Mobile Computing - EIC0050

Assignment #1 - Train Ticket System - DRail



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Context

The proposed project consists in the implementation of a railway management platform. The distributed system is composed by two distinct mobile Android applications: one for ticket purchasers and another for ticket inspectors.

The Android application for ticket purchasers allows end users to consult information about daily timetables and ticket prices as well as buying tickets.

The Android application for ticket inspectors allows the end user to validate the emitted tickets for a specific trip.

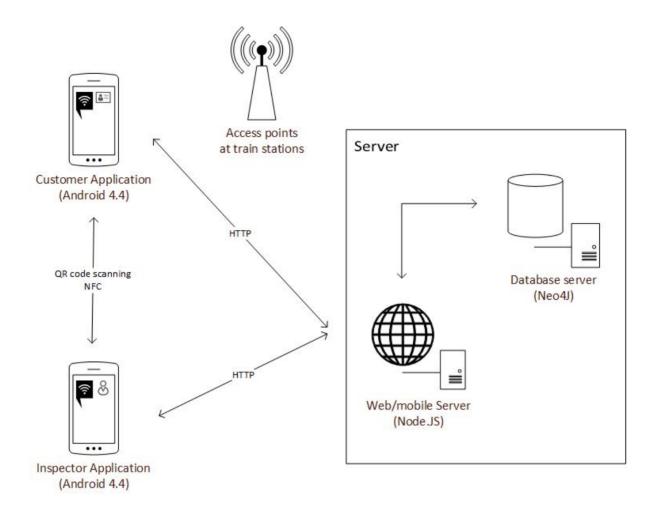
Architecture

The railway management platform follows client-server architecture composed by three layers: data, business logic and presentation layer.

The data layer consists of a Neo4j database instance. Neo4j is an open-source NoSQL graph database.

The business logic layer consists of a Node.js server. It exposes a RESTful API and communicates with the Neo4j instance in order to retrieve and update all the information related to the railway platform.

The presentation layer is represented by the two mobile Android applications.



Data storage

Why Neo4j

The railway topology matches the graph model perfectly: each station is a node and the trips between stations are represented as edges. Each edge holds specific properties: id of the train, departure date, arrival date and distance. Users are also nodes in the graph.

Relationships are first-class citizens of the graph data model, unlike other database management systems, which require the inferral of connections between entities using special properties such as foreign keys, or out-of-band processing like map-reduce. A relational database would most certainly require various self referential joins to compute a route between stations separated by a number of hops. By assembling the simple abstractions of nodes and relationships into connected structures, a graph database enables the creation of a sophisticated model that maps closely to our problem domain.

Data "schema"

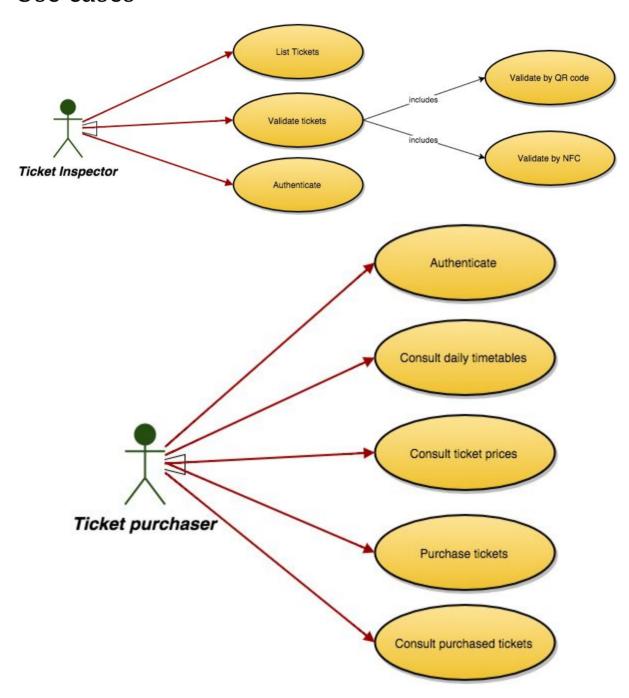
Node labels

user id: integer name: string username: string password: string email: string role: passenger inspector	station id: integer name: string isCentral: boolean latitude: float longitude: float	credit_card id: integer number: string expireDate: timestamp
train id: integer name: string	ticket id: integer creationDate: timestamp trips: array of integers status: pending noShow validated	

Relationship types

trip (station + station) departureDate: timestamp arrivalDate: timestamp trainId: integer distance: float	owns (user → credit_card) id: integer	bought (user → ticket) id: integer
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Use cases



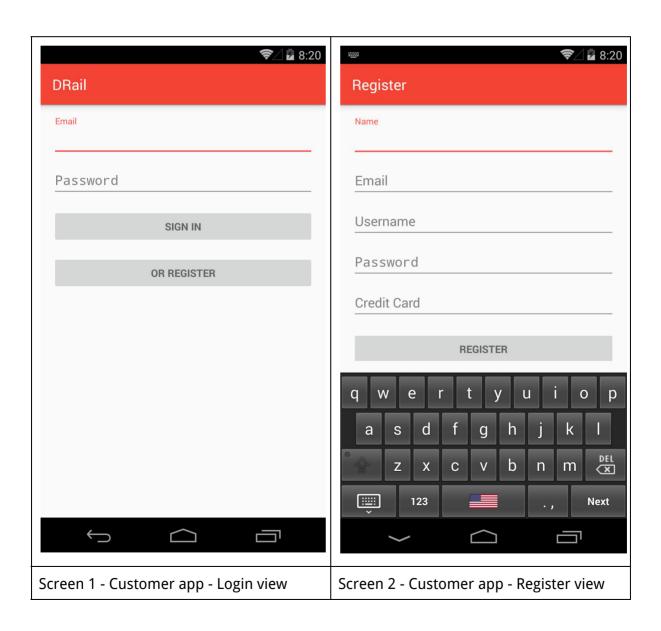
Security

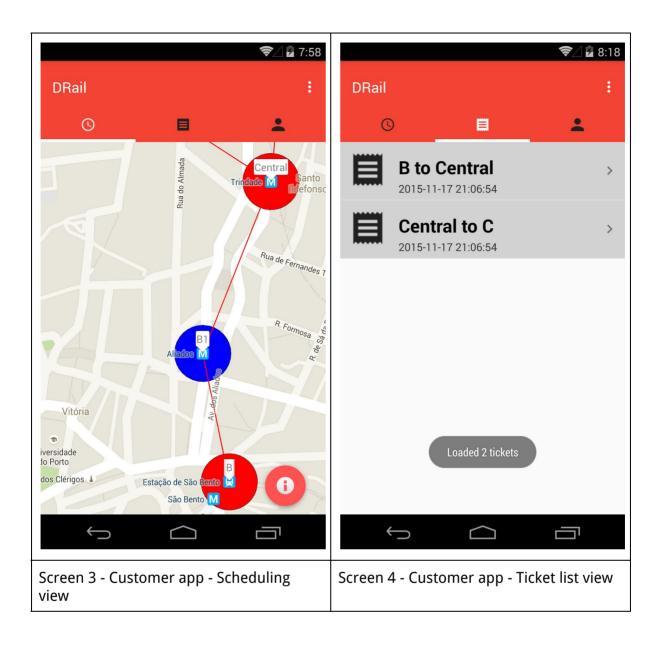
All HTTP requests (except POST /login and POST /register) require the HTTP header Bearer to be set. This token is generated on login or on register using JSON Web Token (JWT, RFC 7519).

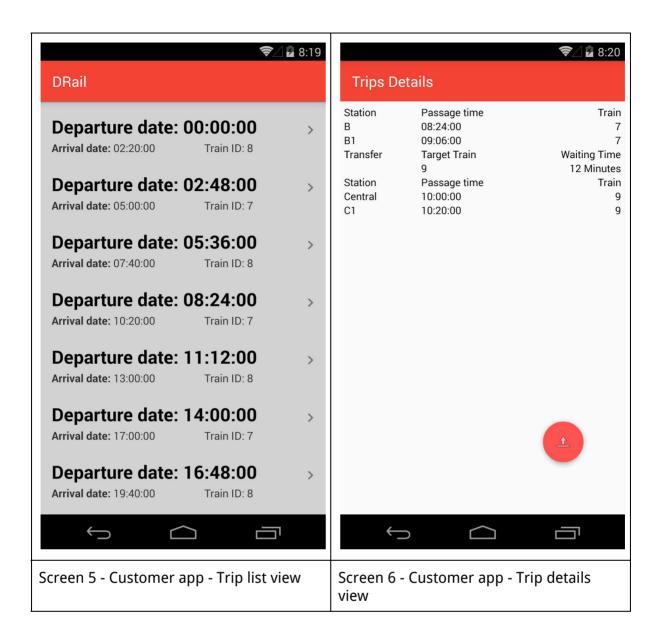
To verify the authenticity of the tickets, a digital signature scheme is used. More specifically, we are using SHA1 with RSA in the following manner:

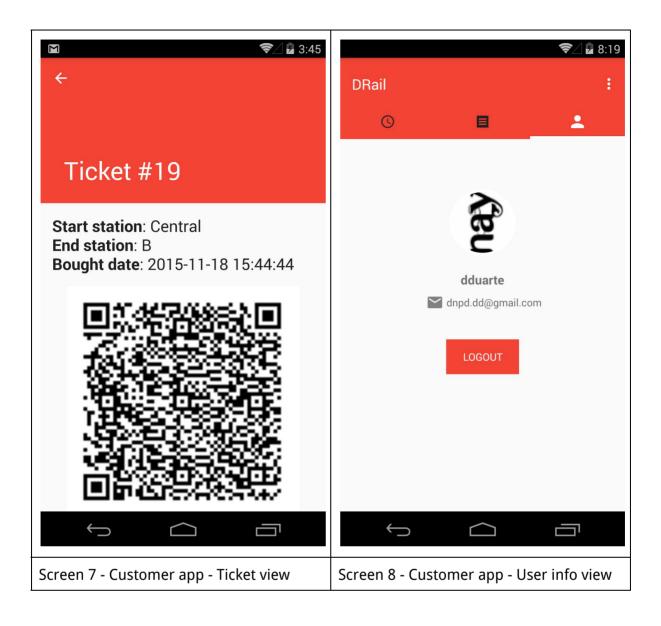
- 1. When a ticket is created, the server generates the signature with a private key using the identifier and creation date of the ticket.
- 2. The signature and other ticket information is sent to both Android clients (when requested to do so).
- 3. The customer app generates a QR token including the id, creation date and signature of the ticket.
- 4. The inspector app scans the QR and verifies that the id and date are valid (not tempered with and not duplicated) using the public key.
- 5. If the signature is valid, the ticket is marked as valid and used.

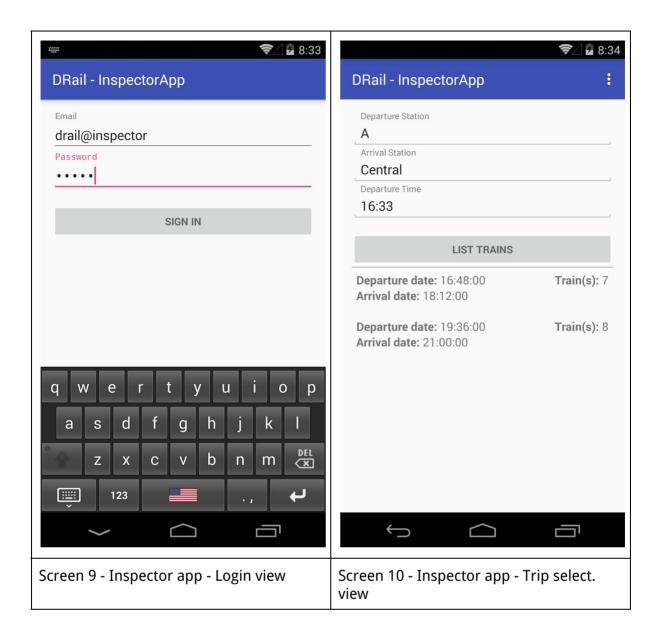
Application interface



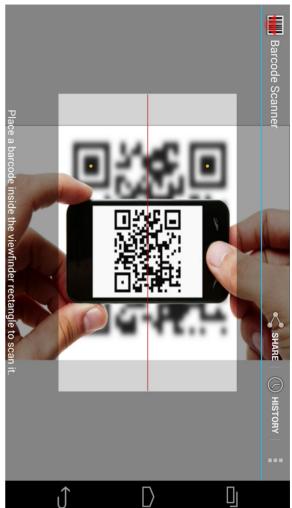






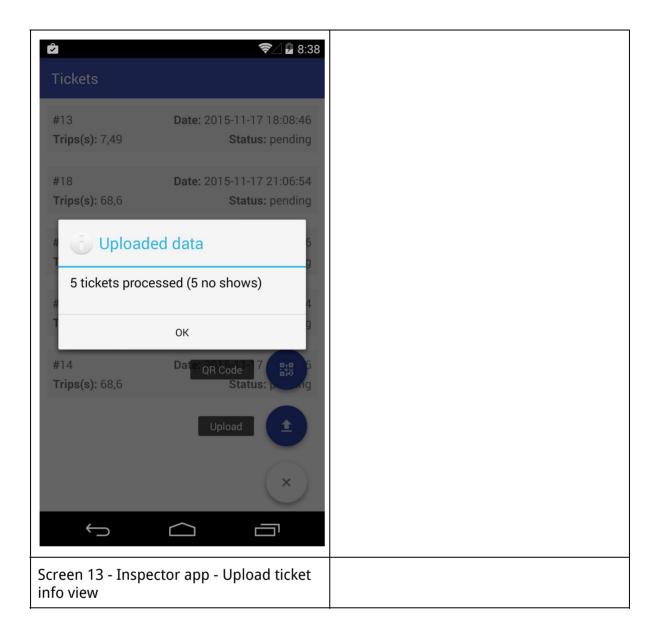






Screen 11 - Inspector app - Ticket list view

Screen 12 - Inspector app - QR scanning (placeholder)



Basic application usage

Customer

- 1. The user should login or register (first visit) (screen 1 or 2)
- 2. In the scheduling view (screen 3), the user can select two stations (red) to browse all the trips between them.
- 3. After selecting the trip (screen 5), the user is presented with the trip details (screen 6) and a button so that the trip can be bought.
 - a. If the credit card is not deemed valid when buying the ticket, the user has to redo the process.
- 4. The user can select the ticket in the ticket list view (screen 4).

5. Once in the ticket view (screen 7), the QR Code can be shown to the inspector or connect to the Inspector App using NFC.

Inspector

- 1. The inspector can login with the credentials given by the company (e.g username drail@inspector and password drail) (screen 9).
- 2. After selecting the departure station, arrival station and departure station, a list of trips is shown (screen 10).
- 3. Once the desired trip is selected, a list of tickets is shown (screen 11) and three options are enabled:
 - O Validating tickets by NFC (not shown, get two devices together)
 - O Validating tickets by QR Code (screen 12)
 - O Upload the state of the tickets once the trip is finished (screen 13).