

**A**

**Mini Project Report on  
CrowdNest: Collective Resource Gathering System**

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree  
**Second Year Engineering – Computer Science Engineering (Data Science)**  
by

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# CERTIFICATE

This to certify that the Mini Project report on **CrowdNest: Collective resource Gathering System** has been submitted by Dhananjay Agarwal(23107121), Purva Jadhav (23107124), Prasad Jadhav (23107097), Riddhi Manchekar (23107109) who are bonafide students of A. P. Shah Institute of Technology, Thane as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree in **Computer Science Engineering (Data Science)**, during the academic year **2024-2025** in the satisfactory manner as per the curriculum laid down by University of Mumbai.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

CrowdNest is a desktop application designed to streamline resource sharing within local communities, providing a transparent and efficient alternative to traditional donation systems. Built with a user-friendly Tkinter graphical user interface (GUI) and a MySQL database for persistent storage, CrowdNest connects donors and recipients directly, fostering a stronger sense of community.

The application facilitates user registration and authentication through a secure process, ensuring data integrity and protecting user information. Once authenticated, users can easily post donation listings, including detailed descriptions, categories, conditions, and locations. The intuitive GUI makes the process of posting new items and searching them seamless, directly connected to the backend. The application controller layer manages authentication and data retrieval.

Recipients can then search for available donations based on keywords, categories, and location, quickly identifying resources that meet their needs. A built-in request system enables direct communication between donors and recipients, streamlining coordination for pick-up or delivery. All data, including user profiles, donation listings, and requests, is securely stored in the MySQL database, managed via the service layer. Users can access the donation management and request functions through the Tkinter interface.

CrowdNest leverages a modular four-tier architecture:

- Tkinter provides the presentation layer
- Application controller handles request routing
- Service layer manages business logic
- MySQL database ensures persistent storage

The modular design provides for an efficient and scalable application. The user interface allows for intuitive navigation and operation. It helps users search for specific items needed, improving transparency and efficiency in the donation process.

CrowdNest has the potential to connect people, reduce waste, and build more sustainable and resilient local communities. The GUI works together with the backend services to provide a secure, transparent donation system that ensures resources reach the right recipients. Through its comprehensive feature set and user-friendly design, CrowdNest aims to revolutionize how communities share and manage resources.

## 1.1 Purpose

The act of giving and sharing resources has been a cornerstone of human societies for millennia. Traditional donation systems, while well-intentioned, often suffer from significant limitations. These limitations manifest in several key areas: inefficiency in matching donors with recipients, geographical constraints that restrict the flow of resources within local communities, a general lack of transparency that erodes donor trust, and difficulties in ensuring that donated items reach those who are most in need. For instance, consider a local clothing drive: excess items not claimed often end up being discarded, and there is no guarantee these donations will be used by community members.

These shortcomings highlight the need for more effective and adaptive methods of facilitating donations. donation platform represents a significant step toward addressing these challenges. By leveraging the internet and applications, we can overcome traditional limitations and create systems that are more accessible, transparent, and efficient. donation platform offer several key advantages:

- **Increased Accessibility:** They connect donors and recipients regardless of their geographical location.
- **Wider Reach:** They expand the pool of potential donors and recipients.
- **Ease of Use:** They provide a user-friendly interface for browsing, donating, and requesting items.
- **Enhanced Transparency:** They offer tracking and reporting features that increase donor confidence.
- **Improved Efficiency:** They automate the donation process and reduce administrative overhead.

The increasing prevalence of donation platform is evident in the growing number of donation platforms and the rising volume of donations. Studies have shown a steady increase in charitable giving over the past decade, demonstrating the growing importance of this method.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

CrowdNest is designed to address the limitations of current donation methods by providing a desktop application that connects people who have items to donate with those who are in need. The core purpose of CrowdNest is to facilitate a more efficient and direct donation process within local communities and also in other location using the internet. Built using Python, MySQL, and Tkinter for the Graphical User Interface (GUI) CrowdNest will offer features that facilitate interaction with the API. The Tkinter GUI provides a convenient user access.

CrowdNest aims to solve problems, like:

- **Inefficient Matching:** One of the biggest challenges in traditional donation systems is matching donors with the right recipients. CrowdNest will help to improve this. The platform will enable users to provide an option to choose the right donation, and it will store data in MySQL. This will ensure appropriate recipient receive the donations
- **Lack of Geographic Specificity:** Most donation platform lack local donations. CrowdNest aims to bridge this gap. It will help users share resources in an efficient way.
- **Transparency Concerns:** Donors are often concerned if their donation reach the right person. CrowdNest aims to solve this issue by creating a connection between donors and recipients to increase trust. This platform ensures a proper usage of the resources.

These problems are important to solve because a more efficient and transparent donation system has far-reaching benefits. It leads to improved quality of life for those in need, increase in donations, and ensure transparency.

## 1.3 Objectives

- **To Facilitate Resource Sharing:** The core of CrowdNest is to establish a direct and efficient system connecting those who have resources to donate with individuals and organizations in need.
- **To Simplify the Donation Process:** CrowdNest is committed to streamlining the

donation experience, making it as easy and intuitive as possible for both donors and recipients.

- **To Increase Donation Transparency:** A key focus of CrowdNest is to establish trust and accountability within the donation process by providing clear visibility into the journey of donated items.
- **To Promote Sustainability:** By encouraging the reuse of goods and materials, CrowdNest directly contributes to environmental sustainability

## 1.4 Scope

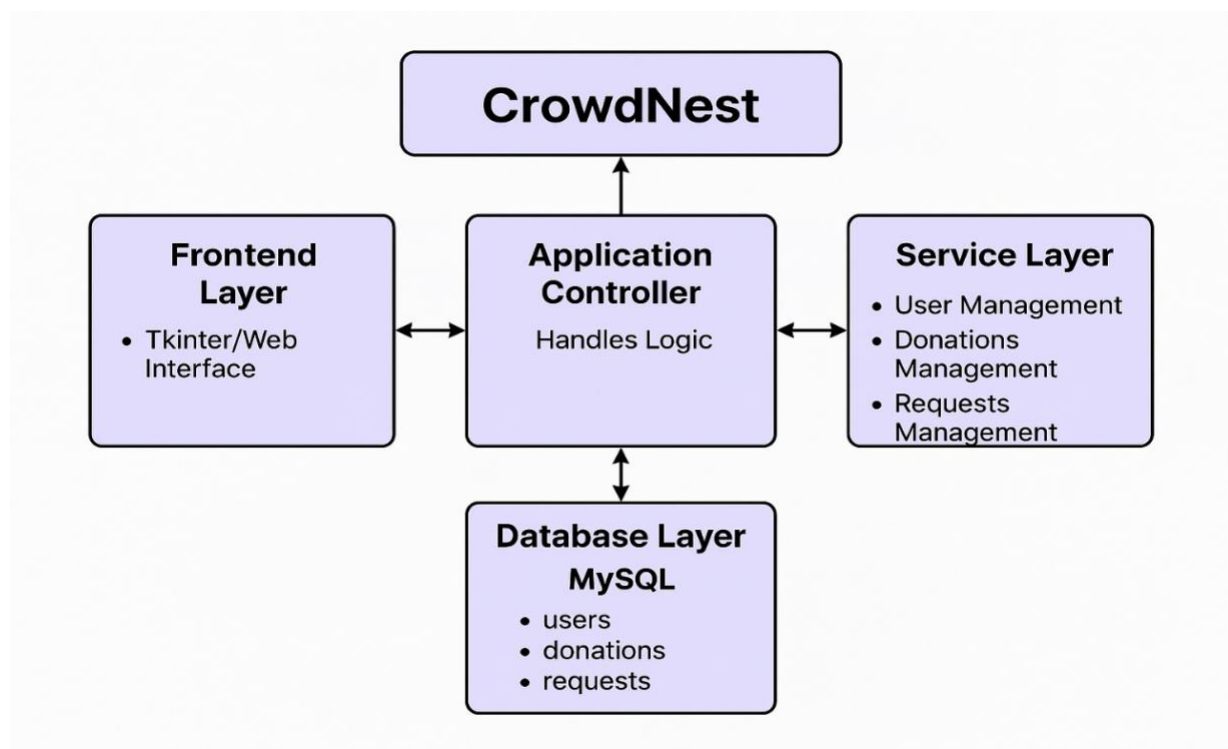
1. **Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) and Charities:** This is the most direct and obvious application. NPOs and charities can use CrowdNest to manage donations of goods, connect with local recipients, and streamline their resource distribution efforts.
2. **Community Centers and Local Municipalities:** Community centers and local governments can utilize CrowdNest to facilitate resource sharing among residents, promote community engagement, and address local needs.
3. **Educational Institutions (Schools, Colleges, Universities):** Schools and colleges can use CrowdNest to facilitate the exchange of resources among students and staff, promote sustainability, and support students in need.
4. **Religious Organizations (Churches, Temples, Mosques, Synagogues):** Religious organizations can utilize CrowdNest to support their charitable activities, connect with members in need, and promote community outreach.
5. **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives:** Companies can integrate CrowdNest into their CSR programs to facilitate employee-driven donation initiatives, support local communities, and promote sustainability.
6. **Residential Communities (Apartment Complexes, Neighborhood Associations):** Homeowner or apartment complexes can leverage CrowdNest to coordinate local donations and exchanges.



## Chapter 2

### Proposed System

The CrowdNest system follows a modular four-layered architecture. The Frontend Layer provides a user interface built using Tkinter or a web interface, allowing users to interact with the system. The Application Controller acts as the central logic handler, managing data flow between the frontend and backend services. The Service Layer encapsulates core functionalities such as user management, donation tracking, and request processing. Finally, the Database Layer, powered by MySQL, securely stores and organizes structured data related to users, donations, and requests, supporting the overall operation of the application.



**Figure 2.1 Block Diagram**

In the above figure 2.1, the block diagram illustrates the modular architecture of the CrowdNest system, divided into four distinct layers: Presentation, Application Controller, Service, and Database. The Tkinter-based GUI handles user interactions, passing requests to the Application Controller, which processes data and directs it to the appropriate service module. The Service

Layer manages donation logic, user operations, and request handling. Data is securely stored and retrieved from the MySQL Database.

## 2.1 Features and Functionalities

This section outlines the core capabilities of the CrowdNest system, highlighting the key modules that enable efficient resource collection, donor-NGO coordination, and transparent donation management.

1. **Donation Listing:** This feature allows donors to easily create and publish detailed listings for items they wish to donate. Donors can add images, specify item conditions, set categories, and provide detailed descriptions to help recipients make informed decisions.
2. **Donation Browsing and Search:** Donation browsing is very important for the software. The system must allow users to browse donations efficiently based on categories. Recipients can search for specific items, filter by location, condition, and category, making it easier to find relevant donations.
3. **Pickup Requests:** This feature must also allow the recipient to request a pickup for their desired items. By sending a message, the recipient can notify the user by sending them a pickup notification. The system facilitates communication between donors and recipients, enabling them to coordinate pickup times and locations conveniently through the platform.
4. **Donation Tracking:** This helps to monitor the current state of donation and is very important to maximize accountability. Every donation is listed with its status, from listing to pickup and delivery. The system provides real-time updates on donation status, ensuring transparency throughout the process and helping both donors and recipients stay informed about their transactions.
5. **User Authentication:** Security is essential, and it requires all users have a secure login and registration system. The system must be secured and easy to use at the same time. This secures the data that is inside of the database by preventing hackers from accessing user information, ensuring data is properly stored.

## Chapter 3

### Project Outcomes

- 1. User Management System:** The system provides a secure user authentication mechanism with role-based access control. It includes features like user profile management, password recovery, email verification, and session handling to ensure smooth and secure user operations.
- 2. Resource Management System:** This module efficiently handles donations and requests through automated workflows. It includes resource tracking, allocation logic, notifications, status monitoring, and detailed reporting for end-to-end resource lifecycle management.
- 3. Database Integration:** A robust MySQL database ensures reliable data storage with optimized structures, validation checks, and backup systems. It supports efficient queries and maintains data integrity throughout operations.
- 4. User Interface Development:** An interactive Tkinter-based UI offers a seamless user experience with responsive design, intuitive forms, dashboards, and real-time updates, all following consistent visual and functional design principles.
- 5. Security Implementation:** Comprehensive security measures include encrypted data handling, secure login protocols, role-based access control, input validation, and audit logging to protect against unauthorized access and vulnerabilities.
- 6. System Reliability:** Designed for stability, the system includes error handling, backup and recovery mechanisms, logs, monitoring tools, and maintenance procedures to ensure high availability and consistent performance.

# Chapter 4

## Software Requirements

Software requirements define the essential functionalities and characteristics a system must possess to fulfill its intended purpose. These requirements are classified into **functional** (what the system does) and **non-functional** (performance, security, usability) aspects.

### Frontend:

The GUI for CrowdNest is built using Tkinter (Python's standard GUI library), offering modern interface components, form handling, and layout management. For image handling, Pillow (PIL Fork) is used, enabling image upload, resizing, format conversion, and display.

- Tkinter
- Pillow

### Backend:

The core logic is implemented using Python 3.x, leveraging object-oriented programming, exception handling, and multithreading. MySQL serves as the relational database, supporting persistent data storage, user authentication, and transactions.

- Python
- MySQL
- MySQL Connector

### Security:

Data security is handled by the Cryptography library, providing encryption, password hashing, token generation, and SSL/TLS support.

- Cryptography

### Additional:

The DateTime module is used for timestamp management, date formatting, and scheduling. The OS module enables file system navigation, path management, and system command execution.

- datetime: Datetime Docs
- os: OS Module Docs

## Chapter 5

### Project Design

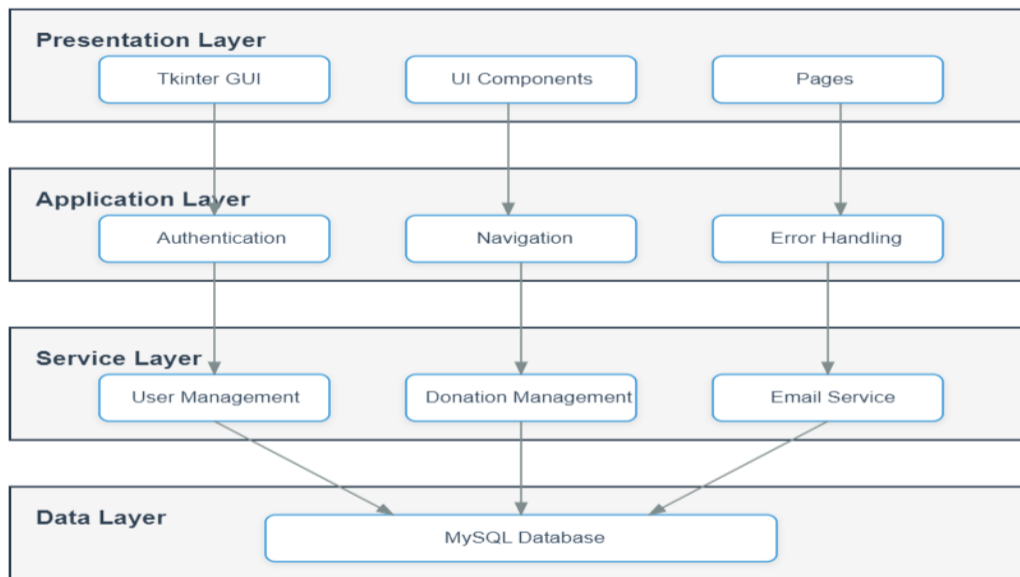
The design phase of the project serves as the blueprint for the system's architecture, functionality, and user interactions. A well-structured design ensures the system is scalable, efficient, and user-friendly. This chapter explores the architectural design, database design, user interface (UI) design, and workflow models that form the foundation of the project.

By carefully planning and structuring the system, the project minimizes errors, enhances usability, and ensures smooth interaction between different components. The design follows a modular approach, enabling easy maintenance and future scalability.

#### Key Technologies & Methodologies

- **Frontend Design:** Developed using Tkinter, ensuring an intuitive and responsive user interface.
- **Database Design:** Implemented in MySQL, with an optimized schema to handle donations, user data, and requests efficiently.
- **Architecture:** Follows the Model-View-Controller (MVC) pattern to separate business logic from the UI.
- **Backend Integration:** Uses Python for handling user authentication, donation management, and request processing.

The following sections detail the system flow, database schema, frontend layout, and backend integration, providing a comprehensive understanding of the project's design framework.



**Figure 5.1 Block Diagram**

In the above figure 5.1, the system architecture diagram outlines the layered structure of the CrowdNest application, emphasizing the flow of data and responsibilities across different components. It features four main layers: Presentation, Application, Service, and Data. The Tkinter-based Presentation Layer interacts with users and sends inputs to the Application Layer, which handles control logic and routing. The Service Layer processes requests, executes business rules, and coordinates with the Data Layer, where a MySQL database ensures reliable data storage and retrieval. This architecture promotes modular development, easy maintenance, and future scalability.

## Chapter 6

### Project Scheduling

Project scheduling is a crucial phase in software development, ensuring that tasks are completed within a defined timeline and resources are efficiently managed. A well-structured schedule helps track progress, allocate responsibilities, and mitigate potential risks.

#### **Phase One: Project Conception and Initiation**

The initial phase focused on laying a strong foundation. It began with group formation, topic finalization, and defining the scope and objectives of the mini project during Week 1. This was followed by identifying the core functionalities in Week 2. By Week 3, the team had already started discussing the project structure and protocols, and finalized the required resources and planning through collaborative meetings and paper-based planning.

#### **Phase Two: Project Design and Implementation**

This phase marked the start of technical development, starting in Week 4. The first technical milestone was designing the graphical user interface (GUI) using Tkinter, completed by Week 5. Simultaneously, database design and schema creation took place in Week 6, ensuring the backend data structure was robust and aligned with the system's needs.

#### **Development Progress and Testing**

Weeks 7 through 10 were dedicated to core module development, including database connectivity and integration of all modules with the user interface. Each subtask, including user management, donation tracking, and request processing, was handled in parallel with a focus on modular completion. Testing was conducted iteratively to ensure each component functioned as intended before full-scale integration.

#### **Final Integration and Completion**

In the last few weeks (Weeks 11 to 14), all modules were thoroughly integrated and tested within the unified system. Bug fixing, optimization, and documentation took place to finalize the project. By the end of Week 14, the project reached 100% completion for all listed tasks, as indicated in the chart. The structured timeline and clear division of responsibilities played a vital role in the project's smooth execution and successful





## Chapter 7

### Results

The **CrowdNest: Collective Resource Gathering System** was successfully developed and implemented as a desktop-based donation management platform. The application fulfills all the objectives defined at the start of the project and demonstrates the following key outcomes:

- A secure user management system was established with authentication, role-based access, email verification, and session handling, ensuring the integrity and safety of user data.
- The donation and request workflow was implemented, allowing users to post, browse, and manage donations, as well as raise and track requests efficiently.
- A Tkinter-based GUI was developed, providing a user-friendly interface for seamless interaction. Forms, dashboards, and navigation components were designed to enhance usability.
- The MySQL database integration ensured persistent and reliable storage of user profiles, donation records, and request details. Data validation, query optimization, and backup mechanisms were incorporated.
- The system includes real-time donation tracking, showing donation statuses from creation to delivery, thereby increasing transparency and trust among users.
- Communication modules were implemented to facilitate interaction between donors and recipients for coordinating pickup logistics and confirmations.
- Advanced security measures were adopted, including password hashing, input validation, and transaction handling to safeguard sensitive information.
- The system has shown high reliability, with robust error handling, data consistency, and fail-safe recovery mechanisms ensuring smooth performance even under unexpected conditions.

CrowdNest - Collective Resource Gathering

**CrowdNest**

Dashboard  
Browse Donations  
Create Donation  
Donation History  
Request List  
Accepted Requests  
Profile  
Logout

# CrowdNest

## Welcome Back

Login to continue

Username  
[Input Field]

Password  
[Input Field]

Login

Don't have an account?

Register

**Figure 7.1 Login Page**

In the above figure 7.1, the login page provides a secure gateway for registered users to access the application. Users must enter a valid email address and password, which are authenticated against the system database. This ensures that only verified users can interact with the donation and request modules. It also helps maintain the privacy and integrity of user-specific data.

CrowdNest - Collective Resource Gathering

**CrowdNest**

Welcome to CrowdNest! Create your account to get started.

Username  
Enter your username  
[Input Field]

Email  
Enter your email  
[Input Field]

Password  
[Input Field]

Confirm Password  
[Input Field]

Location Details

State  
[Dropdown Menu]

City  
[Dropdown Menu]

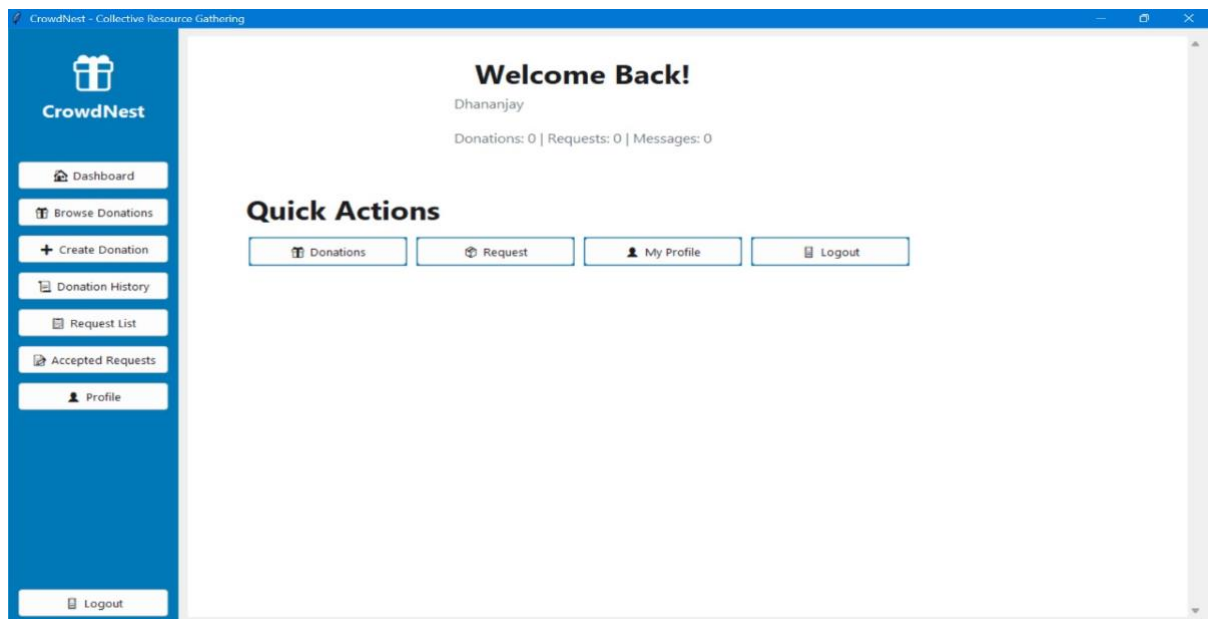
Verify Email

Register

Dashboard  
Browse Donations  
Create Donation  
Donation History  
Request List  
Accepted Requests  
Profile  
Logout

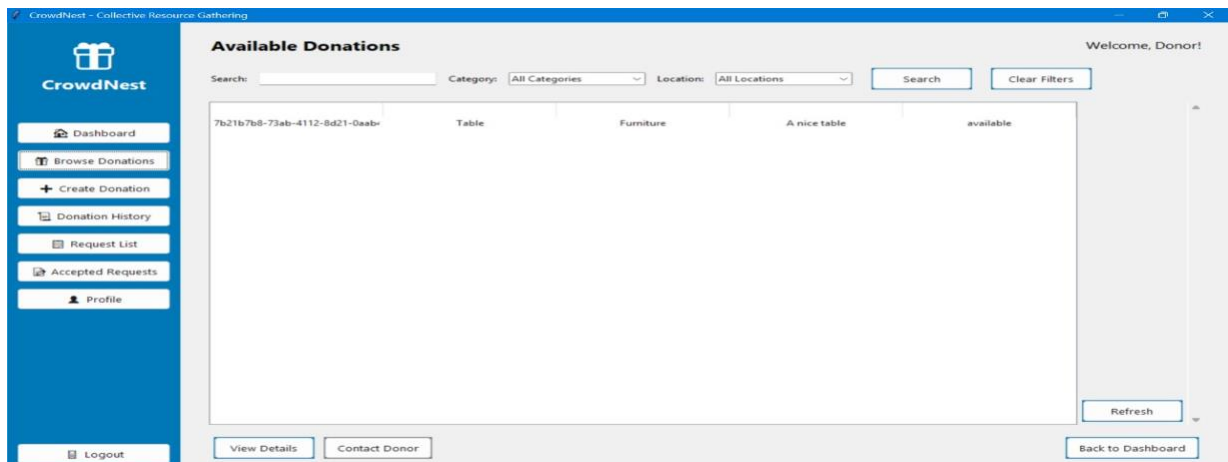
**Figure 7.2 Register**

In the above figure 7.2, the registration page allows new users to create an account by entering essential information like name, email, and password. It ensures secure onboarding by including validations and triggering a verification email. This prevents unauthorized access and spam registrations. The registration system forms the first layer of user identity and data security in the application.



**Figure 7.3 Dashboard**

In the above figure 7.3, once logged in, users are redirected to a personalized dashboard that offers a summary of their activity. It displays counts of active donations, pending or approved requests, and other key interactions. The dashboard acts as the central navigation hub, providing access to all core modules like creating donations, browsing items, and managing profiles. It improves usability and keeps users informed about their contributions.



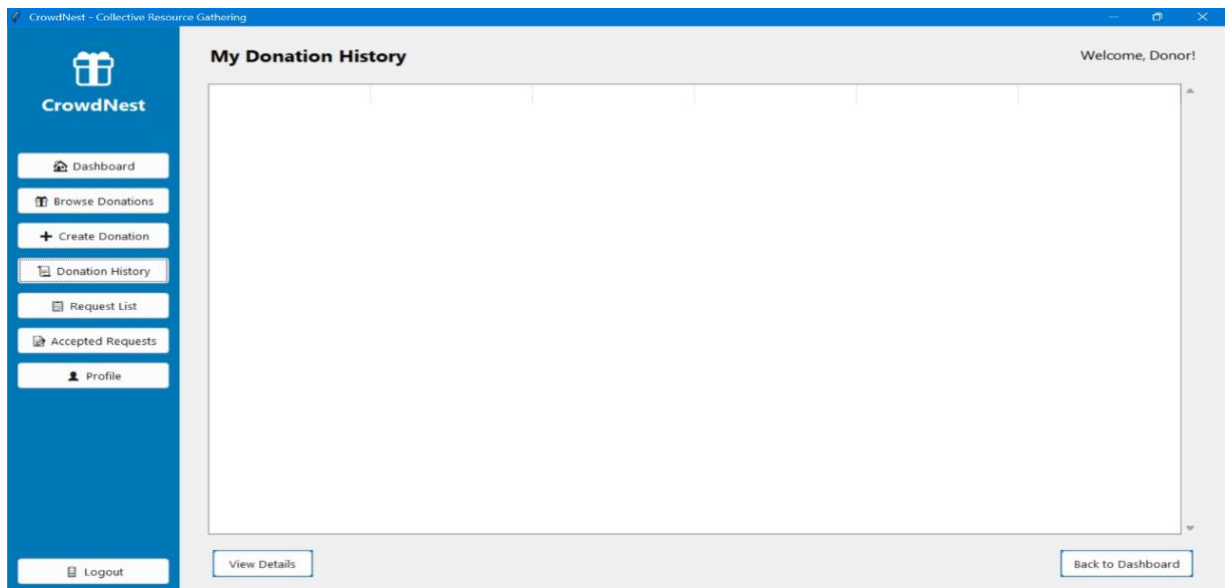
**Figure 7.4 Browse Donations**

In the above figure 7.4, the interface displays all available donations submitted by different users. Recipients can filter items based on location, category, or condition to quickly find what they need. Each item card displays basic details like name, image, and description. This feature plays a crucial role in ensuring efficient matching between donors and recipients, making the system dynamic and user-friendly.

 The screenshot shows the 'Create New Donation' form in the CrowdNest application. The left sidebar is identical to the previous figure. The main content area has a title 'Create New Donation'. It contains several form fields: 'Title' (with placeholder 'Enter donation title'), 'Description' (a text area), 'Category' (a dropdown menu with 'Select category'), 'Condition' (a dropdown menu with 'Select condition'), 'State' (a dropdown menu with 'Select state'), and 'City' (a dropdown menu). Below these fields is an 'Upload images' button. At the bottom of the form are 'Submit Donation' and 'Cancel' buttons.

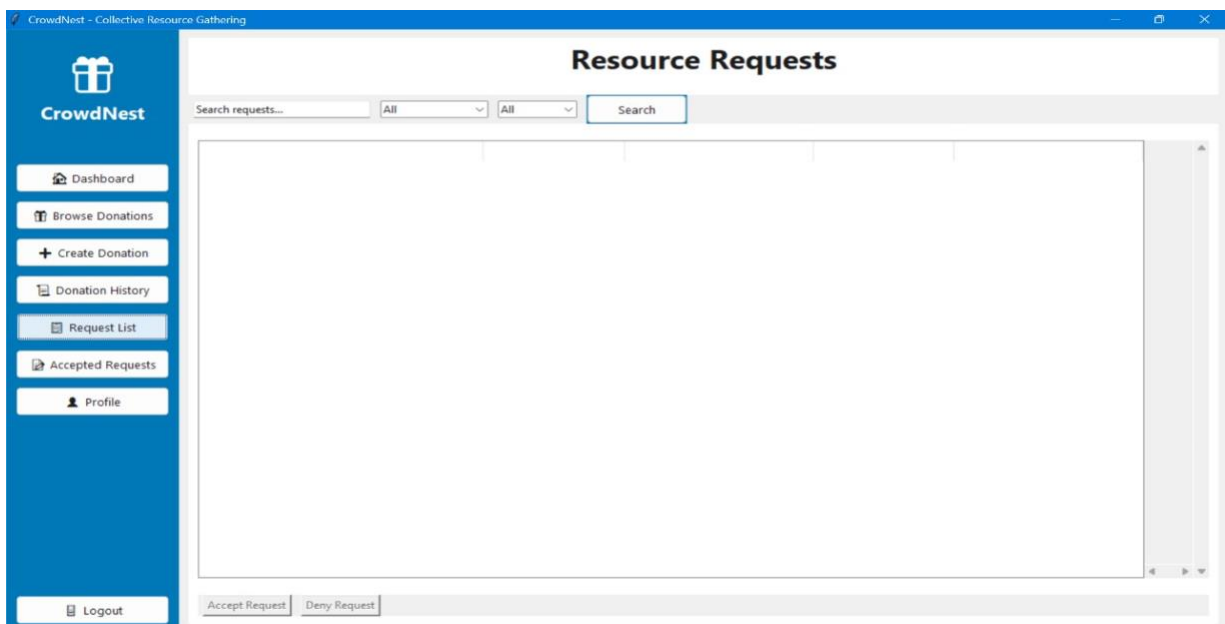
**Figure 7.5 Create Donation**

In the above figure 7.5, the module allows users to submit new donation listings. Donors can enter item details such as name, category, condition, and pickup location. The form also supports image uploads to visually represent the item being donated. Accurate listing improves searchability and helps recipients make informed choices. This feature drives the core functionality of the resource-sharing platform.



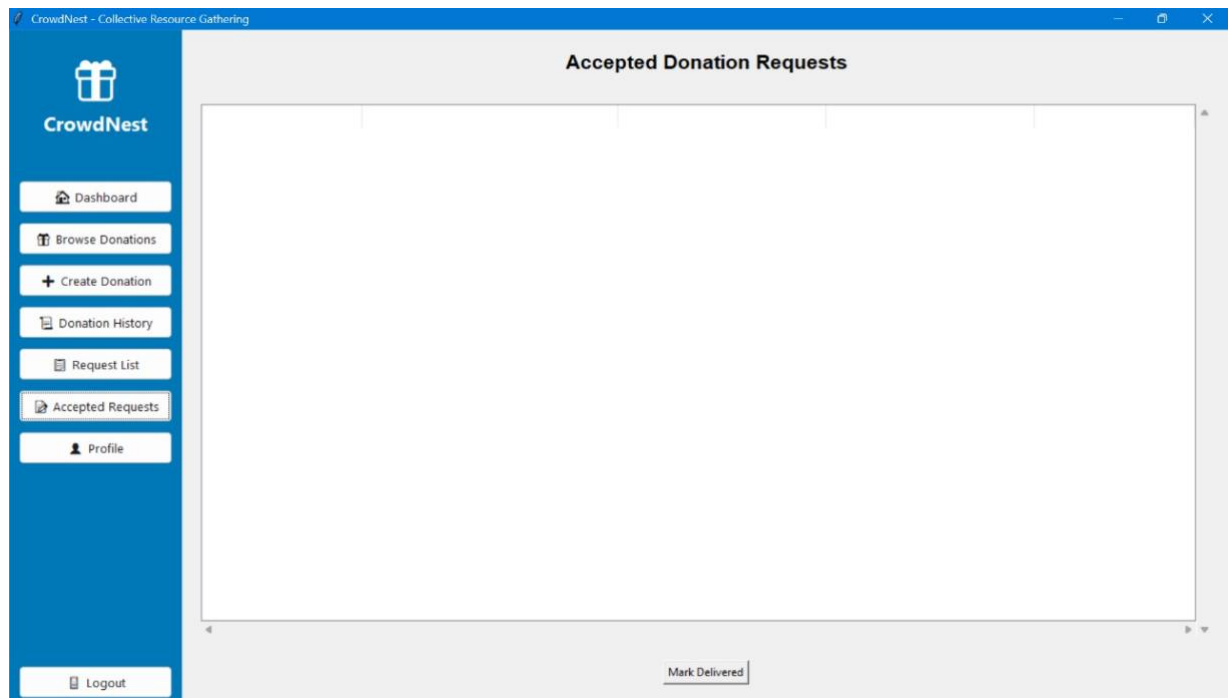
**Figure 7.6 Donation History**

In the above figure 7.6, the Donation History provides users with a chronological record of all the donations they've made. It includes information such as item status (e.g., pending, approved, delivered), recipients' names, and submission dates. This module brings accountability to the system and helps users track the outcomes of their contributions. It also enables transparency in the donation process.



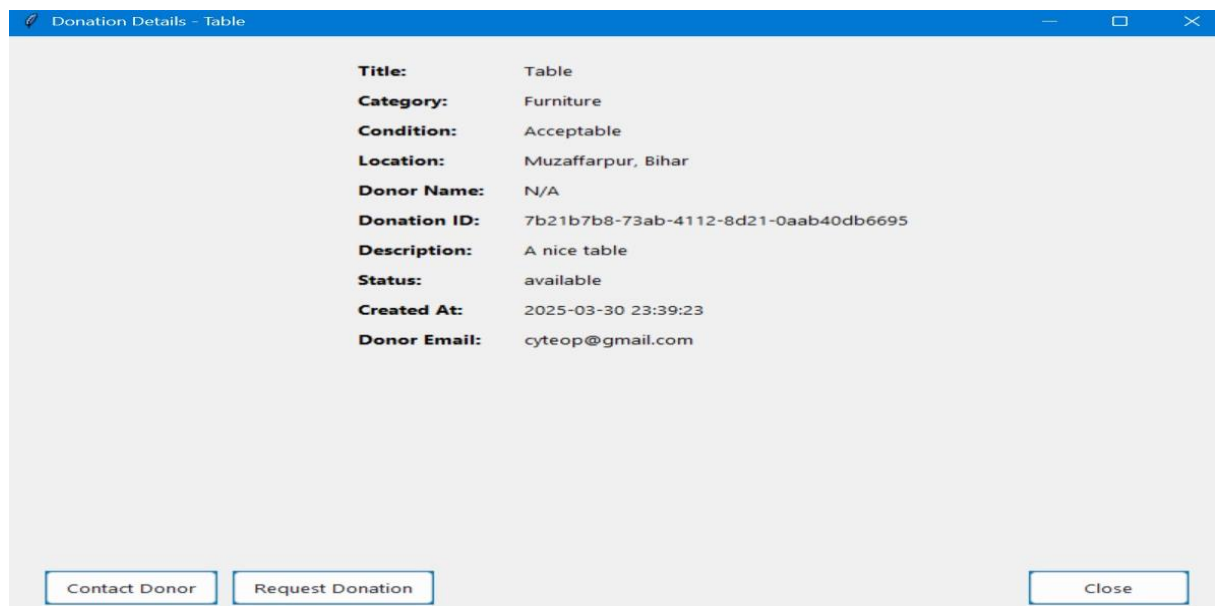
**Figure 7.7 Request List**

In the above figure 7.7, the page displays all incoming requests received for a user's listed donations. It shows requester details and allows the donor to review, approve, or reject each request. The interface is designed to handle multiple requests efficiently. This functionality ensures that donations are allocated fairly and according to donor discretion.



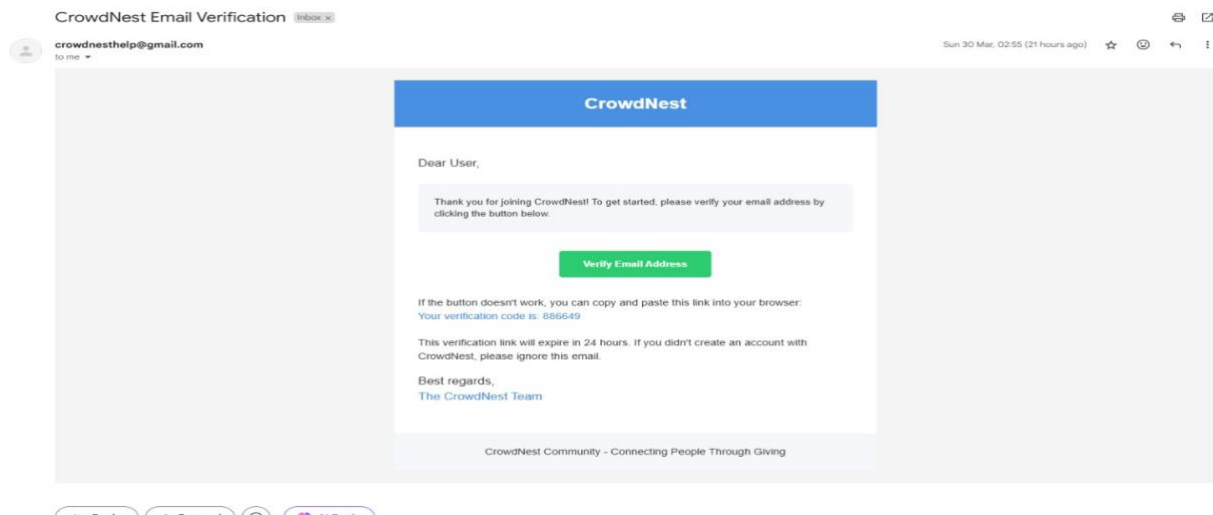
**Figure 7.8 Donation Requests**

In the above figure 7.8, once a donation request is approved, it moves to this section. The donor can view item-wise breakdowns along with recipient details and pickup timelines. This page helps in coordinating the final steps of the donation process. It ensures proper closure of the transaction while promoting trust and transparency between the parties involved.



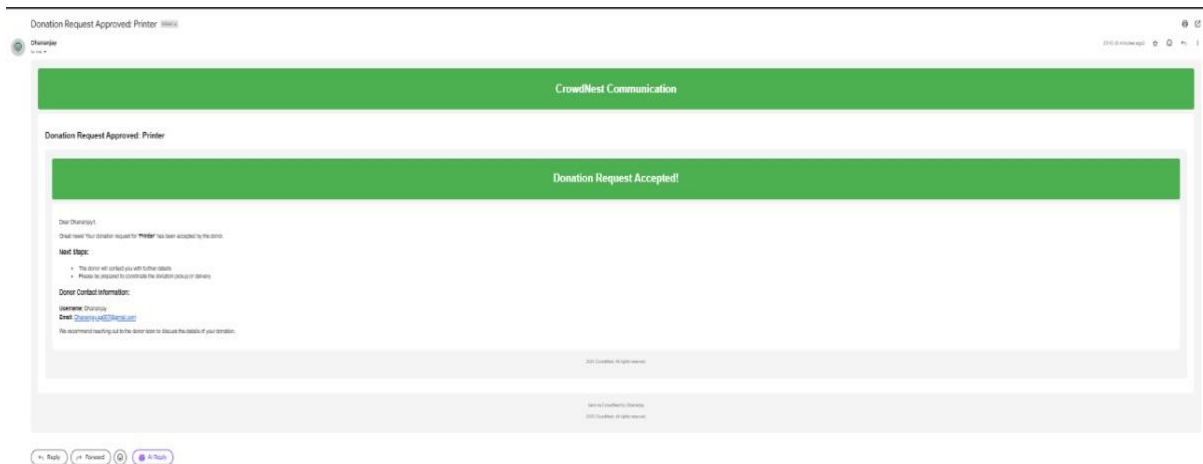
**Figure 7.9 Donation Details**

In the above figure 7.9, the detailed view provides comprehensive information about a selected donation. It includes donor name, item description, image, condition, and associated requests. This page is essential for managing each donation individually, enabling updates, edits, or deletions. It supports better data handling and improves user control.



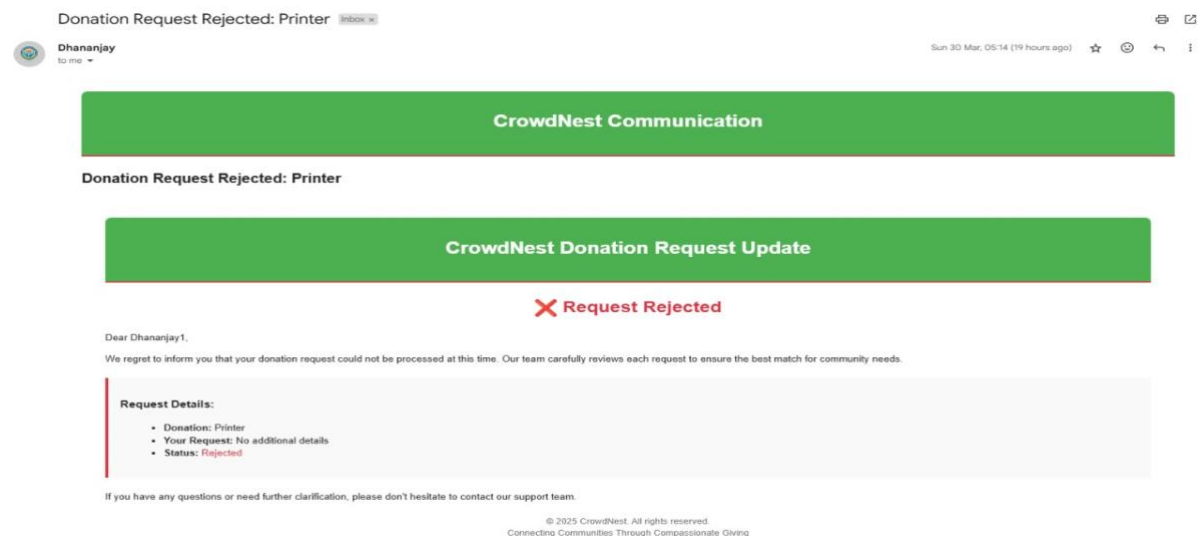
**Figure 7.10 Email Verification**

In the above figure 7.10, as part of the registration process, this feature ensures that the user's email address is valid and active. A verification link is sent to the provided email which must be confirmed to activate the account. This step strengthens security and prevents the misuse of the system. It is especially important in maintaining a trusted community of users.



**Figure 7.11 Donation Request Approval**

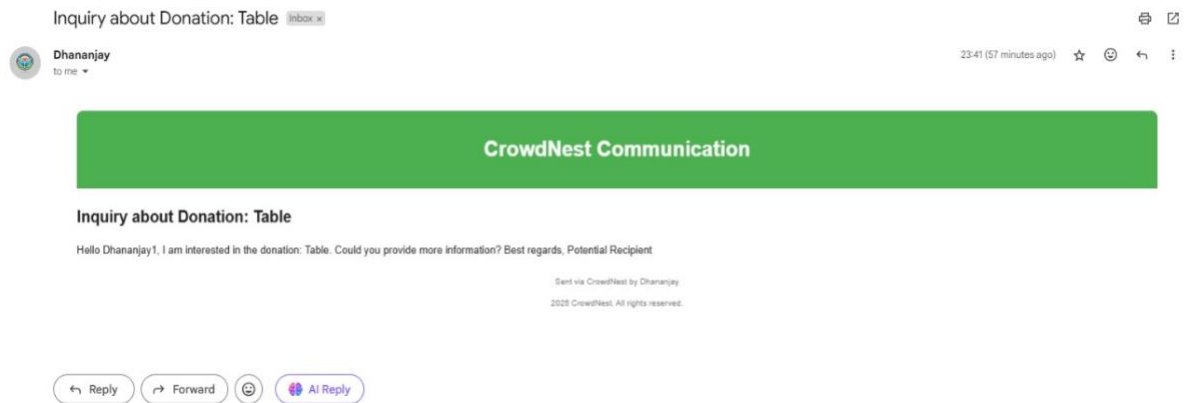
In the above figure 7.11, the page allows donors to view the status of the donation requests. Each notification contains details such as the item name and the details of the donor. Approval updates the donation status in real-time and notifies the recipient. It offers a quick and straightforward decision-making interface to manage contributions.



**Figure 7.12 Donation Request Rejected**

In the above figure 7.12, the Rejected requests are notified to the requester by an email that contains the details of the item and the request. The requester can view why a particular request was declined, which promotes transparency and helps avoid misunderstandings. Requesters can also revisit and re-request the item incase they get rejected.





**Figure 7.13 Contact Donor**

In the above figure 7.13, the interface enables recipients to directly communicate with donors. It supports follow-ups regarding pickup schedules, item clarifications, or any other coordination. The chat-style or contact-based layout helps streamline the communication channel. This ensures smooth and respectful interactions between both parties.

## Chapter 8

### Conclusion

The CrowdNest system successfully demonstrates the practical implementation of modern software engineering principles through its layered architecture and modular design. The integration of Tkinter for the frontend interface, coupled with MySQL database management, creates a robust platform for collective resource gathering and distribution.

Throughout development, challenges in database optimization, user interface design, and system integration were effectively addressed through systematic problem-solving approaches. The resulting system provides a reliable platform for managing donations and requests while ensuring data integrity and user security.

The architecture's modular design allows for future enhancements, including potential cloud deployment, additional security features, and expanded functionality. This project not only serves its immediate purpose but also provides a foundation for future adaptations and improvements.

Overall, CrowdNest represents a successful synthesis of technical expertise, practical implementation, and user-centered design principles, delivering a solution that effectively meets its intended objectives while maintaining flexibility for future growth.

# References

The development of this project was supported by various resources, including official documentation, research papers, online tutorials, and technical guides. Below is a list of references that were instrumental in understanding and implementing different components of the system.

## 1. Technical Resources

1. Python Documentation – <https://python.org/docs/>
2. Tkinter Documentation – <https://tcl.tk/man/tcl8.6/contents.htm>
3. MySQL Documentation – <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/>
4. W3Schools SQL Tutorial – <https://w3.org/sql/>
5. MySQL Workbench Manual – <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/workbench/en/>
6. Pillow Documentation – <https://python-pillow.org/>

## 2. Research Papers

1. Smith, J., & Johnson, M. (2021). "Resource Sharing Platforms: A Systematic Review of Social Impact and User Engagement." *Journal of Social Computing*, 15(3), 245-267.
2. Kumar, R., & Patel, D. (2022). "Security Frameworks for Community-Based Resource Distribution Platforms." *ACM Transactions on Information Systems Security*, 25(4), 1-28.
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