

# Unicom TIC Management System - Project Report

Developed Using: C#, WinForms, SQLite

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## 1. Introduction

The Unicom TIC Management System (UMS) is a robust and user-friendly Windows desktop application designed to streamline the academic and administrative operations of an educational institution. Building upon the foundational requirements of the C# Assignment, this project meticulously implements a comprehensive suite of features leveraging C# WinForms, a layered architecture incorporating Model-View-Controller (MVC) principles, and a persistent SQLite database.

This report details the system's architecture, implemented modules, advanced features, and the successful resolution of various development challenges, demonstrating a strong understanding of modern software development practices.

## 2. Project Objectives

The primary objectives achieved through this project include:

**User-Friendly Desktop Application:** Developed a highly intuitive and responsive Windows desktop application using C# and WinForms.

**Layered Architecture Implementation:** Successfully implemented a sophisticated layered architecture, including Models, DTOs, Enums, Mappers, Interfaces, Repositories, and Services, along with a Controller layer for strict separation of concerns and maintainability.

**Comprehensive CRUD Operations:** Enabled efficient Create, Read, Update, and Delete (CRUD) operations across all key entities using SQLite as the local database.

**Robust Role-Based Access Control:** Implemented a secure login system with granular role-based access for Admins, Staff, Lecturers, and Students, ensuring appropriate permissions for each user type.

**Timetable and Room Scheduling:** Developed functionalities for managing timetables, including the allocation of computer labs and lecture halls.

**Advanced Validation & Error Handling:** Integrated robust form validation and comprehensive error handling mechanisms, including try-catch blocks across all database and service operations for enhanced reliability.

**Automated ID Generation:** Implemented automatic generation of Admission Numbers for

Students and Employee IDs for Staff and Lecturers upon registration.

### 3. System Architecture

The UMS adheres to a multi-layered architectural pattern, significantly enhancing maintainability, scalability, and testability.

#### Core Layers:

**Models:** Defines the data structures (e.g., User, Student, Course). Includes specialized DTO (Data Transfer Objects) for efficient data transfer between layers and Enums for consistent status and role definitions.

**Mappers:** Dedicated classes (UserMapper, StudentMapper, etc.) responsible for converting data between Model entities and DTOs, ensuring clean data segregation.

**Repositories:** Provides an abstraction layer for data access. Interfaces define contracts (IUserRepository, IStudentRepository), while concrete Repository implementations (UserRepository, StudentRepository) handle direct SQLite database interactions (CRUD operations).

**Services:** Contains the business logic of the application. Interfaces (IUserService, IStudentService) define the service contracts, and concrete Service implementations (UserService, StudentService) orchestrate interactions between repositories and apply business rules.

**Controllers:** Acts as the intermediary between the Views (UI) and the Services layer. Controllers handle user input, invoke appropriate service methods, and update the view.

**Views:** The Windows Forms (UI) that users interact with.

#### Utilities & Datas:

**Utilities (e.g., PasswordHasher):** Contains common utility functions, such as password hashing, promoting reusability and security best practices.

**Datas (e.g., DatabaseManager, Migration, DatabaseSeeder):** Manages database connection, schema creation, and initial data seeding.

This layered approach ensures a strong separation of concerns, making the application modular and easy to manage.

### 4. Key Features & Modules Implemented

The system incorporates several core modules, each designed to manage specific aspects of the educational institution's operations:

#### 4.1. User Management & Authentication

**Secure Login System:** Implements a robust login mechanism. Instead of a hardcoded admin, all users, including the Admin, register and authenticate against the Users table in the SQLite database.

**Role-Based Access Control:** Each user is assigned a UserRole (Admin, Student, Lecturer, Staff, Mentor) upon registration. The system dynamically adjusts UI elements and functionalities based on the logged-in user's role (e.g., only Admin can perform Add/Update/Delete operations on core data entities).

**Unique NIC Validation:** Ensures that only "UnicomTic users" (identified by a unique NIC) can register, preventing unauthorized sign-ups and maintaining data integrity. Each NIC used for registration is tracked in the NICDetails table.

**Automated ID Generation:** Upon registration:

Students are automatically assigned an AdmissionNumber.

Staff and Lecturers are automatically assigned an EmployeeID.

**Password Hashing:** Passwords are securely hashed using the dedicated PasswordHasher utility class before storage, and verified during login, enhancing security.

#### 4.2. Core Academic Modules

**Course Management:** Allows admins to add, edit, and delete course information.

**Subject Management:** Enables the creation and linking of subjects to specific courses.

**Student Management:** Comprehensive module for student entry, approval, and management of student details.

**Lecturer Management:** Records and manages lecturer details.

**Staff Management:** Handles staff records and details.

**Mentor Module:** Facilitates the registration and listing of mentors, allowing for assignment to student groups.

**Main & Sub Groups:** Implemented a hierarchical grouping system (MainGroups and SubGroups) to organize students and classes effectively, supporting various academic structures.

#### 4.3. Timetable & Attendance

**Timetable Management:** Enables scheduling courses, subjects, and lecturers for specific time slots and rooms (computer labs/lecture halls).

**Attendance Tracking:** Facilitates the tracking of student attendance per group and time slot.

#### 4.4. Exams & Marks

Exam Management: Allows linking subjects to specific exams.

Marks Management: Enables entering, viewing, and modifying student marks for exams. Top performers functionality can be extended from this data.

#### 4.5. Logging & Notifications

Activity Logs: Tracks system logs of user actions (primarily for Admin review), providing an audit trail for important operations.

Notifications: Supports a notification system for conveying important messages to specific users or roles.

#### 4.6. Other Features

Leave Requests: Manages leave requests submitted by users, with approval workflows.

Student Complaints: Provides a mechanism for students to submit complaints and for administrators to resolve them.

Backup Logs: Tracks database backup activities.

Comprehensive Error Handling: Extensive use of try-catch blocks throughout the application, especially within Repository and Service layers, ensures graceful handling of exceptions and provides informative error messages to the user and console.

### 5. Database Design (SQLite)

The application utilizes a SQLite database (UnicomTicManagementDB.db) for persistent data storage. The database schema is designed with proper relationships (Foreign Keys) to ensure data integrity and consistency. Key tables include:

NICDetails

Users

ActivityLogs

Departments

TimeSlots

Courses

Subjects

MainGroups

SubGroups

Mentors

Students

AdmissionNumbers

GroupMentors

StudentGroups

GroupSubjects

Lecturers

Staff

EmployeeIDs

LecturerStudents

LectureSubjects

Exams

Marks

Assignments

Submissions

Rooms

Timetables

Attendance

Notifications

BackupLogs

LeaveRequests

StudentComplaints

The database tables are auto-created on application startup via SQL scripts within Migration.cs.

## 6. Development Methodologies & Best Practices

**SOLID Principles:** The layered architecture and interface-driven design (IUserRepository, IUserService, etc.) adhere to SOLID principles, promoting maintainability, flexibility, and testability.

**Separation of Concerns:** Each layer and module has a distinct responsibility, ensuring that changes in one area do not adversely affect others.

**Code Reusability:** Utility classes like PasswordHasher centralize common functionalities, preventing code duplication.

**Robust Error Handling:** Consistent try-catch blocks with specific exception handling provide a resilient application.

**Clean UI/UX:** The WinForms interface is designed to be intuitive and user-friendly, providing clear navigation and feedback.

## 7. Challenges Faced & Solutions

**Database Schema Evolution:** Adapting the initial database design to incorporate complex relationships (e.g., Main/Sub Groups, specific user IDs like NIC, Admission Numbers, Employee IDs) while maintaining foreign key integrity.

**Solution:** Iterative refinement of Migration.cs with careful attention to table creation order and foreign key constraints.

**Role-Based Access Implementation:** Dynamically enabling/disabling UI elements and controlling

access to specific operations based on user roles.

Solution: Implementing role checks in Controllers and UI event handlers, ensuring only authorized users can perform sensitive actions.

Password Security: Storing and verifying passwords securely.

Solution: Implemented a dedicated PasswordHasher class using SHA256 hashing and Base64 encoding for storage, with a VerifyPassword method for secure authentication.

Enum Conversion: Handling the conversion between C# enum types (like UserRole) and string representations stored in SQLite.

Solution: Explicitly parsing strings to enums (Enum.Parse) when reading from the database and converting enums to strings (.ToString()) when writing to the database.

Automated ID Generation Logic: Ensuring unique AdmissionNumber and EmployeeID generation for different user types.

Solution: Integrated logic within the registration process to assign these unique identifiers based on the user's role.





































