

I. Project Title

Eco-Matic (Eco vending machine) using Console Application in C#

II. Introduction

This project aims to develop a console “Eco-Matic” Vending Machine Simulator in C#. The application will show the use of different OOP principles and file handling. The idea came from not just for commercial purposes but to also integrates a "trash to credit" recycling system, promoting awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like responsible consumption (SDG 12).

This project can potentially be a great idea in the future to be put on the streets of Cebu to help clean the trashes. The console program will be data-driven, with a dynamic inventory managed through a CSV file and a transaction log.

III. Objectives

- Develop a user-friendly and interactive console application with clear, separated roles for customers and administrators.
- Demonstrate inheritance and polymorphism by creating an abstract `VendingItem` class with specialized child classes (`DrinkItem`, `SnackItem`) that provide unique behaviors.
- Implement a data-driven inventory that loads and saves its state from a CSV file, allowing the machine's catalog to be modified dynamically.
- Create an admin panel, protected by a code, for managing the machine's inventory and logs.
- Integrate a "Recycle for Credit" feature, allowing users to convert simulated trash (plastic, glass, aluminum) into usable machine credit, thus promoting sustainability.
- Enforce realistic constraints, such as a maximum number of item slots and maximum stock per item, with input validation to guide the user.

IV. Scope

- The system will focus on simulating customer transactions (purchasing, recycling), managing a dynamic inventory, and providing administrative functions.
- The system will not include a GUI. It will only be purely console based.

V. Project Requirements

- **Software Requirements:**
 - IDE: Visual Studio Code or Visual Studio 2022 (Or any IDE with c# environment)
 - Language: C#.
 - Tools/Libraries: Standard .NET libraries, including System.IO for file handling and System.Linq for data manipulation. I will also be including System.Thread for sleep function.
- **Hardware Requirements:**
 - Any modern computer capable of running the .NET runtime.

VI. Functional Requirements

- **Customer Functions:**
 - Insert Money: Allow a user to add to their current balance.
 - Select Item: Allow a user to purchase an available item if they have sufficient balance.
 - Examine Item: Display descriptive "flavor text" for a selected item.
 - Recycle for Credit: Allow a user to select a type of recyclable material and quantity to add credit to their balance.
 - Get Change: Allow a user to finish their session and receive their remaining balance.
- **Administrator Functions:**
 - Restock Items: Restore the quantity of a specific item or all items to the maximum stock level (10).
 - Add Item: Add a new, unique item to the machine's inventory (up to the 6-item limit), defining its type, name, price, stock, and attributes.
 - Remove Item: Permanently remove an item from the machine's inventory.
 - View Log: Display the complete contents of the transaction log file.
 - Clear Log: Wipe all entries from the transaction log file after a confirmation prompt.
- **System Functions:**
 - Data Persistence: Automatically load and save the inventory from/to a CSV file.

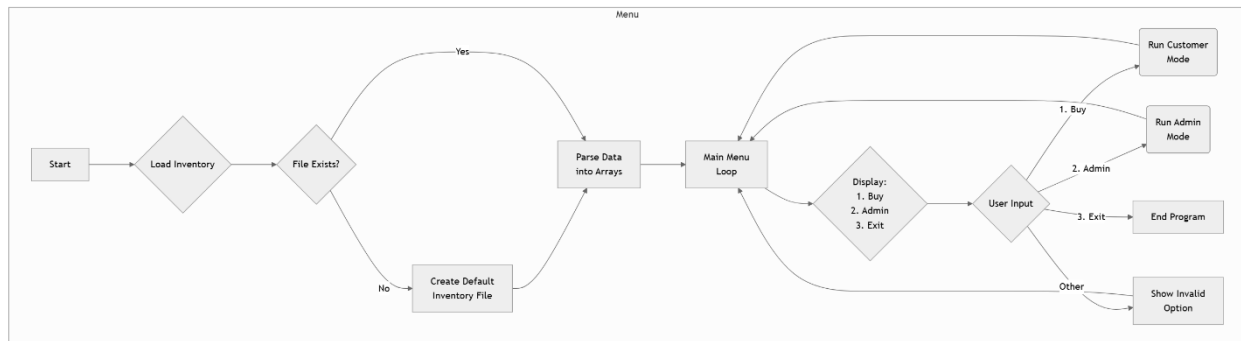
- Event Logging: Automatically log all purchases, recycling activities, and admin actions with a UTC timestamp (Using DateTime from System).
- Input Validation: Guide users to re-enter data if their input is invalid (negative prices, out-of-range stock levels).

VII. Expected Output

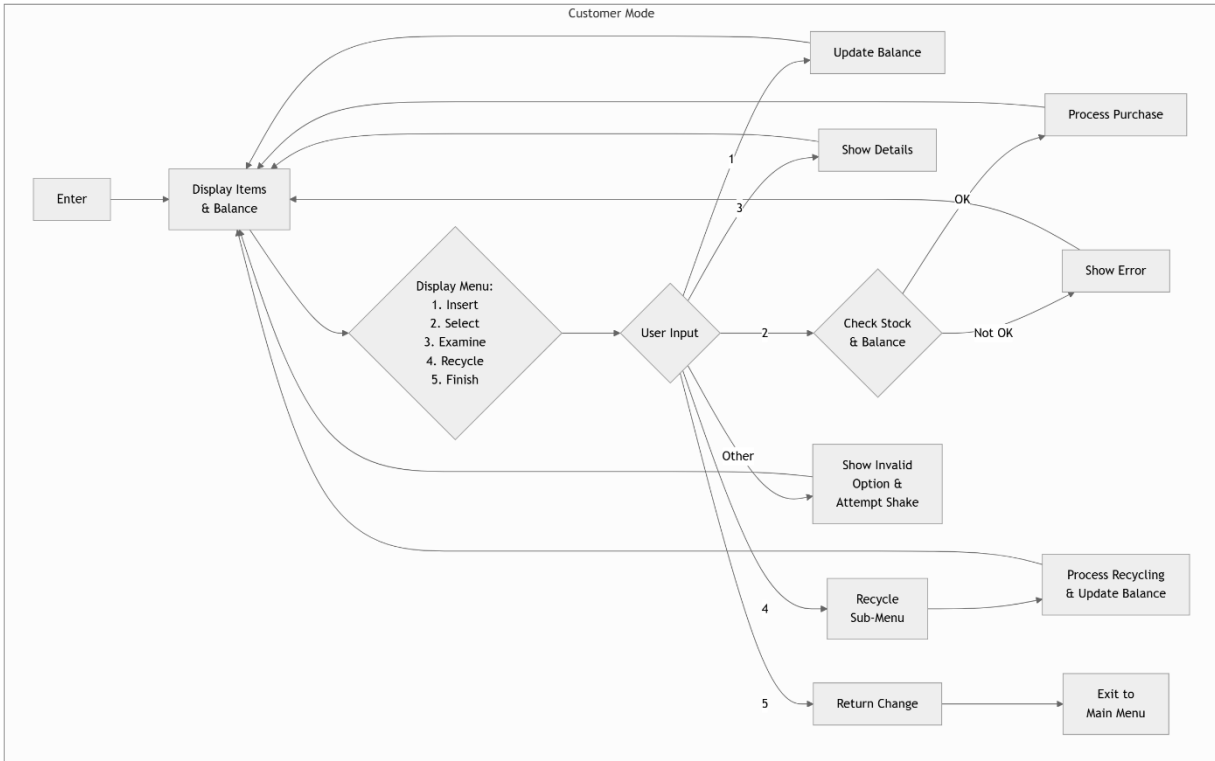
- The final deliverables for this project will include: The complete, single-file C# source code (Program.cs) for the Eco-Matic Simulator.
- The final executable console application.
- The inventory_stock.csv and transaction_log.txt files generated and used by the application during runtime.

FLOWCHART

Menu



Customer



Admin

