

TaskFlow Project Specification

Project Overview

TaskFlow is a RESTful task management API built to demonstrate enterprise-grade backend architecture and team collaboration workflows. The system enables organizations to manage tasks across teams with role-based access control, ensuring proper separation of concerns between administrators and team members.

Core Objectives

- Build a production-ready API with comprehensive authentication and authorization
 - Implement a hierarchical role system with distinct permissions
 - Demonstrate mastery of NestJS architectural patterns (pipes, guards, interceptors, DTOs)
 - Establish robust data persistence with relational database design
 - Create scalable endpoints with pagination and filtering capabilities
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User Roles & Permissions

Superadmin

- Full system access
- Can manage admin and user accounts
- Can view, create, update, and delete any task
- Can assign tasks to any user
- System configuration access

Admin

- Can manage users within their scope
- Can create and assign tasks to users
- Can view all tasks within their domain
- Can update and delete tasks they created
- Cannot modify superadmin settings

User

- Can register and manage their own account
 - Can create personal tasks
 - Can view tasks assigned to them
 - Can update and complete their own tasks
 - Can mark assigned tasks as complete
 - Cannot assign tasks to others
 - Cannot delete tasks assigned by admins
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Functional Requirements

Authentication & Authorization

- User registration with email validation
- Secure login with JWT token generation
- Password hashing and secure storage
- Token-based session management
- Role-based access control (RBAC) for all endpoints
- Refresh token mechanism for extended sessions

Task Management

- Create tasks with title, description, priority, due date
- Assign tasks to specific users (admin/superadmin only)
- Update task details and status
- Mark tasks as complete
- Delete tasks (with permission checks)
- Task status workflow: Open → In Progress → Completed
- Priority levels: Low, Medium, High, Critical

Data Operations

- Pagination for all list endpoints (page, limit parameters)

- Filtering by: status, priority, assignee, date range, creator
- Sorting by: creation date, due date, priority, status
- Search functionality for task titles and descriptions

Validation & Error Handling

- DTO validation for all incoming requests
 - Standardized error responses
 - Input sanitization to prevent injection attacks
 - Meaningful validation messages
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Technical Architecture

Database Schema Design

Users Table

- `[id]` (UUID, primary key)
- `[email]` (unique, indexed)
- `[password]` (hashed)
- `[firstName]`
- `[lastName]`
- `[role]` (enum: 'user', 'admin', 'superadmin')
- `[isActive]` (boolean)
- `[createdAt]`
- `[updatedAt]`

Tasks Table

- `[id]` (UUID, primary key)
- `[title]`
- `[description]`
- `[status]` (enum: 'open', 'in_progress', 'completed')

- `priority` (enum: 'low', 'medium', 'high', 'critical')
- `dueDate`
- `createdById` (foreign key → Users)
- `assignedToId` (foreign key → Users, nullable)
- `createdAt`
- `updatedAt`
- `completedAt` (nullable)

Relationships

- One-to-Many: User (creator) → Tasks
 - One-to-Many: User (assignee) → Tasks
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API Endpoints Structure

Authentication

- `POST /auth/register` - Register new user
- `POST /auth/login` - User login
- `POST /auth/refresh` - Refresh access token
- `POST /auth/logout` - User logout

Users

- `GET /users` - List all users (admin/superadmin only, with pagination)
- `GET /users/:id` - Get user details
- `PATCH /users/:id` - Update user
- `DELETE /users/:id` - Delete user (superadmin only)

Tasks

- `GET /tasks` - List tasks (with pagination & filters)
- `GET /tasks/:id` - Get task details
- `POST /tasks` - Create new task

- `PATCH /tasks/:id` - Update task
 - `DELETE /tasks/:id` - Delete task
 - `POST /tasks/:id/assign` - Assign task to user (admin/superadmin only)
 - `PATCH /tasks/:id/complete` - Mark task as complete
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NestJS Implementation Patterns

Guards

- **JwtAuthGuard**: Validates JWT tokens on protected routes
- **RolesGuard**: Enforces role-based access control
- **TaskOwnershipGuard**: Ensures users can only modify their own tasks

Pipes

- **ValidationPipe**: Global DTO validation
- **ParseUUIDPipe**: UUID parameter validation
- **GetIntPipe**: Pagination parameter parsing

Interceptors

- **TransformInterceptor**: Standardizes response format
- **LoggingInterceptor**: Request/response logging
- **TimeoutInterceptor**: Prevents long-running requests

DTOs

- **Auth**: CreateUserDto, LoginDto, UpdateUserDto
- **Tasks**: CreateTaskDto, UpdateTaskDto, AssignTaskDto
- **Queries**: PaginationDto, TaskFilterDto

Exception Filters

- Custom exception filter for consistent error responses
 - Validation exception formatting
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Data Validation Rules

User Registration

- Email: valid format, unique
- Password: minimum 8 characters, requires uppercase, lowercase, number, special character
- First/Last Name: 2-50 characters

Task Creation

- Title: required, 3-100 characters
 - Description: optional, max 500 characters
 - Priority: must be valid enum value
 - Due date: must be future date
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Role-Based Access Control Matrix

Endpoint	User	Admin	Superadmin
POST /auth/register	✓	✓	✓
POST /auth/login	✓	✓	✓
GET /users	✗	✓	✓
GET /users/:id	Own only	✓	✓
PATCH /users/:id	Own only	✓	✓
DELETE /users/:id	✗	✗	✓
GET /tasks	Assigned/Own	All	All
POST /tasks	✓	✓	✓
PATCH /tasks/:id	Own only	Own/Created	✓
DELETE /tasks/:id	Own only	Own/Created	✓
POST /tasks/:id/assign	✗	✓	✓

Success Criteria

Functionality

- All CRUD operations working for users and tasks

- Role-based permissions properly enforced
- JWT authentication flow complete
- Pagination and filtering operational

Code Quality

- Proper use of NestJS decorators and patterns
- Clean separation of concerns (controllers, services, repositories)
- Comprehensive DTO validation
- Error handling in all critical paths

Database

- Proper foreign key relationships
- Indexes on frequently queried fields
- Migration files for schema management

Security

- Passwords hashed with bcrypt
 - JWT secrets properly configured
 - SQL injection prevention through ORM
 - Input validation on all endpoints
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Development Phases

Phase 1: Foundation

- Database setup and entity definitions
- User authentication module
- Basic CRUD for users

Phase 2: Core Features

- Task CRUD operations
- Role-based access control

- Task assignment functionality

Phase 3: Enhancement

- Pagination and filtering
- Guards, pipes, and interceptors
- Comprehensive validation

Phase 4: Polish

- Error handling refinement
 - API documentation (Swagger/OpenAPI)
 - Testing and bug fixes
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Environment Configuration

Required Environment Variables

```
DATABASE_HOST  
DATABASE_PORT  
DATABASE_USER  
DATABASE_PASSWORD  
DATABASE_NAME  
JWT_SECRET  
JWT_EXPIRATION  
REFRESH_TOKEN_SECRET  
REFRESH_TOKEN_EXPIRATION  
PORT  
NODE_ENV
```

Future Enhancement Opportunities

- Task comments and activity log
- File attachments for tasks
- Email notifications for task assignments
- Task dependencies and subtasks
- Team/project grouping

- Real-time updates via WebSockets
 - Task templates
 - Reporting and analytics dashboard
 - Task time tracking
 - Recurring tasks
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Testing Strategy

Unit Tests

- Service layer business logic
- Guard permission checks
- DTO validation rules

Integration Tests

- API endpoint responses
- Database operations
- Authentication flow

E2E Tests

- Complete user workflows
 - Role-based access scenarios
 - Error handling
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Success Metrics

- All endpoints return appropriate HTTP status codes
- Unauthorized access properly blocked
- Data validation prevents invalid records
- Database queries optimized with proper relations
- API responses consistent and well-structured

- Authentication tokens expire and refresh correctly
 - Role hierarchy properly enforced
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Technical Stack Summary

- **Framework:** NestJS
 - **Language:** TypeScript
 - **Database:** PostgreSQL
 - **ORM:** TypeORM
 - **Authentication:** JWT (jsonwebtoken)
 - **Validation:** class-validator, class-transformer
 - **Password Hashing:** bcrypt
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Notes

Role Column Design Decision

The system uses a single `role` enum column instead of multiple boolean columns (`isAdmin`, `isSuperAdmin`, etc.) for the following reasons:

- **Single source of truth:** No ambiguous states
- **Scalability:** Easy to add new roles without schema changes
- **Clean queries:** Simple WHERE clauses
- **Type safety:** Works perfectly with TypeScript enums
- **Industry standard:** Follows established RBAC patterns

Why This Project

TaskFlow demonstrates production-ready backend development by incorporating:

- Authentication and authorization
- Complex business logic with role hierarchies
- Database relationships and queries
- Input validation and error handling

- RESTful API design principles
- Modern NestJS architectural patterns

This project serves as a comprehensive portfolio piece showcasing full-stack backend capabilities and enterprise development practices.

Document Version: 1.0

Last Updated: November 2025

Project Status: Specification Complete