

# **Comp 2001 Report**

## **Introduction**

I have written a Trail micro-service application that exposes API endpoints that allow for CRUD operations. The API is using OpenAPI standards.

In this document you will find the background, design and implementation of the app. You will also see a discussion about Legal, Social, Ethical and Professional (LSEP) issues that might arise. At the end of the document there will be an evaluation.

GitHub repository link = <https://github.com/PandoPI/COMP2001-REPORT-Project>

## **Background**

The scenario for the Trail micro-service is as follows:

“The team is creating a well-being trail application. The location of the trails you use/create is your choice. The product vision is:

*For people who wish to enjoy the outdoors, to enhance their wellbeing and to have a reason to explore a particular area, the Trail App is a full trail management application providing a reason to explore a given area.*

The application will meet the following user stories that have been placed on the product backlog”

Product Backlog
As an Administrator I wish to create a new trail with information
As an administrator I wish to check that a new trail with information exists
As an administrator I wish to edit the information for an existing trail
As an administrator I wish to delete an existing trail
As a user of the trail app I wish to select and view a particular trail using my android mobile device

An overview of the architecture is provided in the diagram below.

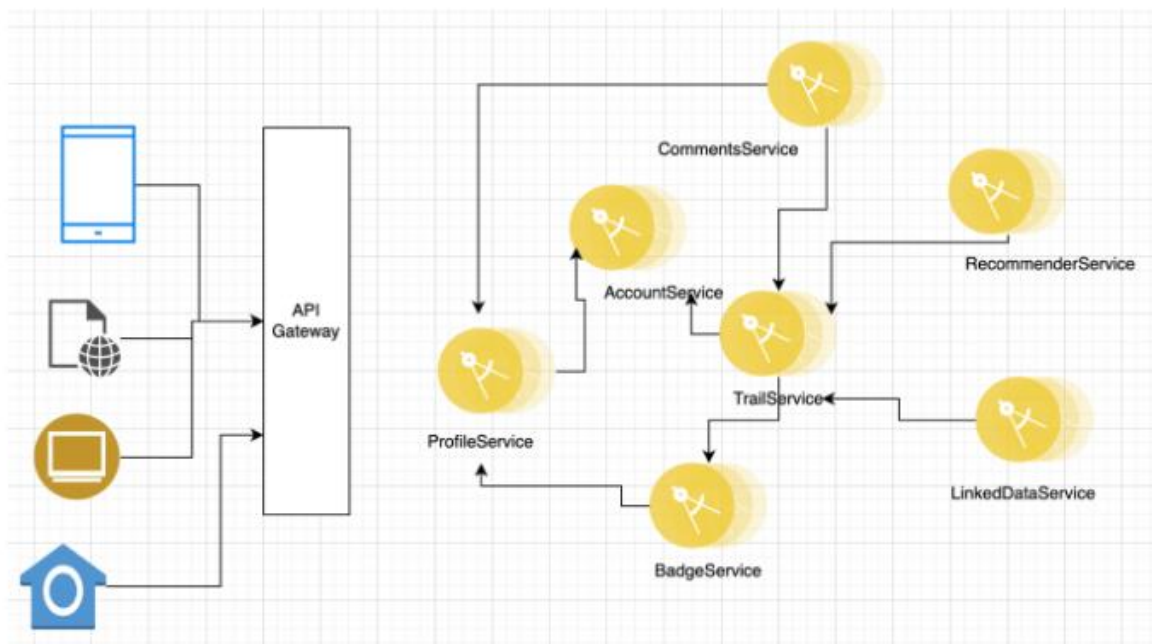


Figure 1: Architecture diagram for Trail Application

The trail application has many different micro-services that will be combined for the full product. One of those micro-services is the TrailService that can be seen in the diagram and that is the

one that I have created. It allows for seamless integration of Trail and User data with a SQL server database.

## Design



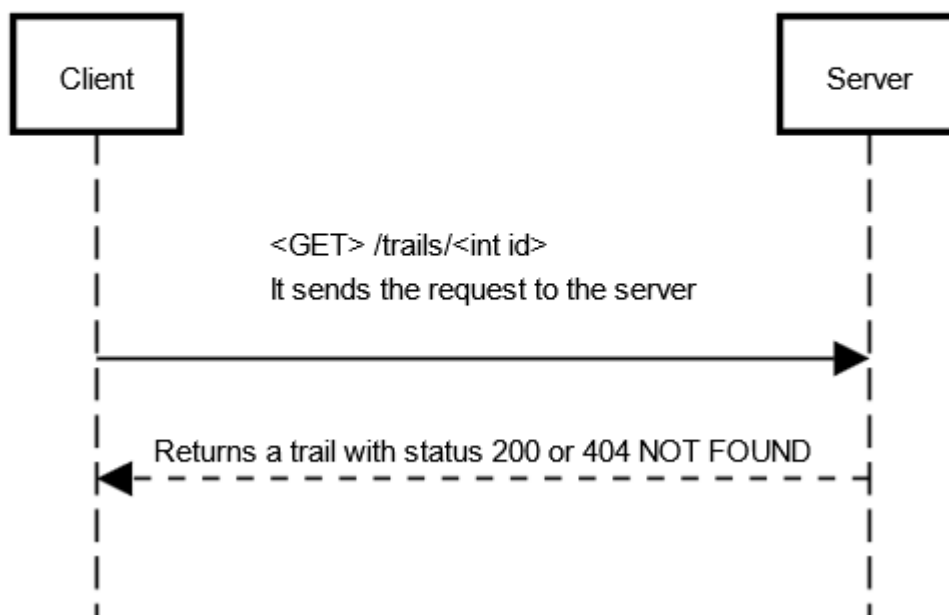
Here is an Entity Relationship Diagram of the application that I created. One user can own many trails but only one user owns a specific trail. One trail can have many trail points as trails are a series of location points. There is a “link entity” for trail and trail point feature.

## Alternative Model Structure

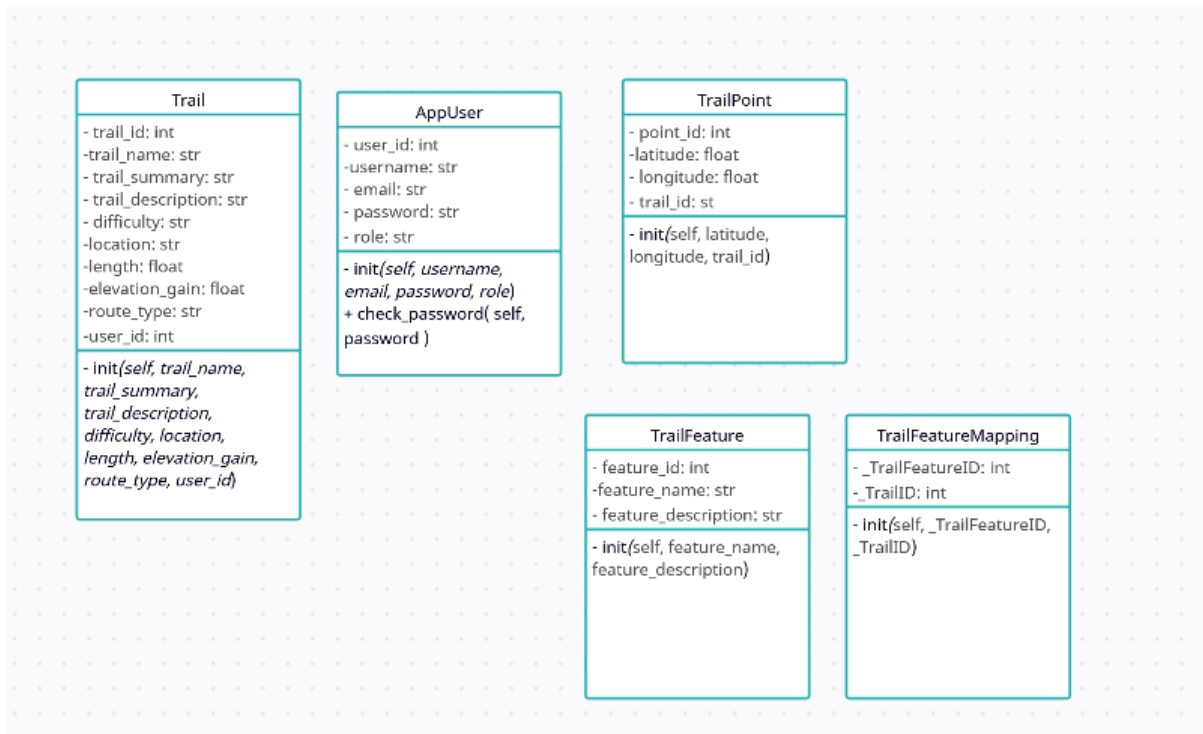
TRAIL		TRAIL-FEATURE	
<u>TrailID</u>	Sequence	<u>TrailID</u>	Numeric
Trail name	Alphabetic	<u>Trail FeatureID</u>	Numeric
Trail Summary	Alphanumeric	FEATURE	
Trail Description	Alphanumeric	<u>Trail FeatureID</u>	Sequence
Difficulty	Alphabetic	Trail Feature	Alphabetic
Location	Alphabetic	USER	
Length	Numeric	<u>UserID</u>	Sequence
Elevation gain	Numeric	Email_address	Alphanumeric
Route type	Alphabetic	Role	Alphabetic
OwnerID*	Numeric		
Pt1_Lat	Numeric		
Pt1_Long	Numeric		
Pt1_Desc	Alphanumeric		
Pt2_Lat	Numeric		
Pt2_Long	Numeric		
Pt2_Desc	Alphanumeric		
etc			

This is the model that I decided to go through with in my project. I chose it as it has the least amount of tables so it is the most concise and efficient model.

### COMP2001 - Get a specific trail



This is a sequence of the process in getting a specific trail.



Here is a class diagram of my different models.

## Legal, Social, Ethical and Professional (LSEP)

### Legal:

#### Information privacy:

- Issues identified
  - Storing sensitive user data creates privacy risks.
  - Unauthorised access can lead to data misuse or breaches.
- Actions taken to resolve this:
  - Collected only necessary data.
  - Enforced role-based access control to ensure that only authorised users can access sensitive endpoints. OWASP

top ten vulnerabilities include “Broken Access Control” (OWASP (2021) at first place, this is to combat against this issue.

GDPR law states that we have to store personal data securely and access it only when it is absolutely necessary. It also states that only authorised individuals should be able to access it.

GDPR law also says that the data should be “accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date” (UK Government, n.d.). My micro-service has CRUD functions meaning that user information can be updated if necessary.

## **Social:**

User trust and experience:

- Built the Trail micro-service to ensure the accuracy and reliability of trail information.
- Ensuring data privacy and security is essential for fostering trust between the application and its users. Users are more likely to engage with a service that respects and protects their personal information.
- If users feel their information is at risk, they may decide to not use the application anymore which will lead to a severe loss of business and reputation. There has been some research done that shows that “up to a third of customers in retail, finance and healthcare will stop doing business with organisations that have been breached” (Noonan, n.d.).

## **Ethical:**

Transparency:

- Communication on how user data is handled and why it is collected.

#### Preventing Misuse:

- Restricted malicious activity, such as uploading false or harmful trail information, by requiring user authentication and role-based privileges.
- Allowed admins to remove inappropriate content, maintaining the integrity of the micro-service.

#### Inclusivity:

- Designed the micro-service to cater to a diverse audience by including features such as difficulty ratings, route types and trail summaries to help users of varying skill levels make informed decisions.

#### **Professional:**

##### Code quality and Documentation:

- Followed software engineering best practices, which includes modular design and the use of frameworks like Flask and SQLAlchemy for robust development.
- Provided thorough API documentation using Swagger to assist developers integrating with the micro-service.

##### Testing and Reliability:

- Conducted rigorous testing to ensure that the system operates reliably under different conditions.

##### Professional standards:

- Used version control to ensure that if anything goes wrong, I can always go back.

## Implementation

- Flask: For building the REST API.
- Flask-RESTX: For structure, documentation, and Swagger UI support.
- Flask-JWT-Extended: For JWT-based authentication and authorisation.
- SQLAlchemy: For database interaction.
- Docker: For containerisation and deployment.

```
5  -- Create AppUser Table
6  ✓ CREATE TABLE CW2.AppUser (
7      user_id INT IDENTITY(1,1) PRIMARY KEY,
8      username NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
9      email NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
10     password NVARCHAR(200) NOT NULL,
11     role NVARCHAR(10) NOT NULL -- Either 'admin' or 'user'
12 );

15 -- Create Trail Table
16 ✓ CREATE TABLE CW2.Trail (
17     trail_id INT IDENTITY(1,1) PRIMARY KEY,
18     trail_name NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,
19     trail_summary NVARCHAR(200) NOT NULL,
20     trail_description NVARCHAR(500),
21     difficulty NVARCHAR(50),
22     location NVARCHAR(200),
23     length FLOAT,
24     elevation_gain FLOAT,
25     route_type NVARCHAR(50),
26     user_id INT NOT NULL,
27     FOREIGN KEY (user_id) REFERENCES CW2.AppUser(user_id) ON DELETE CASCADE
28 );

31 -- Create TrailPoint Table
32 ✓ CREATE TABLE CW2.TrailPoint (
33     point_id INT IDENTITY(1,1) PRIMARY KEY,
34     latitude FLOAT NOT NULL,
35     longitude FLOAT NOT NULL,
36     trail_id INT NOT NULL,
37     FOREIGN KEY (trail_id) REFERENCES CW2.Trail(trail_id) ON DELETE CASCADE
38 );
```



```

41      -- Create TrailFeature Table
42      CREATE TABLE CW2.TrailFeature (
43          feature_id INT IDENTITY(1,1) PRIMARY KEY,
44          feature_name NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,
45          feature_description NVARCHAR(200)
46      );

49      -- Create TrailFeatureMapping Table
50      CREATE TABLE CW2.TrailFeatureMapping (
51          _TrailID INT NOT NULL,
52          _TrailFeatureID INT NOT NULL,
53          PRIMARY KEY (_TrailID, _TrailFeatureID),
54          FOREIGN KEY (_TrailID) REFERENCES CW2.Trail(trail_id) ON DELETE CASCADE,
55          FOREIGN KEY (_TrailFeatureID) REFERENCES CW2.TrailFeature(feature_id) ON DELETE CASCADE
56      );

```

This is the SQL based off the ERD in the Design section.

The micro-service was implemented using Flask with additional Python packages and tools, including Flask-RestX for API design, Flask-JWT-Extended for authentication, and Flask-SQLAlchemy for database interactions.

```

1      from flask import Flask, request
2      from flask_restx import Resource, Api, fields
3      import requests
4
5      from models import db, Trail, TrailSchema, AppUser, TrailPoint, TrailFeatureMapping
6      from flask_jwt_extended import JWTManager, create_access_token, jwt_required, get_jwt
7      from functools import wraps
8
9      # Initialise Flask app
10     app = Flask(__name__)
11
12     # Set up database connection
13     app.config['SQLALCHEMY_DATABASE_URI'] = (
14         'mssql+pyodbc://PPandov:EwwC859*@dist-6-505.uopnet.plymouth.ac.uk:1433/COMP2001_PPandov'
15         '?driver=ODBC+Driver+17+for+SQL+Server'
16     )
17     app.config['SQLALCHEMY_TRACK_MODIFICATIONS'] = False
18
19     # Set up JWT configuration
20     app.config['JWT_SECRET_KEY'] = 'very_secret_key'
21     jwt = JWTManager(app)

```

There are a few commands that can be ran in Postman or just on the Swagger UI. They include:

## GET /users/all

```
# Get all users (Admin only)
@user_ns.route('/all')  ± PandoPI
class GetAllUsersResource(Resource):
    @api.doc(security='BearerAuth')  16 usages (16 dynamic)  ± PandoPI
    @jwt_required()
    @admin_required
    def get(self):
        """Get all users (Admin only)."""
        users = AppUser.query.all()
        return [{ 'id': user.user_id, 'username': user.username, 'email': user.email, "password": user.password, 'role': user.role} for user in
            users], 200
```

## GET /users/(int id)

```
205 # Fetch or delete a specific user by ID (Admin functionality)
206 @user_ns.route('/<int:user_id>')  ± PandoPI
207 class UserResource(Resource):
208     @api.doc(security='BearerAuth')  16 usages (16 dynamic)  ± PandoPI
209     @jwt_required()
210     @admin_required
211     def get(self, user_id):
212         """Get a user by ID (Admin only)."""
213         user = AppUser.query.get_or_404(user_id)
214         return { 'id': user.user_id, 'username': user.username, 'email': user.email, 'role': user.role}, 200
215
```

## POST /users/create

```
# Create a new user (Admin only)
@user_ns.route('/create')  ± PandoPI
class CreateUserResource(Resource):
    @user_ns.expect(api.model('User', {  ± PandoPI
        'username': fields.String(required=True, description='Username'),
        'email': fields.String(required=True, description='Email'),
        'password': fields.String(required=True, description='Password'),
        'role': fields.String(required=True, description='User role', enum=['admin', 'user']),
    }))
    @api.doc(security='BearerAuth')
    @jwt_required()
    @admin_required
    def post(self):
        """Create a new user (Admin only)."""
        data = request.get_json()
        new_user = AppUser(
            username=data['username'],
            email=data['email'],
            password=data['password'],
            role=data['role']
        )
        db.session.add(new_user)
        db.session.commit()
        return { 'id': new_user.user_id, 'username': new_user.username, 'email': new_user.email,
            'role': new_user.role}, 201
```

## POST /users/login

```
124  ~ #####
125  # LOGIN ENDPOINT
126  #####
127
128  @user_ns.route('/login', methods=['POST'])  ~ PandoPI
129  ~ class LoginResource(Resource):
130  ~     @user_ns.expect(api.model('Login', {  ~ PandoPI
131  ~         'email': fields.String(required=True, description='Email address'),
132  ~         'password': fields.String(required=True, description='Password'),
133  ~     }))
134  ~     def post(self):
135  ~         """Authenticate user and return a JWT token."""
136  ~         data = request.get_json()
137  ~         email = data.get('email')
138  ~         password = data.get('password')
139
140  ~         # Check if email and password fields are provided
141  ~         if not email or not password:
142  ~             return {"message": "Email and password are required"}, 400
143
144  ~         # Query database to authenticate user
145  ~         user = AppUser.query.filter_by(email=email).first()
146  ~         if user and user.check_password(password):
147  ~             # Generate a JWT token
148  ~             access_token = create_access_token(
149  ~                 identity=str(user.user_id),
150  ~                 additional_claims={
151  ~                     "email": user.email,
152  ~                     "role": user.role
153  ~                 }
154  ~             )
155
156  ~             return {"access_token": access_token}, 200
157  ~         else:
158  ~             return {"message": "Invalid email or password"}, 401
```

## PUT /users/(int id)

```

223     @api.doc(security='BearerAuth')
224     @jwt_required()
225     @admin_required
226     def put(self, user_id):
227         """Update a user by ID (Admin only)."""
228         user = AppUser.query.get_or_404(user_id)
229         data = request.get_json() # Parse the JSON body containing updated user data
230
231         # Update user fields based on provided data
232         if 'username' in data:
233             user.username = data['username']
234         if 'email' in data:
235             user.email = data['email']
236         if 'password' in data:
237             user.password = data['password']
238         if 'role' in data:
239             user.role = data['role']
240
241         # Commit the changes to the database
242         db.session.commit()
243
244         # Return the updated user information
245         return {'id': user.user_id, 'username': user.username, 'email': user.email, 'role': user.role}, 200

```

## DELETE /users/(int id)

```

247     @api.doc(security='BearerAuth') 2 usages (2 dynamic)  PandoPI
248     @jwt_required()
249     @admin_required
250     def delete(self, user_id):
251         """Delete a user by ID (Admin only)."""
252         user = AppUser.query.get_or_404(user_id)
253         db.session.delete(user)
254         db.session.commit()
255         return {'message': 'User deleted successfully'}, 200

```

## GET /trails

```

258 #####
259 # TRAIL CRUD ENDPOINTS
260 #####
261 @trail_ns.route('/')  ⚡ PandoPI
262 class TrailsResource(Resource):
263     @jwt_required()  16 usages (16 dynamic)  ⚡ PandoPI
264     def get(self):
265         """Get all trails (limited information if not an admin)."""
266         trails = Trail.query.all()
267
268         # Get the user's role from JWT claims
269         claims = get_jwt()
270
271         user_role = claims.get('role')
272
273         if user_role == 'admin':
274             # Admins get the full information
275             return trails_schema.dump(trails), 200
276         else:
277             # Limited view for non-admin users
278             limited_data = [
279                 {
280                     "trail_id": trail.trail_id,
281                     "trail_name": trail.trail_name,
282                     "trail_summary": trail.trail_summary,
283                     "difficulty": trail.difficulty,
284                     "location": trail.location,
285                     "length": trail.length,
286                     "elevation_gain": trail.elevation_gain,
287                     "route_type": trail.route_type,
288                 }
289                 for trail in trails
290             ]
291             return limited_data, 200

```

GET /trails/(int id)

```

316 @trail_ns.route('/<int:id>') 1 PandAPI
317 class TrailResource(Resource):
318     @jwt_required() 16 usages (16 dynamic) 1 PandAPI
319     def get(self, id):
320         """Get trail by ID (any user can view, Admin gets complete information)."""
321         trail = Trail.query.get_or_404(id)
322
323         claims = get_jwt()
324
325         # Limited view for non-admin users
326         limited_data = {
327             "trail_id": trail.trail_id,
328             "trail_name": trail.trail_name,
329             "trail_summary": trail.trail_summary,
330             "difficulty": trail.difficulty,
331             "location": trail.location,
332             "length": trail.length,
333             "elevation_gain": trail.elevation_gain,
334             "route_type": trail.route_type,
335         }
336
337         # Check if user is an admin, if they are then show them the rest of the info
338         if claims.get('role') == 'admin':
339             limited_data["trail_description"] = trail.trail_description
340             limited_data["user_id"] = trail.user_id
341
342         return limited_data, 200
343

```

POST /trails

```

293     @api.doc(security='BearerAuth')  📄 PandoPI
294     @trail_ns.expect(trail_model)
295     @jwt_required()
296     @admin_required
297     def post(self):
298         """Create a new trail (Admin only)."""
299         data = request.get_json()
300         new_trail = Trail(
301             trail_name=data['trail_name'],
302             trail_summary=data['trail_summary'],
303             trail_description=data.get('trail_description'),
304             difficulty=data.get('difficulty'),
305             location=data.get('location'),
306             length=data.get('length'),
307             elevation_gain=data.get('elevation_gain'),
308             route_type=data.get('route_type'),
309             user_id=data['user_id'],
310         )
311         db.session.add(new_trail)
312         db.session.commit()
313         return trail_schema.dump(new_trail), 201
314

```

PUT /trails/(int id)

```

344     @api.doc(security='BearerAuth')  📄 PandoPI
345     @trail_ns.expect(trail_model)
346     @jwt_required()
347     @admin_required
348     def put(self, id):
349         """Update an existing trail (Admin only)."""
350         trail = Trail.query.get_or_404(id)
351         data = request.get_json()
352         trail.trail_name = data.get('trail_name', trail.trail_name)
353         trail.trail_summary = data.get('trail_summary', trail.trail_summary)
354         trail.trail_description = data.get('trail_description', trail.trail_description)
355         trail.difficulty = data.get('difficulty', trail.difficulty)
356         trail.location = data.get('location', trail.location)
357         trail.length = data.get('length', trail.length)
358         trail.elevation_gain = data.get('elevation_gain', trail.elevation_gain)
359         trail.route_type = data.get('route_type', trail.route_type)
360         db.session.commit()
361         return trail_schema.dump(trail), 200

```

DELETE /trails/(int id)

```
363 @api.doc(security='BearerAuth') 2 usages (2 dynamic) PandoPI
364 @jwt_required()
365 @admin_required
366 def delete(self, id):
367     """Delete an existing trail (Admin only)."""
368     trail = Trail.query.get_or_404(id)
369     db.session.delete(trail)
370     db.session.commit()
371     return {'message': 'Trail deleted successfully'}, 200
```

The app uses Flask-SQLAlchemy for object-relational mapping (ORM). The database models (e.g. Trail, AppUser) are initialised through db and used to perform CRUD operations.

I have both CRUD operations on the Users and the Trails. Users with the admin role are the only ones who can Create, Update and Delete other users and trails. Users with the user role can still look do GET /trails and GET /trail/(int id) but they will get less detailed information compared to an admin user.

The /users/login is used to get an authentication token that you enter in the top right of the Swagger UI where it says “Authorize”, you must enter the token in the format “Bearer [token]” or in Postman in a Header with an Authorization Key and the Value of “Bearer [token]”.

## **Evaluation**

Testing:

Login:





GET

/users/all

Get all users (Admin only)

Parameters

Cancel

No parameters

Execute

Clear

Responses

Response content type

application/json

Curl

curl -X 'GET' \

'http://127.0.0.1:8000/users/all' \

-H 'accept: application/json' \

-H 'Authorization: Bearer eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJ3aW5kb29kaW50eW91bnRpdj01ZTE3NzVhbmQhMwZ1ODZlWkYybnJlZm71Ym9yNTc3IiwidHlwZSI6ImFjY2V2cyIsInM1Y1I6IjQ1LCh

Request URL

http://127.0.0.1:8000/users/all

Server response

Code

Details

200

Response body

```
{
  "username": "biz",
  "email": "biz@email.com",
  "password": "pass",
  "role": "admin"
},
{
  "id": 9,
  "username": "Grace Hopper",
  "email": "grace@plymouth.ac.uk",
  "password": "ts00123!",
  "role": "admin"
},
{
  "id": 10,
  "username": "Tim Berners-Lee",
  "email": "tim@plymouth.ac.uk",
  "password": "comp2001!",
  "role": "user"
},
{
  "id": 11,
  "username": "Ada Lovelace",
  "email": "ada@plymouth.ac.uk",
  "password": "insecurePassword",
  "role": "admin"
}
```

POST /users/create

[illegible]

GET /users/(int id)

```
PUT /users/(int id)
```

```
PUT /users/(int id)
```





## POST /trails/

[illegible]

# GET /trails/(int id)

GET

/trails/{id}

Get trail by ID (any user can view, Admin gets complete information)

Parameters

Cancel

Name	Description
id <small>required</small>	
integer	18
(path)	

Execute

Clear

Responses

Response content type application/json

Curl

```
curl -X 'GET' \
  'http://127.0.0.1:8000/trails/18' \
  -H 'accept: application/json' \
  -H 'Authorization: Bearer eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJncm9udGkiOiJ1IiwiaWF0Ijoi2025-01-07T11:27:08Z', \
  -H 'Content-Type: application/json'
```

Request URL

http://127.0.0.1:8000/trails/18

Server response

Code	Details
200	<div><div>Response body</div><div><pre>{   "trail_id": 18,   "trail_name": "New Trail",   "trail_summary": "Trail",   "difficulty": "Medium",   "location": "Trailand",   "length": 12,   "elevation_gain": 144,   "route_type": "Loop",   "trail_description": "Good place to be",   "user_id": 9 }</pre></div><div>Download</div></div> <div><div>Response headers</div><div><pre>connection: close content-length: 279 content-type: application/json date: Tue, 07 Jan 2025 11:27:08 GMT server: Werkzeug/2.3.8 Python/3.9.21</pre></div></div>

Responses

Code	Description
200	Success

# PUT /trails/(int id)





## DELETE /trails/(int id)

DELETE

/trails/{id} Delete an existing trail (Admin only)

Cancel

Parameters

Name	Description
id * required integer (path)	18

ExecuteClear

Responses

Response content typeapplication/json

Curl

```
curl -X "DELETE" \
'http://127.0.0.1:8000/trails/18' \
-H 'accept: application/json' \
-H 'Authorization: Bearer eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpvcC9yZm9mcWZac162Mjc2USImbmVudCkIGtCnJlYXNpdjE0OTQ3NSdldkRpTjoiLnV2bnJheUVMK055eDQvLWE4AQQtZTh2ZS9we2wqGS1ndkluZS16ImF3Y2Vzcys1IkdYV16Ij0uClJwWmVioJE3KzVYND'
```

Request URL

```
http://127.0.0.1:8000/trails/18
```

Server response

Code	Details
200	<div>Response body<pre>{   "message": "Trail deleted successfully" }</pre><div>Download</div></div> <div>Response headers<pre>connection: close content-length: 48 content-type: application/json date: Tue, 07 Jan 2025 11:35:28 GMT server: Merizeug/2.3.8 Python/5.9.21</pre></div>

Responses

Code	Description
200	Success

## Reflection

Areas that need further work is my python skills. I haven't used python in years before this project, it was quite confusing trying to understand it and I kept on making mistakes that cost me a lot of time. I spent too much time on this project fixing one error just for 3 other things that worked completely fine before to break too.

One of my strengths that helped a lot in this coursework project is my problem-solving nature, I was very invested into solving every issue that was popping up.

One of my weaknesses is that I didn't have enough knowledge of the technologies I was using so it was taking very long to get used to it.

Some improvements for the coursework I could've done is to try to implement some security measures like for example hashing the password instead of having it in plain text.

## **References**

- **UK Government (n.d.)** Data protection. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection> (Accessed: 7 January 2025).
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- OWASP. (2021). **OWASP Top Ten - 2021**. [online] Available at: <https://owasp.org/www-project-top-ten/> [Accessed 7 Jan. 2025].