Sincere Walker

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IST 412

**Q1. Why is password hashing important in secure applications?**

Hashing ensures passwords are not stored in plain text, protecting user credentials even if the database is compromised.

**Q2. What would be the risk if passwords were stored in plain text?**

If attackers access the database, all user passwords would be exposed, leading to massive security breaches.

**Q3. What is the role of BCryptPasswordEncoder?**

It hashes passwords using a strong algorithm with salt, making it computationally expensive to reverse and harder to brute-force.

**Q4. How does your app check for and prevent duplicate users?**

During registration, it checks if the username already exists in the database using userRepository.findByUsername().