

Technical Solution Design



JobsAustralia.tech

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Project Name: JobsAustralia.tech

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Staff or Entities Consulted

| NAME | Position / Organization |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Homy Ashrafzadeh | Product owner |

Related Documents

| Name | Author | Description |
|-----------------------------|--------|--|
| User Stories | Team | A list of all user stories implemented. |
| User Manual | Team | Instructions on using the system. |
| Test Plan | Team | Outline of the project testing methodology. |
| Statement of Contributions | Team | Breakdown of workload by team members. |
| Risk Register | Team | Analysis of potential risks to the project. |
| Proposed Assessment Formula | Team | Agreed formula of project assessment. |
| Project Charter | Team | Outline of the project charter. |
| Peer Reviews | Team | Detailed assessment of team contribution. |
| Meeting Minutes | Team | Log a all team meetings. |
| Learning Outcomes | Team | Analysis of knowledge expansion. |
| Issue Register | Team | Log of all issues experienced in the project. |
| Final Schedule Plan | Team | Final outline of task completion schedule. |
| Development Guide | Team | Instructions on configuring development environment. |

Preface

The purpose of this document is to outline the technical design of the system and to provide an overview for its implementation.

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1 Introduction

This project, *JobsAustralia.tech*, is the creation of a job matchmaking website that aims to serve job seekers, and employers.

By utilising a matchmaking algorithm, the website allows employers to list the skills, experience, and level of education they require in a potential employee. Job seekers can register their skills, education, and experience. The system then matches job seekers with jobs accordingly.

Conversely, the system matches job seekers who have applied to a job (applicants) to the employer.

Simplified, the matchmaking algorithm calculates a percentage match based on a comparison of a job seeker's skills and a job's skill requirements. Education and experience are also taken into consideration when matching applicants to employers. See "4.1.1 Perform matchmaking on jobs to job seekers" and "4.1.2 Perform matchmaking on employers to applicants" for more information.

The system also integrates with popular social programming, and Git repository hosting, website GitHub. On registration, job seekers are asked for their GitHub username - which the system uses to autofill various supported skills, and report matching repositories owned by the applicant to employers. See "4.1.3 Integrate with GitHub" for more information.

The technical environment of the project includes the use of various tools and technologies. Laravel was used as a PHP framework, Apache as an HTTP web server, MySQL for database management, and GitHub for Git version control and collaboration. See "2. *Technical Environment*" for more information.

The estimated level of complexity of the project out of a score of 5 is 3.0 (moderate). The integration of familiar technologies indicated that some of the team members were equipped with the skills needed to complete the functions of the project. However, the team members who did not have experience in using these technologies required some level of support.

The project aims to benefit job seekers and employers. **Job seekers** are benefitted by the system utilising matchmaking to display jobs suited to their abilities, and, in the case of GitHub integration, reporting their open source work to employers. **Employers** are equally benefitted by matchmaking, as they experience reductions in the time spent manually sorting applicants to job positions advertised via traditional means.

2 Technical Environment

The team developed the project on different platforms. The table below details this.

| Team member | Development platform |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Ozlem Kirmizi | Windows 7 |
| Kim Luu | MacOS 10 |
| Aaron Horler | Ubuntu 17.04 & 17.10 |
| Melissa Nguyen | Windows 10 |
| Dennis Mihalache | Windows 10 |

The team made decisions to use various technologies based on *documentation*, *support*, *recommendations*, and *prior knowledge*.

Documentation refers to the availability of documents used to learn the technology. *Support* refers to the continued support of the technology by its developers. *Recommendations* refers to information we have received from peers. *Prior knowledge* refers to knowledge we already possessed - either as a result of formal education, personal education, or past experience.

In detail, technologies used include the following.

PHP

Version 7.1.11

| Documentation | Support | Recommendations | Prior knowledge |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Very good | Very good | None | Very good |

PHP 7.1.11 was released on the 26th of October 2017. The language is very well documented, and, although the team had not received any specific recommendation for PHP, group members have had experience via Web Programming, Secure Electronic Commerce, Building IT Systems, and personal projects.

PHP-FPM (FastCGI Process Manager) was used on the production server for compatibility with the Apache event mpm - which was required for HTTP/2 support.

In the team's development environments, a combination of PHP 7.1 and PHP 5.6 were used. This was required due to compatibility issues, although, it caused no issues.

Laravel*Version 5.4/5.5*

| Documentation | Support | Recommendations | Prior knowledge |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Very good | Very good | Very good | Poor |

Laravel 5.5 was released on the 30th of August 2017. The framework is very well documented, and, although the team had no prior experience with Laravel, the group had received multiple positive recommendations.

In the project's GitHub repositories (see "GitHub" under this section for more information), the *master* branch uses Laravel 5.4, and the *laravel-5.5* branch uses Laravel 5.5. Deployment to the production server is from the *laravel-5.5* branch, and development is primarily in completed the *master* branch. All Laravel 5.4 code in the project is forward compatible with Laravel 5.5.

MySQL*Version 5.7.20*

| Documentation | Support | Recommendations | Prior knowledge |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Very good | Very good | None | Good |

MySQL 5.7.20 was released on the 16th of October 2017. The database management system is very well documented, and, although the team had not received any specific recommendation for MySQL, group members have had experience via Web Programming, and personal projects.

MySQL as used with both XAMPP (in development environments), and directly via the *mysql-server* package in Ubuntu (on the production server and in development environments).

Apache*Version 2.4.29*

| Documentation | Support | Recommendations | Prior knowledge |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Very good | Very good | None | Very good |

Apache 2.4.29 was released on the 23rd of October 2017. The web server is very well documented, and, although the team had not received any specific recommendation for Apache, group members have had experience via Web Programming, Web Servers and Web Technologies, and personal projects.

Apache was used both with XAMPP (in development environments), and directly via the *apache2* package in Ubuntu (on the production server and in development environments).

Ubuntu*Version 17.04*

| Documentation | Support | Recommendations | Prior knowledge |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Very good | Very good | Good | Very good |

Ubuntu 17.04 was released on the 13th of April 2017. The operating system is extremely well documented, the team had received positive recommendations, and group members have had experience via Unix Essentials for System Administrators, Unix Systems Administration and Programming, Building IT Systems, Web Servers and Web Technology, and personal projects.

Ubuntu 17.04 was installed on the production server. See “Implementation” under 6. Implementation Instructions and “Vultr” under this section for more information on the production server.

XAMPP*Version 7.1.10*

| Documentation | Support | Recommendations | Prior knowledge |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Good | Good | None | Good |

XAMPP 7.1.10 was released on the 19th of October, 2017. The software is fairly well documented, and, although the team had not received any specific recommendation for XAMPP, group members have had prior experience via Web Programming. XAMPP is also a reasonable, and well-used, cross-platform web development environment solution.

XAMPP was used as a development environment tool on the Windows operating system. It is packaged with Apache, PHP, and MySQL.

Vultr

| Documentation | Support | Recommendations | Prior knowledge |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Good | Good | None | Good |

Vultr is an SSD-based VPS provider, with servers in Sydney, Australia. The team deployed a 25GB SSD server, costing \$5 USD a month - which is referred to as our *production* server.

Read more about the production server configuration in “Implementation” under 6. Implementation Instructions.

25 GB SSD

\$5/mo

\$0.007/h

1 CPU

1024MB Memory

1000GB Bandwidth

GitHub

<https://github.com/jobsaustralia>

The team was required to use GitHub. It is a useful tool for collaboration, version control, and code management.

Git 2.14.3, specifically, was released on the 23rd of October 2017. Git is a very well known, and respected, version control system.

Git was used both locally in development environments, and directly via the *git* package on Ubuntu on the production server and in development environments.

Some team members used GitHub Desktop (version 1.0.3) as a front-end for Git with GitHub.

The team has published three repositories in the project's GitHub organisation. The following table details the purpose of each repository.

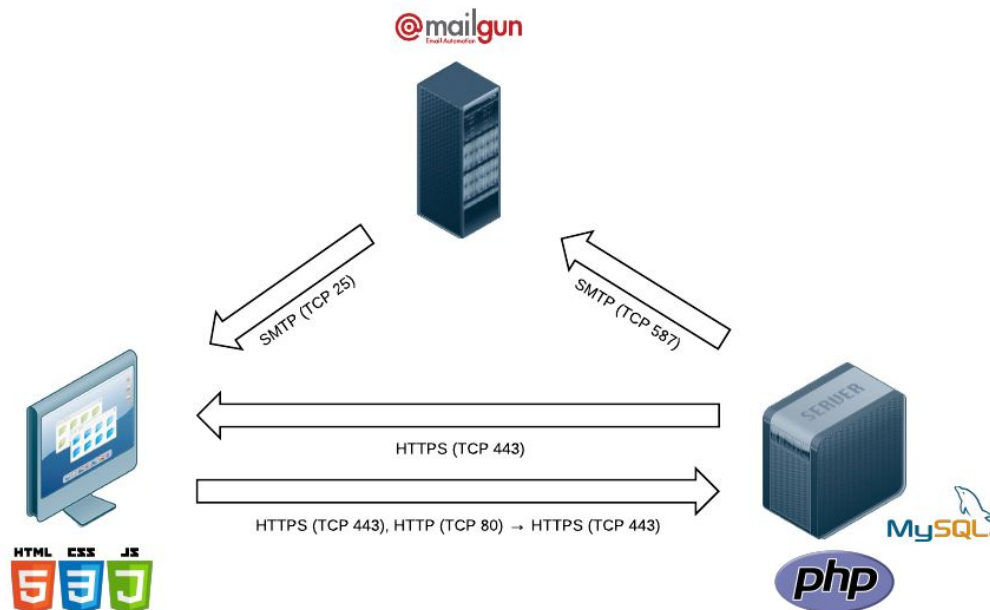
| Repository name | Purpose |
|---|---|
| jobsaustralia/jobsaustralia.tech | Sub-project for job seekers. |
| jobsaustralia/employ.jobsaustralia.tech | Sub-project for employers. |
| jobsaustralia/scripts-conf-and-docs | Scripts (deployment, maintenance, and configuration), configuration files, and documentation. |

As mentioned in “Laravel” of this section, the team maintains two official branches. The *master* branch is for work on Laravel 5.4, and the *laravel-5.5* branch is for work on Laravel 5.5. These branches are present in both sub-project repositories. All other branches are, and were, for feature introduction, or experimentation.

Further technologies used in development and production include those in the following table.

| Name | Version | Description |
|---------------|---------|---|
| Bootstrap | 3.3.6 | Front-end component library. |
| Composer | 1.5.2 | Dependency manager for PHP. |
| CSS | 3 | Style sheet language. |
| FontAwesome | 4.7.0 | Package of iconic fonts. |
| GitHub API | 3 | Public REST API to integrate with GitHub. |
| HTML | 5.1 | Markup language for documents. |
| JQuery | 3.2.1 | JavaScript library, that we primarily used to download JSON data. |
| Notepad++ | 7.5.1 | Text editor for Windows operating systems. |
| PHPUnit | 6.0 | Unit testing framework for PHP. |
| Sublime Text | 3.0 | Text editor. |
| IcoMoon | N/A | Tool to create iconic fonts from vector graphics. |
| Let's Encrypt | N/A | Free and automated certificate authority. |
| Mailgun | N/A | Service for sending outgoing mail. |

3 Overall Architecture



The system interacts with outside parties over various protocols, and for various purposes.

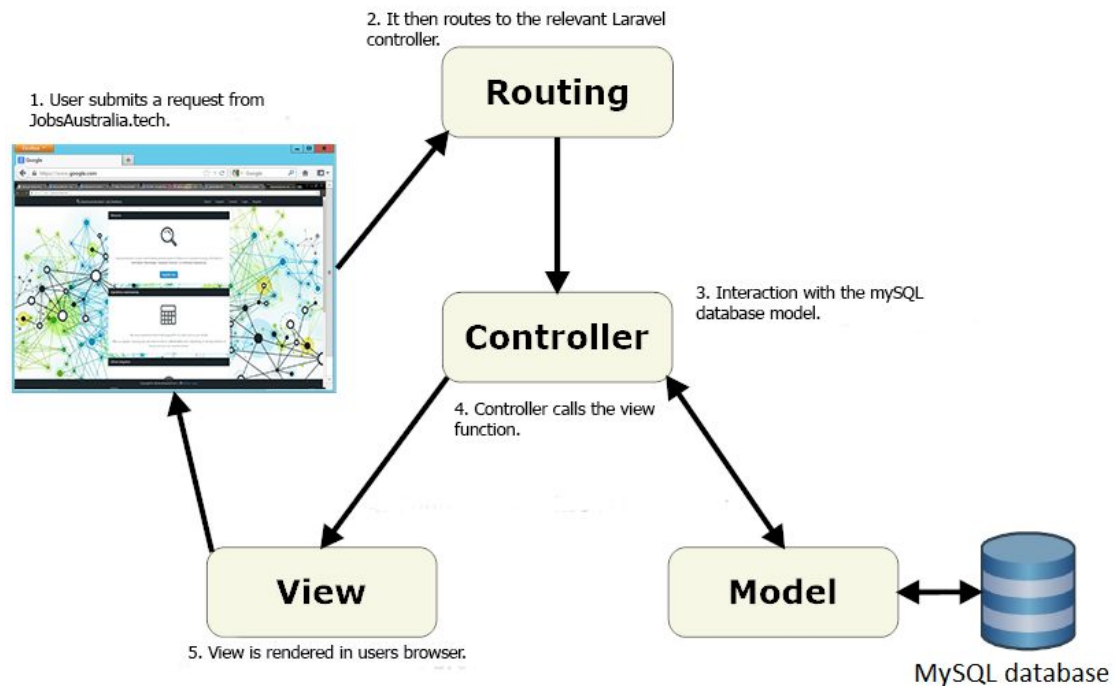
The client interacts with the server over HTTPS (TCP port 443), and, only initially, via HTTP (TCP port 80) - because of HTTP to HTTPS redirection, and HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) (See “Connection security” under Security under 7. Non-functional requirements for more information on HSTS).

On the client-side, HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript are processed and run by the browser. This includes the processing of retrieved JSON data for matchmaking (See “4.1.1 Perform matchmaking on jobs to job seekers” and “4.1.2 Perform matchmaking on employers to applicants” for detailed information on matchmaking).

On the server-side, PHP (including Laravel) processes PHP scripts (See “4. System Architecture” for more information on the architecture of Laravel), and MySQL performs database management operations.

Mailgun is used to send outgoing mail (SMTP - TCP port 587) from the server to a client's email address (SMTP - typically over TCP port 25). This process is secure in transport.

4 System Architecture



Laravel segments its main functionality into *routes*, *controllers*, *views*, and *models*.

```
/* Return currently authenticated user. */
Route::get('/api/user/token/{token}', 'APIController@getUser')->name('getUser');
```

Routes are used to register the GET and POST resources that combine to form the system. In them, the method (GET or POST), the resource (with any parameters), the controller, and the function are specified. When a user navigates to a resource registered in a route, the registered function in the registered controller is called - with any data (from GET parameters, or received via POST).

Controllers are classes containing functions. They are used for function segmentation, coding standards, and other features (like use of middlewares). The controllers used in the project, and their description, include the following.

| Controller name | Functionality |
|--------------------------|--|
| ForgotPasswordController | <p>Handling of forgotten passwords.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>guest</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged out before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| LoginController | <p>User authentication.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>guest</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged out before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| RegisterController | <p>User registration, and authentication.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>guest</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged out before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| ResetPasswordController | <p>Handling of password resets.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>guest</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged out before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| ApiController | <p>A collection of API functions.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>auth</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged in before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| ApplicationController | <p>Handling of job application creation, editing, deletion, and viewing.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>auth</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged in before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| ContactController | <p>Handling of mailing team members contact form submissions.</p> |
| JobController | <p>Handling of job creation, editing, deletion, and viewing.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>auth</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged in before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| ProfileController | <p>Handling of user editing, deletion, and viewing.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>auth</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged in before accessing its functionality.</p> |
| ResumeController | <p>Handling of resume uploading, deletion, and viewing.</p> <p>This function uses the <i>auth</i> middleware to ensure a user must be logged in before accessing its functionality.</p> |

Controllers are stored in the *app/Http/Controllers* directory of the sub-project repositories.

A model is similar to an object in most programming languages. Models have attributes (see “Database table schemas” under 11. Appendix for all attributes), and an associated table. The models used in the project, and their description, include the following.

| Model name | Description |
|---|---|
| JobSeeker (also User in jobsaustralia.tech) | User who is registered with jobsaustralia.tech A user who is seeking a job. |
| Employer (also User in employ.jobsaustralia.tech) | User who is registered with employ.jobsaustralia.tech A user who is advertising a job. |
| Application | A submitted application to a job. |
| Job | A posted job. |

```

<!-- Authentication Links -->
@if (!Auth::guest())
    <li><a href="{{ route('matches') }}">Matches</a></li>
    <li><a href="{{ route('applications') }}">Applications</a></li>
@endif
<li><a href="{{ route('about') }}">About</a></li>
<li><a href="{{ route('support') }}">Support</a></li>
<li><a href="{{ route('contact') }}">Contact</a></li>
<!-- Authentication Links -->
@if (Auth::guest())
    <li><a href="{{ route('login') }}">Login</a></li>
    <li><a href="{{ route('register') }}">Register</a></li>
@else

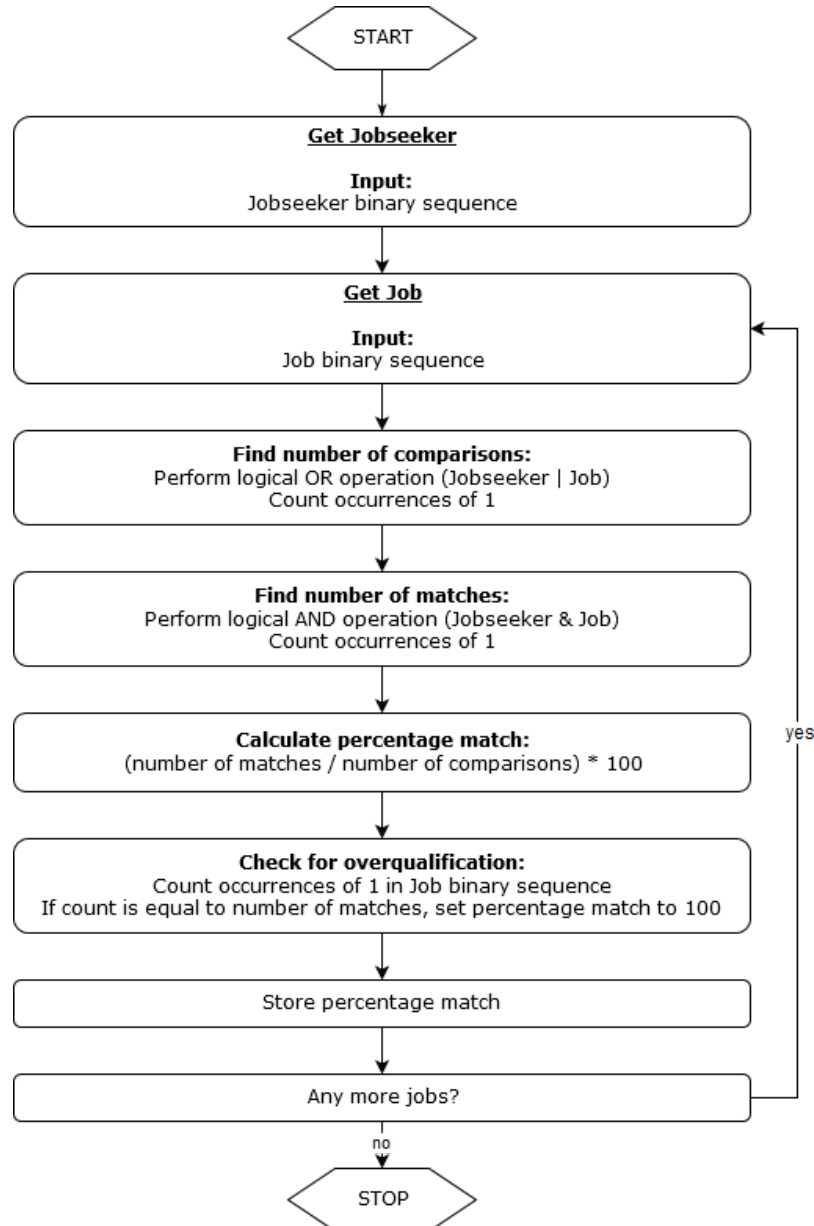
```

A view is an HTML document, that can contain PHP variables and limited logic (for example, conditionals and loops) to alter and build the document before it is sent to the browser.

4.1 FUNCTIONALITIES/FEATURES

This section details the individual functionalities of the project.

4.1.1 Perform matchmaking on jobs to job seekers.



To minimise execution time for the comparison of a large number of variables (which in the current implementation is over 50), the skills of the jobseeker/job are represented as a binary sequence where 1 corresponds to a possessed/required skill, and 0 if not. In doing this, finding the number of matches can be accomplished by simply using bitwise logical operations instead of a series of manual counting by iterating through each job for each variable.

It was found that an exact sequence match was not ideal for the purpose of the website, as 0 to 0 matches would artificially inflate the resulting percentage match. To remove this effect, a logical OR operation is performed on the two binary sequences; the resulting binary sequence would reflect where 0 to 0 matches occur with a 0, and 1 otherwise. By counting the number

of 1s in this sequence, an updated number of comparisons (that is, the total number of skills minus the number of skills which both jobseeker and job lack) is obtained.

A logical AND operation is performed on the two binary sequences to find 1 to 1 matches; the resulting binary sequence would reflect these with a 1, and 0 otherwise. By counting the number of 1s in this sequence, the number of skills that the jobseeker possesses that the job requires is obtained. This value, along with the one obtained from the logical OR operation, is used to calculate the percentage match.

The algorithm was later amended to account for instances in which a jobseeker may be overqualified for a job, that is, they possess additional skills to that of all those desired by a job. Without the amendment, the resulting percentage match would be lower due to the occurrences of 1 to 0 between the jobseeker and job binary sequences. It was decided then to adjust the percentage match to 100 by default if the jobseeker at the very least possessed all the skills required for the given job.

In testing, it was found that JavaScript does not handle bitwise operations on sequences exceeding 32 bits. The maximum length of bit sequences handled in the current project implementation is 51 (the number of skills).

```

u = 011011010110010101101100011010010111001101110011000
j = 011000010110000101110010011011110110111001101000000

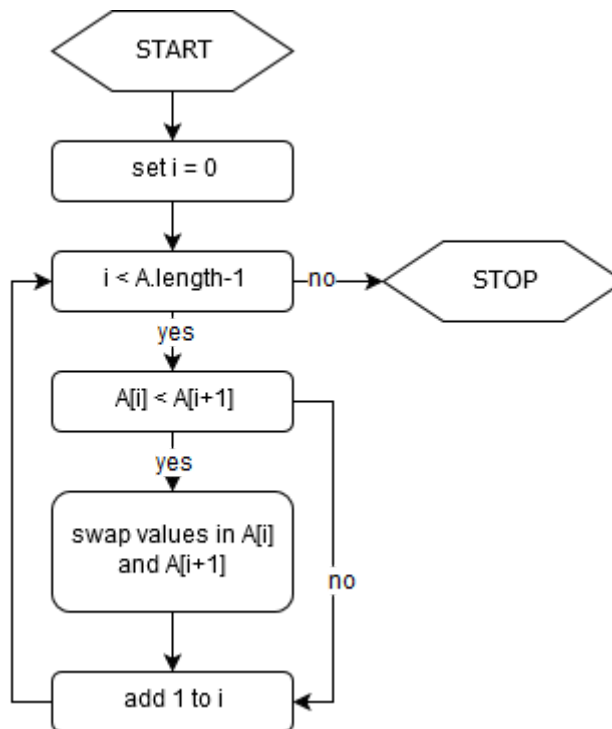
u[0] = 01101101011001010110110001101001
u[1] = 0111001101110011000
j[0] = 01100001011000010111001001101111
j[1] = 0110111001101000000

c = concat(u[0] | j[0], u[1] | j[1])
m = concat(u[0] & j[0], u[1] & j[1])

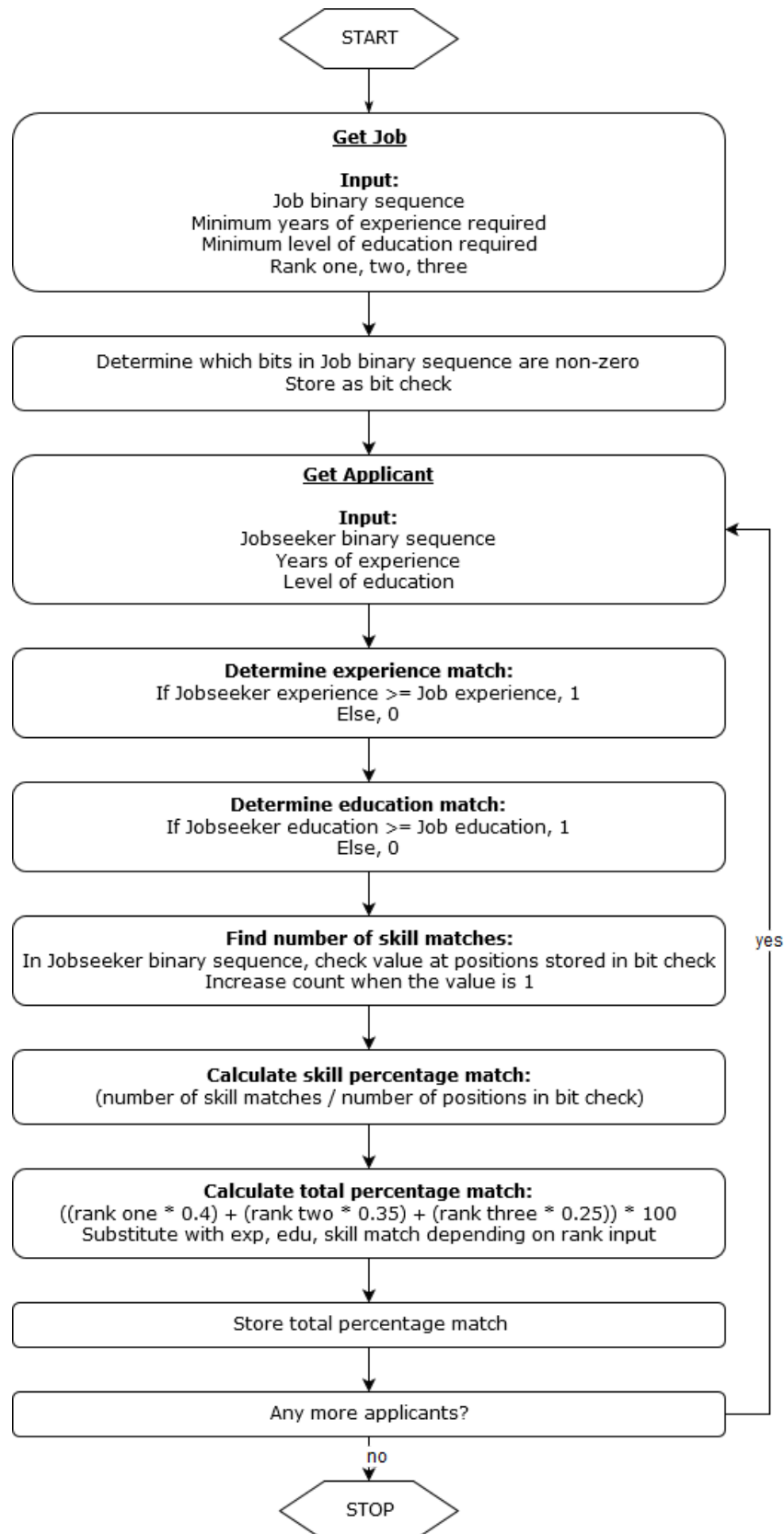
```

The limitation was resolved by dissociating the bit sequences into 32-bit (maximum) chunks, performing bitwise operations on the chunks, and concatenating the result.

To sort the jobs by order of greatest to lowest percentage match, the bubble sort algorithm was chosen. While not the most ideal of sorting algorithms in terms of run time, its simplicity allows for pseudo key-value mappings to be preserved.



4.1.2 Perform matchmaking on employers to applicants.



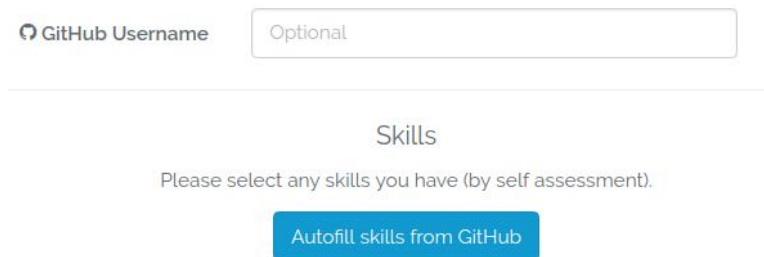
The skill matching on the employer side differs from the jobseeker side in that it only cares about the number of skills an applicant has within those that the job requires. Instead of using

bitwise logical operations to minimise execution time, this algorithm notes which bits in the job's binary sequence is 1 (corresponding to which skills it requires) and then checks only those positions in the applicant's binary sequence. The probably of worst case, in which a job would require all 50+ listed skills and thereby cause the algorithm to iterate through every skill of every applicant, is low.

The matchmaking algorithm for employers takes into account additional parameters; for each job the employer is asked to specify a minimum level of education required, minimum number of years of experience, and to rank what is most and least important to them between education, experience and skills. Depending on the determined ranking order, weights are attached to the values obtained from matching education, experience and skills, and the total percentage match is calculated.

Bubble sorting is used to order the percentage matches.

4.1.3 Integrate with GitHub



On job seeker registration (or editing a profile), a GitHub username is requested. From this field, and on user prompt, the public GitHub API is queried to return a list of the user's public repositories in JSON format. The list of skills on the registration form is then automatically filled based on the majority languages of the user's repositories - ignoring forks.

The GitHub field is optional.



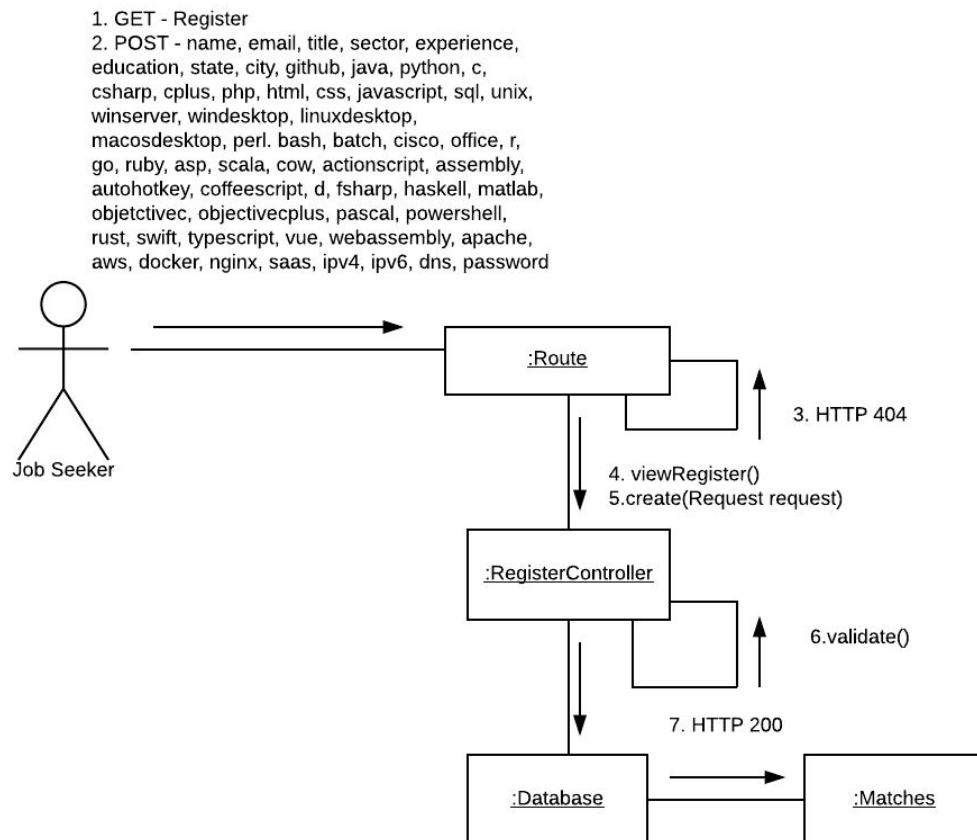
On the viewing of an application by an employer, if the applicant has stored a GitHub username, the public GitHub API is queried to return a list of the job seekers public repositories in JSON format. The number of repositories - ignoring forks - with majority languages that match required skills for the job are counted. The count is displayed on the application view, with a link to the job seekers GitHub profile.

On Github, forks are copies of repositories and do not axiomatically indicate experience or knowledge in the majority language of the repository forked.

4.1.4 Permit users to register.

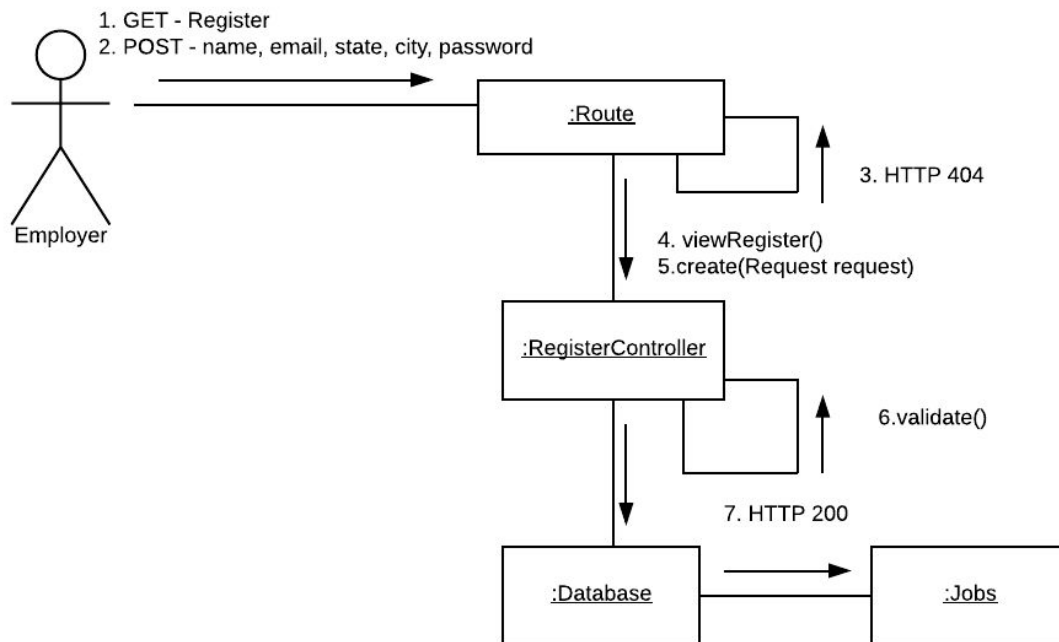
This diagram explains the process by which a job seeker registers to the sub-project job seekers website.

The job seeker registers by creating a profile with their personal information (including skills, education, and experience). The data is validated before being stored in the database. The job seeker is sent to the matching jobs view after successful registration.



This diagram explains the process by which an employer registers to the sub-project employers website.

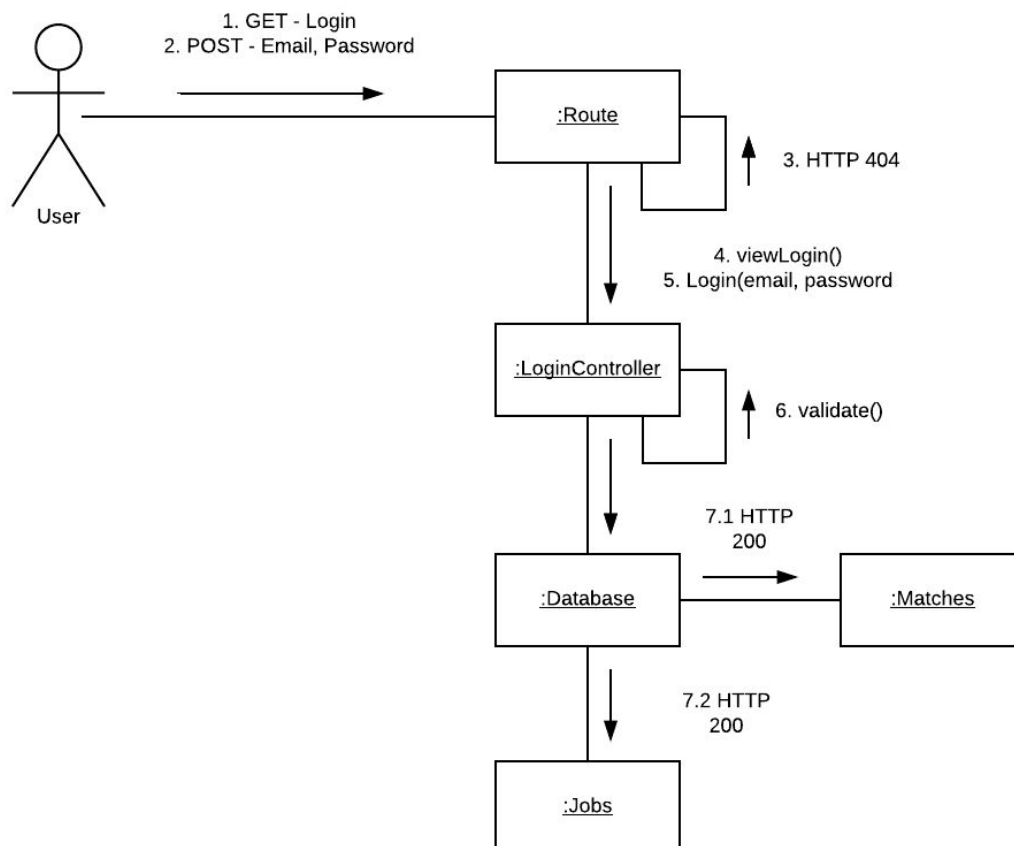
The employer registers by creating a profile with their personal information. The information is validated before being stored in the database. The employer is sent to the jobs view where they can manage their posted jobs after successful registration.



4.1.5 Permit users to login.

This diagram explains the process by which a user (both job seeker and employer) authenticates with each sub-project website.

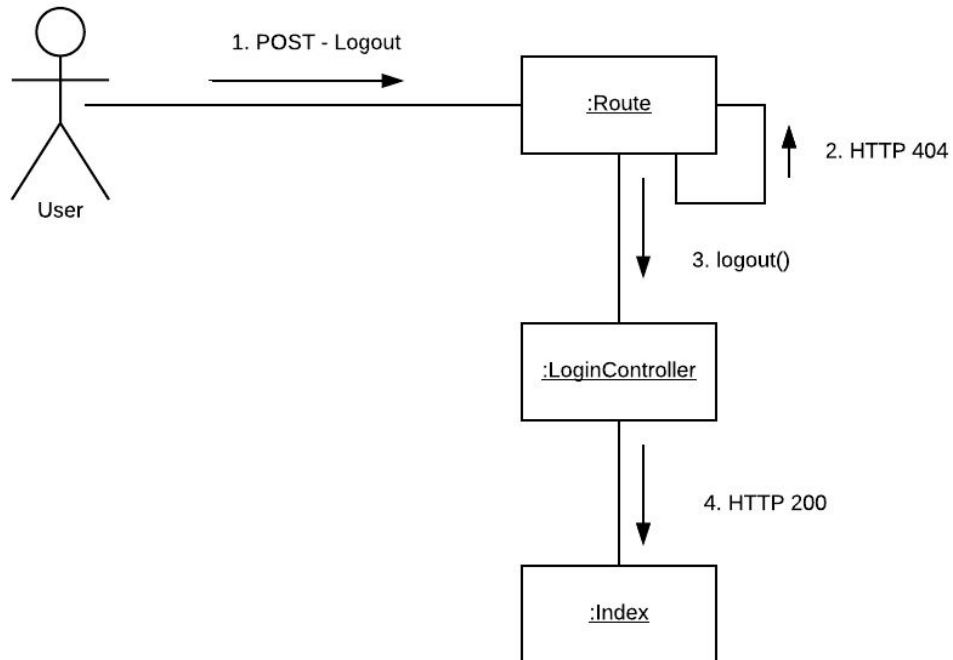
On successful login, the job seeker is sent to the matches view. The employer is sent to the jobs view.



4.1.6 Permit users to logout.

This diagram explains the process by which a user (both job seeker and employer) de-authenticates with each sub-project website.

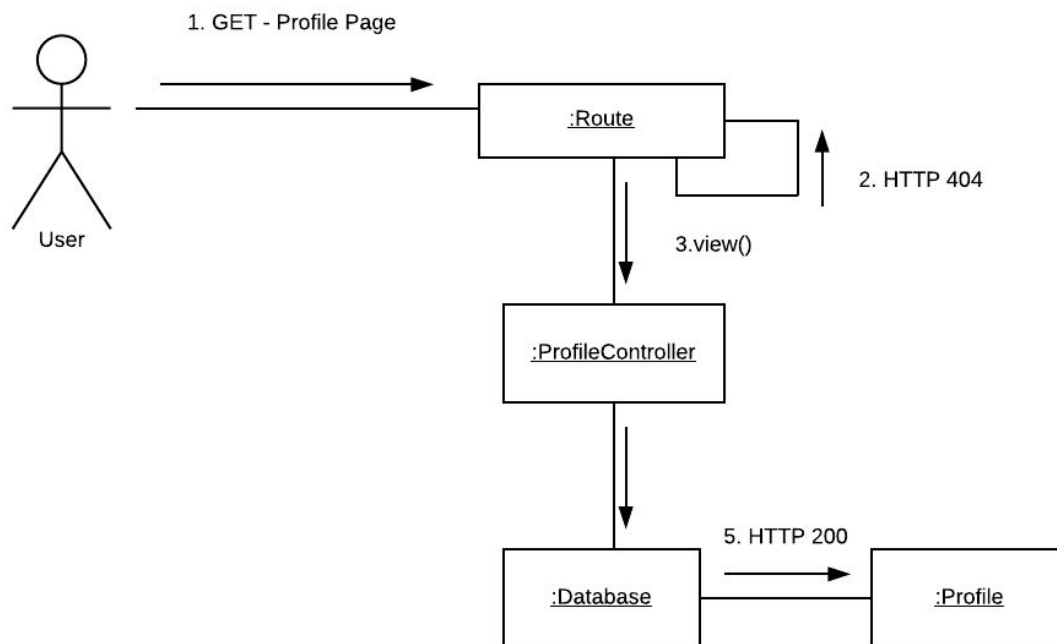
On successful logout, the user is sent to the index view (the homepage).



4.1.7 Permit users to view their own profile.

This diagram explains the process by which a user views their own profile.

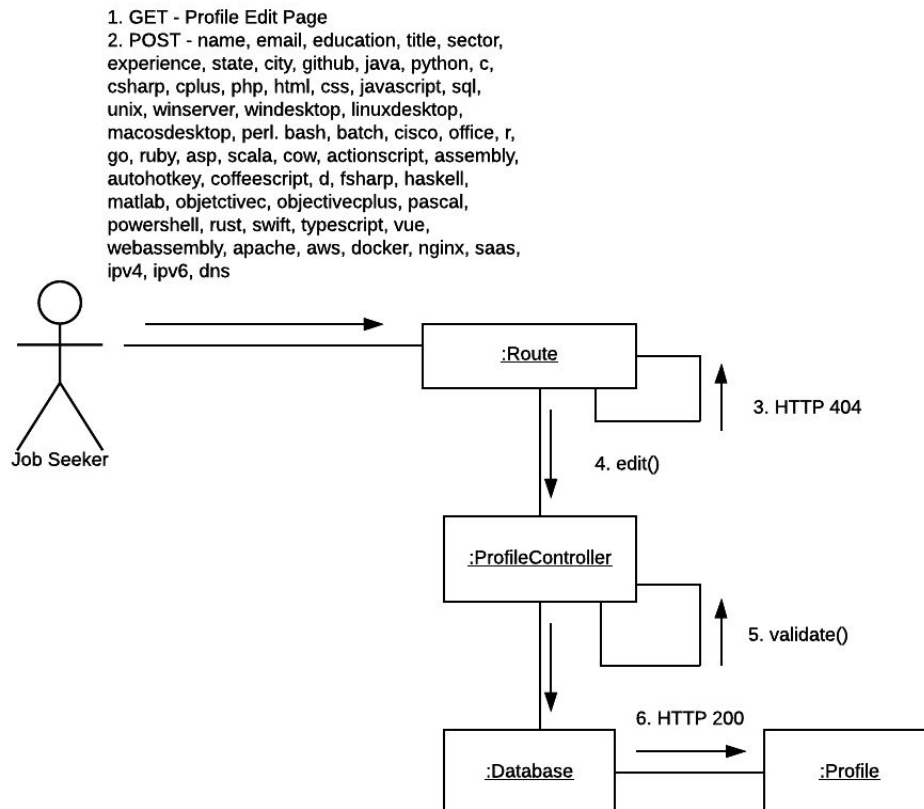
The user navigates to the profile resource. The profile controller retrieves the user's data from the database, displaying it in the profile view.



4.1.8 Permit users to edit profile.

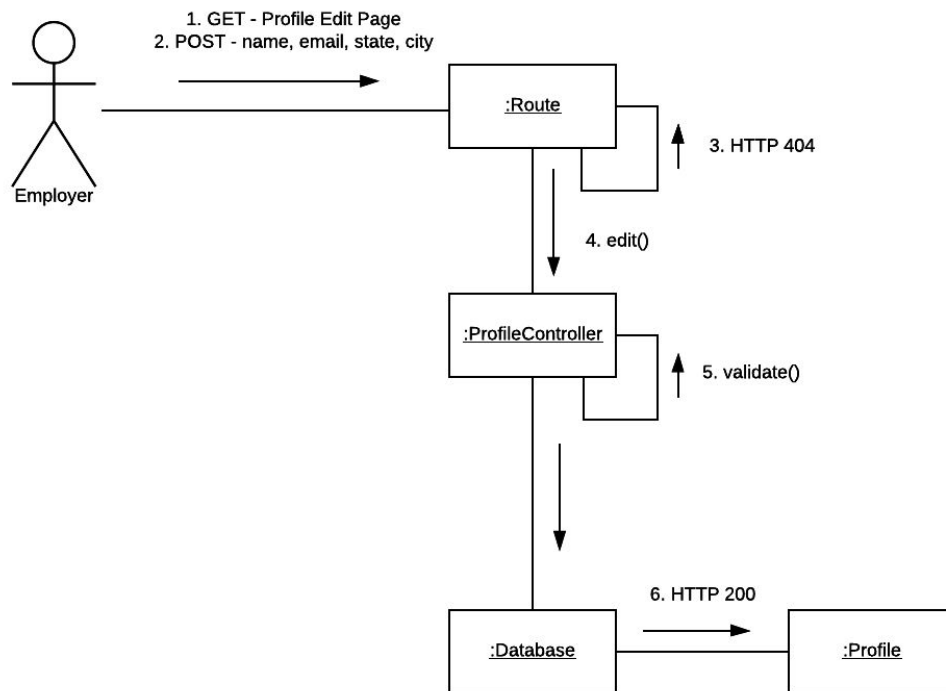
This diagram explains the process by which a job seeker edits their profile.

If the edited fields pass validation, the job seeker's details are updated in the database, and they are sent to the profile view.



This diagram explains the process by which an employer edits their profile.

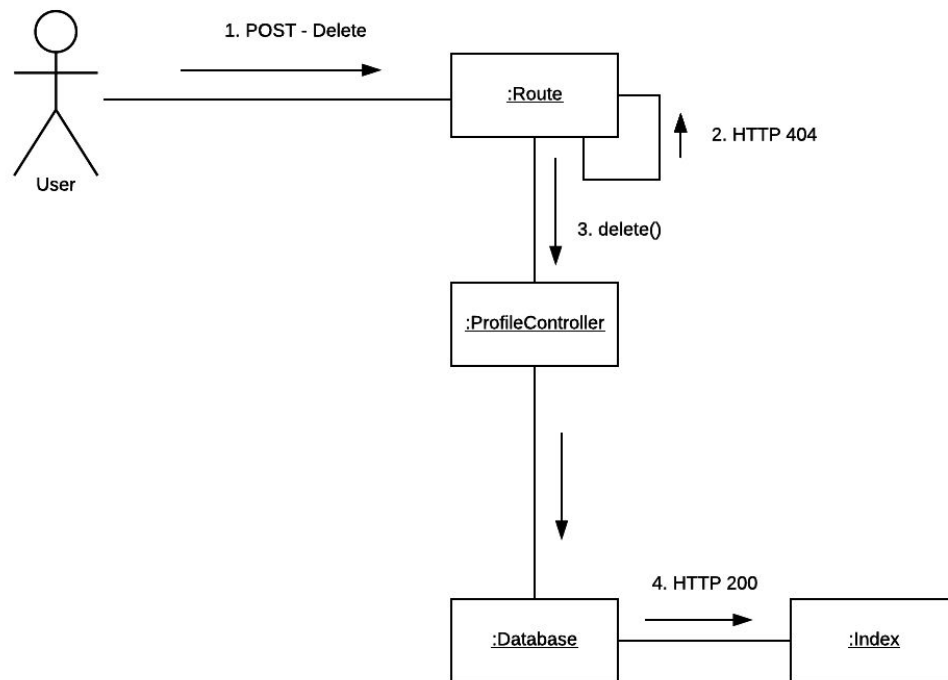
If the edited fields pass validation, the employer's details are updated in the database, and they are sent to the profile view.



4.1.9 Permit users to delete account.

This diagram explains the process by which a user deletes their account.

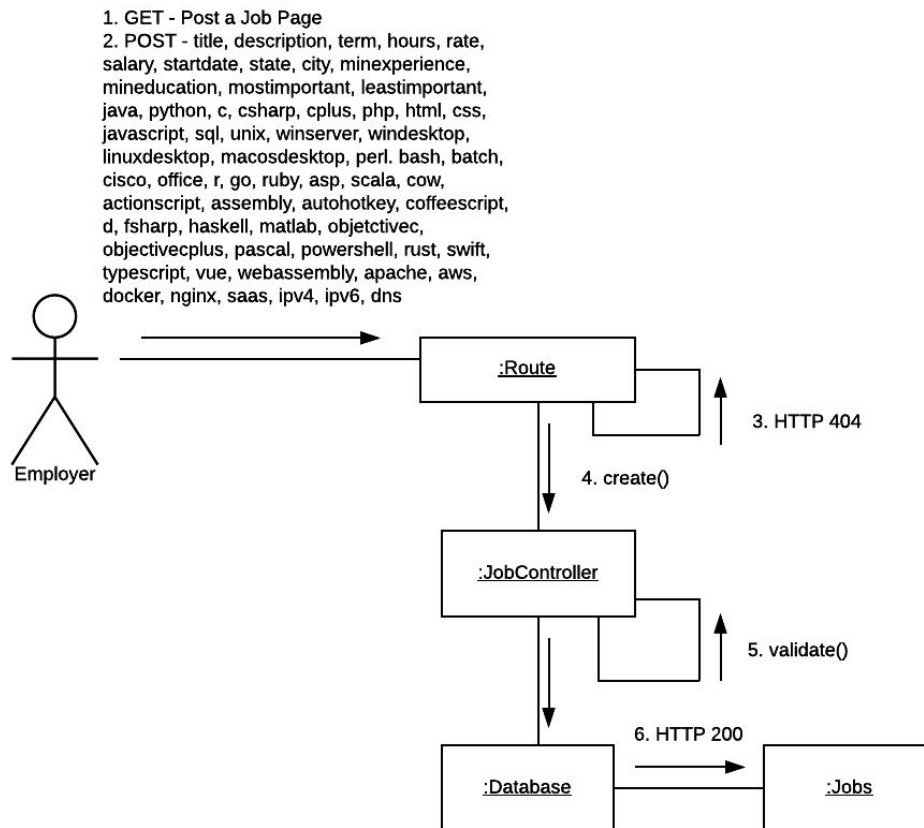
The currently authenticated user is deleted (via the destroy method in Laravel), de-authenticated, and sent to the index view (the homepage).



4.1.10 Permit employers to post a job.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer posts a job.

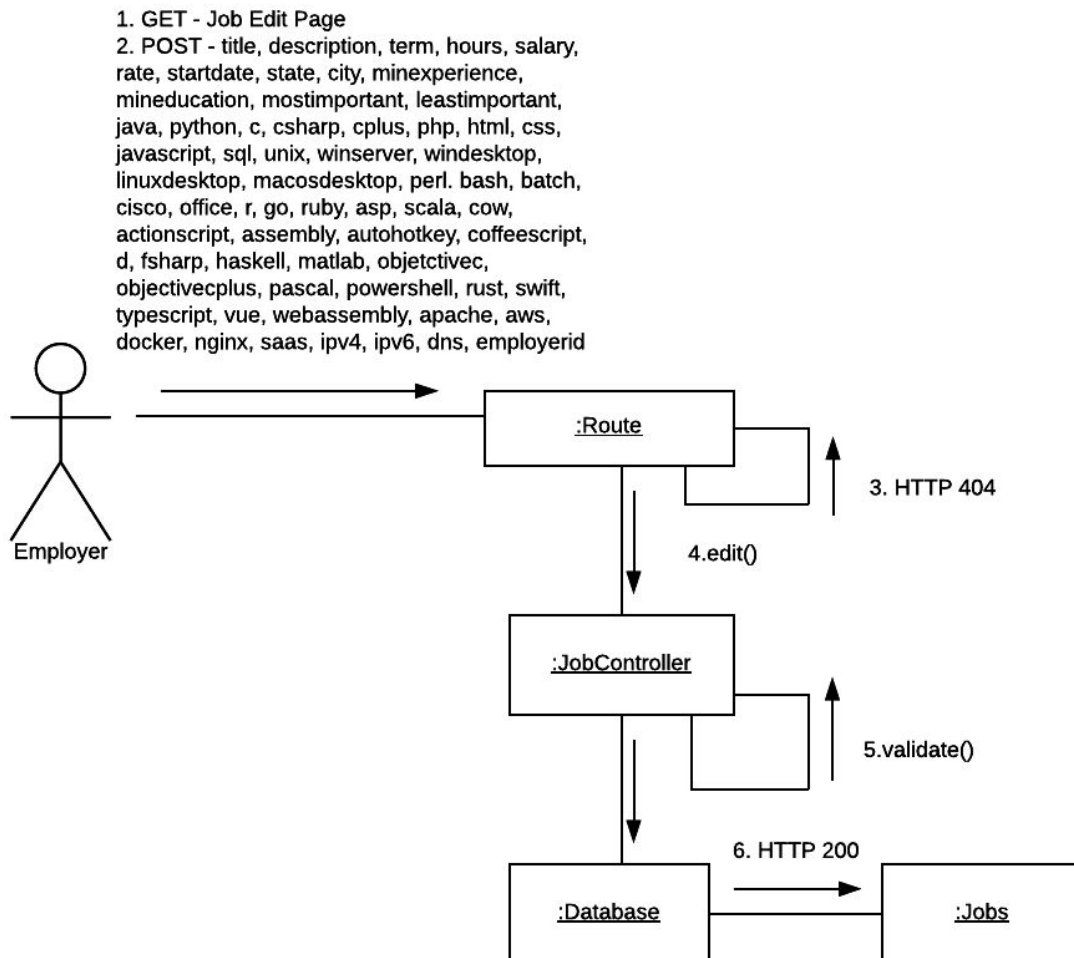
After posting a job, the employer is sent to the jobs view where they can manage their posted jobs.



4.1.11 Permit employers to edit a job.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer edits a posted job.

If the edited fields pass validation, the job's details are updated in the database, and the employer is sent back to the job view.

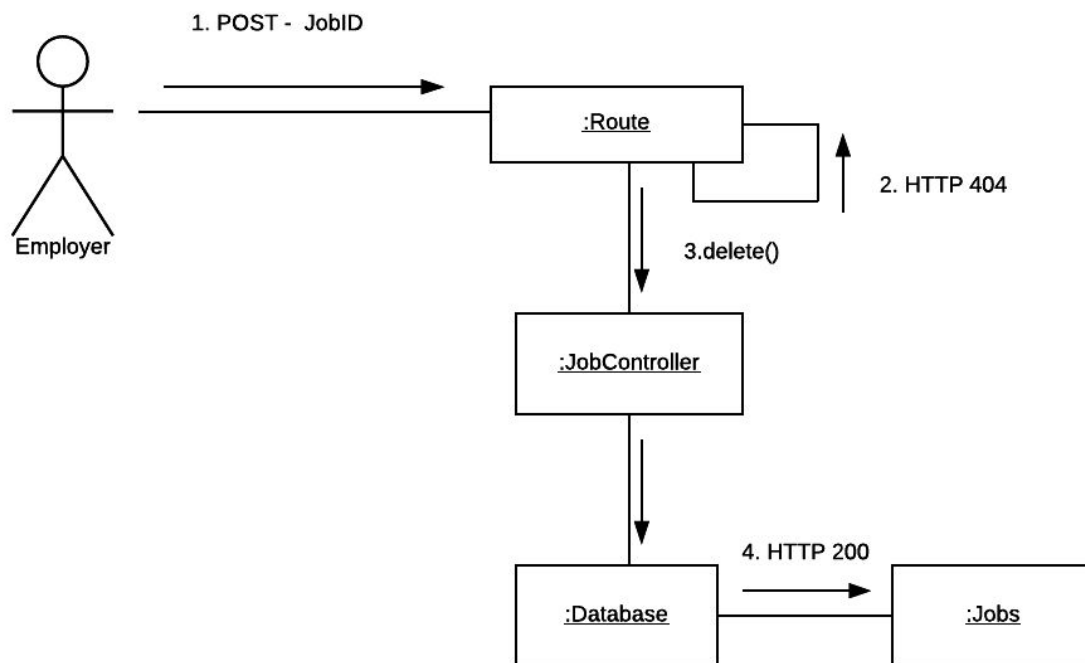


4.1.12 Permit employers to delete a job.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer deletes a posted job.

In the function, the job is verified as belonging to the employer who is currently authenticated.

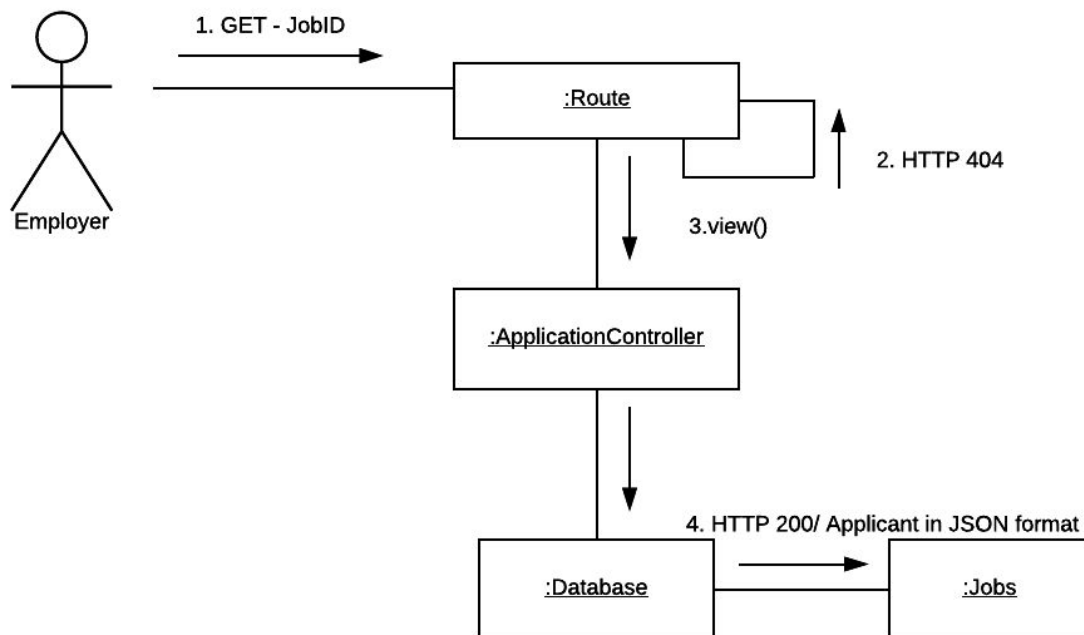
The job is deleted only if the employerID of the authenticated employer matches the employerID of the employer who posted the job.



4.1.13 Permit employers to view matching job applicants.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer views the list of matching job applicants to a specific job.

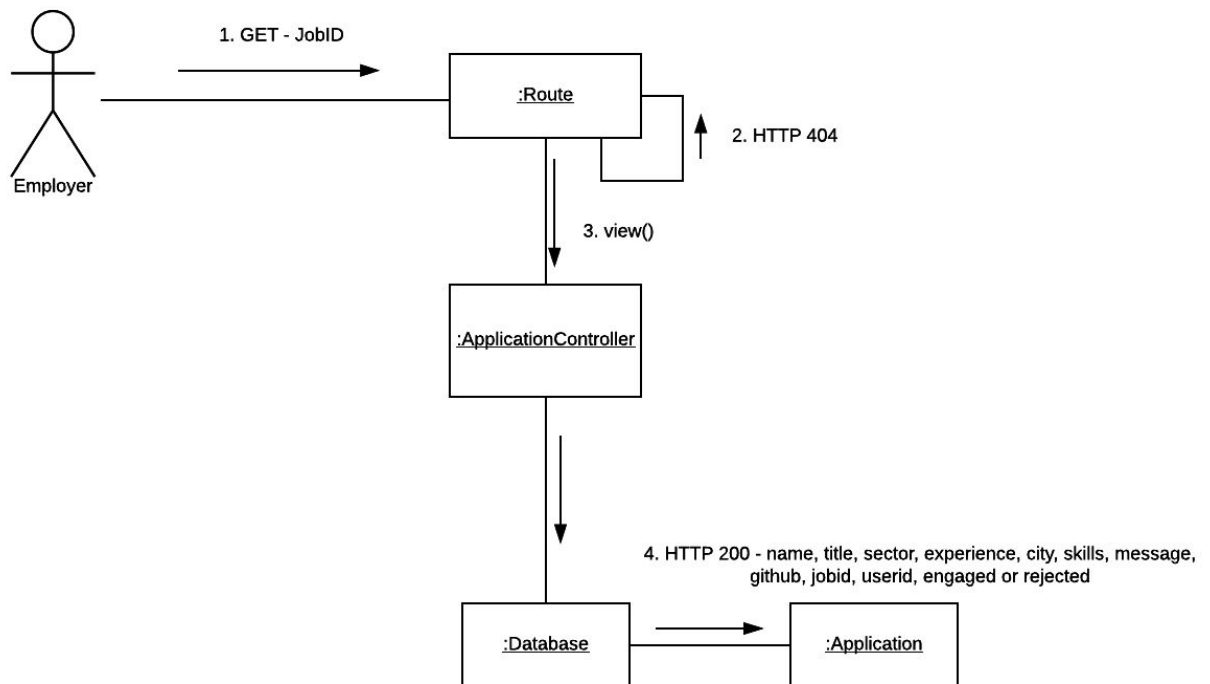
The employer sends the jobID as a GET parameter, and the database returns the applicants who applied for their posted job in JSON format for client-side matchmaking in JavaScript.



4.1.14 Permit employer to view a single job application.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer views a single job application.

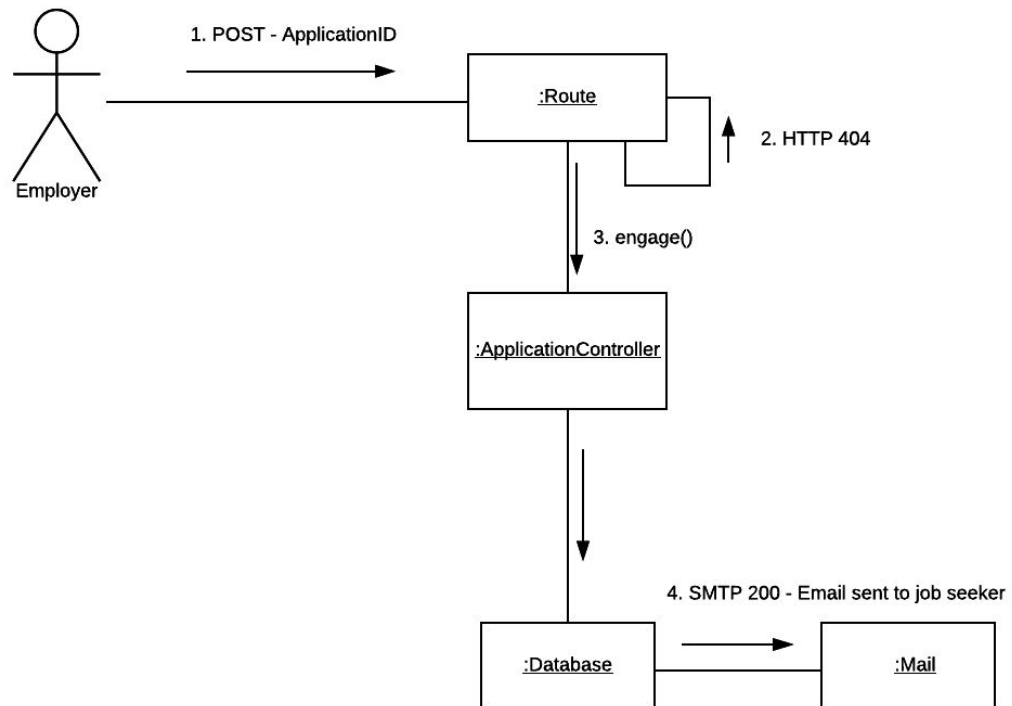
The employer sends the jobId as a GET parameter, and the database returns the data in the application view.



4.1.15 Permit employers to discuss a job application with the applicant.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer initiates discussion on a job application with the applicant.

When the discuss button is pressed, an email is sent to the applicant containing the name of the job, the name of the employer, and the employers email address set as the Reply-To header.

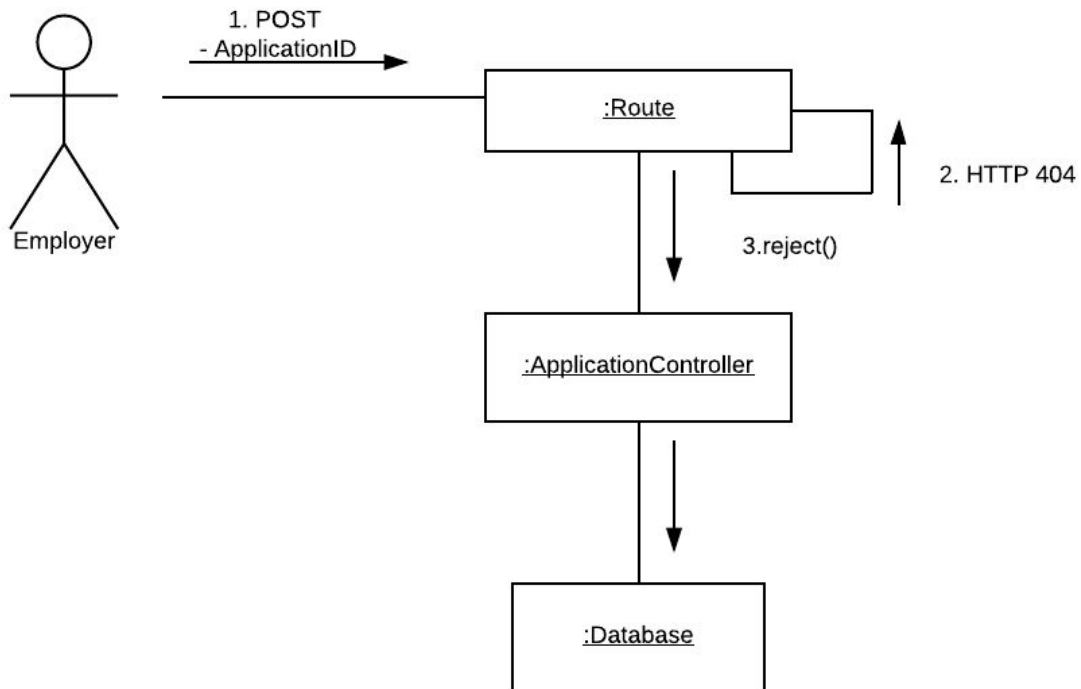


4.1.16 Permit employers to reject a job application.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer rejects a job application.

The employer POSTs the ApplicationID to the ApplicationController. The function verifies that the application is not either engage or rejected, and that the currently authenticated employer owns the job to which the application was for. Then we set the boolean rejected field to true.

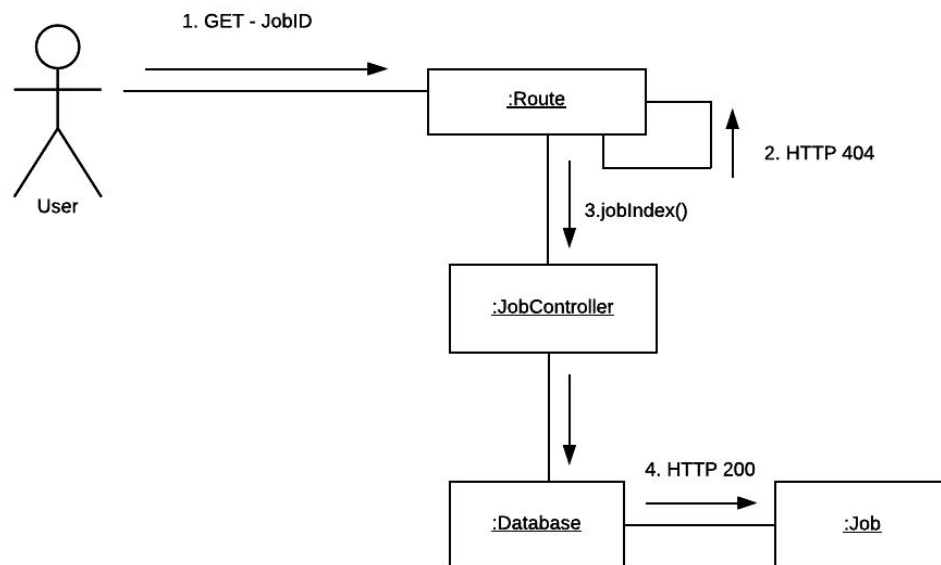
A job seeker cannot re-apply to a job once they have been rejected. Rejected applications are hidden from the employer after rejection.



4.1.17 Permit users to view a job.

This diagram explains the process by which users (both job seeker and employer) view a specific job via their respective sub-project website.

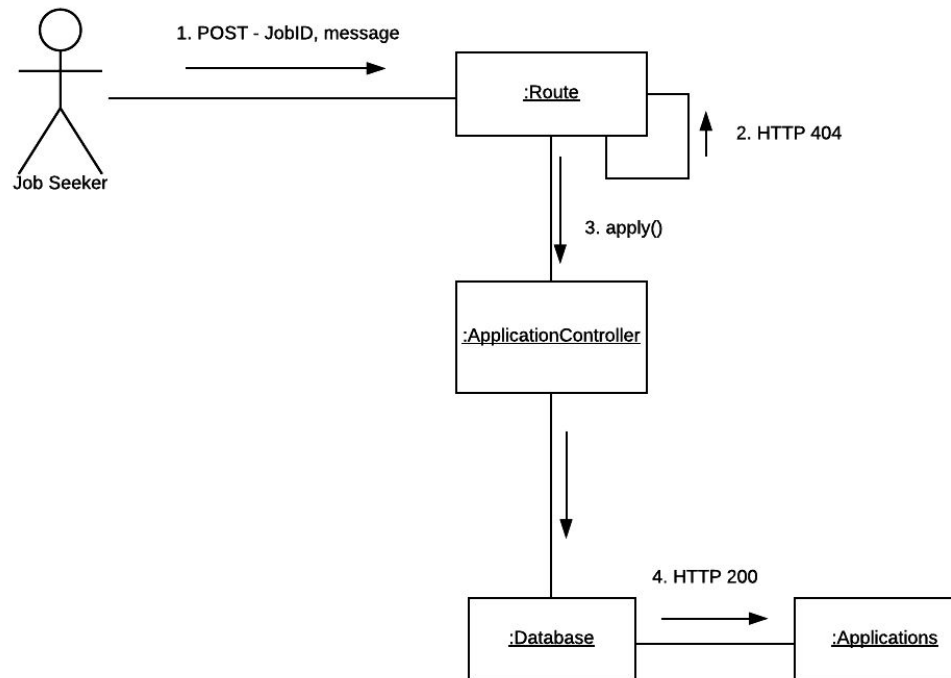
The user sends the jobID via a GET parameter to JobController. The job is then retrieved from the database, and displayed in the job view.



4.1.18 Permit job seekers to apply for a job.

This diagram explains the process by which a job seeker applies for a job.

After successful application, the job seeker is sent to the applications view - where they can view their active applications.



4.1.19 Permit job seekers to upload a resume.

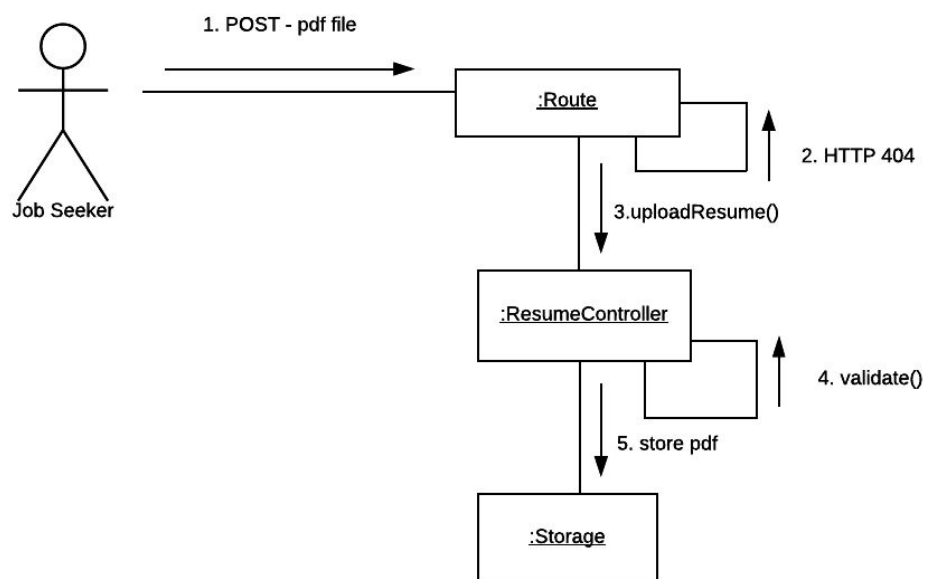
This diagram explains the process by which a job seeker uploads their resume.

The job seekers POSTs their resume (in PDF format) to ResumeController via the upload resume form in the profile view. After validating that the file is of PDF MIME type, the PDF is stored in storage.

The filename of the PDF stored is statically set as *resume-<auth-jobseeker-uuid>-.pdf*. An example being *resume-4af92e97-8f31-45e0-b39e-f8608ae0cd54.pdf*.

Any newly POSTed PDF from an authenticated user simply overwrites the old resume.

The stored resume is a PDF file that is opened in the browser.

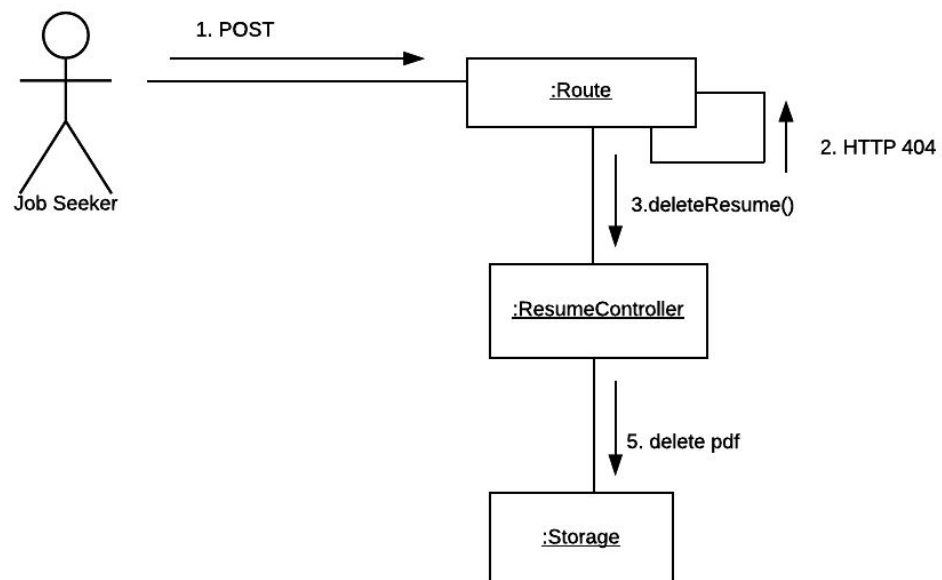


4.1.20 Permit job seekers to delete their resume.

This diagram explains the process by which a job seeker deletes their resume.

The resume deletion route is uses POST, and is a background request. Upon request to delete a resume, ResumeController deletes the currently authenticated job seeker's resume from storage - if it exists.

See “4.6.17. Permit job seekers to upload a resume” for more information on resume storage.



4.1.21 Permit employers to view an applicant's resume.

This diagram explains the process by which an employer views an applicant's resume.

An employer is only authorised to view the resume of a job seeker who has applied to one of their jobs (an applicant).

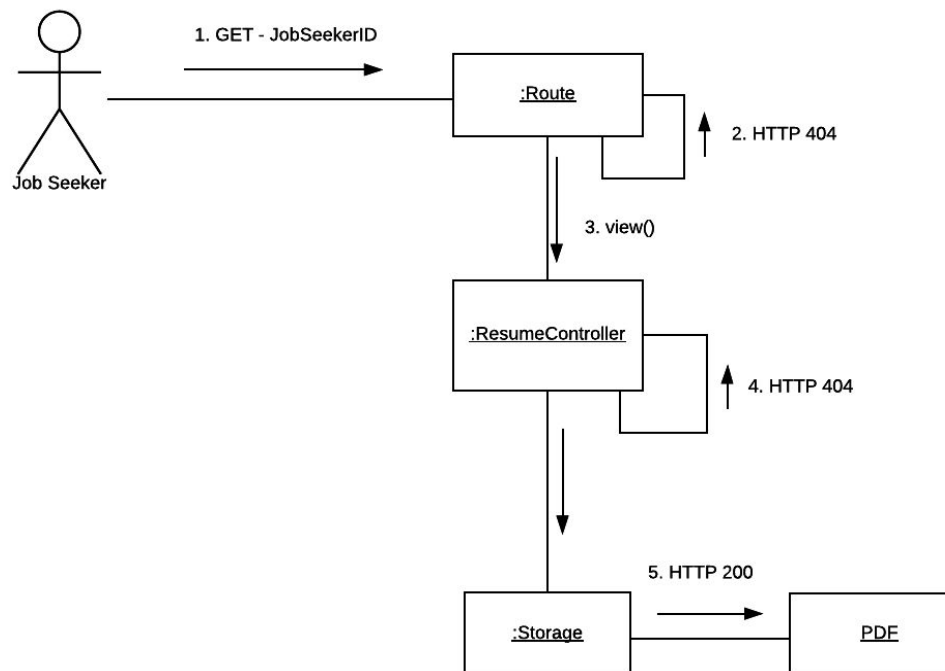
```

$filename = "resume-" . $jobseeker->id . ".pdf";
$path = storage_path('app/public/resumes/' . $filename);

if(File::exists($path)){
    return Response::make(file_get_contents($path), 200, [
        'Content-Type' => 'application/pdf',
        'Content-Disposition' => 'inline; filename="'. $filename.'"
    ]);
}
else{
    return Redirect::route('jobs');
}

```

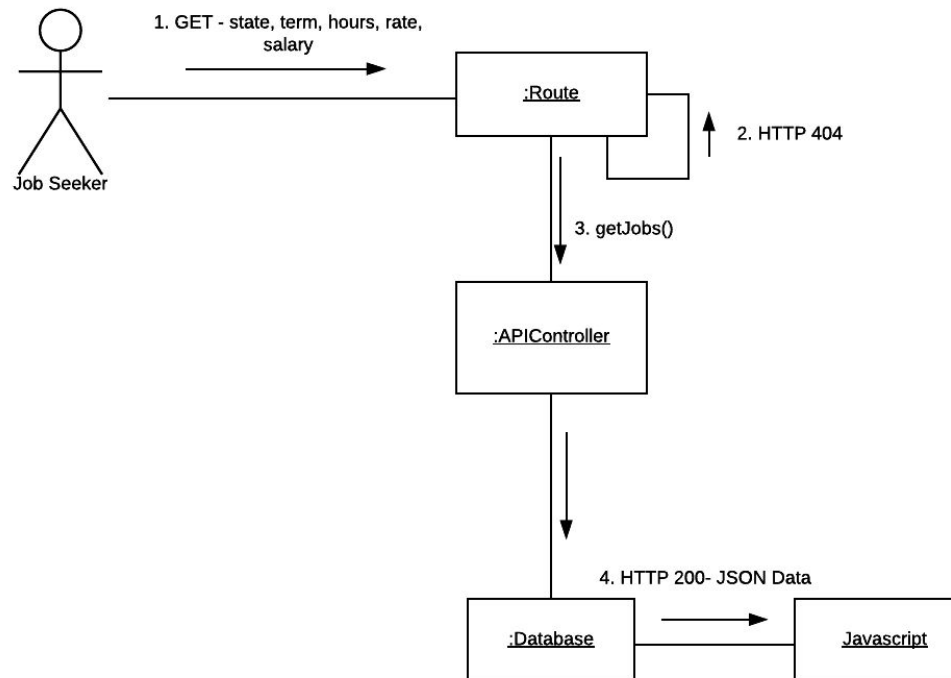
The stored resume is a PDF file that is opened in the browser.



4.1.22 Permit job seekers to view matching jobs by filter.

This diagram explains the process by which a job seeker views matching jobs by filter.

See “4.1.1 Perform matchmaking on jobs to job seekers” for detailed information on job to job seeker matchmaking.



5 Database Architecture

See the database schema diagrams for *Users (job seekers)*, *Employers*, *Jobs*, and *Applications* in “Database schema diagrams” under 11. Appendices.

Each table in the database (excluding Laravel’s *password_resets* and *migrations*) relate directly to a model.

The database is sufficiently scalable.

6 Implementation Instructions

Implementation

A linux-based server that is capable of running a traditional LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP) stack is required. Further technical requirements of the server depend on client usage expectations.

For this project, the team used a server with 1GB of RAM, one virtualised CPU core, and 25GB of solid-state storage.

After installing Apache, MySQL (or MariaDB), and PHP, Composer must be installed. Composer is a dependency manager for PHP.

Following this, Git can be installed and the project can be cloned from the GitHub repositories. Composer can then be used for installation.

Data migration

The contents of the database can be migrated using the native export and import functionalities in MySQL (see Reference 21). This process should be executed with caution to avoid data loss.

HTTPS connection security is enforced by forced redirection, and the use of the *HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS)* response header (see Reference 23 and 24). Using this, browsers are forced to utilise HTTPS connections to the project's domains (and subdomains) for two years. Due to the limited time frame of the project, HSTS is not preloaded.

To protect against person-in-the-middle attacks, the *Public-Key-Pins-Report-Only* response header (see Reference 25) is used to receive reports of any client using non-*Let's Encrypt* certificates. A *Certificate Authority Authorisation (CAA)* record has also been added to the *Vultr*-based name server to only permit certificates to be issued to the project's domains by *Let's Encrypt*.

The *Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)* is used to handle certificate revocations (see Reference 26).

Cross-site scripting (XSS) protection

Various protections against XSS attacks have been implemented. This includes the *implementation of a Content Security Policy* (see Reference 27 and 28) via its associated response header, the *X-Content-Type-Options* response header, and the *X-XSS-Protection* response header.

The project's *Content Security Policy (CSP)* does not permit inline CSS, inline JavaScript, and JavaScript evaluation. These vectors are commonly used to perform XSS attacks. The CSP has also been implemented in a strict mode - only allowing access to content sources we explicitly list.

Content Security Policy

| Directive | Functionality |
|--|---|
| default-src 'none' | Restrict all resources by default. |
| base-uri 'none' | Do not permit any URL in a <i>base</i> element. |
| connect-src 'self' https://api.github.com https://freegeoip.net | Allow scripts to connect to the same host, GitHub's API, and FreeGeoIP. |
| font-src 'self' https://fonts.gstatic.com | Allow fonts from the same host, and Google Fonts. |
| form-action 'self' | Allow the same host for form submissions. |
| frame-ancestors 'none' | Do not permit the embedding of the site in <i>frame</i> , <i>iframe</i> , <i>object</i> , <i>embed</i> , or <i>applet</i> elements. |
| frame-src 'none' | Do not permit <i>frame</i> or <i>iframe</i> elements. |
| img-src 'self' | Permit images from the same host. |
| manifest-src 'self' | Permit manifests from the same host. |
| media-src 'self' | Permit media (<i>audio</i> and <i>video</i> elements) from the same host. |
| object-src 'none' | Do not permit <i>object</i> , <i>embed</i> , or <i>applet</i> elements. |
| sandbox allow-forms allow-popups allow-same-origin allow-scripts | Enable a browser sandbox, except allow form submissions, popups, and scripts. |
| script-src 'self' | Permit scripts from the same host. |

| | |
|--|--|
| style-src 'self' 'sha256-...' https://fonts.googleapis.com | Permit styles from the same host, Google Fonts, and allow specific inline Laravel error page styles. |
| upgrade-insecure-requests | Upgrade any HTTP connection (on any resource) to HTTPS. |
| worker-src 'none' | Do not permit <i>Worker</i> , <i>SharedWorker</i> , or <i>ServiceWorker</i> scripts. |

Laravel also provides protection against XSS attacks (see Reference 29).

SQL injection protection

Laravel provides protection against SQL injection. This is achieved via Eloquent in Laravel building prepared statements, and other precautions (see Reference 29).

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) protection

All forms are protected by Laravel using a CSRF token (see Reference 30).

```

/* Get a specific Job by ID, if authorised. */
public function getJob($id, $token){
    if(Session::token() == $token){
        /* Get employer from currently authenticated user. */
        $employer = Auth::user();

        /* Get job by ID. */
        $job = Job::findOrFail($id);

        /* Only return job if owned by employer. */
        if(User::findOrFail($job->employerid) == $employer){
            return $job;
        }
    }
}

```

Manual CSRF token verification has also been implemented in API functions.

Project websites are not accessible via *cross-origin resource sharing (CORS)*, this is beneficial to security (see Reference 31).

Clickjacking protection

Project websites are protected from clickjacking attacks via the *X-Frame-Options* response header, and the *frame-ancestors* directive in the CSP (see Reference 32 and 33).

Cookies

```

/*
|-----|
| HTTPS Only Cookies |
|-----|
|
| By setting this option to true, session cookies will only be sent back
| to the server if the browser has a HTTPS connection. This will keep
| the cookie from being sent to you if it can not be done securely.
|
|*/

'secure' => env('SESSION_SECURE_COOKIE', true),

```

HTTPS connection security is further enforced by setting the *Secure* flag on cookies. This forces browsers to only accept the cookie over a HTTPS connection (see Reference 34).

Session cookies are also set with the *HttpOnly* flag. This prevents non-http access (by JavaScript, for example) (see Reference 34).

Universally unique identifiers (UUIDs)

<https://jobsaustralia.tech/job/4eecd43c-882e-4b39-b62a-a812d934f73e>

By default, Laravel uses auto-incrementing integers as IDs for models. In review, the team found this to be a security vulnerability when it was allowed, for example, users and jobs to be accessed via their IDs.

The issue is that it is possible to deduce other model IDs from the ID of a current model. An example of this is assuming that, if a job just created has the ID of 4, there are also probably jobs with IDs 1 to 3, 5, and so on.

To resolve this, and improve security, model identifiers were switched to UUIDs.

UUIDs are 128-bit random strings. Being random, they are not possible to deduce (see Reference 35).

Software versions

The latest versions of Apache, PHP, MySQL, OpenSSH, and Laravel are used on the production server. The team considers this beneficial to security.

DNSSEC

```
;; ANSWER SECTION:
jobsaustralia.tech. 3600 IN DS 10043 13 2 FD699A43687898DD5D2EEDB5D93ACE453EFF99C0B9820F999ED49D5E 145AA0D9
jobsaustralia.tech. 3600 IN DS 10043 13 1 7689C18A80508410CEB3B6FFA065016D6815E214
```

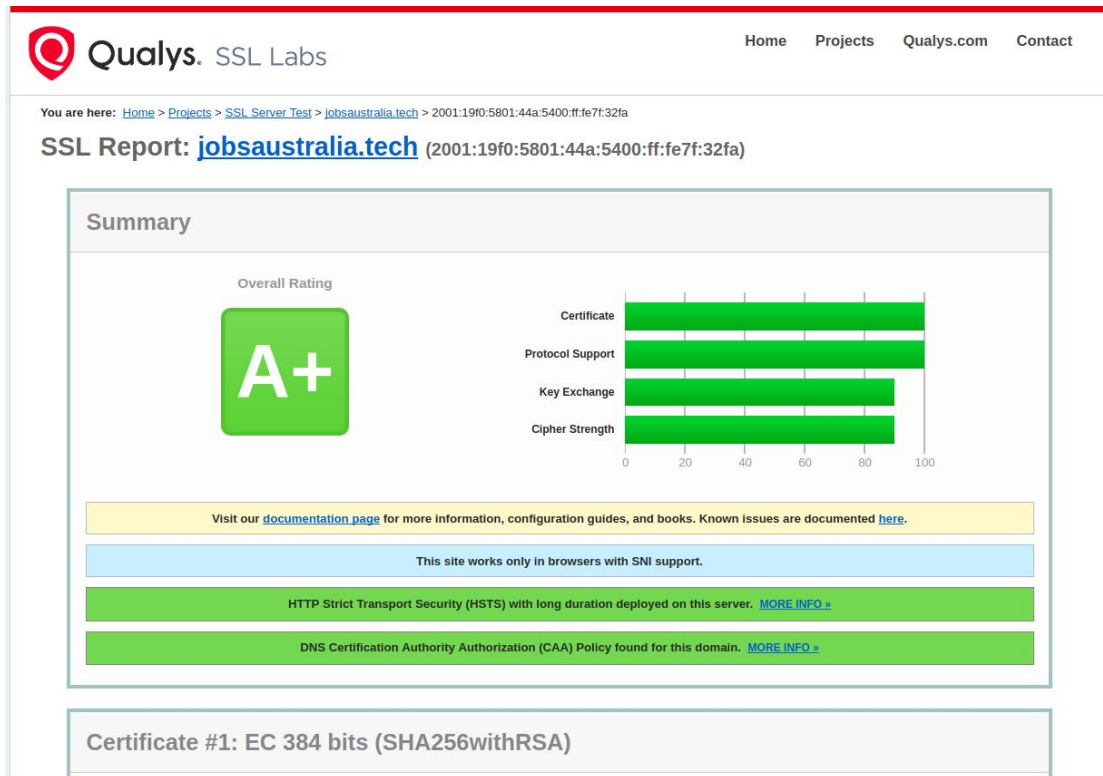
```
;; ANSWER SECTION:
jobsaustralia.tech. 3588 IN DNSKEY 257 3 13 1fgR/n7wwh29C5mASZne7nQJ44uX2CLgDxTlGKV2CtG3HggMUV9+ubsy 7W/LSjoK772s01jLG/V9UElKuAkKgQ==
```

The domain name *jobsaustralia.tech* is DNSSEC-signed. This protects against DNS-based attacks.

This was achieved by adding DS and DNSKEY records to the DNS zone.

Tests


HTTPS connection security was verified using Qualys SSL Labs, where the project scored an A+ (see Reference 36).



To achieve this, the team enabled HSTS, created a DNS CAA record permitting only *letsencrypt.org* to issue certificates, disabled all TLS/SSL protocol versions except TLS 1.2, and used a list of ciphersuites recommended by Mozilla (see Reference 37).

The project's TLS implementation was verified using Mozilla's *TLS Observatory*, where the project scored *Modern* (see Reference 38).

Scan Summary



| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Host: | jobsaustralia.tech (45.76.123.142) |
| Scan ID #: | 22457712 |
| End Time: | September 29, 2017 5:56 PM |
| Compatibility Level: | Modern |
| Certificate Explainer: | https://tls-observatory.services.mozilla.com/static/certsplainer.html?id=122449279 |


Certificate Information

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Common name: | jobsaustralia.tech |
| Alternative Names: | www.jobsaustralia.tech |
| First Observed: | 2017-08-31 (certificate #122449279) |
| Valid From: | 2017-08-04 |
| Valid To: | 2017-11-02 |
| Key: | ECDSA 384 bits, curve P-384 |
| Issuer: | Let's Encrypt Authority X3 |
| Signature Algorithm: | SHA256WithRSA |

To achieve this, the team disabled all TLS/SSL protocol versions except TLS 1.2, used a list of ciphersuites recommended by Mozilla (see Reference 37), and used an ECDSA private key.

Our general security implementation was verified using Mozilla's *HTTP Observatory*, where the project scored an A+ (120/100), and passed all tests (see Reference 38).

Scan Summary



| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Host: | jobsaustralia.tech |
| Scan ID #: | 5543896 |
| Start Time: | September 29, 2017 5:56 PM |
| Duration: | 4 seconds |
| Score: | 120/100 |
| Tests Passed: | 11/11 |

Recommended Change

[Initiate Rescan](#)

We don't have any!

Make sure to check back occasionally to ensure that your website is keeping up with the latest in web security standards.


In the meantime, thanks for for everything you're doing to keep the internet a safe, secure, and private place!

Test Scores

| Test | Pass | Score | Explanation |
|--|------|-------|--|
| Content Security Policy | ✓ | +10 | Content Security Policy (CSP) implemented with <code>default-src 'none'</code> and no <code>'unsafe'</code> |
| Cookies | ✓ | 0 | All cookies use the <code>Secure</code> flag and all session cookies use the <code>HttpOnly</code> flag |
| Cross-origin Resource Sharing | ✓ | 0 | Content is not visible via cross-origin resource sharing (CORS) files or headers |
| HTTP Public Key Pinning | – | 0 | HTTP Public Key Pinning (HPKP) header not implemented (optional) |
| HTTP Strict Transport Security | ✓ | 0 | HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) header set to a minimum of six months (15768000) |
| Redirection | ✓ | 0 | Initial redirection is to https on same host, final destination is https |
| Referrer Policy | ✓ | +5 | Referrer-Policy header set to <code>"no-referrer"</code> , <code>"same-origin"</code> , <code>"strict-origin"</code> or <code>"strict-origin-when-cross-origin"</code> |
| Subresource Integrity | – | 0 | Subresource Integrity (SRI) not implemented, but all scripts are loaded from a similar origin |
| X-Content-Type-Options | ✓ | 0 | X-Content-Type-Options header set to <code>"nosniff"</code> |
| X-Frame-Options | ✓ | +5 | X-Frame-Options (XFO) implemented via the CSP <code>frame-ancestors</code> directive |
| X-XSS-Protection | ✓ | 0 | X-XSS-Protection header set to <code>"1; mode=block"</code> |

Our OpenSSH implementation was verified using Mozilla's *SSH Observatory*, where the project scored an A (see Reference 38). This was achieved by making the OpenSSH server *Mozilla SSH Standards Compliant* (see Reference 39).

Scan Summary



| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Host: | jobsaustralia.tech (45.76.123.142:22) |
| Scan ID #: | 99329e27 |
| End Time: | September 29, 2017 5:57 PM |
| Mozilla SSH Standards Compliant: | Yes |

Recommendations

We don't have any! Keep up the good work!

Miscellaneous

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Authentication Methods: | public key |
| Compression: | Available |
| Duplicate Host Keys: | No |

Performance

Server performance

Project websites are hosted on an SSD-based VPS (*Vultr*) in Sydney, Australia (See more about Vultr in “Vultr” under 2. Technical Environment). This location was chosen as it is geographically closest to southern Victoria (where the team is located), and also geographically close to most of Australia’s population.

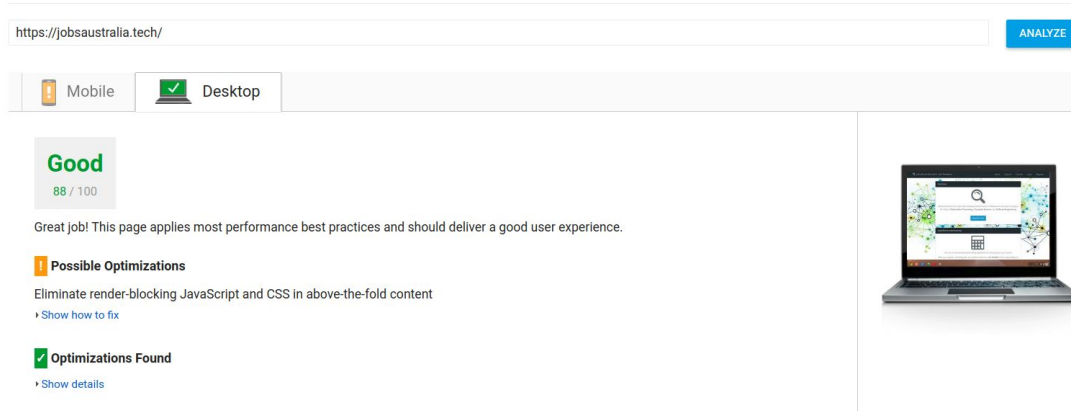
```
PING jobsaustralia.tech (45.76.123.142) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from jobsaustralia.tech (45.76.123.142): icmp_seq=1 ttl=53 time=22.4 ms
64 bytes from jobsaustralia.tech (45.76.123.142): icmp_seq=2 ttl=53 time=18.8 ms
64 bytes from jobsaustralia.tech (45.76.123.142): icmp_seq=3 ttl=53 time=21.0 ms
64 bytes from jobsaustralia.tech (45.76.123.142): icmp_seq=4 ttl=53 time=21.6 ms
^C
--- jobsaustralia.tech ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3004ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 18.835/20.994/22.446/1.348 ms
```

In latency testing from a standard south-east suburban Melbourne residential ISP connection, the latency to the production server was between 19ms and 22ms. Tests were performed between 4pm and 5pm on a Saturday afternoon.

HTTP/2 has been enabled in *Apache*, using the *apache2* package published by *Ondřej Surý* with *mpm_event* and *php7.0-fpm*. This should marginally improve load performance (see Reference 40).

Page performance

PageSpeed Insights



Google PageSpeed Insights was used to assess the loading performance of project web pages.

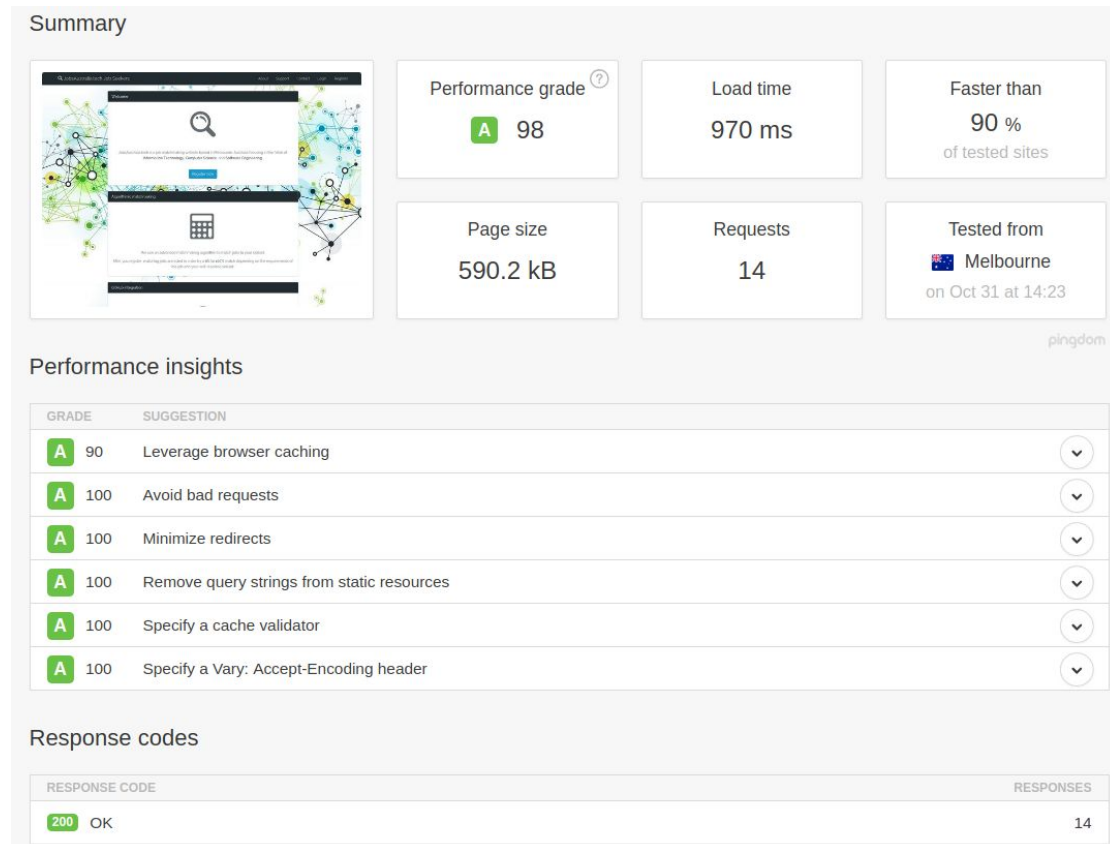
Per instruction by *PageSpeed* (see Reference 41), images were optimised using the *PageSpeed* algorithm, CSS and JavaScript were minified, and browsers were instructed to cache suitable resources (via the Cache-Control response header).

The team were unable to remove render-blocking CSS and JavaScript due to workflow restrictions, and the *Content Security Policy (CSP)* (pagespeed recommends inlining these resources).

In experimentation, the team tried the *mod_pagespeed Apache* module. This was found to be unsuitable because it violated the project’s CSP.

Through these efforts, the Desktop *PageSpeed* score was increased from **Poor** to **Good (88/100)**, and the Mobile score was increased from **Poor** to **Needs Work (68/100)**.

Through testing, the team believes system performance is very acceptable.



The project's Pingdom score was 98.

Mail queuing

```

/* Send a notification email to the employer depending on preference. */
if($employer->notifyapply && substr($email, -4) !== ".dev"){
    $link = "https://employ.jobsaustralia.tech/application/" . $appid;
    $title = $job->title;

    Mail::to($email)->queue(new Apply($link, $title));
}

```

In testing, it was found that PHP response times were reduced significantly by the sending of emails for notifications.

This issue was resolved, improving performance, by implementing mail queuing. With this, Laravel does not wait until an email (or set of emails) is successfully sent before executing the return statement in a function (see Reference 42).

Client-side matchmaking

The decision to implement matchmaking on the client-side (using JavaScript) for both jobs to job seekers and applicants to employers is beneficial to performance. The reason for this is that the server does not need to perform matchmaking. The work is instead offset to each user's browser.

Considering security, and data integrity, client-side matchmaking was deemed not to be a security vulnerability as the calculated percentage match is not stored on the server.

Usability

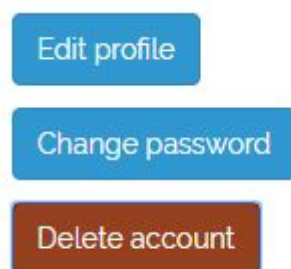
Simple and concise

The project website is simple, and easy to navigate. Users are not bombarded or overwhelmed with information, and can quickly see what is available rather than having to think it through. The navigation bar contains the most important links.

Consistency

The project theme, and colour scheme particularly, is consistent throughout the website. The same navigation model is used in all project web pages. Users can easily browse through project websites without becoming lost.

Error prevention



Confirm deletion: I really want to delete my account.

Deleting a job will delete the job listing, and all current applications to the job.

It is impossible to recover a job, and its applications, after deletion!



Confirm deletion: I really want to delete this job.

The project websites provide users with a confirmation option before they commit to an important, or potentially damaging, action. This is to prevent errors as the user may change their mind about deleting their account, or deleting a posted job. They may have even pressed the button accidentally therefore it helps them to recover from errors.

Help and documentation

The project websites contain a support pages for users who need help using the system.

Through frequently asked questions, users can find answers to questions in various categories of issues. If further support is required, users have the option to send the team their enquires through the contact form.

Scalability

The project system is suitable for basic and advanced load balancing. This would require the database be migrated to a standalone server, which would only require minor configuration changes.

The current implementation does not require load balancing, due to limited use.

IPv6 connectivity

```
;; ANSWER SECTION:
jobsaustralia.tech. 3032 IN AAAA 2001:19f0:5801:44a:5400:ff:fe7f:32fa
```

The production server fully supports, and is accessible via, IPv6.

Readability

```
/* Get applicants for a Job by Job ID, if authorised. */
public function getApplicants($id, $token){
    if(Session::token() == $token){

        /* Get employer from currently authenticated user. */
        $employer = Auth::user();

        /* Get applications where jobid matches $id and employerid matches the employer. */
        $applications = Application::where('jobid', $id)->where('employerid', $employer->id)->get();

        /* Populate array of job seekers by ID from $applications. */
        $applicants = array();
        foreach($applications as $application){
            $jobseeker = JobSeeker::findOrFail($application->userid);
            $jobseeker->applicationid = $application->id;
            $jobseeker->message = $application->message;
            $jobseeker->engaged = $application->engaged;

            if(!$application->rejected){
                array_push($applicants, $jobseeker);
            }
        }

        return $applicants;
    }
}
```

Project code follows a predefined standard.

- Functions and variables are named appropriately.
- Indentation is four spaces per nesting.
- Comments are written above every function, and above any segment of code requiring explanation.
- English spelling and grammar rules are followed.
- Unused code is removed.

The readability of the project's codebase is improved by these standards.

Open source development

The project is entirely open source, and licensed under the MIT license.

Contributors

- Aaron Horler
- Ozlem Kirmizi
- Kim Luu
- Dennis Mihalache
- Melissa Nguyen

Setup instructions

Setup your development environment following [the official requirements](#).

Our Linux deployment script is [here](#). This script assumes you've setup the project before.

Clone the repository

```
git clone https://github.com/jobsaustralia/jobsaustralia.tech.git
```

```
cd jobsaustralia.tech
```

Configure your environment

```
mv env.example .env
```

Configure mail

The project requires an outgoing mail driver for basic functionality.

Install

```
composer install
```

Migrate, and (optionally) seed

```
php artisan migrate --seed
```

Setup [employ.jobsaustralia.tech](#)

Follow the setup instructions for the employer site.

Create a symbolic link for resumes

```
ln -s jobsaustralia.tech/storage/app/public/ employ.jobsaustralia.tech/storage/app/public/
```

The team is further facilitating open source contribution via the readme files on GitHub, which detail configuration.

8 Summary of test results

Refer to the Test Plan (external document) document for information on testing practices, and results.

Further, an IT professional was contact, asking for feedback on the employer's website.

Hi SH / Aaron,

I had a quick play (Microsoft Edge 40.15063.0.0), I registered myself as an Employer ("Test Employer")

My comments :

- I like the overall look of the page, however, as soon as I registered it took me to the "No Jobs found" page which I found a bit odd? (Perhaps jobs are coming?)
- When logging a job :
 - Should be an option for "Contract"
 - Rate should include "Daily" (Most contractors are paid on a daily rate)
- You need to work on your error handling a bit more as I ended up getting a very user unfriendly "Division by zero error". It was hard to determine why!

Keep up the good work guys!

Regards,

A.

Based on the suggestions from this individual, the "No Jobs Found" message was altered to "You've Posted No Jobs" - as employers are only able to see jobs they have posted.

A JQuery issue in Edge and Internet Explorer was also fixed, plus the division by zero error, and a "Contract" option was added to term and a "Daily" option was added to rate.

See "*Tests under Security in 7. Non-functional specifications*" for information of security testings. Also see "*Performance in 7. Non-functional specification*" for information on performance testing.

9 Known Issues & Risks

The project currently has no known issues or risks. Past issues, and risks, are recorded in the *Issues Register* and the *Risk Register*, respectively.

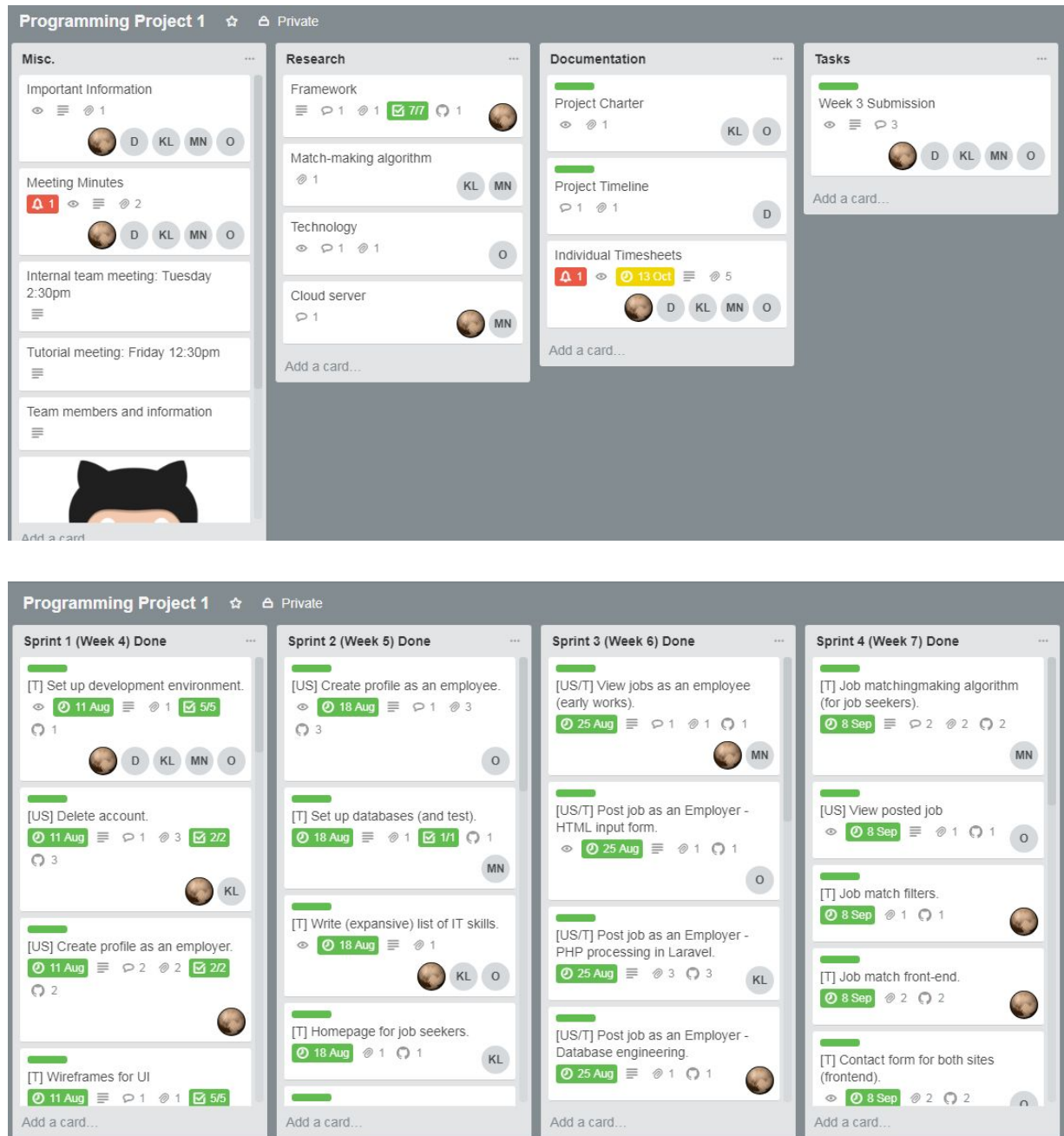
10 References

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3. MySQL. MySQL. Accessed October 15th, 2017. <https://www.mysql.com/>
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11 Appendix

Trello






Trello is an important tool that was used to manage the project. By following Scrum processes, the project manager created stages for our tasks.





These stages included IN PROGRESS, and DONE. The list of tasks were placed in Sprints every week. These tasks were assigned to different team members. Tasks were also given due dates so that the functions could be completed on time.

As shown in the above image, once the tasks for the week were completed, the Sprints were relabeled - adding the word 'Done'.

Database table schemas

| users | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
|  | id | varchar(36) |
| | name | string(191) |
| | email | varchar(191) |
| | title | varchar(191) |
| | sector | string(191) |
| | state | varchar(3) |
| | city | string(191) |
| | experience | integer(11) |
| | education | integer(11) |
| | github | varchar(191) |
| | java | boolean |
| | python | boolean |
| | c | boolean |
| | csharp | boolean |
| | cplus | boolean |
| | php | boolean |
| | html | boolean |
| | css | boolean |
| | javascript | boolean |
| | sql | boolean |
| | unix | boolean |
| | winserver | boolean |
| | windowsdesktop | boolean |
| | linuxdesktop | boolean |
| | macosdesktop | boolean |
| | perl | boolean |
| | bash | boolean |
| | batch | boolean |
| | cisco | boolean |
| | office | boolean |
| | r | boolean |
| | go | boolean |
| | ruby | boolean |
| | asp | boolean |
| | scala | boolean |
| | cow | boolean |
| | actionscript | boolean |
| | assembly | boolean |
| | autohotkey | boolean |
| | coffeescript | boolean |
| | d | boolean |
| | fsharp | boolean |
| | haskell | boolean |
| | matlab | boolean |
| | objectivec | boolean |
| | objectiveplusplus | boolean |
| | pascal | boolean |
| | powershell | boolean |
| | rust | boolean |
| | swift | boolean |
| | typescript | boolean |
| | vue | boolean |
| | webassembly | boolean |
| | apache | boolean |
| | aws | boolean |
| | docker | boolean |
| | nginx | boolean |
| | saas | boolean |
| | ipv4 | boolean |
| | ipv6 | boolean |
| | dns | boolean |
| | notifynewjob | boolean |
| | notifymarketing | boolean |
| | password | varchar(191) |
| | remember_token | varchar(100) |
| | created_at | timestamp |
| | updated_at | timestamp |

| jobs | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
|  | id | varchar(36) |
| | title | varchar(191) |
| | description | text |
| | term | varchar(191) |
| | hours | varchar(191) |
| | salary | integer(11) |
| | rate | varchar(191) |
| | startdate | varchar(191) |
| | state | varchar(3) |
| | city | varchar(191) |
| | java | boolean |
| | python | boolean |
| | c | boolean |
| | csharp | boolean |
| | cplus | boolean |
| | php | boolean |
| | html | boolean |
| | css | boolean |
| | javascript | boolean |
| | sql | boolean |
| | unix | boolean |
| | winserver | boolean |
| | windowsdesktop | boolean |
| | linuxdesktop | boolean |
| | macosdesktop | boolean |
| | perl | boolean |
| | bash | boolean |
| | batch | boolean |
| | cisco | boolean |
| | office | boolean |
| | r | boolean |
| | go | boolean |
| | ruby | boolean |
| | asp | boolean |
| | scala | boolean |
| | cow | boolean |
| | actionsript | boolean |
| | assembly | boolean |
| | autohotkey | boolean |
| | coffeescript | boolean |
| | d | boolean |
| | fsharp | boolean |
| | haskell | boolean |
| | matlab | boolean |
| | objectivec | boolean |
| | objectiveplusplus | boolean |
| | pascal | boolean |
| | powershell | boolean |
| | rust | boolean |
| | swift | boolean |
| | typescript | boolean |
| | vue | boolean |
| | webassembly | boolean |
| | apache | boolean |
| | aws | boolean |
| | docker | boolean |
| | nginx | boolean |
| | saas | boolean |
| | ipv4 | boolean |
| | ipv6 | boolean |
| | dns | boolean |
| | mineducation | integer(11) |
| | minexperience | integer(11) |
| | rankone | varchar(191) |
| | ranktwo | varchar(191) |
| | rankthree | varchar(191) |
|  | employerid | varchar(36) |
| | created_at | timestamp |
| | updated_at | timestamp |

| applications | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
|  | id | varchar(36) |
|  | userid | varchar(36) |
|  | employerid | varchar(36) |
|  | jobid | varchar(36) |
| | message | text |
| | rejected | boolean |
| | engaged | boolean |
| | created_at | timestamp |
| | updated_at | timestamp |

| employers | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
|  | id | varchar(36) |
| | name | varchar(191) |
| | email | varchar(191) |
| | state | varchar(3) |
| | city | varchar(191) |
| | notifyapply | boolean |
| | notifymarketing | boolean |
| | password | varchar(191) |
| | remember_token | varchar(100) |
| | created_at | timestamp |
| | updated_at | timestamp |