



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

Master's Degree in Cybersecurity

Message in a bottle

Advanced Software Engineering

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GitHub repo: [Message in a bottle](#)

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1 Introduction

The approach that will be used in the following report consists in accurately describing the most sensitive implementation choices, with attached several screenshots extracted from the client application that show the correct functioning of the developed program.

2 Implementation

In the following section the focus is on the implementation choices at the backend level.

2.1 Database

Since the project is a messaging application between users registered to the service, it was considered appropriate to provide a persistent storage mechanism for users registered with the service. To implement this mechanism, the *User* class initially provided has been extended, adding some fields, including the message lists associated with each user:

- *to_be_sent*: list of scheduled messages;
- *sent*: list of sent messages;
- *received*: list of received messages.

Each one of this lists has *Messages* as type and each of its element has *Message* as type: in order to save a non-primitive data structure in the database, the choice was to serialize it in the *json* object, resulting in a string that can be stored in the database. When one of these *json* lists is extracted from the database, it is deserialized to *Messages*.

2.2 Celery

Celery software was used for the delivery of messages, notifications, and the lottery. In particular, there are the following periodic celery tasks:

2.2.1 Message delivery

The initial idea was to associate a task for each message programmed by a user but the idea was discarded as there would have been a very long task queue, leading to performance degradation; so the final approach Use a Celery periodic task to asynchronously check the database (1 minute) for messages that need to be sent. In this case, there is a single task that queries the database at regular intervals and delivers the messages when the delivery time is expired.

2.2.2 Notification

A similar approach to the previous one was used for notifications: at regular intervals, one task checks if messages have been received and another checks if they have been read from their recipients; in particular:

- When a message arrives, the recipient receives a notification on the mailbox
- When reading a message, the sender receives a notification on the mailbox.

In the next section, this functionality will be illustrated via screenshots.

2.2.3 Lottery

A similar approach to the previous one was used for the lottery: at regular intervals, a task draws a lucky number, and if a user has played this number, he wins 100 points. Once the threshold of 150 points is reached, a user can delete a scheduled message.

2.2.4 Delete a user

When a user wants to unsubscribe from the service, if it has scheduled messages, the system permits its unsubscribing and this user disappear from the program, except from his scheduled messages, that have to reach its recipients. This celery task check if in the database, there are some remaining information to delete when a user has unsubscribed and there are no more messages to delivery.

2.3 GUI

It was also chosen to create a GUI to make the project more realistic, using *HTML*, *CSS* and *JavaScript* for some interactions.

3 Screenshots

In this section section are shown the screenshots containing the results of the tests e some screenshots of the GUI.

3.1 Tests

The following picture shows the outputs of the command **pytest**.

```
===== test session starts =====
platform linux -- Python 3.9.7, pytest-6.2.5, py-1.11.0, pluggy-1.0.0
rootdir: /home/fede/Scrivania/nM2, configfile: setup.cfg, testpaths: monolith/classes/tests
plugins: cov-3.0.0
collected 28 items

monolith/classes/tests/test_app.py .
monolith/classes/tests/test_background.py .....
monolith/classes/tests/test_message.py .
monolith/classes/tests/test_messages.py .....
monolith/classes/tests/user_test.py .....

----- coverage: platform linux, python 3.9.7-final-0 -----
Name                               Stats    Miss Branch BrPart  Cover   Missing
-----
monolith/app.py                     51         1      8       1    97%      65
monolith/auth.py                    18         7      4       1    55%    11-17, 23-25
monolith/background.py              131         8     52       6    99%    54->52, 78-81, 99, 119->118, 214-216, 238
monolith/views/auth.py               38         5     12       2    86%    21, 46-49
monolith/views/home.py               14         1      4       1    89%    18
monolith/views/message.py            377        47    160     30    83%    38, 65-69, 127-132, 144-145, 254, 261, 275, 283->exit, 319->321, 332, 349, 354, 358, 366, 382
->381, 384, 399-402, 413, 416-419, 432-435, 457-460, 489->488, 512->516, 513->512, 546, 548-549, 591-592, 607, 612, 616-618, 622, 626
monolith/views/users.py              133         6     44       4    94%    20-24, 129->128, 192->exit, 202
-----
TOTAL                               1360        75    308     45    92%

11 files skipped due to complete coverage.
Coverage HTML written to dir htmlcov
Required test coverage of 90% reached. Total coverage: 91.61%
```

Figure 1: Pytest

3.2 Register

The following picture shows the form that users can use to sign up for the service:

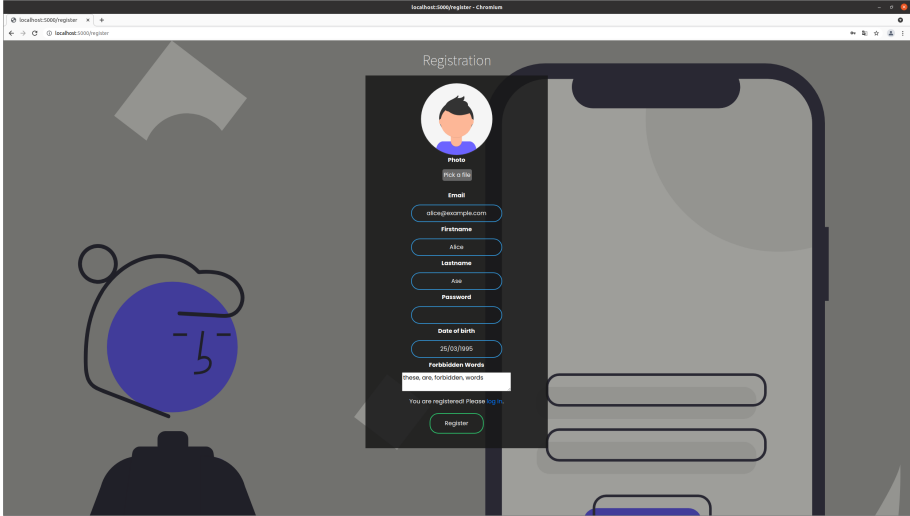


Figure 2: Register form

3.3 Login

The following picture shows the form that users can use to login into the service:

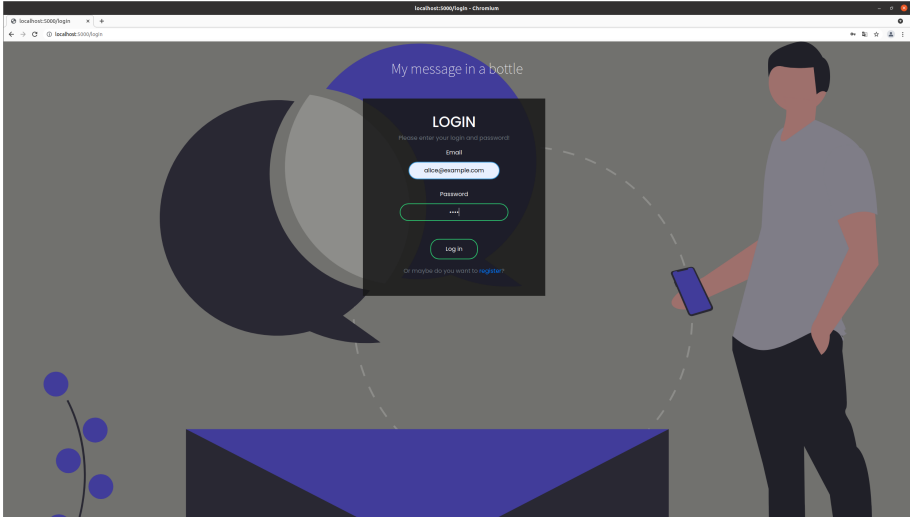


Figure 3: Login form

3.4 Dashboard

The following picture shows the dashboard of the service. Here the user can delete his personal information, send a message, see his mailbox, play the lottery, log out and unsubscribe.



Figure 4: Dashboard

3.5 Message Form

The following image shows the form where the user can write a message. He can choose the style of the text and if he wants to schedule the message or save it as a draft.

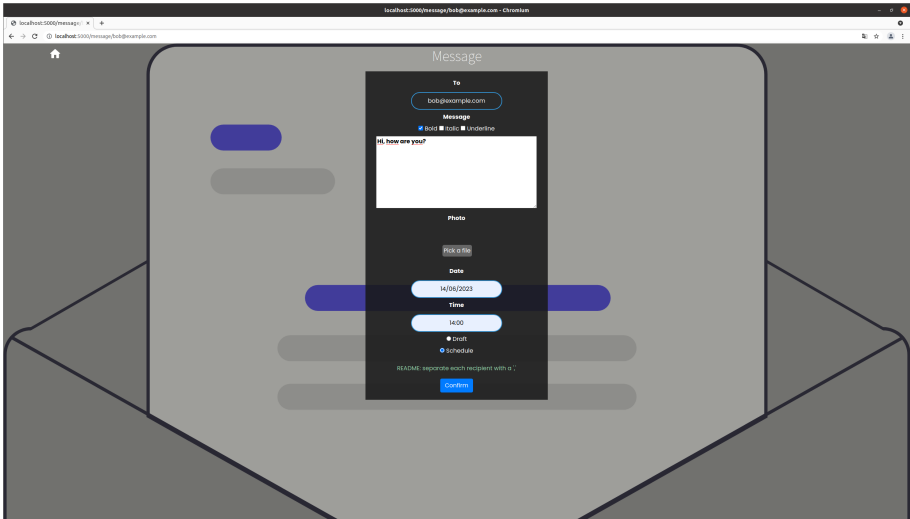


Figure 5: Message form

3.6 Mailbox

The following image shows the mailbox of the user. Here he can see his message divided into four categories: Inbox, Draft, Scheduled, and Sent. The user can also search messages by the search function.

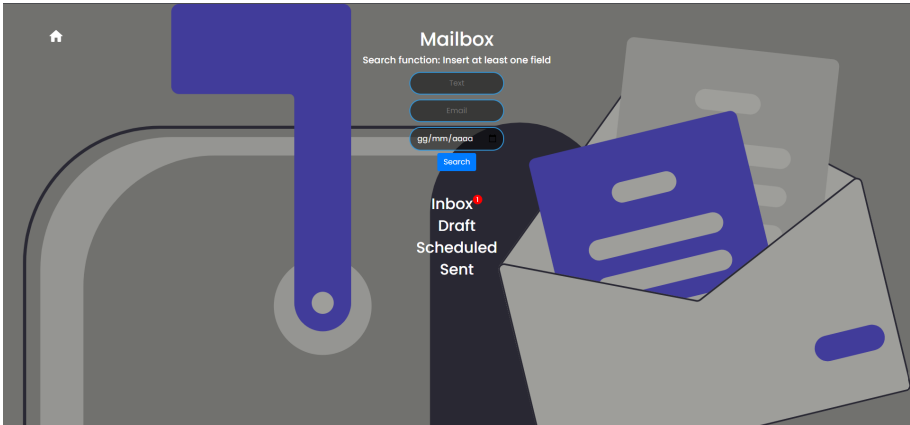


Figure 6: Mailbox

3.6.1 Inbox

The following image shows the inbox section of the user in which the messages to read are written in bold.

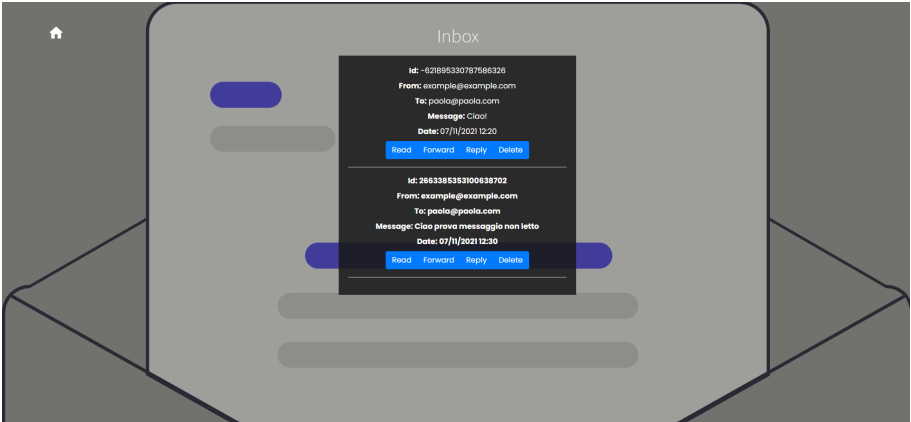


Figure 7: Inbox

3.7 Lottery

The following image shows the lottery. Here the user can earn points by choosing a number. if the number is drawn within one month, the user will earn 100 points. With 150 points a user can delete a scheduled message. The user can change the number until the extraction.

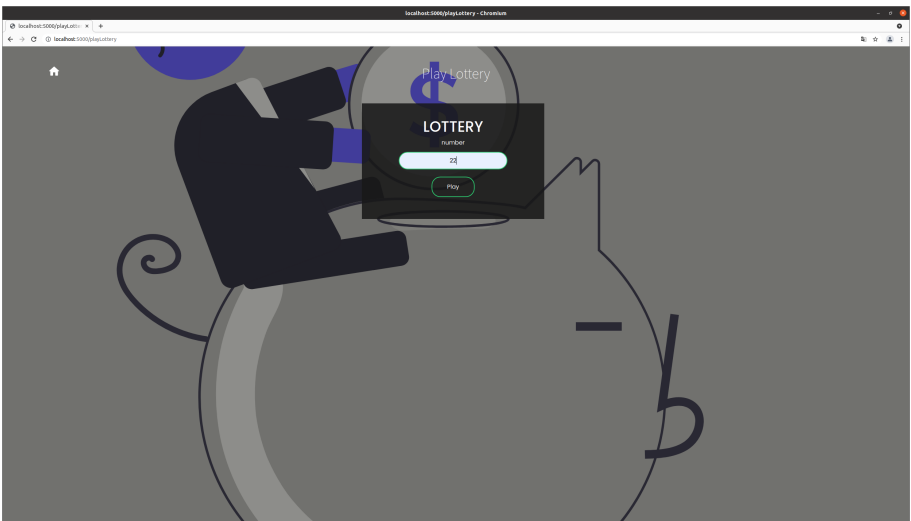


Figure 8: Lottery

3.8 Report

The following image shows the report form. The user can input the reason and report a user. With three reports the user is banned.

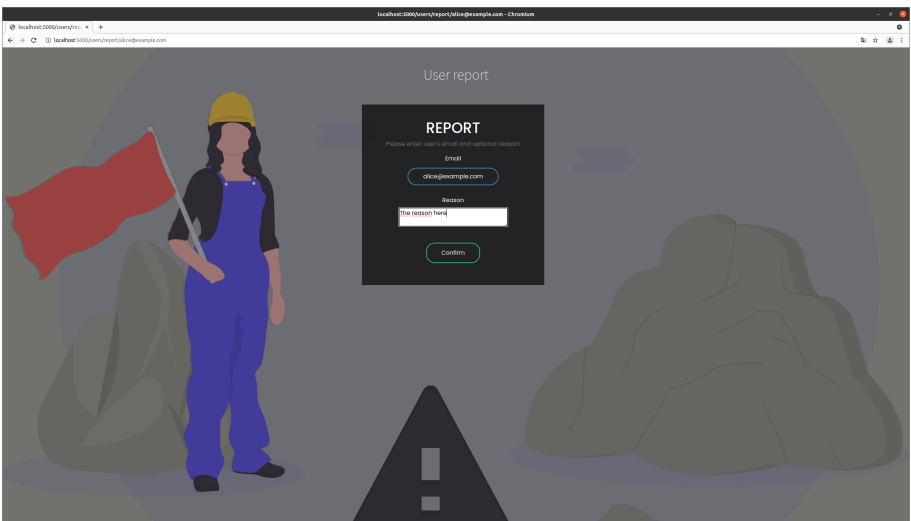


Figure 9: Report