# 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/PandoPl/COMP2001-REPORT-Project

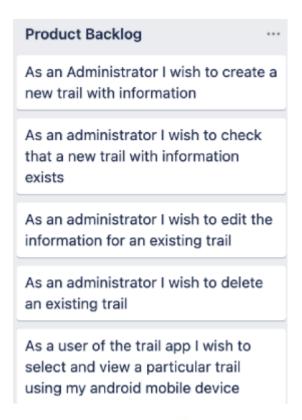
## **Background**

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"



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

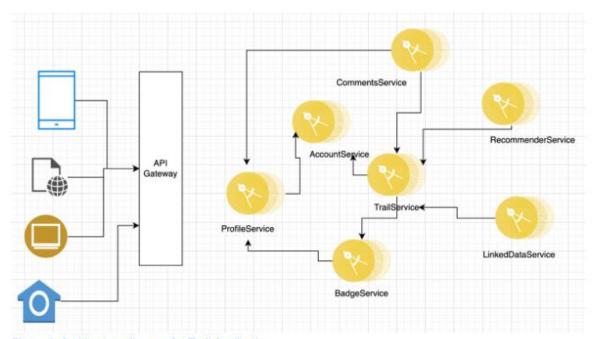


Figure 1: Architecture diagram for Trail Application

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**

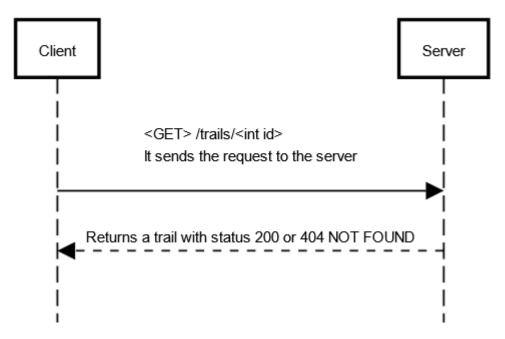


Here is an Entity Relationship Diagram of the application that I created. One user can own many trails but only one user owns a specific trail. One trail can have many trail points as trails are a series of location points but o. There is a "link entity" for trail and trail point feature.

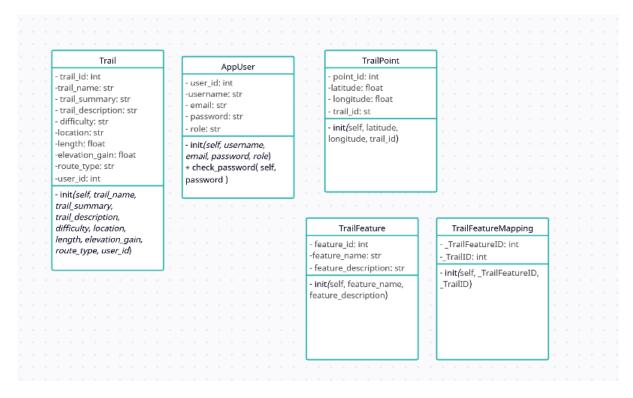
	Alternative M	odal Structura	
TRAIL TrailID Trail name Trail Summary Trail Description	Sequence Alphabetic Alphanumeric Alphanumeric	odel Structure  TRAIL-FEATURE  TrailID  Trail FeatureID  FEATURE	Numeric Numeric
Difficulty Location Length Elevation gain Route type	Alphabetic Alphabetic Numeric Numeric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

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 microservice 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 user 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.

```
-- Create AppUser Table

∨ CREATE TABLE CW2.AppUser (
       user_id INT IDENTITY(1,1) PRIMARY KEY,
       username NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
       email NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL UNIQUE,
       password NVARCHAR(200) NOT NULL,
       role NVARCHAR(10) NOT NULL -- Either 'admin' or 'user'
  );
  -- Create Trail Table

∨ CREATE TABLE CW2.Trail (
     trail_name NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,
     trail_summary NVARCHAR(200) NOT NULL,
     trail_description NVARCHAR(500),
     difficulty NVARCHAR(50),
     location NVARCHAR(200),
     length FLOAT,
     elevation_gain FLOAT,
     route_type NVARCHAR(50),
     FOREIGN KEY (user_id) REFERENCES CW2.AppUser(user_id) ON DELETE CASCADE
  -- Create TrailPoint Table

    ∨ CREATE TABLE CW2.TrailPoint (
      point_id INT IDENTITY(1,1) PRIMARY KEY,
      longitude FLOAT NOT NULL,
      trail_id INT NOT NULL,
      FOREIGN KEY (trail_id) REFERENCES CW2.Trail(trail_id) ON DELETE CASCADE
```

```
-- Create TrailFeature Table

CREATE TABLE CW2.TrailFeature (
feature_id INT IDENTITY(1,1) PRIMARY KEY,

feature_name NVARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,

feature_description NVARCHAR(200)

;

-- Create TrailFeatureMapping Table

CREATE TABLE CW2.TrailFeatureMapping (
    _TrailID INT NOT NULL,
    _TrailFeatureID INT NOT NULL,

PRIMARY KEY (_TrailID, _TrailFeatureID),

FOREIGN KEY (_TrailID) REFERENCES CW2.TrailFeature(feature_id) ON DELETE CASCADE

FOREIGN KEY (_TrailFeatureID) REFERENCES CW2.TrailFeature(feature_id) ON DELETE CASCADE

);
```

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.

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

#### GET /users/all

## GET /users/(int id)

#### POST /users/create

```
class CreateUserResource(Resource):
   '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
       data = request.get_json()
       new_user = AppUser(
          username=data['username'],
             ssword=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

```
# LOGIN ENDPOINT

∨ class LoginResource(Resource):
     @user_ns.expect(api.model('Login', { * PandoPI
         'email': fields.String(required=True, description='Email address'),
         'password': fields.String(required=True, description='Password'),
     }))
         data = request.get_json()
         email = data.get('email')
        password = data.get('password')
        if not email or not password:
            return {"message": "Email and password are required"}, 400
        user = AppUser.query.filter_by(email=email).first()
        if user and user.check_password(password):
            access_token = create_access_token(
                identity=str(user.user_id),
                additional_claims={
                    "email": user.email,
                    "role": user.role
            return {"access_token": access_token}, 200
         else:
```

PUT /users/(int id)

```
Qapi.doc(security='BearerAuth')
Qjwt_required()
Qadmin_required

def put(self, user_id):
    """Update a user by ID (Admin only)."""
    user = AppUser.query.get_or_404(user_id)
    data = request.get_json()  # Parse the JSON body containing updated user data

# Update user fields based on provided data
if 'username' in data:
    user.username = data['username']
if 'email' in data:
    user.email = data['email']
if 'password' in data:
    user.password = data['password']
if 'role' in data:
    user.role = data['role']

# Commit the changes to the database
    db.session.commit()

# Return the updated user information
    return {'id': user.user_id, 'username': user.username, 'email': user.email, 'role': user.role}, 200
```

## DELETE /users/(int id)

```
Qapi.doc(security='BearerAuth') 2 usages (2 dynamic) * PandoPI
Qiwt_required()
Qadmin_required
def delete(self, user_id):

"""Delete a user by ID (Admin only)."""
user = AppUser.query.get_or_404(user_id)
db.session.delete(user)
db.session.commit()
return {'message': 'User deleted successfully'}, 200
```

#### **GET /trails**

```
# TRAIL CRUD ENDPOINTS
class TrailsResource(Resource):
   def get(self):
       trails = Trail.query.all()
       claims = get_jwt()
       user_role = claims.get('role')
       if user_role == 'admin':
          return trails_schema.dump(trails), 200
       else:
          limited_data = [
                  "trail_id": trail.trail_id,
                  "trail_name": trail.trail_name,
                  "trail_summary": trail.trail_summary,
                  "difficulty": trail.difficulty,
                  "location": trail.location,
                  "length": trail.length,
                  "elevation_gain": trail.elevation_gain,
                  "route_type": trail.route_type,
              for trail in trails
          return limited_data, 200
```

GET /trails/(int id)

```
class TrailResource(Resource):
   trail = Trail.query.get_or_404(id)
      claims = get_jwt()
      limited_data = {
          "trail_id": trail.trail_id,
          "trail_name": trail.trail_name,
          "trail_summary": trail.trail_summary,
          "difficulty": trail.difficulty,
          "location": trail.location,
          "length": trail.length,
          "elevation_gain": trail.elevation_gain,
          "route_type": trail.route_type,
      if claims.get('role') == 'admin':
          limited_data["trail_description"] = trail.trail_description
          limited_data["user_id"] = trail.user_id
      return limited_data, 200
```

#### POST /trails

```
@trail_ns.expect(trail_model)
@jwt_required()
@admin_required
def post(self):
   data = request.get_json()
   new_trail = Trail(
       trail_name=data['trail_name'],
       trail_summary=data['trail_summary'],
       trail_description=data.get('trail_description'),
       difficulty=data.get('difficulty'),
       location=data.get('location'),
       length=data.get('length'),
       elevation_gain=data.get('elevation_gain'),
       route_type=data.get('route_type'),
       user_id=data['user_id'],
   db.session.add(new_trail)
   db.session.commit()
   return trail_schema.dump(new_trail), 201
```

# PUT /trails/(int id)

```
@trail_ns.expect(trail_model)
@jwt_required()
@admin_required
   trail = Trail.query.get_or_404(id)
   data = request.get_json()
   trail.trail_name = data.get('trail_name', trail.trail_name)
   trail.trail_summary = data.get('trail_summary', trail.trail_summary)
    trail.trail_description = data.get('trail_description', trail.trail_description)
   trail.difficulty = data.get('difficulty', trail.difficulty)
   trail.location = data.get('location', trail.location)
    trail.length = data.get('length', trail.length)
    trail.elevation_gain = data.get('elevation_gain', trail.elevation_gain)
   trail.route_type = data.get('route_type', trail.route_type)
   db.session.commit()
    return trail_schema.dump(trail), 200
```

## DELETE /trails/(int id)

```
Qapi.doc(security='BearerAuth') 2 usages (2 dynamic) * PandoPI
Qjwt_required()
Qadmin_required

def delete(self, id):
"""Delete an existing trail (Admin only)."""

trail = Trail.query.get_or_404(id)
db.session.delete(trail)
db.session.commit()
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.

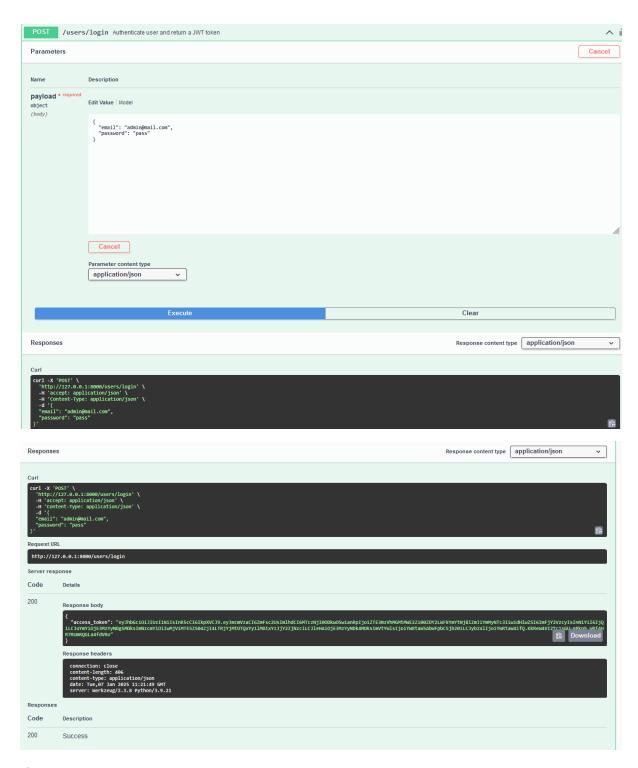
I have both CRUD operations on the Users and the Trails. Users with the admin role are the only ones who can Create, Update and Delete other users and trails. Users with the user role can still look do GET /trails and GET /trail/(int id) but they will get less detailed information compared to an admin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

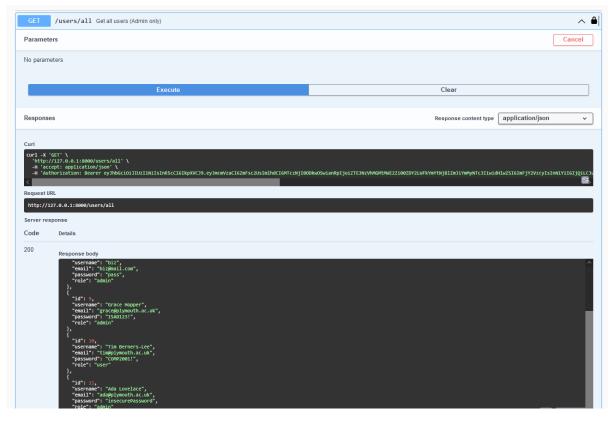
#### **Evaluation**

Testing:

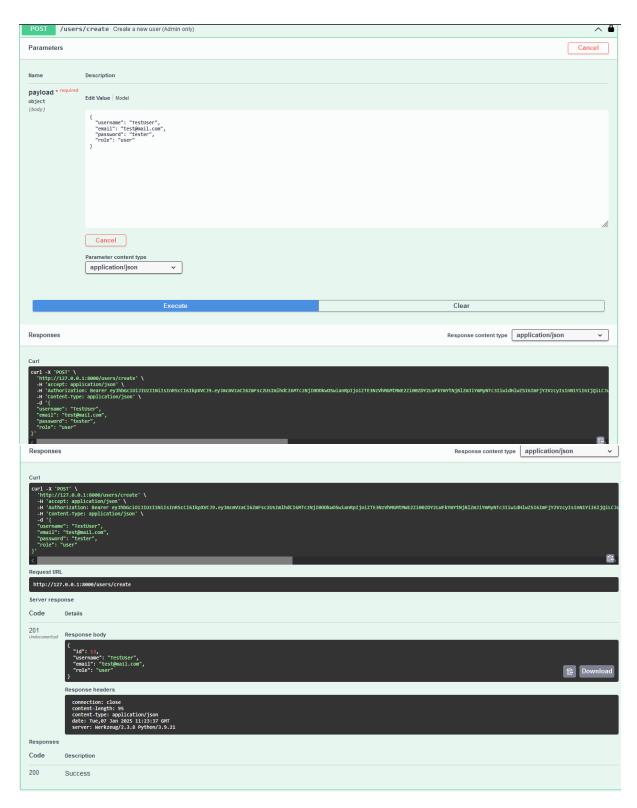
Login:



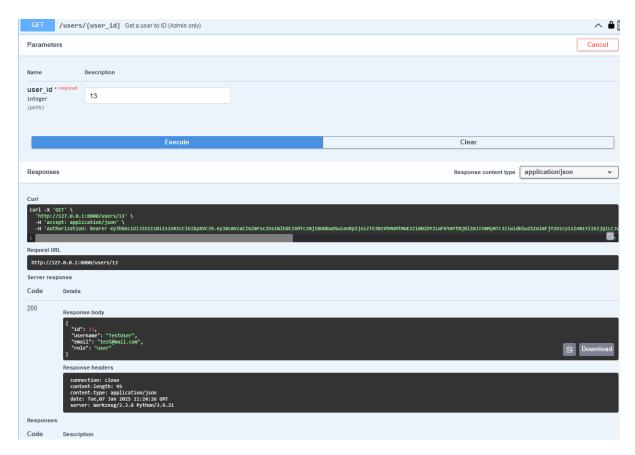
GET /users/all



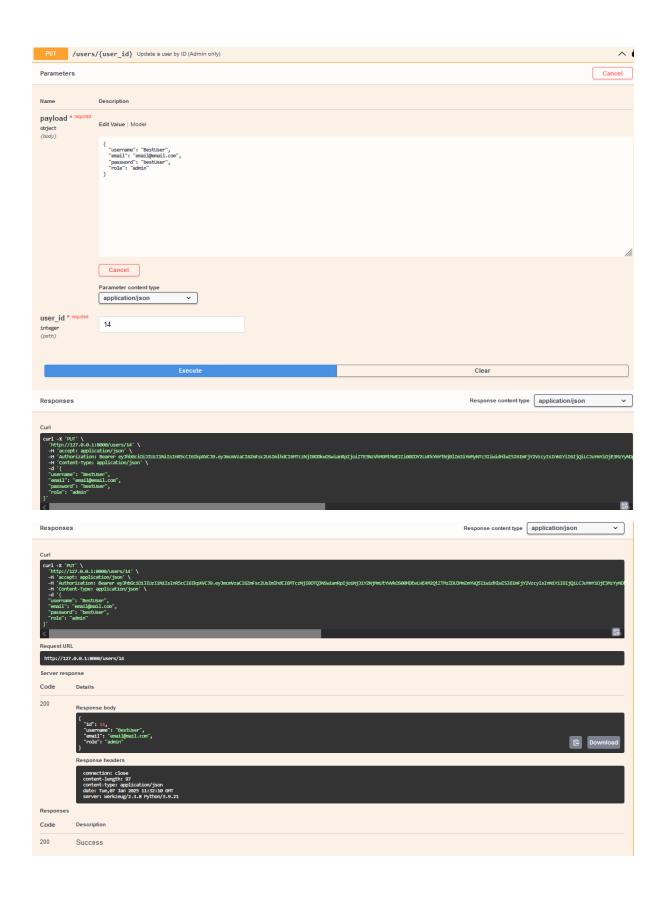
POST /users/create



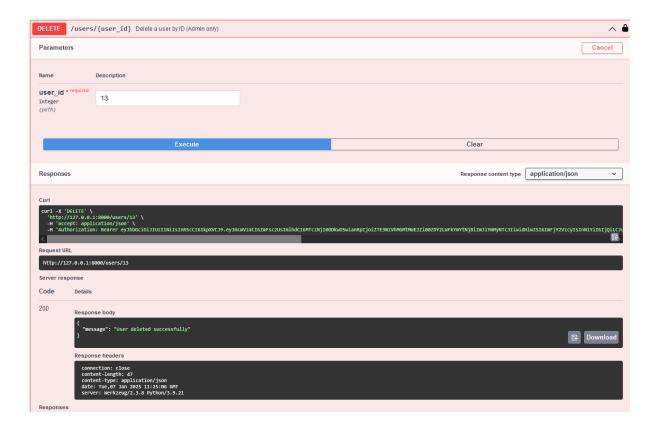
GET /users/(int id)



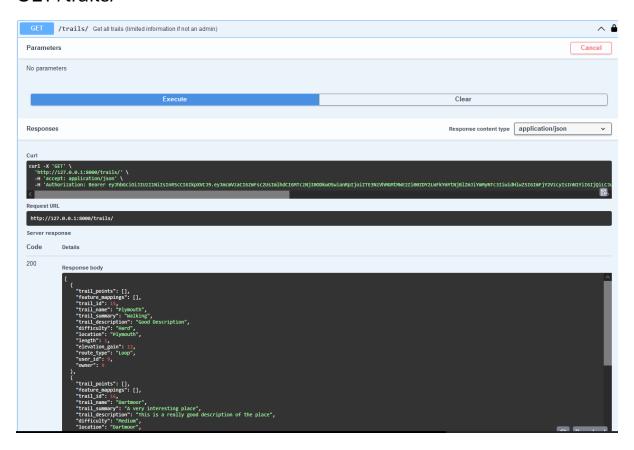
PUT /users/(int id)



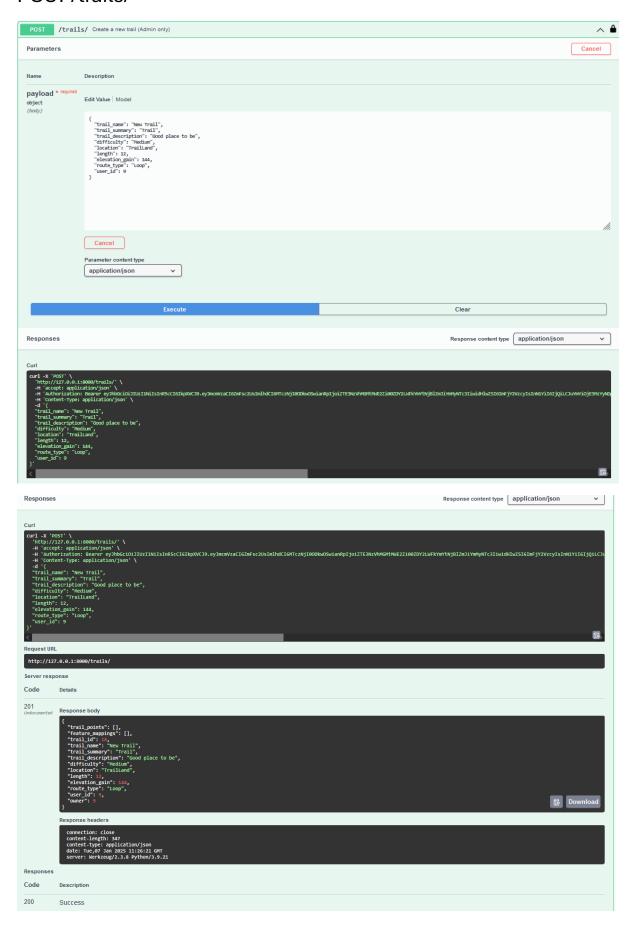
DELETE /users/(int id)



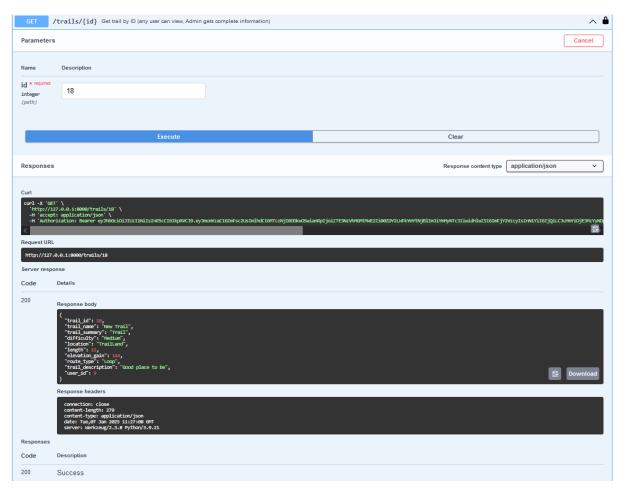
## GET /trails/



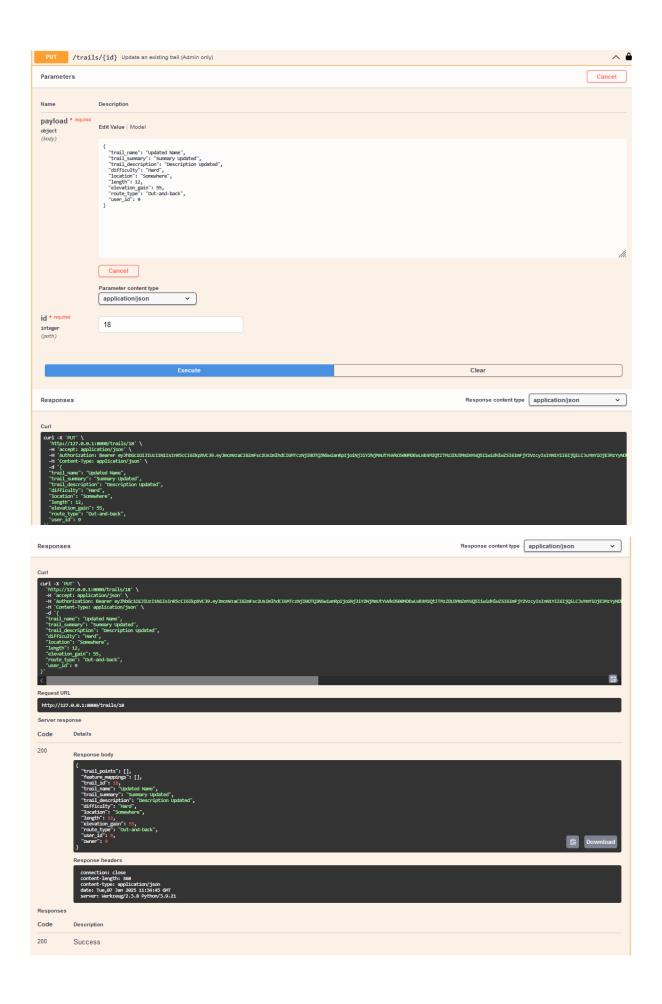
## POST /trails/



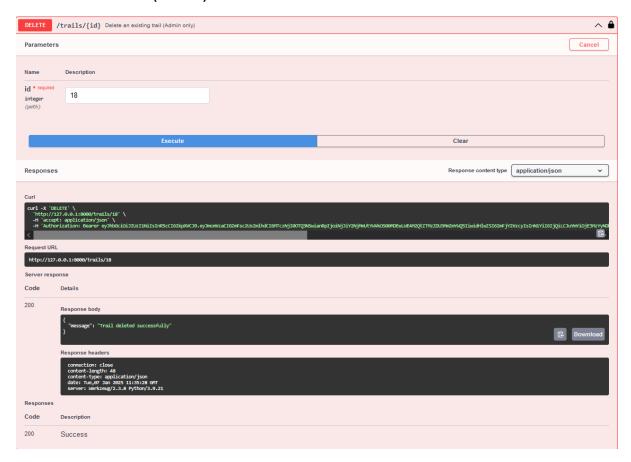
# GET /trails/(int id)



PUT /trails/(int id)



### DELETE /trails/(int id)



### 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: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/data-protection">https://www.gov.uk/data-protection</a> (Accessed: 7 January 2025).
- Noonan, L. (n.d.). 5 Damaging Consequences of a Data Breach. MetaCompliance. Available at: https://www.metacompliance.com/blog/data-breaches/5-damaging-consequences-of-a-data-breach [Accessed 7 Jan. 2025].
- OWASP. (2021). **OWASP Top Ten 2021**. [online] Available at: https://owasp.org/www-project-top-ten/ [Accessed 7 Jan. 2025].