

Technical Planning Documentation

Overview

This document outlines the technical plan for developing an E-Commerce Marketplace to empower small businesses and individuals by providing a platform to sell their products online. The technical planning follows the brainstorming from Hackathon Day 1 and incorporates the recommendations from the Day 2 guidelines.

Key Technologies

- **Frontend:** Next.js
- **Content Management System (CMS):** Custom Admin Panel
- **Order Tracking and Shipment:** ShipEngine
- **Database:** MongoDB (for authentication)
- **Hosting and Deployment:** Vercel (for frontend) and AWS (for backend)
- **Payment Gateway:** Stripe

Technical Architecture

System Overview

1. **Frontend (Next.js):**
 - a. Client-side rendering for speed and responsiveness.
 - b. Server-side rendering for SEO and product page preloading.
 - c. Integration with Sanity CMS for dynamic content.
2. **Backend:**
 - a. REST APIs to manage users, products, orders, and delivery zones.
 - b. Handles business logic, data validation, and integration with external services.

3. **Database (MongoDB):**
 - a. NoSQL database to manage flexible and scalable data structures.
 - b. Collections for products, orders, customers, delivery zones, and user authentication.
4. **CMS (custom using Nextjs):**
 - a. Manages dynamic content like banners, featured products, and blog posts.
5. **Order Tracking (ShipEngine):**
 - a. Tracks orders in real time.
 - b. Manages shipment and delivery updates.
6. **Authentication (MongoDB):**
 - a. MongoDB stores user credentials securely.
 - b. Passwords encrypted with hashing algorithms (e.g., bcrypt).
7. **Deployment:**
 - a. Frontend deployed on Vercel.
 - b. Backend deployed on AWS Lambda with serverless architecture.

System Components and Workflow

1. **User Signup/Login:**
 - a. **Input:** User credentials (email, password).
 - b. **Database:** MongoDB for storing user data securely with hashed passwords.
 - c. **API Endpoint:** POST /register, POST /login, and GET /verify-route for handling user authentication and verification.
 - d. **Outcome:** JWT token issued for session management.
2. **Content Management (Sanity CMS):**
 - a. **Admin Role:** Manages product listings, banners, and blog content.
 - b. **API Integration:** GROQ Queries to fetch content dynamically for frontend.
 - c. **Outcome:** Content stored and updated in Sanity is rendered seamlessly on the Next.js frontend.
3. **Product Browsing and Checkout:**
 - a. **Frontend:** Next.js provides server-side rendering for product pages.
 - b. **Database:** MongoDB stores product details (name, price, stock, description, sizes, etc.).

- c. **API Endpoint:** GET /products for listing, GET /products/:id for details, and POST /products to add products (admin/seller role only).
 - d. **Outcome:** Users browse, add products to cart, and proceed to checkout.
- 4. **Order Management:**
 - a. **Database:** MongoDB stores order data (customer ID, product ID, quantity, status).
 - b. **API Endpoint:** POST /orders to create orders (status defaults to "Pending").
 - c. **Outcome:** Order information processed and stored for tracking. Note: Orders cannot be edited once created.
- 5. **Shipment Tracking (ShipEngine):**
 - a. **Integration:** ShipEngine API for real-time shipment tracking.
 - b. **API Endpoint:** GET /shipments/:orderId to fetch delivery status.
 - c. **Outcome:** Users receive real-time updates on their order delivery.
- 6. **Payment Processing (Stripe, Jazz Cash, EasyPaisa, Kuickpay):**
 - a. **Integration:** Secure payment processing with multiple gateways.
 - b. **API Endpoint:** Payment-related endpoints for handling transactions, including Cash on Delivery (COD) option.
 - c. **Outcome:** Orders processed only after successful payment confirmation or COD selection.

API Endpoints

User Management

- POST /api/auth/register: Register a new user.
- POST /api/auth/login: User login.
- GET /api/users/profile: Fetch user profile (requires authentication).
- PUT /api/users/update: Update user details.

Product Management

- GET /api/products: List all products.
- GET /api/products/:id: Fetch product details by ID.

- **POST /api/products:** Add a new product (requires seller role).
- **PUT /api/products/:id:** Update product details (requires seller role).
- **DELETE /api/products/:id:** Delete a product (requires seller role).

Order Management

- **POST /api/orders:** Create a new order.
- **GET /api/orders:** List all orders for the authenticated user.
- **GET /api/orders/:id:** Fetch details of a specific order.

Category Management

- **GET /api/categories:** List all categories.
- **POST /api/categories:** Add a new category (requires admin role).
- **PUT /api/categories/:id:** Update category details (requires admin role).
- **DELETE /api/categories/:id:** Delete a category (requires admin role).

Payment Management

- **POST /api/payments:** Initiate a payment.
- **GET /api/payments/status:** Fetch payment status.

Shipment Management

- **POST /api/shipments:** Create a new shipment.
- **GET /api/shipments/track:** Track shipment status.

Component Details and Interactions

- **Frontend (Next.js):**
 - Handles user interactions and renders data fetched via APIs.
 - Communicates with the backend for authentication, product data, and order processing.
- **Backend APIs:**
 - RESTful endpoints for CRUD operations on users, products, orders, and shipment data.

- Integrated with ShipEngine and multiple payment gateways for third-party functionality.
- **Database (MongoDB):**
 - Stores user, product, and order data.
 - Provides scalable and flexible schema designs for rapid iteration.
- **Cusotm CMS using Nextjs:**
 - Manages dynamic content, ensuring marketing and product information stays up-to-date.

Data Schema Updates

Users:

- **user_id:** Unique identifier for the user.
- **username:** User's full name.
- **email:** User's email address.
- **password_hash:** Encrypted password.
- **role:** Role of the user (admin, seller, customer).
- **order_ids:** List of IDs referencing the user's orders.
- **product_ids:** List of IDs referencing products added by the user (if seller).

Products:

- **product_id:** Unique identifier for the product.
- **name:** Name of the product.
- **price:** Rental cost per day/hour.
- **stock:** Availability status of the product.
- **description:** Detailed description of the product.
- **image_url:** URL of the product image.
- **sizes (optional):** Available sizes for the product.

- **user_id** (mandatory): ID of the seller who listed the product.

Orders:

- **order_id**: Unique identifier for the order.
- **customer_id**: Reference to the customer placing the order.
- **product_id**: Reference to the rented product.
- **quantity**: Number of products rented.
- **status**: Current status (e.g., Pending, Confirmed, Completed).
- **order_date**: Timestamp of when the order was placed.

Delivery Zones:

- **zone_id**: Unique identifier for the delivery zone.
- **zone_name**: Name of the delivery area.
- **coverage_area**: Geographic coverage of the delivery zone.
- **drivers**: List of drivers assigned to the zone.

Sellers:

- **seller_id**: Unique identifier for the seller.
- **name**: Full name of the seller.
- **email**: Email address of the seller.
- **products**: List of product IDs listed by the seller.
- **delivery_zones**: List of delivery zones managed by the seller.

Relationships

1. **User and Orders:**

- a. One user can have multiple orders (One-to-Many relationship).
- 2. **User and Products:**
 - a. One user can list multiple products (One-to-Many relationship).
- 3. **Orders and Products:**
 - a. One order can include multiple products, and each product can be part of multiple orders (Many-to-Many relationship).
- 4. **Seller and Products:**
 - a. One seller can list multiple products (One-to-Many relationship).
- 5. **Seller and Delivery Zones:**
 - a. One seller can manage multiple delivery zones, and one delivery zone can have multiple sellers (Many-to-Many relationship).
- 6. **Payments and Orders:**
 - a. Each payment is associated with exactly one order (One-to-One relationship).
- 7. **Delivery Zones and Drivers:**
 - a. One delivery zone can include multiple drivers (One-to-Many relationship).

Integration Details

Custom CMS using NextJs

- Used to manage dynamic content such as:
 - Homepage banners.
 - Category highlights.
 - Blog posts for marketing.
- Sanity's GROQ Query API will be used to fetch content dynamically.

ShipEngine

- API used to:
 - Generate shipping labels.
 - Track shipments.
 - Provide real-time delivery updates.

Stripe Integration

- Used for:
 - Processing payments securely.
 - Managing subscriptions (if applicable).
 - Handling refunds and payment disputes.

Deployment Plan Frontend (Next.js)

- **Hosting:** Vercel.
- **CI/CD:** Automatically deploy changes from the GitHub repository.

Backend

- **Hosting:** AWS Lambda with serverless architecture.
- **Scaling:** Automatic scaling based on traffic.

Database (MongoDB)

- **Hosting:** MongoDB Atlas.
- **Backups:** Automated daily backups.
- **Scaling:** Horizontal scaling for handling high traffic.

Security Considerations

1. **Data Encryption:**
 - a. Use HTTPS for all communications.
 - b. Encrypt sensitive user data (e.g., passwords).
2. **Authentication and Authorization:**
 - a. MongoDB stores and validates credentials securely.
 - b. Role-based access control for admin and users.
3. **Payment Security:**
 - a. Use PCI-compliant Stripe APIs for payment processing.

4. **API Security:**

- a. Rate limiting to prevent abuse.
- b. Input validation to avoid SQL injection and XSS.

Monitoring and Maintenance

1. **Monitoring Tools:**

- a. New Relic for application performance.
- b. CloudWatch for serverless logs.

2. **Error Tracking:**

- a. Sentry for real-time error tracking and debugging.

3. **Maintenance:**

- a. Weekly database maintenance and optimization.
- b. Regular updates for dependencies to fix vulnerabilities.

Timeline

1. Day 3:

- a. Set up Next.js project structure.
- b. Configure Custom CMS.
- c. Implement user authentication.

2. Day 4, 5:

- a. Develop product listing and detail pages.
- b. Integrate ShipEngine for order tracking.
- c. Build backend APIs for orders and products.

3. Day 6:

- a. Finalize payment gateway integration.
- b. Implement delivery zones management.
- c. Test and optimize API performance.

4. Day 7:

- a. Perform end-to-end testing.
- b. Deploy the application.
- c. Monitor performance and fix any post-deployment issues.

Conclusion

This technical plan ensures a robust foundation for the marketplace, leveraging modern technologies to deliver a seamless and scalable platform for small businesses and customers alike.

