

MERN Template

A comprehensive, production-ready MERN stack template with authentication, file uploads, email services, and extensive debugging tools.

Features

Authentication & Security

- **JWT Authentication** with refresh tokens
- **OAuth Integration** (Google, GitHub)
- **Email Verification** and password reset
- **Role-based Access Control** (User, Admin, Moderator)
- **Rate Limiting** and security headers
- **Input Validation** and sanitization

File Management

- **File Upload** with Multer
- **Cloud Storage** support (Cloudinary)
- **Image Processing** and thumbnail generation
- **File Type Validation** and size limits
- **Progress Tracking** for uploads

Email Services

- **Email Templates** with Handlebars
- **Email Queue** with job tracking
- **Multiple Providers** (SMTP, SendGrid, Mailgun)
- **Email Verification** and notifications

Developer Experience

- **TypeScript** throughout the stack
- **Hot Reloading** for development
- **Comprehensive Debugging** dashboard
- **API Documentation** and testing tools
- **Database Seeding** and migrations

- **Testing Setup** (Jest, Cypress)

Modern UI

- **Chakra UI** component library
- **Dark/Light Mode** support
- **Responsive Design** for all devices
- **Accessibility** compliant
- **Smooth Animations** with Framer Motion

Debugging & Monitoring

- **Debug Dashboard** for system monitoring
- **API Testing** interface
- **Database Query** builder
- **Live Logs** viewer
- **Performance Metrics** tracking
- **WebSocket** connection testing

Tech Stack

Frontend

- **React 18** with TypeScript
- **Vite** for fast development
- **Chakra UI** for components
- **Zustand** for state management
- **React Query** for server state
- **React Router** for navigation
- **Framer Motion** for animations

Backend

- **Node.js** with Express
- **TypeScript** for type safety
- **MongoDB** with Prisma ORM
- **JWT** authentication

- **Passport.js** for OAuth
- **Nodemailer** for emails
- **Socket.io** for real-time features

DevOps & Tools

- **Docker** for containerization
- **Railway** deployment ready
- **ESLint & Prettier** for code quality
- **Jest & Cypress** for testing
- **Winston** for logging
- **Redis** for caching



Quick Start

Prerequisites

- **Node.js** 18+
- **npm** 8+
- **MongoDB** (local or cloud)
- **Git**

1. Clone the Repository

```
bash
```

```
git clone https://github.com/yourusername/mern-template.git  
cd mern-template
```

2. Install Dependencies

```
bash
```

```
npm run setup
```

This will install dependencies for the root, client, server, and shared packages.

3. Environment Configuration

Copy the environment template and configure your settings:

```
bash
```

```
cp .env.example .env
```

Update the `.env` file with your configuration:

```
bash
```

```
# Database
```

```
DATABASE_URL=mongodb://localhost:27017/mern_template
```

```
# JWT Secrets (generate strong secrets for production)
```

```
JWT_SECRET=your-super-secret-jwt-key-change-in-production
```

```
JWT_REFRESH_SECRET=your-super-secret-refresh-key-change-in-production
```

```
# OAuth (optional - get from Google/GitHub)
```

```
GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID=your-google-client-id
```

```
GOOGLE_CLIENT_SECRET=your-google-client-secret
```

```
# Email (configure one provider)
```

```
EMAIL_HOST=smtp.gmail.com
```

```
EMAIL_PORT=587
```

```
EMAIL_USER=your-email@gmail.com
```

```
EMAIL_PASS=your-app-password
```

```
# File Upload (optional - for cloud storage)
```

```
CLOUDINARY_CLOUD_NAME=your-cloudinary-cloud-name
```

```
CLOUDINARY_API_KEY=your-cloudinary-api-key
```

```
CLOUDINARY_API_SECRET=your-cloudinary-api-secret
```

4. Database Setup

```
bash
```

```
# Generate Prisma client
```

```
npm run db:generate
```

```
# Run migrations
```

```
npm run db:migrate
```

```
# Seed the database with sample data
```

```
npm run db:seed
```

5. Start Development

```
bash
```

```
npm run dev
```

This starts:

- **Frontend:** <http://localhost:3000>
- **Backend:** <http://localhost:5000>
- **Debug Dashboard:** <http://localhost:8080>

Default Accounts

After seeding, you can log in with these accounts:

Role	Email	Password
Admin	admin@example.com	Admin123!
Moderator	moderator@example.com	Moderator123!
User	user1@example.com	User123!

Docker Development

For a containerized development environment:

```
bash
```

```
# Start all services
```

```
npm run docker:up
```

```
# View Logs
```

```
npm run docker:logs
```

```
# Stop services
```

```
npm run docker:down
```

Testing

```
bash
```

```
# Run all tests
```

```
npm run test
```

```
# Run specific test suites
```

```
npm run test:client    # Frontend tests
```

```
npm run test:server    # Backend tests
```

```
npm run test:e2e       # End-to-end tests
```

```
# Coverage report
```

```
npm run test:coverage
```



Production Build

```
bash
```

```
# Build all packages
```

```
npm run build
```

```
# Start production server
```

```
npm start
```



Deployment

Railway Deployment

1. **Connect Repository:** Link your GitHub repository to Railway
2. **Environment Variables:** Add all required environment variables
3. **Database:** Add MongoDB service or connect external database
4. **Deploy:** Railway will automatically build and deploy

Manual Deployment

1. **Build the application:**

```
bash
```

```
npm run build
```

2. **Set environment variables** for production
3. **Start the server:**

```
bash
```

```
npm start
```

Configuration

OAuth Setup

Google OAuth

1. Go to [Google Cloud Console](#)
2. Create a new project or select existing
3. Enable Google+ API
4. Create OAuth 2.0 credentials
5. Add authorized redirect URIs:
 - `http://localhost:5000/api/auth/google/callback` (development)
 - `https://yourdomain.com/api/auth/google/callback` (production)

GitHub OAuth

1. Go to GitHub Settings > Developer settings > OAuth Apps
2. Create a new OAuth App
3. Set Authorization callback URL:
 - `http://localhost:5000/api/auth/github/callback` (development)
 - `https://yourdomain.com/api/auth/github/callback` (production)

Email Configuration

Gmail SMTP

1. Enable 2-factor authentication
2. Generate an App Password
3. Use these settings:

```
bash
```

```
EMAIL_HOST=smtp.gmail.com
```

```
EMAIL_PORT=587
```

```
EMAIL_USER=your-email@gmail.com
```

```
EMAIL_PASS=your-app-password
```

SendGrid

```
bash
```

```
SENDGRID_API_KEY=your-sendgrid-api-key
```

```
EMAIL_FROM=noreply@yourdomain.com
```

File Upload Configuration

Cloudinary (Recommended)

1. Sign up at [Cloudinary](#).
2. Get your cloud name, API key, and secret
3. Configure environment variables

Local Storage

Files are stored in the `uploads/` directory by default.

Development Guide

Project Structure


```

mern-template/
├─ client/                # React frontend
│  └─ src/
│     ├─ components/      # Reusable components
│     ├─ pages/           # Page components
│     ├─ hooks/           # Custom hooks
│     ├─ stores/          # Zustand stores
│     ├─ services/        # API services
│     ├─ utils/           # Utility functions
│     └─ theme/           # Chakra UI theme
└─ package.json
├─ server/                # Express backend
│  └─ src/
│     ├─ controllers/     # Route controllers
│     ├─ middleware/      # Custom middleware
│     ├─ routes/          # API routes
│     ├─ services/        # Business logic
│     ├─ utils/           # Utility functions
│     ├─ config/          # Configuration
│     └─ validation/      # Input validation
└─ prisma/                # Database schema & migrations
└─ package.json
├─ shared/                # Shared types & utilities
├─ debug-dashboard/       # Debugging interface
├─ docker-compose.yml     # Docker configuration
└─ package.json           # Root package.json

```

Adding New Features

1. **Update shared types** in `/shared/src/types/`
2. **Add database models** in `/server/prisma/schema.prisma`
3. **Create API routes** in `/server/src/routes/`
4. **Add frontend components** in `/client/src/components/`
5. **Update validation** in `/server/src/validation/`
6. **Add tests** for new functionality

API Routes

Method	Endpoint	Description
POST	/api/auth/login	User login
POST	/api/auth/register	User registration
GET	/api/auth/me	Get current user
POST	/api/auth/logout	User logout
GET	/api/users/profile	Get user profile
PUT	/api/users/profile	Update profile
POST	/api/files/upload	Upload file
GET	/api/files	List user files
DELETE	/api/files/:id	Delete file
GET	/api/debug/health	Health check

Database Schema

Key models include:

- **User:** User accounts with authentication
- **UserProfile:** Extended user information
- **File:** File upload records
- **EmailJob:** Email queue and tracking
- **Notification:** User notifications
- **AuditLog:** System activity logs

Debugging

Debug Dashboard

Access the comprehensive debugging dashboard at <http://localhost:8080>:

- **System Overview:** Server stats, user metrics, performance
- **API Tester:** Test all endpoints with custom payloads
- **Database Explorer:** Query and inspect database collections
- **File Manager:** View and test file uploads
- **Email Tester:** Send test emails and view templates
- **Live Logs:** Real-time log monitoring
- **WebSocket Tester:** Test real-time connections

Common Issues

Database Connection

```
bash

# Check MongoDB is running
brew services start mongodb-community@7.0 # macOS
sudo systemctl start mongod               # Linux

# Verify connection
npm run db:studio
```

Environment Variables

```
bash

# Verify all required variables are set
node -e "console.log(process.env.DATABASE_URL)"
```

Port Conflicts

```
bash

# Kill processes on ports 3000, 5000, 8080
sudo lsof -ti:3000,5000,8080 | xargs kill -9
```

Testing Guide

Frontend Testing

- **Component Tests:** React Testing Library
- **Hook Tests:** Custom hook testing
- **Integration Tests:** API integration
- **E2E Tests:** Cypress for user workflows

Backend Testing

- **Unit Tests:** Service and utility functions
- **Integration Tests:** API endpoints
- **Database Tests:** Model operations
- **Authentication Tests:** Auth flows

Running Tests

bash

Watch mode for development

`npm run test:watch`

Specific test files

`npm run test -- --testNamePattern="auth"`

Generate coverage

`npm run test:coverage`

Additional Resources

Documentation

- [React Documentation](#)
- [Chakra UI Components](#)
- [Prisma Documentation](#)
- [Express.js Guide](#)

Learning Resources

- [TypeScript Handbook](#)
- [JWT Best Practices](#)
- [Node.js Security](#)

Contributing

1. **Fork the repository**
2. **Create a feature branch:** `git checkout -b feature/amazing-feature`
3. **Commit changes:** `git commit -m 'Add amazing feature'`
4. **Push to branch:** `git push origin feature/amazing-feature`
5. **Open a Pull Request**

Development Standards

- Use **TypeScript** for type safety
- Follow **ESLint** configuration

- Write **tests** for new features
- Update **documentation** as needed
- Use **conventional commits**

License

This project is licensed under the MIT License - see the [LICENSE](#) file for details.

Acknowledgments

- **React Team** for the amazing framework
- **Chakra UI** for beautiful components
- **Prisma** for excellent database tools
- **Vercel** for deployment platform
- **Railway** for easy deployment

Support

If you need help or have questions:

1. **Check the documentation** above
2. **Search existing issues** on GitHub
3. **Create a new issue** with detailed information
4. **Join our community** discussions

Happy coding! 🎉

Made with ❤️ by [Your Name]