**Documentation for Contract Monthly Claim System (CMCS)**

For the Contract Monthly Claim System (CMCS), the design focuses on creating a streamlined, user-friendly interface and a robust backend to handle claim submissions and approvals.

1. **Design Choices:**
   1. **Database Structure:** The database is designed to store data related to lecturers, claims, approvals, and supporting documents. Key tables include Lecturers, Claims, Approvals, and Supporting Documents.
   2. **GUI Layout (MVC .NET Framework):** The user interface is designed with simplicity and efficiency in mind. It includes forms for claim submission, claim tracking, and document upload. The interface will be clean and intuitive, ensuring users can easily navigate and perform their tasks.
   3. **User Roles and Permissions:** There are three primary roles: Lecturer, Programme Coordinator, and Academic Manager. Each role has specific permissions and functionalities, such as submitting claims, approving claims, and tracking claim status.
2. **Assumptions:**
   1. The system assumes all users have basic computer literacy.
   2. The system will operate in a web environment, so all users will need internet access.
   3. Supporting documents are uploaded in standard formats (e.g., PDF, DOCX).
3. **Constraints:**
   1. The prototype is non-functional; it only represents the layout and structure.
   2. The functionality for processing claims and handling documents will be added in later stages.
   3. Compatibility is assumed with modern web browsers.
4. **Internet Access:** The system assumes that all users have access to the internet, as it is a web-based application.
5. **Document Formats:** Supporting documents are uploaded in commonly used formats (e.g., PDF, DOCX).

**Constraints**

1. **Non-Functional Prototype:** At this stage, the prototype is non-functional and serves only as a visual representation. Functionality for processing claims, handling documents, and user interactions will be implemented in subsequent stages.
2. **Browser Compatibility:** The design assumes compatibility with modern web browsers. Further testing will be required to ensure cross-browser functionality.
3. **Performance Considerations:** As the system will handle multiple claims and document uploads, performance optimization will be necessary to ensure smooth operation.

**Summary**

The Contract Monthly Claim System (CMCS) is designed to improve the efficiency of claim submissions and approvals for independent contractor lecturers. The database structure and GUI layout are carefully designed to provide a clear, user-friendly experience and maintain data integrity. The project assumes users have basic computer skills and internet access while recognizing that the prototype is non-functional at this stage. Constraints related to browser compatibility and performance will be addressed as the system evolves.

This documentation provides a comprehensive overview of the design choices, database structure, and GUI layout for the CMCS, setting the stage for the subsequent development and implementation phases.