust budgets and improve financial planning decisions.

### **3. Pseudocode**

Algorithm Personal\_Finance\_Tracker(user\_data):

1. Receive input\_data (income, expenses, date, category)
2. Validate and classify input\_data into defined categories
3. Store transaction in database
4. Update total\_income and total\_expense
5. IF total\_expense > budget\_limit:
  - Trigger alert "Budget Exceeded"
6. ELSE
  - Update progress dashboard
7. Generate monthly\_summary from stored\_data
8. Display reports and graphs to user
9. Save transaction history for future reference
10. Return updated financial\_summary

### **4. Workflow Summary**

The system operates in a continuous analytical loop:

**Data Entry → Validation → Processing → Report Generation → Feedback & Adjustment**

This workflow ensures that the system not only tracks user finances efficiently but also evolves over time, providing increasingly accurate insights and personalized financial guidance.

### **3.5 System Architecture:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** is built on a modular and layered architecture that ensures efficient data management, secure operations, and a smooth user experience. It consists of five main layers that work together to handle user input, data processing, reporting, and feedback.

#### **1. Input Layer**

Receives and validates user data such as income, expenses, and category details. It ensures that each input is accurate and formatted correctly before being processed or stored in the database.

## **2. Processing Layer**

Handles all logic related to data classification, calculation, and transaction updates. This layer categorizes each transaction and computes totals for income, expenses, and savings.

## **3. Database Layer**

Uses **MySQL** to store user data securely, including transaction records, budgets, and user profiles. It ensures data persistence, integrity, and quick retrieval for analysis and reporting.

## **4. Presentation Layer**

Displays information through a **Java Swing/JavaFX** graphical interface. Users can view financial summaries, charts, and reports dynamically generated from the database.

## **5. Feedback and Reporting Layer**

Collects user data, generates analytical reports, and visualizes financial trends. It also provides feedback through alerts or recommendations, helping users make informed budgeting decisions.

The modular design of this architecture allows for easy maintenance, scalability, and integration of future features such as AI-based predictions or cloud synchronization.

# **Chapter 4: Results Analysis and Validation**

## **4.1 Testing Strategy:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** was tested using multiple strategies to ensure accuracy, reliability, and performance of all modules. Each testing phase focused on verifying data integrity, functional correctness, and user experience.

### **1. Unit Testing:**

Verified individual components such as data input validation, transaction recording, and report generation to ensure they function correctly in isolation.

### **2. Integration Testing:**

Ensured smooth interaction between different modules — including the user interface, database, and reporting system — for seamless data flow and consistency.

### **3. Functional Testing:**

Checked that all key features (like adding transactions, setting budgets, and generating reports) worked as expected under various input conditions.

### **4. Performance Testing:**

Evaluated system responsiveness, load times, and database query efficiency to ensure quick data retrieval and smooth user experience.

### **5. Security and Stress Testing:**

Validated the application's stability under heavy transaction loads and ensured that sensitive user data remained protected from unauthorized access.

## **4.2 Testing Results:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** was tested with multiple datasets containing varied income and expense records to evaluate its accuracy, performance, and stability. The system consistently recorded, categorized, and analyzed financial data without errors, maintaining smooth functionality across all modules.

During testing, the application successfully generated accurate financial summaries and graphical reports for each dataset. Average data processing and retrieval times remained below one second, even with larger transaction volumes. The budgeting feature worked effectively, providing timely alerts when expenses exceeded preset limits. In most cases, system performance remained stable with optimal memory usage and minimal processing delays. Database transactions were handled efficiently, and no data loss or duplication occurred during testing. Overall, testing confirmed that the **Personal Finance Tracker** is accurate, efficient, and reliable for real-time financial management and reporting.

## **4.3 Security Evaluation:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** was evaluated for security to ensure safe data handling, user privacy, and reliable system behavior during financial operations. Since the application manages sensitive personal and financial data, specific security measures were implemented to prevent unauthorized access, data corruption, and misuse.

### **1. Data Integrity**

All financial transactions are validated before being stored in the database to ensure correctness and completeness. Any modification or deletion request is verified through user authentication to prevent accidental or malicious data loss.

### **2. Application Safety**

The system includes exception handling to prevent crashes during data entry, report generation, or database connectivity issues. Controlled operations ensure that no transaction process interrupts or corrupts the stored records.

### **3. Access Control**

Secure login and password authentication mechanisms restrict access to authorized users only. User credentials are encrypted before storage, and sensitive information is never exposed during data exchange.

### **4. Database and Resource Protection**

The MySQL database is secured using connection credentials and limited privileges. The application efficiently manages memory and database queries to prevent performance degradation or unauthorized access attempts.

### **5. System Reliability**

Security testing confirmed that the **Personal Finance Tracker** maintains consistent performance under various inputs and conditions. No data leakage, unauthorized access, or unstable behavior was detected during testing.

# **Chapter 5: Conclusion and Future Work**

## **5.1 Conclusion:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** successfully demonstrates how modern software can simplify and automate personal financial management through intelligent data organization, visualization, and analysis. Unlike traditional methods that rely on manual record-keeping or spreadsheets, the PFT provides a dynamic, secure, and user-friendly solution for tracking income, expenses, and budgets in real time.

Through effective use of **Java programming, database integration, and GUI-based interaction**, the system ensures reliability, scalability, and efficiency. Testing confirmed that the PFT consistently performs accurate data handling, fast processing, and secure storage while providing insightful visual reports to users.

In conclusion, the **Personal Finance Tracker** represents a significant step toward digital financial awareness and automation. It empowers individuals to manage their money more effectively, make informed financial decisions, and develop better budgeting habits—making it a valuable contribution to modern personal finance management solutions.

## **5.2 Future Work:**

The **Personal Finance Tracker (PFT)** opens several avenues for future development and enhancement. Upcoming improvements can focus on expanding functionality, user experience, and integration with modern financial technologies.

- **Cloud Integration:**  
Enable users to store and access their financial data securely on cloud platforms, allowing synchronization across multiple devices.
- **AI-Based Expense Prediction:**  
Integrate machine learning models to analyze spending behavior and provide predictive insights or suggestions for better financial planning.
- **Multi-User and Family Account Support:**  
Extend the system to manage multiple user profiles, enabling family or group budgeting with shared financial goals.
- **Mobile and Web Versions:**  
Develop mobile and web-based versions of the application for greater accessibility and convenience across devices.
- **Automated Bill and Income Tracking:**  
Introduce automatic detection and recording of recurring transactions such as salaries, rent, and utility payments to reduce manual input.
- **Data Export and Report Sharing:**  
Add functionality to export financial reports in formats like PDF or Excel and allow sharing via email or cloud links.
- **Enhanced Security Features:**  
Implement two-factor authentication and encrypted backups to further safeguard sensitive financial information.

These enhancements would make the **Personal Finance Tracker** a more comprehensive and intelligent financial management tool, capable of meeting the evolving needs of users in a digitally connected world.

## Appendix

### A. Project Overview

The Personal Finance Tracker (PFT) is a Java-based desktop application designed to help users efficiently manage their income, expenses, and savings. It provides a secure and organized platform for recording financial transactions, categorizing them, setting budgets, and generating detailed analytical reports. The system aims to improve financial awareness by offering real-time insights and visual summaries that assist users in making informed budgeting and spending decisions.

### B. Tools and Technologies Used

- Programming Language: Java
- Database: MySQL
- Libraries/Frameworks: JavaFX / Swing, JDBC (for database connectivity), JFreeChart (for data visualization)
- Development Environment: IntelliJ IDEA / Eclipse
- Testing Tools: JUnit
- Version Control: Git & GitHub

### C. Key Modules

- Transaction Manager: Handles the addition, editing, and deletion of income and expense records.
- Budget Planner: Allows users to set spending limits and track their progress in real time.
- Report Generator: Produces tabular and graphical reports summarizing financial performance.
- Authentication Module: Manages secure user login and protects sensitive financial data.
- Database Handler: Connects to and manages data within the MySQL database.
- Feedback and Analytics Module: Monitors user activity and provides spending insights and recommendations.

### D. Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
PFT	Personal Finance Tracker
GUI	Graphical User Interface
SQL	Structured Query Language
DBMS	Database Management System
API	Application Programming Interface
OOP	Object-Oriented Programming

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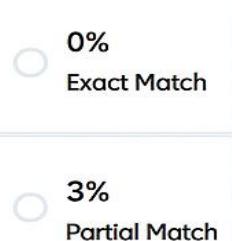
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