

Experiment no. 4: Rest api design with MongoDB + Mongoose Integration

Aim: To design and develop a full-stack, production-ready Task Management System that demonstrates modern web development practices, featuring a secure REST API and a dynamic, user-friendly frontend.

Theory:

This project is built upon the MERN Stack paradigm, with a focus on a decoupled architecture:

- Frontend (Client-Side):
 - React: A JavaScript library for building component-based, interactive user interfaces.
 - State Management: Context API or React Query for managing application state (e.g., user authentication status, task data).
 - HTTP Client: Axios for making promises-based HTTP requests to the backend API.
- Backend (Server-Side):
 - Node.js: A JavaScript runtime environment that executes server-side code.
 - Express.js: A minimalist and flexible web application framework for Node.js that provides robust features for building APIs.
 - RESTful Principles: Architectural style for designing networked applications using stateless, cacheable, and standard HTTP methods.
- Database:
 - MongoDB: A NoSQL document database that provides high flexibility and scalability through its JSON-like document model.
 - Mongoose: An Object Data Modeling (ODM) library for MongoDB and Node.js. It provides a structured schema, data validation, casting, and business logic hooks.
- Authentication:
 - JWT (JSON Web Tokens): A compact, URL-safe means of representing claims to be transferred between two parties, used for stateless authentication.

3. Prerequisites

Before development can begin, the following prerequisites must be met:

- Knowledge Prerequisites:
 - Fundamental understanding of JavaScript (ES6+ features like async/await, destructuring).

- Basic understanding of React concepts (Components, State, Props, Hooks).
- Basic understanding of Node.js and Express.js (Routing, Middleware).
- Conceptual knowledge of REST APIs and HTTP protocols.
- Understanding of NoSQL databases, specifically MongoDB documents and collections.
- Tooling & Environment Prerequisites:
 - Node.js and npm (Node Package Manager) installed on the development machine.
 - A code editor (e.g., VS Code).
 - MongoDB Atlas (cloud database) or a local installation of MongoDB.
 - Postman or Thunder Client (VS Code extension) for testing API endpoints.
 - Git for version control.
- Key Objectives:
 - To architect a well-structured, scalable backend using Node.js, Express.js, and MongoDB.
 - To implement a RESTful API that adheres to industry-standard conventions and best practices.
 - To utilize Mongoose for robust data modeling, validation, and efficient interaction with MongoDB.
 - To build a responsive and interactive frontend that consumes the API seamlessly.
 - To go beyond basic functionality by integrating advanced features that mirror real-world application demands, enhancing security, usability, and performance.

30% Extra Work:

The "30% Extra" is a strategic initiative to elevate this project from a simple tutorial-level application to a sophisticated, portfolio-worthy showcase. It represents the additional complexity, thought, and value that mimics real-world product development.

Feature	Explanation
1. User Authentication & Authorization (JWT)	Implementing a <code>User</code> model, secure registration/login endpoints <code>/api/auth/register</code> , <code>/api/auth/login</code> , password hashing, protecting routes with middleware that verifies JWT tokens. User own tasks.
2. Advanced Data Fetching & Querying	Extending the <code>GET /api/tasks</code> endpoint to accept query parameters <code>status</code> , <code>priority</code> , sorting (by <code>dueDate</code> , <code>createdAt</code>), and <code>title / description</code>).
3. Robust Error Handling & Input Validation	Implementing a centralized error handling middleware in Express and send consistent, user-friendly JSON responses. Using <code>Joi</code> request body validation before it reaches the database.
4. API Best Practices & Documentation	Versioning the API (<code>/api/v1/</code>), using precise HTTP status codes for bad request, and creating standardized response envelope; interactive API documentation with Swagger.

Source code:

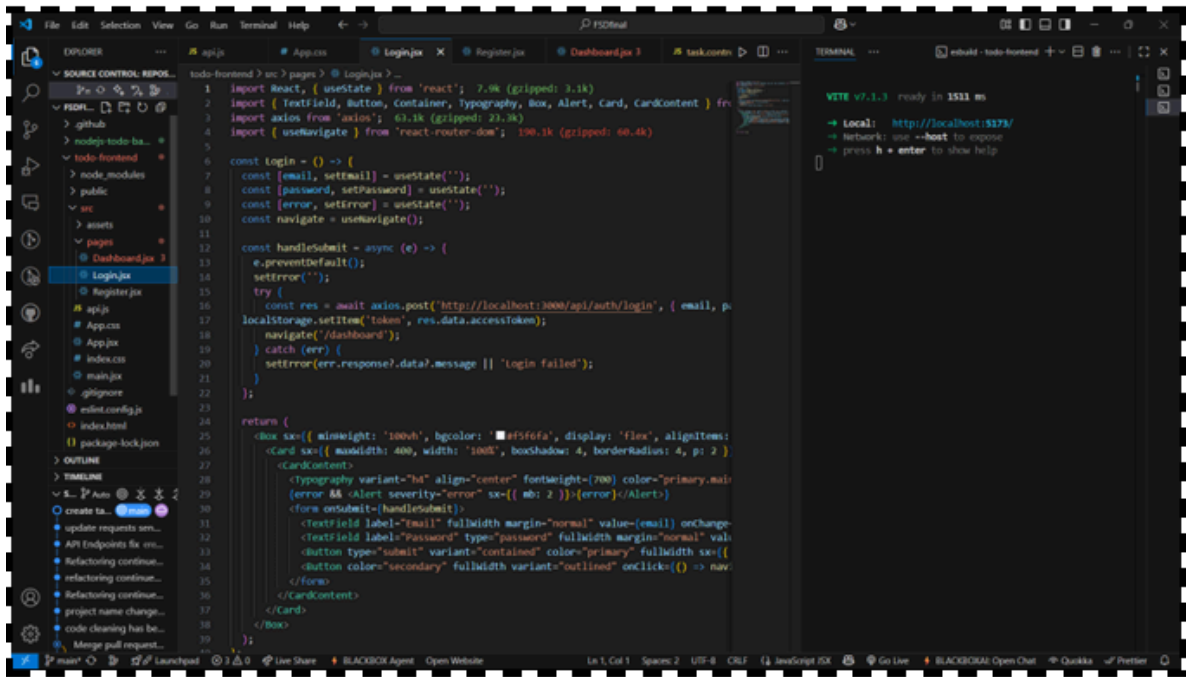


Fig. 4.1

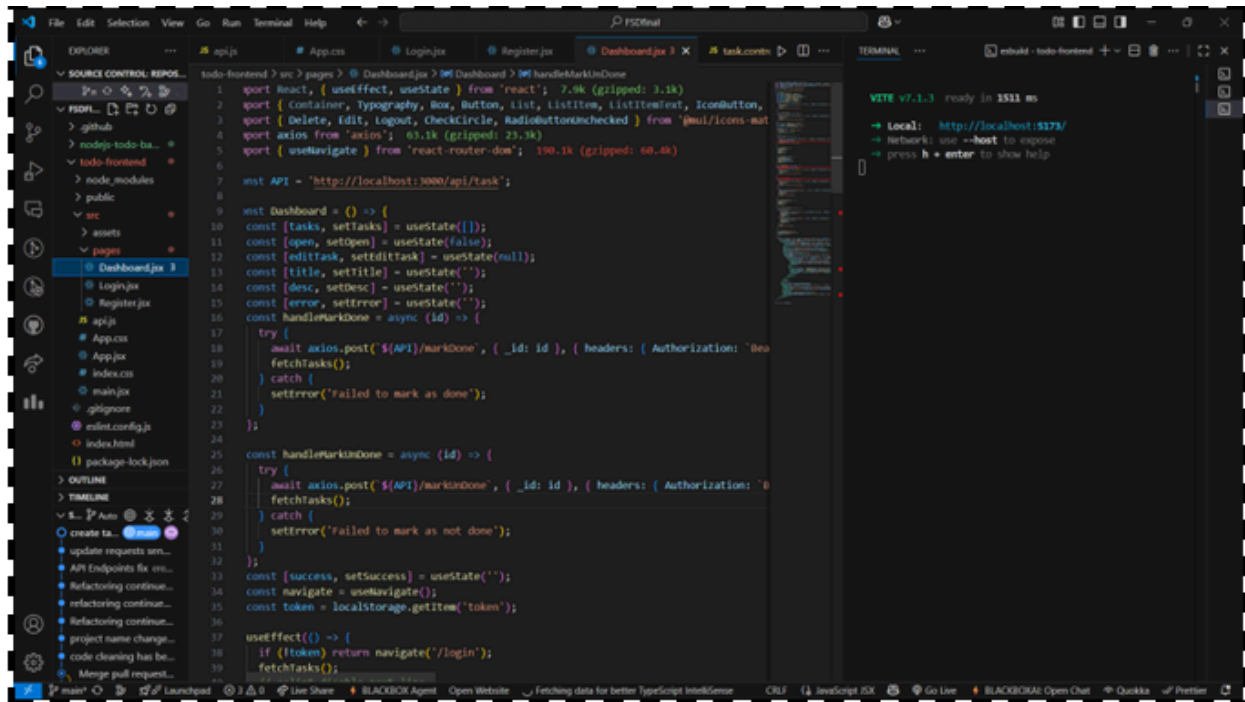


Fig. 4.2

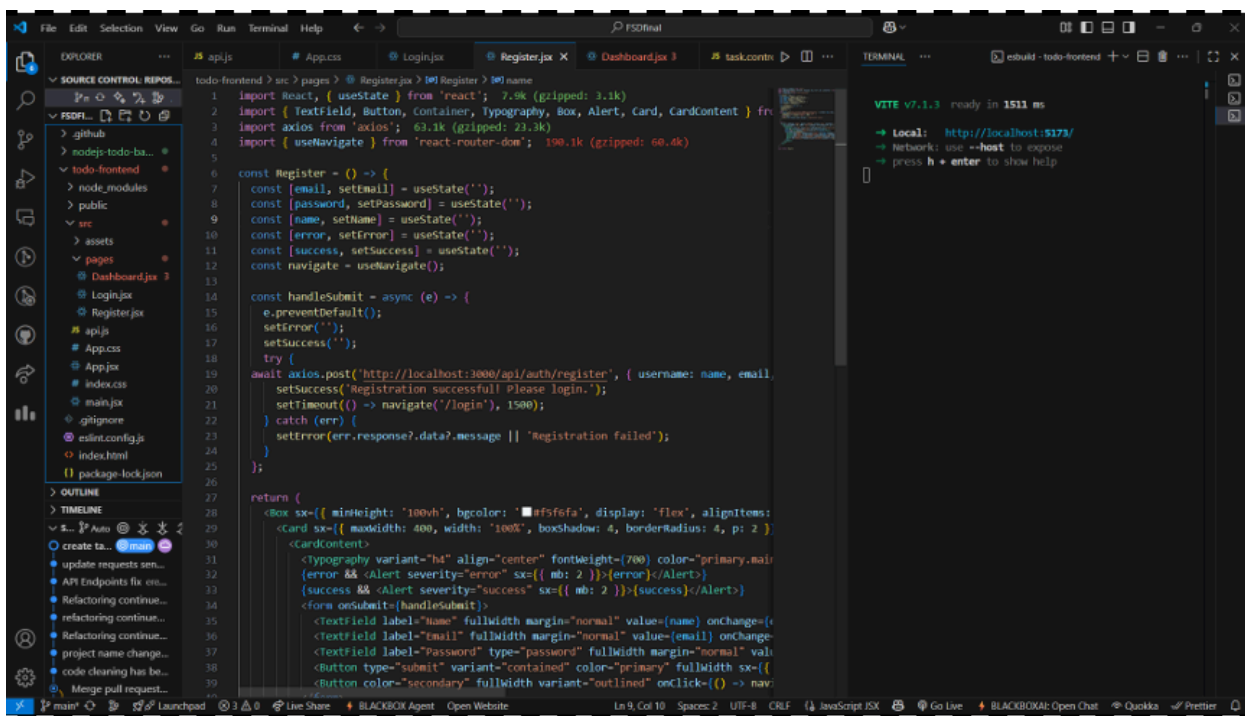


Fig. 4.3

Output:

TaskFlow

Organize your work, amplify your productivity

+ New Task

Total Tasks

3

+12% from last week

Completed

1

33% completion rate

In Progress

1

Active tasks

Overdue

2

Needs attention

Q Search tasks...

▽ All

▽ Todo

▽ In progress

▽ Completed

Complete project proposal

Finish the Q4 project proposal and submit to management

In Progress

high

work

urgent

Due 1/15/2024 (Overdue)

Created 1/1/2024

Review team feedback

Go through the feedback from last week's sprint review

Todo

medium

work

review

Due 1/18/2024 (Overdue)

Created 1/2/2024

Plan weekend trip

Research and book accommodation for the weekend getaway

Completed

low

personal

travel

Due 1/20/2024

Created 1/3/2024

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In Progress

1

Active tasks

Overdue

2

Needs attention

Q complete

▽ All

▽ Todo

▽ In progress

▽ Completed

Q

No tasks found

Try adjusting your search terms

+ Create Task

The image shows a 'Create New Task' modal window with a dark background. It contains the following fields and controls:

- Title ***: A text input field with the placeholder 'Enter task title...'.
- Description**: A larger text area with the placeholder 'Add task description...'.
- Status**: A dropdown menu currently showing 'To Do'.
- Priority**: A dropdown menu currently showing 'Medium Priority'.
- Due Date ***: A date input field with the placeholder 'dd-mm-yyyy' and a calendar icon on the right.
- Tags**: A text input field with the placeholder 'Add a tag...', a tag icon, and an 'Add' button.

Conclusion:

This project successfully demonstrates the end-to-end development of a modern web application. By fulfilling the core objectives, the project establishes a strong foundation in the MERN stack. The deliberate inclusion of the "30% Extra" features—User Authentication, Advanced Querying, and Professional Error Handling—is what truly differentiates it. These elements integrate to create a secure, efficient, and user-centric application that solves a broader set of problems and closely mirrors the complexities and standards found in professional software development environments. This project serves not only as a functional task management tool but also as a robust portfolio piece that showcases advanced full-stack development capabilities.