# CAPSTONE PROJECT FINAL REPORT

# DoConnect - A Q&A Platform

(.NET + ANGULAR)

#### **SUBMITTED BY**

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# **LIST OF CONTENT**

S. No	CONTENTS	Page No.
1	ABSTRACT	1
2	PROBLEM STATEMENT	2
3	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS:	2
	User Stories	2
	Admin Stories	3
	Software Requirements	
	<ul> <li>Technologies and Languages Technologies</li> </ul>	4
	• IDE	4
	• Languages	4
4	INTRODUCTION	5
5	ANGULAR ARCHITECTURE	7
	• Modules	7
	• Components	7
	Templates	7
	• Directives	8
	• Services	8
	Routing	9
	Data Binding	9
	HTTP Client	10
	Dependency Injection	10
6	ASP.NET ARCHITECTURE	11
	Presentation Layer	11
	Business Layer	11
	Data Access Layer	12
	Database Layer	12
7	SQL DATABASE SCHEMA	13
	ER Description	13
	Core Table and Columns	13
8	PROJECT OVERVIEW DIAGRAM	15

9	SYSTEM WORKFLOW DIAGRAM	15
10	USE CASE DIAGRAM	16
11	CLASS DIAGRAM	17
12	LOGIN FLOW DIAGRAM	18
13	ASK QUESTION → ADMIN FLOW DIAGRAM	19
14	ER DIAGRAM	20
15	FRONTEND STRUCTURE & CODE	21
16	BACKEND STRUCTURE & CODE	23
17	SCREEN SHOTS	
	• LOGIN PAGE	25
18	ADMIN	
	Dash Board	25
	Approve/Reject Question	26
	Approve/Reject Answer	26
	Delete Question	27
	User Management	
	> Add User	27
	Modify User	28
	<ul><li>Delete User</li></ul>	28
19	USER	
	Dash Board	29
	Ask Question	29
	Add Answer	30
20	Question Detail  TENTENTS	30
20	TESTING	
	• CYPRESS	2.1
	❖ Authentication	31 31
	<ul><li>Question</li><li>Answer</li></ul>	32
	❖ Admin – CRUD Operations	32
	• X-Unit	
	<ul> <li>Authentication Controller</li> </ul>	
	❖ Admin Controller	33
21	❖ JWT Token Validator	
21	CONCLUSION	34

#### **ABSTRACT**

The project "DoConnect – A Q&A Platform" is a full-stack web application developed using ASP.NET Core Web API for the backend and Angular for the frontend. The system is designed to provide a collaborative environment where users can register, authenticate, ask questions, provide answers, and upload images. To ensure content quality, an Admin role is implemented with the ability to approve or reject questions and answers, as well as manage user accounts.

The backend uses **Entity Framework Core** with **SQL Server** for persistent data storage, secured with **JWT-based authentication** and role-based authorization. The frontend offers an intuitive interface with search functionality, enabling users to quickly find relevant content. All API endpoints are documented and tested using **Swagger UI**, while the robustness of the application is validated through **Cypress tests**.

This project demonstrates the integration of modern software engineering practices, including **CRUD operations**, authentication and authorization, testing frameworks, and modular frontend design, fulfilling the capstone rubric requirements. The outcome is a reliable, scalable, and secure platform that fosters knowledge sharing in a community-driven manner.

#### PROBLEM STATEMENT

# Project Name: DoConnect (Frontend in Angular, Backend in ASP.NET Core MVC)

#### **PROBLEM:**

DoConnect is a Q&A platform where users can ask and answer questions related to various technical topics. The application has two types of users:

- ADMIN
- USER

#### **TECH STACK:**

• Frontend : Angular

• Backend : ASP.NET Core MVC with WEB API

• Database : SQL Server (using EF core as ORM)

• File Storage : File upload functionality on the server

• API Documentation : Swagger for Web API

# **FUNCTIONALITY REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **USER STORIES:**

#### 1. User Authentication:

As a user, I should be able to log in, log out, and register into the application.

#### 2. Ask Questions:

As a user, I should be able to ask a question under any topic.

#### 3. Search Questions:

As a user, I should be able to search for questions based on a search query.

#### 4. Answer Questions:

As a user, I should be able to answer any question posted

#### 5. Multiple Answers:

As a user, I should be able to provide multiple answers to the same question.

#### 6. Image Upload:

As a user, I should be able to upload images along with my question or answer.

#### **ADMIN STORIES:**

#### 1. Admin Authentication:

As an admin, I should be able to log in, log out, and register into the application.

#### 2. Receive Notifications:

As an admin, I should receive notifications when a new question is posted or an answer is given.

#### 3. Approve Questions & Answers:

As an admin, I should be able to approve or reject questions and answers, making them visible on the platform only after approval.

#### 4. Moderate Content:

As an admin, I should be able to delete inappropriate questions or answers.

#### **SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **TECHNOLOGIES AND FRAMEWORKS:**

- Frontend: Angular, TypeScript, HTML5, SCSS
- **Backend:** ASP.NET Core Web API (C#), Entity Framework Core
- Database: Microsoft SQL Server
- **API Documentation & Testing:** Swagger (Swashbuckle)
- **Testing Frameworks:** Npx Cypress Frontend Testing
- Package Manager: NuGet (for .NET), npm (for Angular)

#### **IDE / DEVELOPMENT TOOLS:**

- Visual Studio Code (for frontend development)
- SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) (for database management)
- Postman / Swagger UI (for API testing)
- Git & GitHub (for version control)

#### **PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES:**

• C# : Backend

• **TypeScript** : Frontend

• **SQL** : Database

• HTML5 & SCSS : Designing

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The advancement of technology and the growing availability of online learning resources have significantly increased the demand for collaborative platforms where individuals can exchange knowledge and solve problems together. **DoConnect** is a community-driven **Question & Answer (Q&A) platform** designed to facilitate effective knowledge sharing, much like platforms such as Stack Overflow, but built as a capstone project to demonstrate full-stack development skills.

The system provides two major roles: **User** and **Admin**. Users can register, authenticate, and perform various activities such as posting questions, providing answers, uploading images, and searching existing content. Meanwhile, the Admin oversees the platform by moderating content, approving or rejecting questions and answers, and managing user accounts. This ensures both **quality control** and **secure participation** within the platform.

DoConnect is implemented using a **modern technology stack**:

- Frontend: Angular for building a responsive and interactive Single Page Application (SPA).
- **Backend:** ASP.NET Core Web API with C# for handling business logic and data operations.
- Database: SQL Server with Entity Framework Core for secure and efficient data storage.
- Authentication & Authorization: JSON Web Tokens (JWT) for secure role-based access.

In addition, the project emphasizes **software engineering best practices** such as:

- Modular design and separation of concerns.
- Documentation and API testing using Swagger.
- Automated validation through **unit and integration testing** (xUnit, Moq, FluentAssertions).
- Version control and collaborative development using Git.

#### **ANGULAR ARCHITECTURE**

The **frontend** of the DoConnect application is implemented using **Angular**, a component-based framework for building scalable single-page applications (SPA). Angular's architecture follows the **Model–View–Controller (MVC)** design principle adapted to a client-side environment, ensuring modularity, maintainability, and testability.

#### KEY ELEMENTS OF ANGULAR ARCHITECTURE

#### 1. MODULES

- Angular applications are divided into NgModules, which group related components, directives, pipes, and services.
- In DoConnect:

**AppModule** – Root module, bootstraps the app

**AuthModule** – Handles login and registration.

**QuestionsModule** – Displays, creates, and searches questions.

**AdminModule** – Provides admin dashboard and user/content management.

#### 2. <u>COMPONENTS</u>

- Components control sections of the UI and encapsulate **HTML**, **CSS**, and **TypeScript logic**.
- Examples in DoConnect:

login.component.ts – Handles user login.

**list.component.ts** – Displays all questions with a search bar.

**detail.component.ts** – Shows question details with answers.

**admin-dashboard.component.**ts – Admin interface to approve/reject Q&A and manage users.

#### 3. TEMPLATES

- Angular Templates are used to define the view of a component.
- They combine **HTML** with Angular features to display **dynamic data**.
- Templates support interpolation, property binding, event binding, and two-way binding.
- They use **directives** like \*ngIf, \*ngFor, and ngClass to control the structure and style.
- Pipes are used within templates to format and transform data easily.

#### 4. **DIRECTIVES**

Directives in Angular are special instructions in templates that change the behavior or appearance of DOM elements.

They are classified into three main types:

- Component Directives → Directives with their own template (e.g., custom components).
- Structural Directives → Change the DOM structure (e.g., \*ngIf, \*ngFor, \*ngSwitch).
- Attribute Directives → Change the look or behavior of elements (e.g., ngClass, ngStyle).

#### 5. **SERVICES**

Services in Angular are used to share data, logic, and functionality across multiple components.

They help keep the code clean, reusable, and maintainable.

- Services are usually created with the @Injectable() decorator.
- They are used for tasks like API calls, data sharing, and business logic.
- Services are provided to components using **Dependency Injection (DI)**.

#### 6. ROUTING

- Angular's **RouterModule** manages navigation between views without reloading the page.
- Defined in app-routing.module.ts.
- In DoConnect:
  - /login → Login component
  - register → Register component
  - questions → Question list component
  - /questions/:id → Question detail component
  - ✓admin → Admin dashboard

#### 7. <u>DATA BINDING</u>

Binding Angular the connecting Data in is process the component's data with the template (HTML view). It allows automatic synchronization between the model (component) and the view.

There are **four types** of data binding:

- Interpolation ({{ }})  $\rightarrow$  Display data  $\rightarrow$  {{ name }}
- Property Binding [] → Bind values to HTML properties → <img [src]="imageUrl">
- Event Binding () → Handle user events → <button</li>
   (click)="show()">Click</button>
- **Two-Way Binding [(ngModel)]** → Sync data both ways → <input [(ngModel)]="username">

It makes Angular apps dynamic and interactive.

#### 8. HTTP CLIENT

HttpClient in Angular is used to communicate with servers and perform HTTP requests like GET, POST, PUT, DELETE. It is part of the HttpClientModule and helps in fetching or sending data to APIs.

#### STEPS TO USE HTTPCLIENT

- 1. **Import HttpClientModule**  $\rightarrow$  Add in app.module.ts.
- 2. Inject HttpClient  $\rightarrow$  Use it in your service or component.
- 3. Make Requests  $\rightarrow$  Use methods like get(), post(), put(), delete().

#### 9. <u>DEPENDENCY INJECTION</u>

**Dependency Injection (DI) in Angular** is a design pattern that allows a class (like a component) to get objects it needs (services) from an external source instead of creating them itself.

- It helps in making code reusable, testable, and maintainable.
- Angular has a built-in injector that provides dependencies wherever required.
- Services are commonly injected into components using DI.

#### ASP.NET ARCHITECTURE

The backend of DoConnect is implemented using ASP.NET Core Web API, which follows a layered architecture to separate concerns and improve scalability, maintainability, and testability. The architecture combines the MVC pattern with Entity Framework Core (EF Core) for data access and JWT-based authentication for secure communication.

#### **KEY LAYERS OF THE ARCHITECTURE**

#### 1. PRESENTATION LAYER (CONTROLLERS)

- Controllers handle HTTP requests and responses.
- Each controller corresponds to a domain area:
  - AuthController Handles registration, login, and JWT token generation.
  - QuestionsController CRUD operations for questions, image upload, search.
  - AnswersController CRUD operations for answers.
  - AdminController User management and moderation (approve/reject Q&A).
- Controllers use DTOs (Data Transfer Objects) to shape request/response payloads.

#### 2. BUSINESS LOGIC LAYER (SERVICES)

- o Encapsulates the **core logic** of the application.
- Validates inputs, enforces business rules, and interacts with the data access layer.
- Example: When an admin approves a question, the service updates the status and notifies relevant users.

#### 3. DATA ACCESS LAYER (ENTITY FRAMEWORK CORE)

- o EF Core is used as the ORM to map C# models to SQL Server tables.
- AppDbContext defines DbSet<User>, DbSet<Question>,
   DbSet<Answer>, and DbSet<Image>.
- EF Core LINQ queries ensure secure, optimized, and strongly-typed database operations.

#### 4. DATABASE LAYER (SQL SERVER)

- Relational database stores persistent data.
- Schema includes tables for Users, Questions, Answers, and Images.
- Foreign key relationships enforce referential integrity (e.g., UserId in Questions links to Users).

#### **SQL DATABASE SCHEMA**

#### **SQL DATABASE SCHEMA OVERVIEW**

#### 1. HIGH-LEVEL ER DESCRIPTION

The DoConnect database stores users, questions, answers, and optional images. Main entities and relationships:

- Users (1) (N) Questions: a user can post many questions.
- Users (1) (N) Answers: a user can post many answers.
- Questions (1) (N) Answers: a question can have many answers.
- Questions (1) (N) Images: optional images attached to a question (could also allow images for answers).

Primary keys are surrogate integer IDs. Referential integrity is enforced with foreign keys. Business rules such as approval flow (Pending → Approved/Rejected) are represented with enum-like columns.

#### 2. CORE TABLES & COLUMNS (RECOMMENDED DATA TYPES)

#### **USERS**

- Id INT IDENTITY PRIMARY KEY
- Username NVARCHAR(100) UNIQUE NOT NULL
- Email NVARCHAR(256) UNIQUE NOT NULL
- PasswordHash VARBINARY(MAX) NOT NULL
- PasswordSalt VARBINARY(MAX) NOT NULL
- Role NVARCHAR(20) NOT NULL -- e.g., 'User' / 'Admin' (or smallint if you use enum)
- CreatedAt DATETIME2 NOT NULL DEFAULT SYSUTCDATETIME()
- IsDeleted BIT NOT NULL DEFAULT 0 (optional for soft-delete)

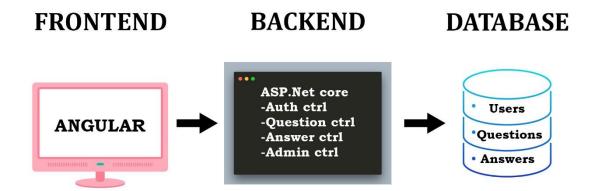
#### **QUESTIONS**

- Id INT IDENTITY PRIMARY KEY
- UserId INT NOT NULL (FK  $\rightarrow$  Users.Id)
- Title NVARCHAR(300) NOT NULL
- Body NVARCHAR(MAX) NULL (or Description depending on your model)
- Status NVARCHAR(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'Pending' -- 'Pending','Approved','Rejected'
- CreatedAt DATETIME2 NOT NULL DEFAULT SYSUTCDATETIME()
- UpdatedAt DATETIME2 NULL
- IsDeleted BIT NOT NULL DEFAULT 0 (optional)

#### **ANSWERS**

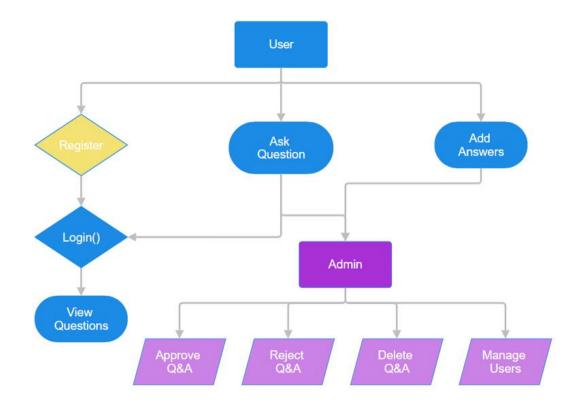
- Id INT IDENTITY PRIMARY KEY
- QuestionId INT NOT NULL (FK  $\rightarrow$  Questions.Id)
- UserId INT NOT NULL (FK  $\rightarrow$  Users.Id)
- Body NVARCHAR(MAX) NOT NULL
- Status NVARCHAR(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'Pending'
- CreatedAt DATETIME2 NOT NULL DEFAULT SYSUTCDATETIME()
- UpdatedAt DATETIME2 NULL
- IsDeleted BIT NOT NULL DEFAULT 0 (optional)

# **PROJECT OVERVIEW DIAGRAM**



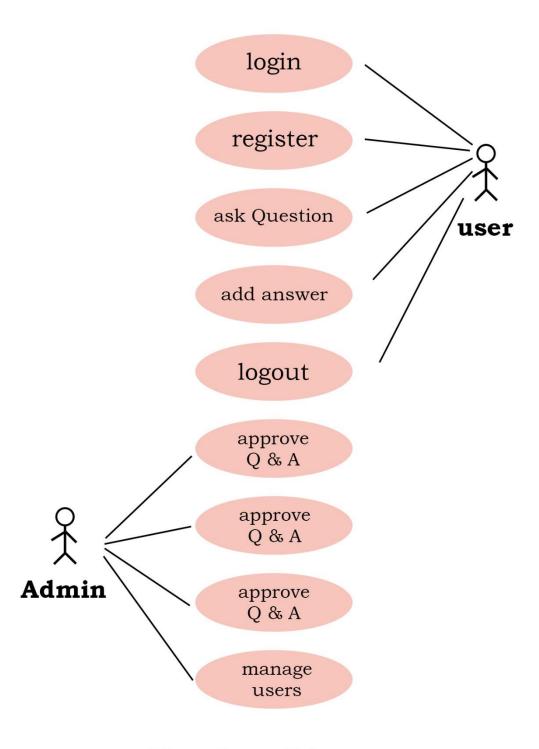
# **Project Overview Diagram**

# **SYSTEM WORKFLOW DIAGRAM**



System Workflow Diagram

# **USE CASE DIAGRAM**



Use Case Diagram

# **CLASS DIAGRAM**

1 Question User N int Id ld int Userld Username int (FK) string **Email** Title string string PasswordHash **Body** byte[] string **PasswordSalt** byte[] Status string Role string CreatedAt **DateTime** CreatedAt DateTime DateTime? UpdatedAt bool **IsDeleted IsDeleted** bool 1 1 N N **Image Answer** Id int ld int QuestionId int QuestionId? int Userld int Answerld? int string Body FilePath str Status string UploadedAt **DateTime** CreatedAt DateTime

Entity Relationship Diagram

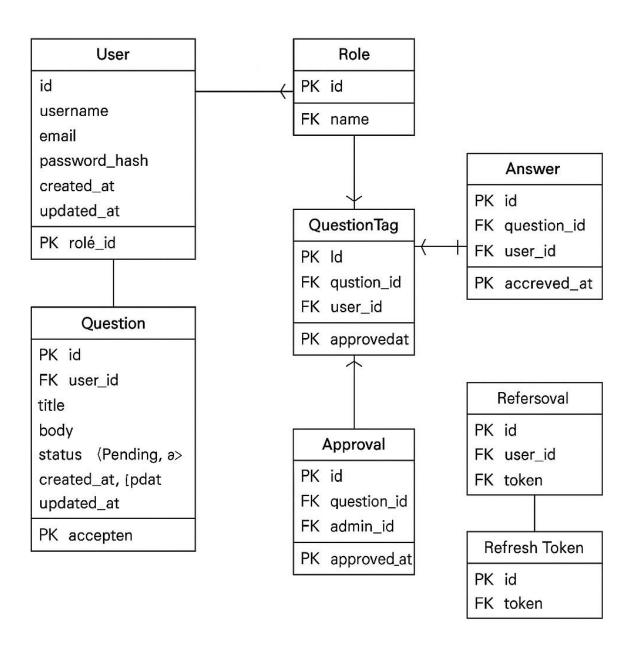
# **LOGIN FLOW DIAGRAM**

Angular SPA	AuthController/API	Database			
1	1	I			
Enter creds>		1			
POST /login>					
1	< SELECT us	ser>			
1	< user row	(hash)			
1	verify pa	assword			
į į	generate	JWT			
< 200 OK	+ token	I			
- logged in		I			
store t	oken	1			
(localSt	corage)	1			

# **ASK QUESTION** → **ADMIN FLOW DIAGRAM**

User	Angular SPA	QuestionsController/API	Database		
1		1	1		
   fills for	m>	İ	İ		
1	POST /que	stions ->	1		
1		INSERT Quest	ion		
I		(Status=Pend:	ing)		
I	< 201 Creat	ed	1		
< sees 'Per	< sees 'Pending'				
(Later)					
Admin	Admin Angular UI	AdminController/API	Database		
1	I	1	I		
GET pend	ling>	SELECT Quest			
1		WHERE Status=	_		
		ist			
Approve	Q	UPDATE Quest	-		
l I	 	Status=Approv	/ea		
  < success	< 204 No Co	ntentI	! 		
r success		I	ı		
User/All					
1		1	1		
view que	stions	>	I		
1	1	1	1		
<pre> &lt;- sees que:</pre>	stion		I		

#### **ER DIAGRAM**



#### FRONTEND CODE STRUCTURE & SCREENSHOT

```
•
            guards/
              auth.guard.ts
             — auth.interceptor.ts
             models/
               - user.model.ts
               question.model.ts
             services/
             auth.service.ts
               — question.service.ts
               — answer.service.ts
             ___ image.service.ts
         pages/
            - auth/
                 login/
                   login.component.html

    login.component.scss

                   login.component.ts
                 register/
                   - register.component.html
                   register.component.scss
                 register.component.ts
             questions/
               - list/
                   - list.component.html
                   list.component.scss
                   - list.component.ts
                 detail/
                   detail.component.htmldetail.component.scss
                     detail.component.ts
                   ask.component.html
                   ask.component.scss
                 ___ ask.component.ts
             answers/
└─ answer-form/
                  — answer-form.component.html

    answer-form.component.scss

                   — answer-form.component.ts
             admin/
              — admin.component.html
              — admin.component.scss
             admin.component.ts
             navbar.component.html
               navbar.component.scss
             ___ navbar.component.ts
               — footer.component.html
              — footer.component.scss
             footer.component.ts
     — app.component.ts
     assets/
       — images/
     environment.development.ts
    index.html
```

#### **BACKEND CODE STRUCTURE & SCREENSHOT**

```
DoConnect/
        DoConnect.Api/
           - Controllers/

    AdminController.cs

             — AuthController.cs

    QuestionsController.cs

               AnswersController.cs
            └─ ImagesController.cs
           Data/
            └── AppDbContext.cs
           Dtos/
               - Auth/
                ├─ LoginDto.cs
                RegisterDto.cs
AuthResponseDto.cs
               Questions/
                  — QuestionDto.cs
                  CreateQuestionDto.cs
                  - AnswerDto.cs
              – Shared/
                └─ PagedResultDto.cs
             — User.cs
             — Question.cs
              Answer.cs
            └─ Image.cs
           Migrations/
            └─ {timestamp}_InitialMig.cs
           Services/
             — JwtService.cs
               IJwtService.cs
              QuestionService.cs
            AnswerService.cs
           · Properties/
            ☐ launchSettings.json
          — Program.cs
         appsettings.json

    appsettings.Development.json

        ☐ appsettings.Testing.json
        DoConnect.Api.Tests/

    Integration/

             — AuthControllerTests.cs
              AdminControllerTests.cs
            QuestionControllerTests.cs
           Unit/
            └── JwtServiceTests.cs
          CustomWebApplicationFactory.cs
          — TestHelpers.cs
         AssemblyInfo.cs
        L DoConnect.Api.Tests.csproj
        DoConnect.sln
        README.md
```

```
| Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Content | Cont
```

```
OCONNECT [ユロロロ
                                          DoConnect.Api > Controllers > C AdminController.cs > S AdminController > S AdminController
                                                      metApi > Controllers > (* AdminControllercs > (* AdminControllercs )
using DoConnect.Api.Entities;
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Authorization;
using Microsoft.AspNetCore.Mvc;
using Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore;
using Microsoft.FittingFrameworkCore;
using System.Security.Cryptography;
using System.Security.Cryptography;
     styles.scss
       .gitignore
      angular.json
   y cypress.config.ts M
package-lock.json
                                            11 [ApiController]
12 [Route("api/[controller]")]
13 [Authorize(Roles = "Admin")]
   README.md
    tsconfig.app.json
   tsconfig.json
   tsconfig.spec.json
 DoConnect.Api
> 🌇 bin
     C AdminController... M
                                                            // ☑ Get all users
[HttpGet("users")]
    C# AuthController.cs
  Data
> Dtos
> Entities
                                                            //  Get single user
[HttpGet("users/{id:int}")]
> III Migrations
  Properties
                                                             var user = await db.Users.FindAsync(id);
return user is null ? NotFound() : user;
> 🐚 wwwroot
  C) appsettings.json☑ DoConnect.Api.csproj

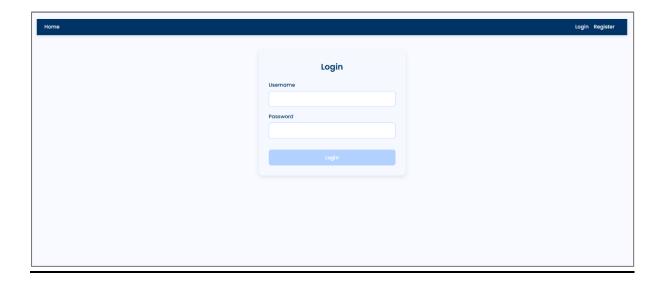
DoConnect.Apr...

DoConnect.Api.http

M
                                                            // 
✓ Add new user (Admin can create a user account)
[HttpPost("users")]
0 references
  schema.sql
 DoConnect.Api.Tests
                                                                  if (await db.Users.AnyAsync(u => u.Username == username))
    return BadRequest("Username already exists");
  Integration
                                                                   CreatePasswordHash(password, out var hash, out var salt);
```

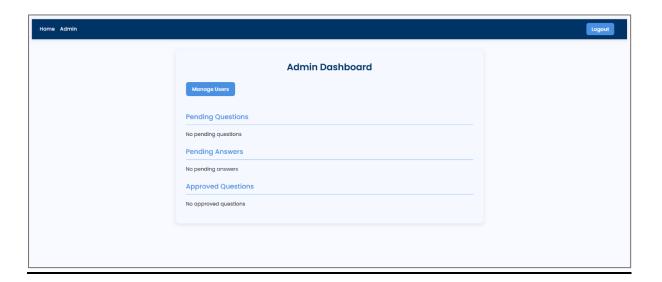
# **SCREENSHOTS**

# **LOGIN PAGE**

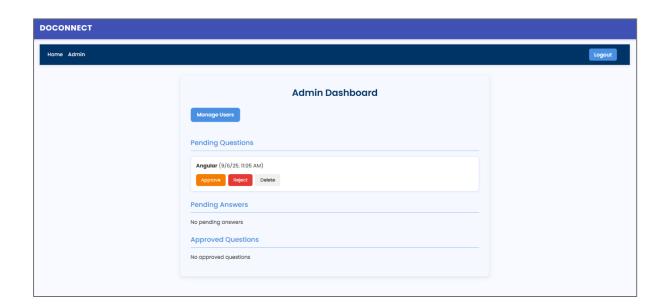


# **ADMIN**

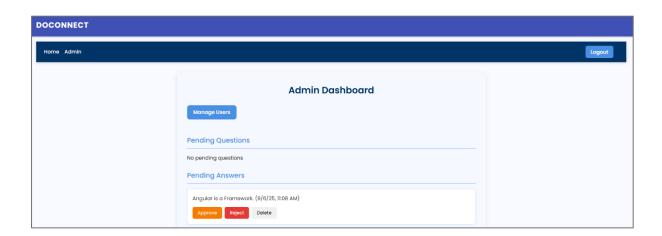
# **DASHBOARD**



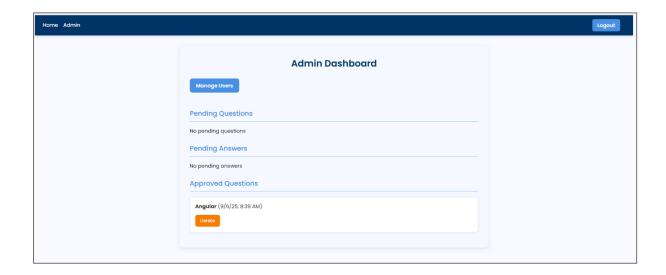
# **APPROVE / REJECT QUESTION**



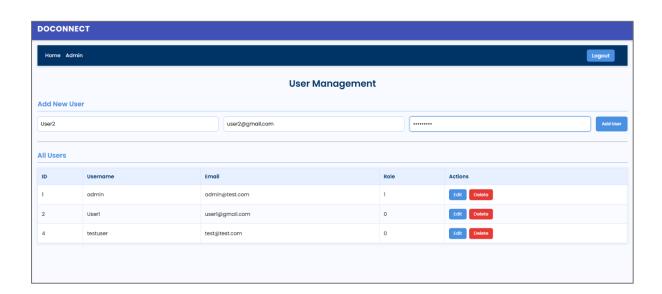
# **APPROVE / REJECT ANSWER**



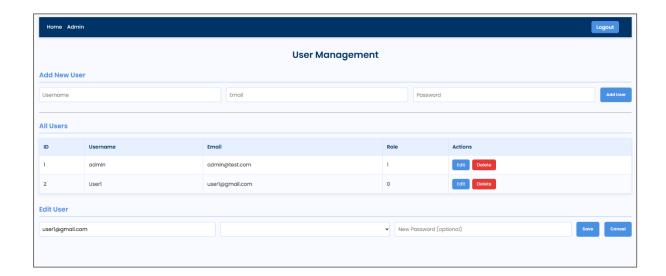
# **DELETE QUESTION**



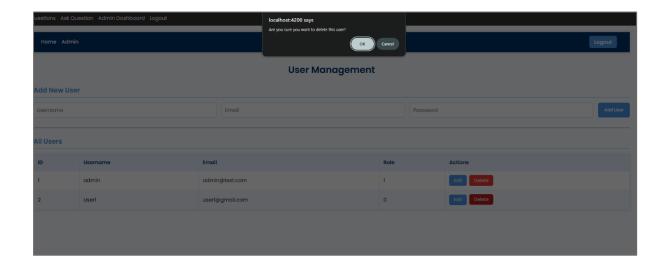
# ADMIN – USER MANAGEMENT ADD USER



# **UPDATE USER**

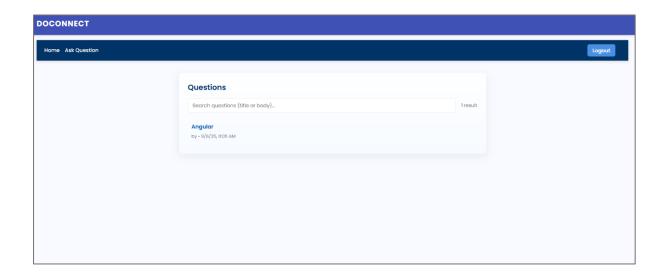


# **DELETE USER**

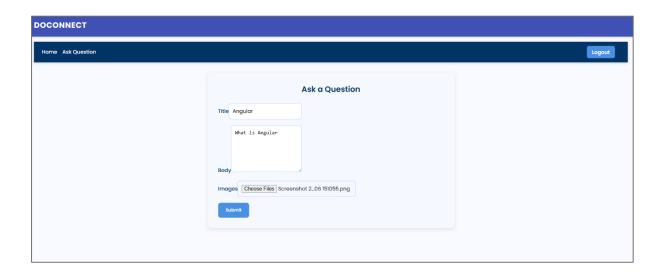


# **USER**

# **USER DASHBOARD**



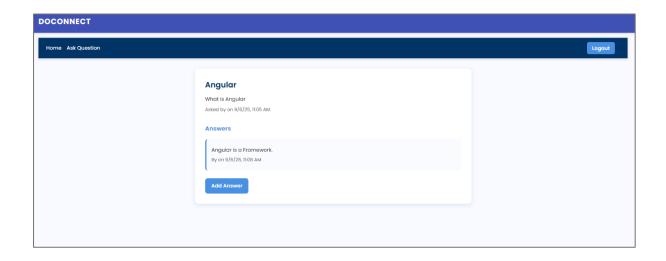
# **ASK QUESTION**



# **ADD ANSWER**



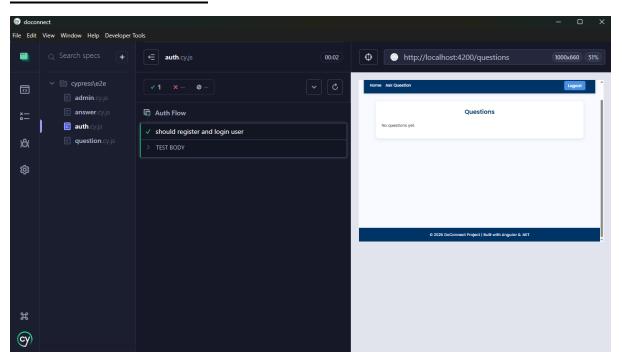
# **QUESTION DETAILS**



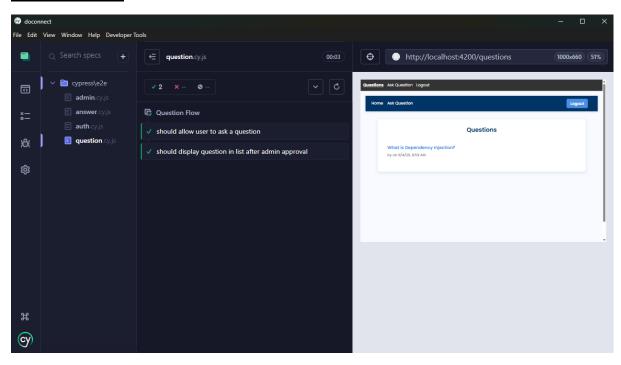
# **TESTING**

# FRONTEND - CYPRESS

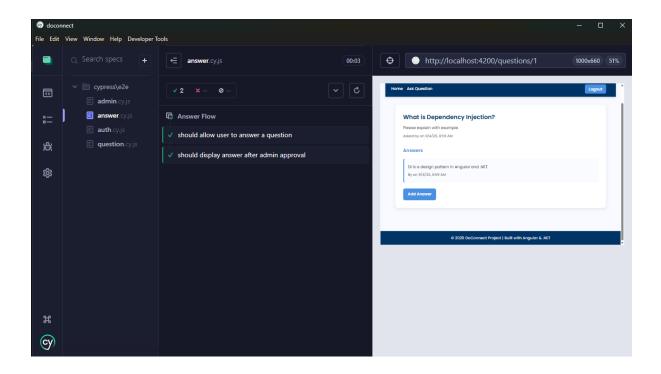
# **AUTHENTICATION**



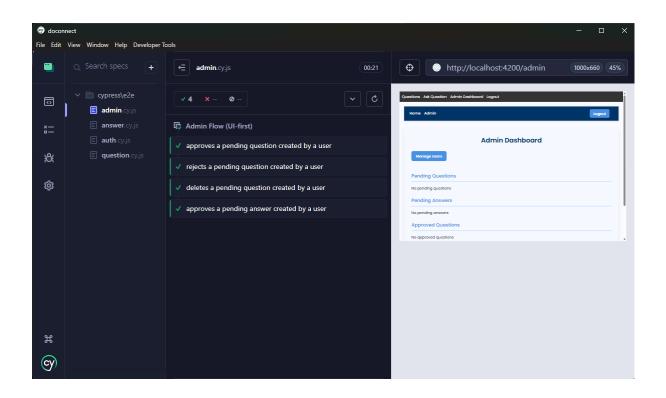
# **QUESTION**



#### **ANSWER**



# **ADMIN**



#### **BACKEND – X-UNIT**

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS QUERY RESULTS

SELECT "q"."Id", "q"."Body", "q"."CreatedAt", "q"."Status", "q"."Title", "q"."UserId"
FROM "Questions" AS "q"
WHERE "q"."Id" = @__p_0
LIMIT 1

[xUnit.net 00:00:15.61] Finished: DoConnect.Api.Tests
DoConnect.Api.Tests test succeeded (20.9s)

Test summary: total: 4, failed: 0, succeeded: 4, skipped: 0, duration: 20.9s
Build succeeded in 35.1s

Workload updates are available. Run `dotnet workload list` for more information.

murug@SARAVANAN MINGW64 /d/DoConnect (main)

$ $ $ $
```

#### **CONCLUSION**

The DoConnect Project successfully implements a Q&A discussion platform where users can post questions, provide answers, and interact in a structured environment.

Frontend (Angular) provides a clean, responsive, and user-friendly interface with features like:

- User login/registration
- Asking questions and submitting answers
- Admin panel for approving/rejecting questions and answers
- Search and filter options for better usability

Backend (ASP.NET Core Web API + EF Core + SQL Server) ensures:

- Secure authentication/authorization with JWT
- Proper entity relationships between Users, Questions, Answers, and Images
- Role-based access control for Admin and Users
- RESTful APIs supporting CRUD operations and approval workflows

Testing was covered at two levels:

Frontend (Cypress E2E Tests): Validated real user flows like login, asking/answering questions, and admin approvals.

Backend (xUnit Integration & Unit Tests): Ensured controllers, services, and authentication logic function correctly in isolation and integration.

Database design was handled through Entity Framework migrations, with an ER diagram that defines relationships clearly and prevents inconsistencies.