

## Prerequisites – ShopSmart Grocery Web App

This project uses the **MERN stack: MongoDB, Express.js, React, Node.js**

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### Core Dependencies

Software	Purpose	Required For
<b>Node.js</b>	JavaScript runtime for backend	Runs server-side code
<b>npm</b>	Node package manager	Installs dependencies
<b>MongoDB</b>	NoSQL database	Stores users, products, orders
<b>Express.js</b>	Web framework for Node.js	Builds backend REST APIs
<b>React</b>	Frontend library	Builds dynamic user interface
<b>Mongoose</b>	ODM for MongoDB	Defines schemas & models

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### Authentication & Security

Package	Purpose
<b>jsonwebtoken</b>	JWT-based user authentication
<b>bcrypt</b>	Secure password hashing
<b>cors</b>	Enables cross-origin requests
<b>helmet</b>	Sets secure HTTP headers