Major Project
Synopsis Report

For
UniSale :- Buy. Sell. Connect – Exclusively for Students!

Submitted By

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Project Guide

<p style="text-align:center">Synopsis Report</p>

1. Project Title

UniSale :- Buy. Sell. Connect – Exclusively for Students!

2. Abstract

UniSale is an exclusive e-commerce platform designed specifically for university students to buy and sell items within their academic community. The platform aims to create a secure and convenient marketplace where students can trade essential goods such as books, electronics, furniture, and more without the involvement of external buyers or sellers. The system ensures exclusivity by restricting access to users with a valid university email address, enhancing trust and reliability among students. By providing a student-centric marketplace, **UniSale** not only promotes affordability and sustainability through second-hand trading but also fosters a sense of community within universities. The project aims to simplify peer-to-peer transactions, reduce waste, and offer a user-friendly interface that caters specifically to student needs.

3. Introduction

In today's fast-paced academic environment, university students often find themselves needing to buy and sell various items, from textbooks and gadgets to furniture and accessories. However, existing online marketplaces like OLX and Facebook Marketplace are open to the general public, leading to issues such as scams, unreliable transactions, and irrelevant listings. To address this problem, **UniSale** is designed as a secure and student-exclusive e-commerce platform that facilitates seamless buying and selling within university communities.

UniSale provides a trusted environment by restricting access to only university students, ensuring that all users are verified through their institutional email addresses. The platform allows students to list products, communicate with potential buyers, and complete transactions efficiently. The project aims to bridge the gap between affordability and accessibility, enabling students to easily trade items they no longer need while helping others find essential goods at lower prices. By creating a dedicated marketplace for university students, **UniSale** fosters a sense of community, encourages sustainable consumption, and provides a hassle-free solution for peer-to-peer transactions.

4. Problem Statement

University students lack a dedicated marketplace to buy and sell items securely within their academic community. Existing platforms like OLX and Facebook Marketplace are open to the public, leading to scams, unreliable transactions, and irrelevant listings. Students often rely on inefficient methods like social media groups for trading. **UniSale** solves this by providing a **student-exclusive** platform where users can buy and sell items with verified university members, ensuring security, trust, and convenience.

5. Literature Review

E-commerce platforms have transformed online buying and selling, with platforms like OLX, eBay, and Facebook Marketplace dominating the market. However, these platforms lack student-specific features, leading to challenges such as fraudulent listings, lack of trust, and irrelevant advertisements. Research highlights the need for a university-exclusive e-commerce system that ensures secure authentication, reliable transactions, and better user experience. UniSale addresses these challenges by restricting access to university students and providing a simplified peer-to-peer marketplace.

Several studies explore the growing interest in second-hand online marketplaces, especially among students looking for affordable deals. Research shows that students prefer campus-based marketplaces over public platforms due to security concerns and convenience [1][2]. A study on OLX and Craigslist found that lack of verification increases the risk of fraud and scams, making student-exclusive platforms a more reliable alternative [3].

User authentication is a critical component of an e-commerce system. Several studies propose email-based authentication (e.g., restricting access to users with @university.edu emails) as an effective method to enhance trust and security [4][5]. Similar security models have been used in academic portals and closed-access communities, proving their effectiveness in reducing spam and unauthorized access [6].

The choice of technology stack significantly impacts the performance of e-commerce applications. Studies suggest that Flask (Python) is well-suited for lightweight, scalable web applications, making it a great alternative to heavier frameworks like Django [7]. A comparison between MySQL and MongoDB for e-commerce data storage shows that relational databases are preferred for structured data like product listings, while MongoDB excels in handling unstructured and flexible data [8][9].

A well-designed user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) play a crucial role in user adoption. Research shows that simple navigation, fast-loading pages, and mobile responsiveness improve engagement rates in e-commerce platforms [10]. Several studies highlight the importance of search filters, personalized recommendations, and chat-based communication for improving student marketplace experiences [11][12].

A secure in-app messaging system enhances the trust factor in university marketplaces. Research suggests that integrating real-time chat within an e-commerce platform significantly reduces fraudulent activities and improves buyer-seller interactions [13][14].

The literature review highlights the need for a university-centric e-commerce platform that prioritizes secure authentication, user-friendly design, and peer-to-peer transactions. UniSale is designed based on these findings to create a safe, reliable, and student-exclusive marketplace.

6. Objectives

- Create **a secure e-commerce platform** exclusively for university students.
- Ensure **user verification** by restricting access to university email holders.
- Facilitate **easy buying and selling** of items like books, electronics, and furniture.
- Enhance **user experience** with a simple and intuitive interface.
- Enable **direct communication** between buyers and sellers within the platform.
- Promote **affordability and sustainability** through second-hand trading.

7. Methodology

1. Requirement Analysis

- Define core features like user authentication, product listing, search functionality, and messaging.

2. Technology Selection

- Use HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for the frontend, Python Flask for the backend, and MongoDB/MySQL for the database.

3. System Design

- Plan the architecture, including database schema, API endpoints, and access control for university students.

4. Frontend Development

- Design a responsive user interface using **HTML, CSS, and JavaScript** for a seamless experience.

5. Backend Development

- Implement **Flask** to handle user authentication, product management, and communication features.

6. Database Integration

- Store user and product data securely using **MongoDB/MySQL**, ensuring efficient data management.
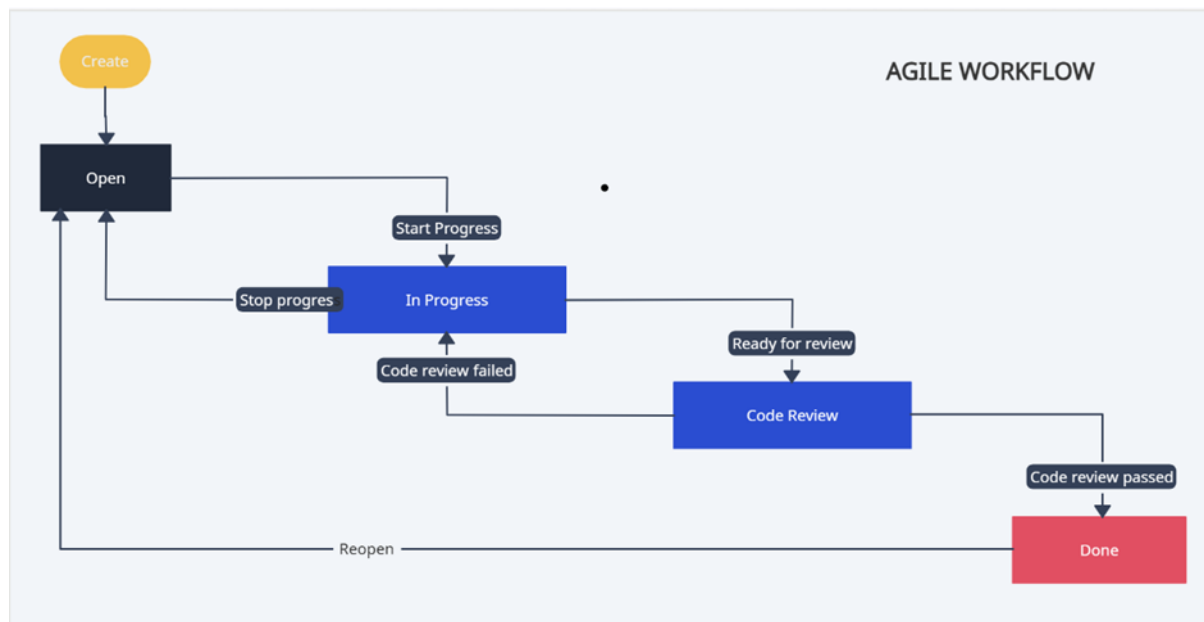
7. Testing & Debugging

- Conduct unit testing, functional testing, and security testing to ensure system reliability.

8. Deployment & Maintenance

- Deploy the platform on a cloud server, optimize performance, and ensure regular updates.

7.1 Software Development Lifecycle

For a project like "UniSale," the Agile SDLC model would be the most suitable choice. Here's why:

Flexibility: Agile provides the flexibility and adaptability needed for a project dealing with complex and rapidly evolving technologies like self-healing infrastructure. Infrastructure requirements and technological environments can change frequently, and Agile allows the project team to quickly adapt to these changes, incorporate new technologies, and respond to emerging challenges.

Iterative Development: Agile emphasizes iterative development and incremental delivery, which aligns well with the gradual enhancement of self-healing capabilities. This approach allows the team to release functional components in short cycles, test their effectiveness in real-world scenarios, and refine the system continuously. For self-healing infrastructure, this means early delivery of basic automation features and iterative improvement based on feedback from monitoring results and performance metrics.

Stakeholder Collaboration: Agile encourages close collaboration between developers, stakeholders, and system operators throughout the development process. This collaboration ensures that the system aligns with the operational needs and expectations of all stakeholders. For self-healing infrastructure, involving IT teams, security experts, and end-users in the development process helps ensure that the infrastructure effectively addresses the key challenges of reliability, security, and performance.

Continuous Improvement: Agile fosters a culture of continuous improvement through regular retrospectives and reviews, which are crucial for evolving self-healing strategies. The focus on continuous learning and adaptation is especially valuable in self-healing infrastructure projects, where the effectiveness of automated responses, AI models, and predictive maintenance techniques can be enhanced over time based on real-time data and incident analysis. This iterative improvement process ensures that the infrastructure remains resilient and capable of addressing new and unforeseen issues.

7.2 Tech stack

1. **Frontend (User Interface)**

   a. **HTML & CSS** – Structure and styling of the website

   b. **JavaScript** – Interactive features (e.g., search, filters, dynamic UI updates)

2. **Backend (Server & API)**

   a. **Python Flask** – Handles server-side logic, user authentication, and API requests

3. **Database (Data Storage)**

   a. **MySQL** (Relational database) OR **MongoDB** (NoSQL) – Stores user data, product listings, and transactions

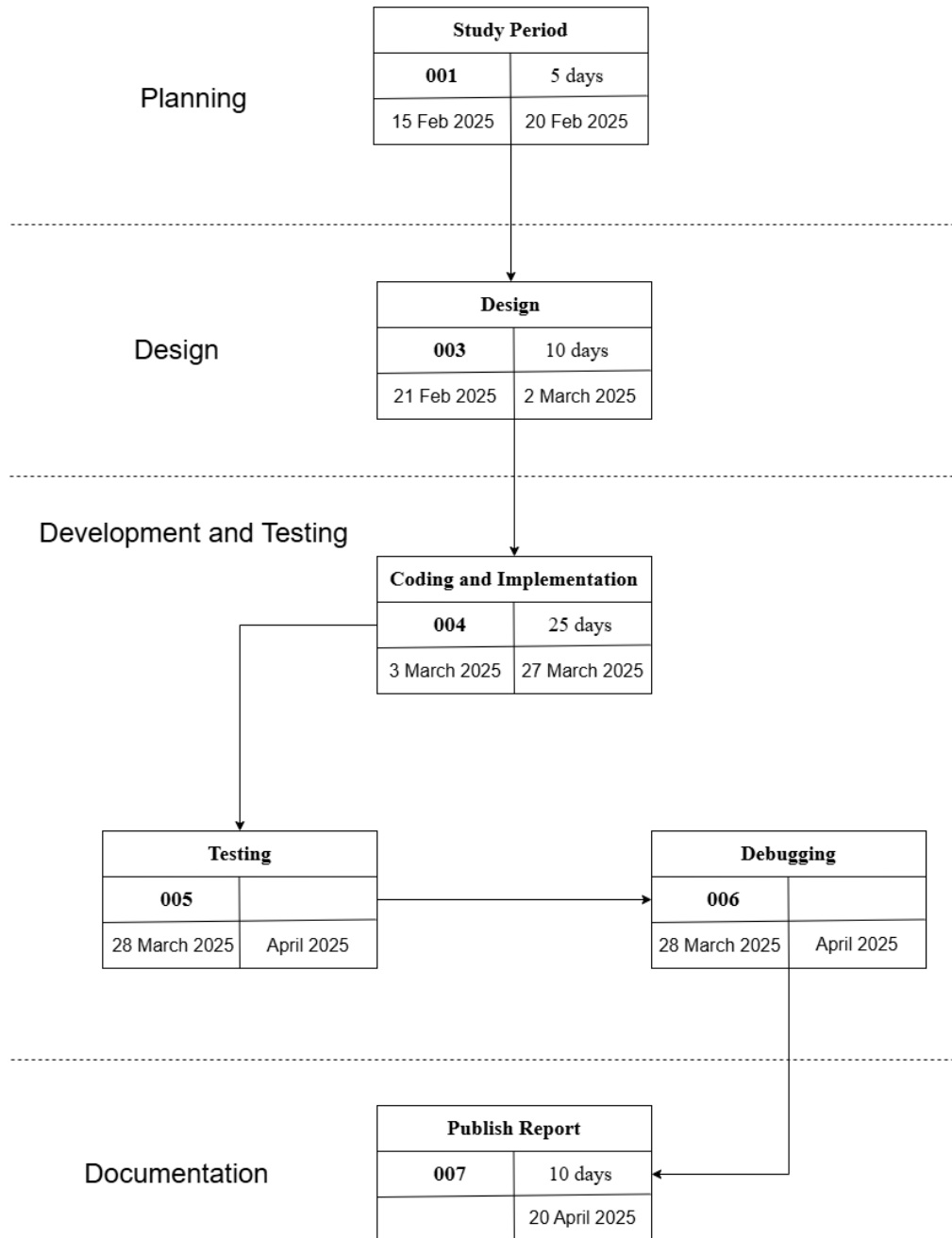4. **Authentication & Security**

   a. **Flask-Login / Flask-JWT** – For user authentication

   b. **Email verification** – Restrict access to university students**.**
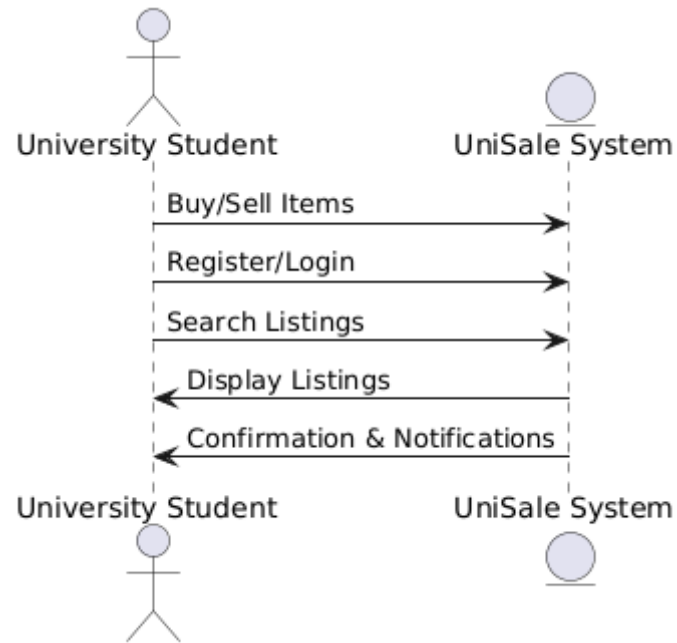
5. **Version Control**

   a. **Git & GitHub** – Code management and collaboration

8. Design Diagrams

- **PERT Chart**

Planning

Study Period	
001	5 days
15 Feb 2025	20 Feb 2025

Design

Design	
003	10 days
21 Feb 2025	2 March 2025

Development and Testing

Coding and Implementation	
004	25 days
3 March 2025	27 March 2025

Testing	
005	
28 March 2025	April 2025

Debugging	
006	
28 March 2025	April 2025

Documentation

Publish Report	
007	10 days
	20 April 2025

- **Data Flow Diagram**

University Student ··· UniSale System

Buy/Sell Items →
Register/Login →
Search Listings →
← Display Listings
← Confirmation & Notifications

University Student ··· UniSale System

(Level 0)

University Student ··· UniSale System ··· Database

Register/Login →
Store & Verify User Credentials →
Post Item for Sale →
Store Item Details →
Search/Browse Items →
Fetch Listings →
← Return Search Results
← Display Listings
Contact Seller →
Store Messages →
← Retrieve Messages
← Deliver Messages
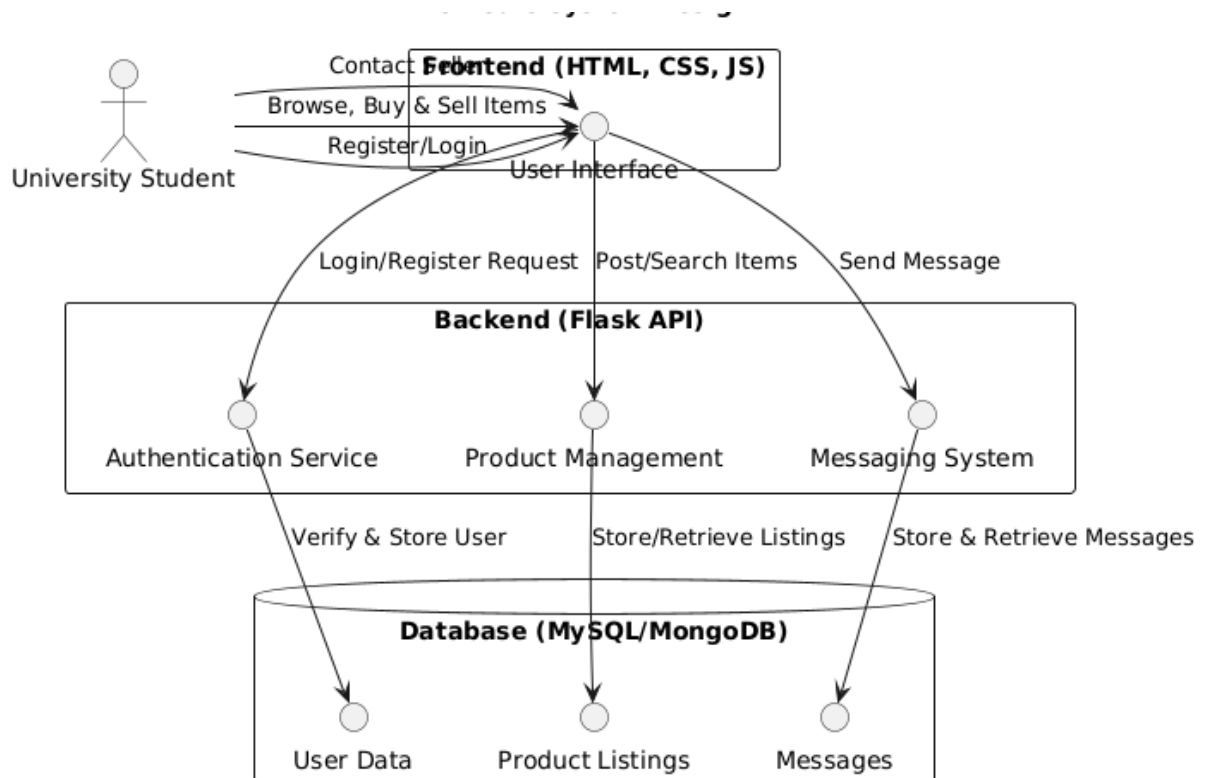
University Student ··· UniSale System ··· Database

(Level 1)

- **System Design**

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10. Github Repository:- https://github.com/Rawat10parth/UniSale