# **Swoplet**

# Milestone 4: Next Beta Launch, QA and Usability Testing and Final Commitment for Product Features (P1 list) Team 6

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| Team Member       | Role               |  |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Hamza Butt        | Team Lead          |  |
| Karan Patel       | Git master         |  |
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| Akhil Sajan       | Frontend Lead      |  |
| Hammad            | Frontend Developer |  |
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#### **History**

| Date       | Version     |
|------------|-------------|
| 11/07/2025 | First Draft |
|            |             |

# 1. Product summary

Purchasing, selling, and exchanging products within the campus community can provide challenges for university staff, faculty, and students. Their particular needs are usually not met by public platforms, raising questions about security, pricing fairness, and item authenticity.

Swoplet is a safe online platform created just for the Fulda University community to close this gap. It guarantees that the platform can only be accessed and used by confirmed university members to safely purchase, sell, or exchange goods and services. With a university-verified user base, moderator oversight for increased security, and an Al-powered pricing assistant that assists users in estimating fair market prices prior to transactions, Swoplet provides a smooth user experience that is suited to the demands of campus commerce. This encourages transparency and empowers users to make well-informed decisions.

#### **Final Committed Major P1 Functions**

- Users must register with their official university email address.
- Users can browse available listings on the platform.
- Users can search for specific listings using keywords.
- Users can filter and sort listings by category, price, or time posted.
- Buyers can securely message sellers through an internal messaging system.
- Buyers can save items to a wishlist for future reference.
- Sellers can create new listings with item details like title, price, and description.
- Sellers can upload images of their product.
- Sellers can respond to buyer inquiries using the internal messaging system.
- Sellers have a dashboard to manage listings (edit, delete, mark sold, etc.).
- Sellers can temporarily hide a listing from public view.
- Sellers must categorize listings properly and add relevant tags.
- Admin must approve listings before they are visible to others.
- Admin can moderate the platform by removing content or banning users.

|       |    | _      |       | _                     |        |
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Includes an AI-based pricing suggestion feature that recommends fair market prices based on current listing trends, aiding both buyers and sellers in making informed decisions.

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|-----|-----|----|----|----|---|----|----|
|     |     |    |    |    |   |    |    |

**Swoplet** 

# 2. Usability test plan

## 2.1.Test objectives

#### • Effectiveness:

Can sellers complete the full process of posting a listing with all required fields, images, and metadata without any help?

#### • Efficiency:

How long does it take users to go from the **dashboard** to a **successfully published listing**? Where do they get stuck?

#### • Satisfaction:

How do users rate their overall experience in terms of usability, communication, reliability, and performance?

#### 2.2.Test Background & Setup

#### **System Under Test:**

**Swoplet Live Site** 

#### • Test Environment:

o Devices: Laptop, desktop, mobile phones

o Browsers: Chrome (latest), Edge (latest), Safari (mobile)

Network: Stable high-speed Internet

#### • Test Participants:

o 5–10 real users or representative testers (preferably unfamiliar with the platform)

#### 2.3. Test Roles

| Role                 | Responsibility  |
|----------------------|---|
| Facilitator          | Gives instructions, observes behavior, avoids interfering |
| Note-taker           | Logs issues, confusion points, time metrics               |
| User/Test<br>Subject | Completes tasks while thinking aloud                      |

#### 2.4. Test Tasks & Instructions

#### 1. Login

a. Go to the Swoplet homepage and log in using the provided seller's test credentials or create a new user.

#### 2. Navigate

a. From the dashboard, locate and click the "Post New Item" button.

#### 3. Create Listing

- a. Fill in product listing details:
  - i. Realistic title, description
  - ii. Select appropriate category
  - iii. Add price, availability
  - iv. Upload minimum 2 images
  - v. Add relevant
- b. Click "Create Listing" to complete.

#### 4. Verify Listing

a. Go to "My Listings" and confirm that the new item appears correctly.

#### 5. Post-Task

o Complete the **Satisfaction Questionnaire** (see 2.1.6).

#### 2.5. Metrics & Data Collection

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|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Metric                         | Description   |  |
| Success Rate                   | % of users who publish a listing without errors     |  |
| Time on Task                   | Time taken from dashboard to published listing      |  |
| Error Frequency                | Upload failures, field errors, navigation misclicks |  |
| User Comments                  | Verbal or written feedback                          |  |

Points of hesitation, repeated attempts, UI confusion

# 2.6. Post-Test Satisfaction Questionnaire

All questions use a 1–5 Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree)

#### Ease of Use

- Swoplet is easy to navigate and use.
- Creating and managing product listings is straightforward.
- Finding products, I want to buy is efficient.

#### Communication

- The chat system makes communication with other users easy.
- I feel comfortable and safe when interacting with other users.

#### **Trust & Reliability**

- The seller rating system helps me make informed decisions.
- The platform feels secure and trustworthy.

#### **Performance**

- The website loads quickly and works smoothly.
- I rarely encounter errors or technical issues.

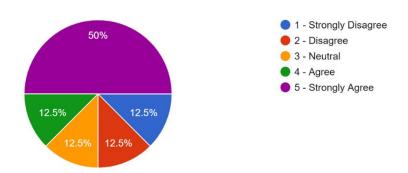
#### **Overall Satisfaction**

- I am satisfied with my overall Swoplet experience.
- I would recommend Swoplet to others.
- I plan to continue using Swoplet in the future.

# 2.7.Feedback Analysis

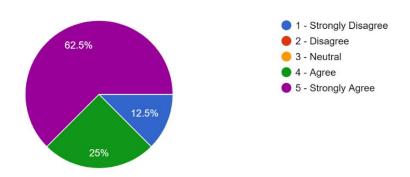
Swoplet is easy to navigate and use.

8 responses



Creating and managing product listings is straightforward.

8 responses



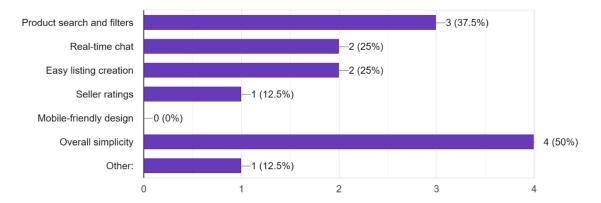
I am satisfied with my overall Swoplet experience. 8 responses

37.5% 12.5%



#### What's your favorite feature of Swoplet?

8 responses



# 3. QA test plan

#### 3.1.Test Objectives

The primary objective of this QA test plan is to ensure the functionality and reliability of the "Create Product Listing" feature. To ensure that users can successfully create a new product listing with required fields (title, description, price, tags, images, etc.), and that form validations, file uploads, and API responses work as expected across different browsers.

#### 3.2.HW and SW setup

| Component   | Details   |
|-------------|---|
| os          | Windows 10 / macOS Ventura  |
| Browsers    | Google Chrome (v124+) and Microsoft Edge (v124+)                    |
| Device      | Laptop/Desktop  |
| URL         | swoplet-zler.onrender.com   |
| Backend API | https://swoplet-zler.onrender.com/api/                              |
| Database    | swoplet-db.cx4q28o46i78.eu-central-1.rds.amazonaws.com (Amazon RDS) |

#### 3.3. Feature to be tested

- Product creation form on the "Create Listing" page
- Field validations (required, format)
- Media file upload and preview
- API submission and response
- UI feedback after successful listing

# 3.4.QA Test plan

| Test<br># | Test Title   | Test<br>Description   | Test Input   | Expected Output   | Chrome<br>Result | Edge<br>Result |
|-----------|--|---|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1         | Create<br>Listing –<br>Success                       | Submit all<br>required fields<br>to create<br>listing<br>successfully | Title: "Hair Dryer" Description: "HH Simonsen Compact Dryer, black. Immediately available, delivery time: 1-3 days" Price: \$99 Category: Appliances Condition: Used-Good Tags: "hair dryer, used" Image: JPEG | After creating the listing, a notification appears in the UI stating that the product was successfully created. The user stays on the same page, and the form is reset. | PASS             | PASS           |
| 2         | Create<br>Listing<br>Success &<br>My Listings        | Create listing successfully and check user's listing page             | Same input as Test 1   | The new product listing appears on the user's My Listings page under the <b>Pending</b> category.   | PASS             | PASS           |
| 3         | Create<br>Listing<br>Success &<br>Admin<br>Dashboard | Create listing successfully and check admin dashboard                 | Same input as Test 1   | The new product listing appears on the Admin Dashboard page under the <b>Pending</b> list.  | PASS             | PASS           |
| 4         | Missing<br>Required<br>Fields                        | Submit form<br>without title<br>or price                              | Title: "" Price: ""<br>Other fields filled   | Validation error<br>messages are<br>displayed for   | PASS             | PASS           |

| Test<br># | Test Title                    | Test<br>Description                             | Test Input                 | Expected Output  | Chrome<br>Result | Edge<br>Result |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|------------------|----------------|
|           |                               |   |                            | required fields; form is not submitted.  |                  |                |
| 5         | Image<br>Upload<br>Validation | Upload a file with an unsupported format        | Upload:<br>document.pdf    | Error message<br>displayed: "Only<br>image files are<br>allowed."                | PASS             | PASS           |
| 6         | Upload                        | Try uploading<br>an image<br>larger than<br>5MB | Upload:<br>image_6mb.jpg   | Error displayed: "File<br>size exceeds limit,"<br>or upload fails<br>gracefully. | PASS             | PASS           |
| 7         | Create<br>Without             | Submit listing without selecting a category     | Leave category field empty | Validation error<br>displayed: "Please<br>select a category."                    | PASS             | PASS           |

#### 4. Code Review

#### 4.1.Coding Style

- Consistent use of whitespaces (for example, nested code should be tabbed in)
- Names for functions, classes, variables, etc. need to clearly describe what they are
- used for/what they do
- Naming is done in camelCase (example: "getListingData()")
- DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) principle: No duplicate code; if the same code is
- needed multiple times, it will be moved into a function-call
- KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle: Code is only as complex as it needs to be
- Code that isn't straightforward has comments that describe what it does
- Proper Error Handling is done (example: try-catch)
- A clean file order is used (example: controller calls service calls repository

#### 4.2. Review: AdminDashboard.jsx

Code writer: Akhil Sajan

Reviewer: Pooja Pv

Date: 27.06.2025

File to be reviewed: main/UI/src/Pages/AdminDashboard/AdminDashboard.jsx

#### Overview

The AdminDashboard component is part of an admin panel interface allowing administrators to manage product listings and monitor reported users. It fetches listings based on their approval status (pending, approved, rejected) and allows admins to approve/reject pending listings. It also provides a tab to view reported users.

#### **Strengths and Positive Aspects**

- Modular & Clean Structure: The code is split into logical sections: state management, side effects (useEffect), and handlers.
- Reusability with useApiRequest Hook: API calls are abstracted into a reusable custom hook, improving testability and reducing repetition.
- Role-Based Access Control: Includes a check to restrict access based on admin email.
- Responsive Design: Utilizes Tailwind CSS for a responsive, visually appealing layout.
- Clear UI Logic: Conditionals based on activeTab make the user interface intuitive and manageable.

#### **Areas of Improvement**

 The same fetchProducts function is called multiple times with only the status value changing. This violates DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) principles and can be simplified using a mapping object.

```
useEffect(() => {
 if (activeTab === "pending") {
    fetchProducts({
     url: `${BASE_URL}products/search`,
     method: "POST",
     body: { status: 0 },
     headers: { "Content-Type": "application/json" },
   });
 } else if (activeTab === "approved") {
   fetchProducts({
     url: `${BASE_URL}products/search`,
     method: "POST",
     body: { status: 1 },
     headers: { "Content-Type": "application/json" },
 } else if (activeTab === "rejected") {
    fetchProducts({
     url: `${BASE_URL}products/search`,
     method: "POST",
     body: { status: 2 },
     headers: { "Content-Type": "application/json" },
```

2. This product rendering block is copied three times. Consider creating a small renderProducts(products, status) function or a reusable component to avoid repeating the same JSX. It's easier to maintain if the design changes later.

- 3. Optional improvement: Consider putting "admin@hs-fulda.de" into a config file or constant, so it's easier to maintain.
- 4. You can remove unused items like searchQuery, the <ProductCard /> at the end, and any other variables not being used to keep the code clean. Also, adding a few short comments above key functions like handleApprove and handleReject would improve readability.

#### 4.3. Review: product listing controller

Code writer: Pooja
Reviewer: Akhil Sajan
Date: 27.06.2025

• File to be reviewed: Backend/controllers/productlisting.controller.js

#### Overview

This controller manages core product listing operations:

- Fetching listings by status (approved, by ID, by user, etc.)
- Creating, updating, and soft-deleting listings
- Updating product status (including marking products as sold)
- Enriching listings with related data (eg, seller review stats, media files, categories)

It makes good use of Sequelize's ORM features and keeps business logic mostly inside controller functions.

#### **Strengths and Positive Aspects**

- **Separation of concerns:** Controller logic is organized cleanly, and data access/manipulation is handled by Sequelize models.
- **Error handling:** Each function is wrapped in try/catch blocks and provides clear, meaningful error messages to the client.
- **Reusability:** The helper function getSellerReviewStats abstracts seller rating calculation, preventing repeated aggregation logic across endpoints.
- **Soft deletion:** Uses a is\_deleted flag to mark records instead of permanently deleting them, which supports safer data recovery.
- **Data enrichment:** Listing endpoints include related entities like media files, categories, conditions, creators, and seller review stats, improving the quality of response data.
- **Bulk operations:** Efficiently handles media replacement with bulkCreate and cleans up dependent data (like wishlists) during updates.
- **Clear status management:** Implements careful status tracking by resetting status to pending on updates and preserving the previous status for historical context.

#### **Areas of Improvement**

• **Code repetition:** Many findAll and findByPkcalls repeat similar include clauses. Extract common includes into a constant (eg, const PRODUCT\_INCLUDES = [...]) to DRY up the code.

```
const listings = await productlisting.findAll({
   attributes: [
    'id', 'title', 'description', 'price', 'tags', 'location', 'status', 'created_at', 'updated_at'
],
   where: {
    status: APPROVAL_STATUS.APPROVED,
    is_deleted: DELETE_STATUS.ACTIVE
},
   include: [
    { model: mediafile, as: 'mediafiles', attributes: ['file_path'], where: { is_approved: true }, required: true },
   { model: productcategory, as: 'category' },
   { model: productcondition, as: 'condition' },
   { model: user, as: 'creator' }
]
});
```

 Hardcoded status values: Status values like 3(sold) and 1(approved) are used directly; replace them with named constants from APPROVAL\_STATUS to improve readability and reduce errors.

```
await product.update({
   previous_status: product.status,
   status: 3, // 3 = sold
   updated_at: new Date().toISOString()
});
```

#### 4.4. Review: ProductDetailPage.jsx

Reviewer: Hasara Koralege

Code writer: Hammad Asif

Date: 27.06.2025

File to be reviewed: UI\src\Pages\ProductDetail\ProductDetailPage.jsx

#### Overview

The ProductDetailPage.jsx file defines the product detail page, which displays comprehensive information about a selected product. It fetches product data from the backend using the product ID from the URL, and renders details such as images, description, seller information, and reviews. The page also allows users to add/remove the product from their favourites and contact the seller, with appropriate UI feedback and backend calls. Tabs are used to organize product information, and toast notifications provide user feedback for actions.

#### **Strengths and Positive Aspects**

- 1. The code is modular and leverages React hooks effectively for state and side effects.
- 2. API calls are abstracted using a custom hook (useApiRequest), improving reusability and separation of concerns.
- 3. The UI is responsive and well-structured, with clear separation between product details, images, and actions.

#### **Areas of Improvement**

1. Remove unwanted imports to keep code clean. You import SearchBar, but don't use it anywhere.

```
ProductDetailPage.jsx ×

import { ChevronLeft, ChevronRight } from "lucide-react";

import SearchBar from "../../components/Common/SearchBar";

import React, { useState, useEffect } from "react";

import { useApiRequest } from "../../hooks/useApiRequest";

import { BASE_URL, userId } from "../../constants/config";

import LoadingState from "../../components/Common/LoadingState";

import ErrorState from "../../components/Common/ErrorState";
```

2. Avoid native alert() in modern UIs. alert() blocks the main thread, interrupts the user experience, and looks outdated. Instead add userfriendly non-blocking notification of error in configured position.

3. I recommend explicitly passing the url as an override when calling makeRequest. While useApiRequest takes initial Url on initialization, it won't update initial Url if productId changes later without remounting the component. By explicitly providing the url to makeRequest(), we ensure the latest productId is always used for the API request, even if the component stays mounted. This makes the data fetching more robust if productId can change dynamically

4. Extract a reusable function for the auth check + redirect and define a helper function inside your component or in a utils file.

## 4.5. Review: sellerreview.controller.js

Code writer: Hasara KoralegeReviewer: Hammad Asif

• Date: 27.06.2025

• File to be reviewed: Backend/controllers/sellerreview.controller.js

#### Overview

This file <u>seller-review.controller.js</u> provides two main controller methods:

- getPendingSellerReviews: Fetches sellers who a given buyer is yet to review, along with product and seller data.
- addSellerReview: Saves a new review for a seller, marks the corresponding seller\_to\_review entry as reviewed, and stores the rating and optional comment.

The module ensures buyers are reminded to review sellers after transactions and supports a transparent review system with average rating tracking.

#### **Strengths and Positive Aspects**

- Code is clean, readable, and logically structured.
- Average rating and total count are dynamically calculated with helper function getSellerReviewStats().
- Effective use of Sequelize's include and conditional querying.

- Error handling is properly implemented using try/catch.
- Clear response messages and appropriate HTTP status codes are used.
- Makes good use of optional chaining (e.g., entry.product?.mediafiles[0]?.file\_path).
- Handles nullable values like review\_comment gracefully.

#### **Areas for Improvement**

- **Performance Optimization:** The use of Promise.all() for each seller review entry might create N additional DB calls for getSellerReviewStats(). This could be optimized with a batch query or caching mechanism.
- Commenting: Some logic blocks (especially within map) would benefit from brief comments.
- **Validation Layer:** Input validation should ideally be extracted into middleware (e.g., using express-validator) for cleaner controller code.
- **File Organization:** Moving getSellerReviewStats() to a service layer would make the controller slimmer and more testable.
- **Typo Risk:** Consistency in object keys could be improved (reviewee\_id vs. reviewer\_id confirm naming aligns across models).

#### **Specific Code Comments**

| Figure | LINE      | COMMENT  |
|--------|-----------|--|
| 1      | 5-14      | Good use of helper function to centralize average rating logic. Could be moved to a service. |
| 2      | 23-<br>25 | Input validation could be moved to middleware.   |
| 3      | 29-<br>41 | Efficient data fetching using Sequelize include with aliasing. Good use of required: false.  |
| 4      | 43-<br>54 | Promise.all() with nested DB calls could impact performance for large datasets.              |
| 5      | 92        | Considers optional review_comment. Nice defensive programming.                               |

```
3
     // Helper function to get seller's total reviews and average rating
 4
     async function getSellerReviewStats(seller id) {
 5
       const reviews = await sellerReview.findAll({
 6
         include: [{
 7
           model: sellerToReview,
           as: 'toReview',
 8
 9
           where: { seller_id },
10
           attributes: []
11
         }],
         attributes: ['review_value']
12
13
       });
       const total = reviews.length;
14
       const sum = reviews.reduce((acc, r) => acc + (r.review_value || 0), 0);
15
       const avg = total > 0 ? sum / total : 0;
16
17
       return { total, avg };
18
10
```

Figure 1: seller-review.controller.js Code 1

```
// GET /seller-to-review?buyer_id=xxx
exports.getPendingSellerReviews = async (req, res) => {
    try {
        const { buyer_id } = req.query;
        if (!buyer_id)) {
            return res.error('buyer_id is required', 400);
        }
}
```

Figure 2: seller-review.controller.js Code 2

```
// Find all seller_to_review entries for this buyer where is_reviewed is false
28
29
         const entries = await sellerToReview.findAll({
           where: {
30
31
             buyer_id,
32
             is_reviewed: false
33
34
           include: [
             { model: user, as: 'seller', attributes: ['id', 'username'] },
35
             { model: productlisting, as: 'product', attributes: ['id', 'title', 'location'],
36
37
               include: [
                 { model: mediafile, as: 'mediafiles', attributes: ['file path'], required: false, limit: 1 }
38
39
40
41
         });
42
```

Figure 3: seller-review.controller.js Code 3

```
43
         // For each entry, get seller stats
44
45
         const result = await Promise.all(entries.map(async entry => {
46
           const stats = await getSellerReviewStats(entry.seller_id);
             id: entry.id,
49
             seller_id: entry.seller_id,
50
             seller_name: entry.seller?.username,
51
             product id: entry.product id,
             product name: entry.product?.title,
             location: entry.product?.location,
             purchase_date: entry.purchase_date
55
             media_file: entry.product?.mediafiles && entry.product.mediafiles.length > 0 ? entry.product.mediafiles[0].file_path : null,
56
57
             seller_average_rating_value: stats.avg,
             seller_total_rating: stats.total
58
         }));
```

Figure 4: seller-review.controller.js Code 4

```
// Create seller_review record
const review = await sellerReview.create({
    reviewee_id,
    reviewer_id,
    to_review_id,
    review_value,
    review_comment: review_comment || null
});
```

Figure 5: seller-review.controller.js Code 5

#### 4.6. Review - ChatHeader.jsx

Code Reviewer: Hamza ButtCode Owner: Karan Patel

• Date: 27.06.2025

• File to be reviewed: UI/src/components/Chat/ChatHeader.jsx

#### **Suggestions:**

Extract this array into a shared constants file. Keeping "commonReasons" here makes it harder to update or reuse.

```
// Common report reasons for quick selection
const commonReasons = [
   'Inappropriate behavior',
   'Spam or scam',
   'Harassment',
   'Fake profile',
   'Inappropriate content'
];
```

Move localStorage helpers (getReportedUsers, addReportedUser, hasReportedUser) into a separate file (useReportUtils). This will be helpful to maintain single responsibility.

This is pure validation logic. pull it out into its own file like chatHeaderValidation.js. This helps to keep the component UI focused.

```
const validateReportReason = (reason) => {
  const trimmedReason = reason?.trim() || '';

if (trimmedReason.length < 5) {
  return {
    isValid: false,
    message: 'Reason must be at least 5 characters long'
    };
  }

if (trimmedReason.length > 500) {
  return {
    isValid: false,
    message: 'Reason must be less than 500 characters'
    };
  }

return {
    isValid: true,
    message: 'Valid reason'
    };
};
```

Replace the number "3" with an enum or named constant, e.g. const PRODUCT\_STATUS = { AVAILABLE: 1, REJECTED: 2, SOLD: 3 };

```
const isProductSold = productStatus === 3;
```

All of the text can be moved to a constant file. It will make it more readable and easy to modify.

```
const handleConfirmSold = async () ⇒> {{
 if (!productId || !contact.id) {
   setSoldMessage('Error: Missing product or buyer information.');
 setIsMarkingSold(true);
 setSoldMessage('');
   const response = await markProductAsSoldAPI(productId, contact.id);
   if (response.success) {
     setSoldMessage('Product marked as sold successfully! This will help other users know it\'s no longer av
     setTimeout(() => {
       setIsSoldDialogOpen(false);
       setSoldMessage('');
       window.location.reload();
     }, 2000);
     setSoldMessage(response.error || 'Failed to mark product as sold. Please try again.');
 } catch (error) {
   setSoldMessage('An error occurred while marking the product as sold. Please try again.');
 } finally {
   setIsMarkingSold(false);
```

Replace window.location.reload() (which reloads the entire SPA). This will put bad experience for users.

```
window.location.reload();
```

In the designing part, you can convert all of the design into sub components that would make it easier to understand and modify. Like userlcon.jsx etc.

#### 4.7. Review - chat.controller.js

Code Reviewer: Karan PatelCode Owner: Hamza Butt

• **Date:** 27.06.2025

• File to be reviewed: Backend/controllers/chat.controller.js

#### Overview

This module handles core chat functionalities:

- Fetching user-specific chats (getUserChats)
- Fetching messages in a specific chat (getChatMessages)
- Deleting a chat for a user (deleteChat)

#### **Code Features**

- Query logic: The conditional Op.or and Op.and blocks in getUserChats are
- **Soft delete strategy**: Dual-flag logic for owner\_deleted and other\_deleted is good allows for per-user soft delete while enabling actual purge if both users delete.
- **Error handling**: Consistent try/catch blocks and res.success/res.error pattern keeps responses uniform.

#### **Suggestion / Improvement**

#### **Missing Null Checks:**

json.product could be null if somehow the relation is broken. You use:

```
// attach a single image_url and strip out mediafiles array
const result = chats.map(c => {
    const json = c.toJSON();
    const media = json.product.mediafiles || [];
    json.product.image_url = media.length ? media[0].file_path : null;
    delete json.product.mediafiles;
    return json;
});    Muhammad Hamza Butt, last week • update chat implementataion logic ...
```

#### Suggestion:

const media = json.product?.mediafiles || [];

#### **Consistent Logging:**

Can add some logs for getUserChats as well in case of debugging some issue related to fetching chats.

#### Hard-coded status code:

Instead of hardcoded status you can create a constant for more readability:

```
return res.success('User chats fetched successfully', result, 200);
} catch (err) {
    return res.error(err.message || 'Failed to fetch user chats', 500);
};

exports.getChatMessages = async (req, res) => {
    try {
      const { chat_id } = req.query;

      const chatExists = await chat.findByPk(chat_id);
      if (!chatExists) {
         return res.success('No messages yet. Chat can be started.', [], 200);
      }
}
```

#### Suggestion:

```
const HTTP_STATUS = {

OK: 200,

BAD_REQUEST: 400,

FORBIDDEN: 403,

NOT_FOUND: 404,

INTERNAL_SERVER_ERROR: 500

};
```

#### **Optimize Database Query:**

Consider adding indexes and limiting data fetched, it will improve performance when there are a lot of messages to fetch.

```
const chats = await chat.findAll({
 attributes: ['chat_id', 'created_at', 'product_owner_id', 'other_person_id'],
 where: deletionFilter,
 include: [
      model: productlisting,
     as: 'product',
     include: [{
       model: mediafile,
       as: 'mediafiles',
       attributes: ['file_path'],
       where: { is_approved: true },
       required: false
     model: message,
     as: 'lastMessage',
      attributes: ['message_id', 'content', 'sender_id', 'receiver_id', 'created_at']
   { model: user, as: 'owner', attributes: ['id', 'username', 'email', 'createdAt'] }, { model: user, as: 'otherPerson', attributes: ['id', 'username', 'email', 'createdAt'] }
 order: [['chat_id', 'DESC']]
```

# 5. Self-check on best practices for security

#### Major assets we are protecting:

- User accounts & credentials (email, password)
- Product listings and user-generated content
- Internal messaging data between buyers and sellers
- Admin dashboard & moderation tools
- Database and API endpoints

#### Major threats & our protections:

| Asset                         | Threat                                      | Protection   |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| User accounts<br>& passwords  | Credential theft,<br>brute force<br>attacks | Passwords are hashed using bcrypt before storage in the database (confirm: we never store plain-text passwords).   |
| Product                       | Injection attacks,                          | All form inputs (title, description, tags, etc.) are validated on  |
| listings &                    | spam, or                                    | both frontend and backend. Special characters are escaped in   |
| content                       | malicious data                              | database queries to prevent SQL/NoSQL injection.   |
| Internal<br>messaging<br>data | Data leakage, XSS                           | Messages are sanitized before storage and rendering. HTML/JS injection is prevented using output encoding.   |
| Admin tools                   | Unauthorized access                         | Role-based access control checks (eg, <u>admin@hs-fulda.de</u> is configured in code and ideally moved to env config). Adminonly API routes are secured by middleware checking user roles. |

| Database/API | DDoS,<br>unauthorized<br>queries | Backend API uses JWT auth to validate logged-in users. Query rate limiting could be applied to endpoints. The DB is hosted in a private subnet (AWS RDS) and cannot be reached publicly. |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
|--------------|----------------------------------|--|

#### Confirm encryption of passwords:

All user passwords are securely hashed with bcrypt before saving in the database. No plain-text passwords are stored.

#### **Confirm input data validation:**

- On *Create Listing* page: validate title, description, price, tags, images, category.
- Search bar input is validated to allow up to **40 alphanumeric characters only** to prevent injection and maintain performance.
- Numeric fields (eg, price) are validated to ensure they contain valid numbers within a reasonable range.

These validations are implemented in the React frontend and double-checked in the Node.js/Express backend before database writes.

# 6. Self-check: Adherence to original Non-functional specs

- 1. Application shall be developed, tested and deployed using tools and servers approved by Class CTO and as agreed in Milestone 0. Application delivery shall be from chosen cloud server (Achieved)
- 2. Application shall be optimized for standard desktop/laptop browsers e.g. must render correctly on the two latest versions of two major browsers. (Achieved)
- 3. All or selected application functions must render well on mobile devices. (Achieved)
- 4. Data shall be stored in the database on the team's deployment cloud server. (Achieved)
- 5. No more than 50 concurrent users shall be accessing the application at any time. (Achieved)
- 6. Privacy of users shall be protected and all privacy policies will be appropriately communicated to the users. (Not Achieved)
- 7. The language used shall be English (no localization needed). (Achieved)
- 8. Application shall be very easy to use and intuitive. (Achieved)
- 9. Application should follow established architecture patterns. (Achieved)
- 10. Application code and its repository shall be easy to inspect and maintain. (Achieved)
- 11. Google analytics shall be used (optional for Fulda teams) (Not Achieved)
- 12. No email clients shall be allowed. (Achieved)
- 13. Pay functionality, if any (e.g. paying for goods and services) shall not be implemented nor simulated in UI. (Achieved)
- 14. Site security: basic best practices shall be applied (as covered in the class) for main data items. (Achieved)
- 15. Application shall be media rich (images, video etc.). Media formats shall be standard as used in the market today. (Achieved)
- 16. Modern SE processes and practices shall be used as specified in the class, including collaborative and continuous SW development. (Achieved)

- 17. For code development and management, as well as documentation like formal milestones required in the class, each team shall use their own GitHub to be set-up by class instructors and started by each team during Milestone 0. (Achieved)
- 18. The application UI (WWW and mobile) shall prominently display the following exact text on all pages "Fulda University of Applied Sciences Software Engineering Project, Summer 2025 For Demonstration Only" at the top of the WWW page. (Important so as to not confuse this with a real application). (Achieved)