

A PROJECT REPORT

On

Web Chat App

By

Situn Sahu AF04964368

ABSTRACT

The **Chat Application** is a real-time communication platform designed to enable instant messaging between users with a smooth and secure experience. This system allows users to send and receive messages, connect with others, and manage conversations in an interactive and userfriendly interface.

The application is developed using **React.js** for the front-end to ensure a dynamic and responsive user interface. The back-end is powered by **Node.js** and **Express.js**, providing efficient API handling and server management. Data is securely stored and managed using **MySQL**, while **CORS** enables safe cross-origin communication between the client and server. Passwords and sensitive data are protected using **bcrypt** for encryption and authentication.

This Chat Application enhances digital communication by ensuring reliability, security, and real-time message delivery. Its modular architecture makes it scalable for future updates such as media sharing, message notifications, and group chats. Overall, this system provides an efficient, modern, and secure messaging solution for users across different platforms.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project would not have been possible without the continuous support, guidance, and encouragement of many individuals. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who helped me throughout the development of this **Chat Application**.

A special thanks to the **faculty at Anudip**, whose knowledge and mentorship inspired me to learn and innovate. Your support and motivation played a key role in the successful completion of this project.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to my **family** for their unconditional love, belief, and encouragement throughout my journey. This achievement is dedicated to them for always being my strongest support system.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

In today's digital age, communication plays a vital role in connecting individuals, organizations, and communities. Traditional methods of communication—such as emails, SMS, or in-person meetings—are often slow, inconvenient, or fragmented. The rise of real-time messaging platforms has transformed how people interact by providing instant, secure, and seamless communication experiences.

The **Chat Application** project addresses the need for an efficient and reliable digital communication platform. It allows users to send and receive messages instantly, manage conversations, and stay connected through a web-based interface. Built using modern technologies like **React.js**, **Node.js**, **Express.js**, **MySQL**, **CORS**, and **bcrypt**, this project demonstrates a full-stack approach to developing a secure, scalable, and user-friendly chat system.

The system provides essential features such as user authentication, message storage, and real-time chat functionality. By integrating modern web technologies, the Chat Application ensures fast communication, smooth interaction between users, and protection of sensitive information. The ultimate goal of this project is to create a responsive, real-time chat solution that bridges communication gaps while maintaining simplicity, performance, and security.

1.2. Objectives

Real-Time Communication: Enable instant exchange of messages between users, ensuring seamless, lag-free conversations.

Secure Authentication: Implement encrypted password storage using **bcrypt** to protect user data and prevent unauthorized access.

User Management: Maintain user profiles, including registration, login, and online/offline status tracking.

Data Storage and Retrieval: Use MySQL to store messages and user data efficiently while allowing easy retrieval and history tracking.

Interactive Front-End: Provide a responsive and user-friendly interface using React.js to ensure an engaging user experience.

Scalable Architecture: Design the application for future enhancements like group chats, media sharing, and notifications.

Cross-Origin Communication: Utilize CORS to enable safe and controlled communication between the client and server.

1.3. Purpose, Scope, and Applicability

Purpose of this System

The purpose of the Chat Application is to provide a reliable platform for real-time online communication between users. It is designed to simplify personal and professional messaging through an intuitive interface and secure backend services. By automating tasks like user authentication, message storage, and chat management, the system minimizes manual processes, improves interaction efficiency, and enhances user engagement.

Scope of this System

User Authentication and Security: The application ensures secure login and registration with encrypted password management using bcrypt.

Real-Time Messaging: Allows users to send and receive messages instantly, providing an interactive chat experience.

Database Management: MySQL handles data persistence efficiently, ensuring reliable storage of user credentials and chat history.

Responsive Interface: Built with React.js and CSS, the front end offers a clean and responsive design suitable for all devices.

Server-Side Functionality: The backend developed in Node.js and Express.js handles API requests, message routing, and real-time data flow.

Error Handling and Validation: Integrated form validation and error handling prevent incorrect inputs and maintain data integrity.

Scalability: The system architecture supports adding new features like file sharing, video calling, or chat groups in the future.

1.3.3. Applicability of this System

The Chat Application is designed for a wide range of real-world communication scenarios:

Individuals: For personal one-on-one chats with friends, family, or colleagues.

Organizations: For internal communication and collaboration among team members.

Educational Institutions: For teacher-student communication or group discussions.

Developers and Tech Teams: As a base model for integrating chat systems into larger applications or platforms.

Startups and Enterprises: Can be adapted as a core communication tool for customer support or internal chat platforms.

1.4. Achievements

During the development of the Chat Application, significant technical and conceptual milestones were achieved. The project successfully integrates modern web technologies to build a reliable, secure, and real-time messaging platform. Through this process, skills in full-stack development, API integration, database design, and encryption were strengthened.

Key Achievements:

Real-Time Chat Functionality: Users can exchange messages instantly, with real-time updates.

Secure User Authentication: Passwords are encrypted using bcrypt to ensure data protection.

User-Friendly Interface: A clean and responsive UI built with React.js enhances usability.

Database Integration: Reliable storage and retrieval of chat history through MySQL.

Server Efficiency: Optimized backend built with Node.js and Express.js ensures quick message delivery.

Scalable Structure: The system can easily accommodate future features like media sharing or group chats.

1.5. Organisation of Report

The report is structured to provide a clear understanding of the Chat Application's development process and its technical foundation. It begins with an introduction that explains the background, objectives, and purpose of the project.

The **Survey of Technologies** chapter explores the various technologies used—such as React, Node.js, Express.js, MySQL, and bcrypt—highlighting their roles in system implementation.

The **System Analysis** chapter defines the problem, system requirements, and planning stages, including both functional and non-functional aspects.

The **System Design** chapter focuses on architecture, database schema, and user interface design for both frontend and backend components.

The **Implementation and Testing** chapter discusses code development, integration of modules, and testing procedures to ensure performance, reliability, and security.

The **Results and Discussion** chapter presents the performance outcomes, user feedback, and system efficiency evaluation.

Finally, the **Conclusion** summarizes the project's accomplishments and provides suggestions for future enhancements such as media sharing, chat groups, or AI-based message recommendations.

The report concludes with **References** and a **Glossary**, providing clarity on technical terms and sources used throughout the project.

CHAPTER 2: Survey Of Technologies & System Analysis

In the development of the **Chat Application**, several modern web technologies were utilized to create a secure, efficient, and user-friendly real-time communication platform. The project follows a full-stack architecture, combining both front-end and back-end technologies to ensure seamless data flow, performance, and scalability. The following is an overview of the technologies used in the project:

2.1 Front-End Technologies React.js:

React.js is a popular JavaScript library developed by Facebook for building dynamic and responsive user interfaces. It allows for the creation of reusable UI components and efficient rendering using the virtual DOM. In this project, React is used to develop the chat interface, user authentication pages, and message display components, ensuring a smooth and interactive user experience.

HTML and CSS:

These are the foundational technologies used to structure and design the layout of the web application. HTML defines the content and structure of the pages, while CSS is used for styling, color themes, and responsive layouts. Together, they ensure that the chat interface is both visually appealing and easy to navigate.

JavaScript (ES6+):

JavaScript is used to add interactivity and handle dynamic content within the chat application. It enables features such as message updates, form validation, and event handling. ES6 features like arrow functions, `async/await`, and modular coding make the frontend logic more efficient and maintainable.

Bootstrap 5:

Bootstrap 5 is used to design responsive layouts that automatically adjust to different screen sizes, ensuring compatibility with desktops, tablets, and mobile devices. It provides pre-built UI components such as buttons, forms, and modals, helping to speed up front-end development and maintain design consistency.

2.2 Back-End Technologies Node.js:

Node.js is a JavaScript runtime environment used for developing the server-side of the chat application. It enables fast, scalable, and event-driven applications. In this project, Node.js handles server operations, processes client requests, and manages message routing between users in real time.

Express.js:

Express.js is a lightweight web framework for Node.js that simplifies server creation and API management. It handles routing, middleware integration, and RESTful API design. In this project, Express.js is used to manage endpoints for user registration, authentication, and message handling between clients and the database.

MySQL Database:

MySQL is a relational database management system used to store all user and message-related data. It stores user credentials, chat messages, timestamps, and conversation history securely. The database structure ensures efficient data retrieval and consistency across the application.

bcrypt:

bcrypt is a password-hashing library used for securing user credentials. It encrypts passwords before storing them in the database, preventing unauthorized access and enhancing user data security.

CORS (Cross-Origin Resource Sharing):

CORS is implemented to enable controlled communication between the front-end (React) and the back-end (Node.js and Express) running on different servers or ports. It ensures that data can be securely exchanged between the client and server while preventing potential cross-origin security risks.

2.3 Development and Testing Environment Visual

Studio Code (VS Code):

VS Code is the integrated development environment (IDE) used for writing, editing, and debugging code. Its extensions and integrated terminal make it ideal for developing both front-end and back-end components. **npm**

(Node Package Manager):

npm is used to manage dependencies and packages required for the project. It simplifies the installation and updating of libraries like Express, bcrypt, and CORS, ensuring the smooth operation of the application.

Postman:

Postman is used for testing APIs to verify that server endpoints respond correctly to client requests. It allows developers to simulate user actions and ensure proper communication between the client and server.

2.4 Problem Definition

The primary objective of the **Chat Application** is to provide a secure, reliable, and user-friendly platform that enables real-time communication between users. In the modern digital environment, effective and instant communication is crucial for both personal and professional interactions. Traditional communication methods such as email or SMS are often slow, lack interactivity, and do not support real-time updates.

The main problems addressed in this project include:

Lack of Real-Time Communication:

Existing systems often fail to deliver instant message delivery and reception, which limits user engagement and efficiency. A dedicated chat application ensures real-time synchronization between users.

Data Privacy and Security Risks:

Users expect privacy in communication. Without proper encryption and authentication mechanisms, sensitive messages can be intercepted or exposed. This project addresses such risks through secure login, hashed passwords, and protected message storage.

Poor User Interface Experience:

Many chat applications are cluttered or difficult to navigate. The goal here is to develop an intuitive, responsive, and aesthetically pleasing interface using React and Bootstrap 5, ensuring ease of use across devices.

Scalability Issues:

As user numbers grow, the system must efficiently manage message delivery, user sessions, and database operations. This chat application is designed with scalability in mind, utilizing Node.js and Express.js for optimal performance.

Limited Message Management:

Without a structured database, retrieving and managing past conversations becomes difficult. The proposed system employs MySQL for reliable message storage and retrieval.

2.5 Requirement Specification

The Chat Application is designed to provide a seamless real-time communication platform. The following are the key functional and nonfunctional requirements identified for the project:

User Authentication and Registration:

The system shall allow users to register with their name, email, and password. Passwords will be encrypted using bcrypt before being stored in the database to ensure account security.

Real-Time Messaging:

Users should be able to send and receive messages instantly without refreshing the page. The system will use RESTful APIs and efficient data handling to simulate real-time communication.

One-to-One Chat Functionality:

Each user should be able to chat privately with another registered user.

The chat data will be stored in the database for message history retrieval.

Message History Management:

The system shall store all chat messages with timestamps, allowing users to view their past conversations anytime.

User Status and Availability:

The application will display the online/offline status of users, allowing participants to know who is active.

Responsive and Interactive User Interface:

Using React.js and Bootstrap 5, the front-end will provide an elegant and responsive design compatible with desktops, tablets, and smartphones.

Role-Based Access (Admin/User):

The system will include two types of users — Admins, who can manage users, and regular users, who can send and receive messages.

Secure Communication:

The application shall ensure data integrity and security through proper authentication, authorization, and secure data handling between the client and server.

Error Handling and Notifications:

Appropriate alerts and notifications will be displayed for events such as successful login, message sent, or connection failure.

2.6 Software and Hardware Specification

Software Requirements Operating System:

Compatible with Windows, macOS, or Linux **Development Frameworks and Tools:**

Front-End: React.js, HTML5, CSS3, Bootstrap 5, JavaScript (ES6)

Back-End: Node.js with Express.js framework

Database: MySQL

Security: bcrypt for password hashing

API Testing Tool: Postman

Development Environment: Visual Studio Code **Web Server:**

XAMPP / Node.js built-in server (for testing and local hosting)

Hardware Requirements

Minimum Specifications:

Processor: Dual-core processor or higher

RAM: 8 GB

Storage: 518 GB SSD

Recommended Specifications:

Processor: Quad-core processor or higher

RAM: 8 GB

Storage: 512 GB SSD or higher

2.7 Preliminary Product Description

The proposed **Chat Application** is a full-stack web-based platform that allows users to communicate instantly. The system integrates front-end and back-end technologies to deliver a smooth and secure chatting experience.

Key Functions of the System:

User Registration and Login:

New users can sign up using their email and password, while existing users can log in securely.

Personalized Chat Interface:

Each user can view a list of other registered users and start private conversations.

Message Storage and Retrieval:

Every message exchanged between users is stored in the MySQL database with a timestamp for future access.

Real-Time Communication Simulation:

The system dynamically updates chats using asynchronous requests, giving users an instant messaging experience.

Secure Authentication:

Passwords are encrypted before storage, and user data is transmitted securely between client and server.

User-Friendly Interface:

The front-end design ensures a simple, clean, and responsive layout for users of all experience levels.

2.8 Conceptual Models

To better understand the system structure and workflow, the following conceptual models have been developed:

Data Flow Diagram (DFD):

The DFD illustrates how data moves through the Chat Application. It includes:

Processes: User registration, login authentication, sending and receiving messages.

Data Stores: Database tables for users, chats, and messages.

External Entities: Users who interact with the application (senders and receivers).

Data Flows: Data transfers between user interface, server, and database.

Entity-Relationship Diagram (ERD):

The ERD represents relationships among major entities in the system:

User: Contains attributes such as user_id, name, email, password.

Message: Stores message_id, sender_id, receiver_id, content, timestamp.

Chat: Represents the relationship between sender and receiver in each conversation.

System Flowchart:

The flowchart outlines the overall workflow of the Chat Application:

Start: User accesses the system.

Login/Registration: Authentication and validation process.

Chat Interface: User selects another user to chat with.

Message Sending: Data sent to server and stored in database.

Message Display: Real-time update on both sender and receiver screens.

Logout: End of session.

CHAPTER 3: SYSTEM DESIGN

3.1. Basic Modules

User Interface Module:

Handles all front-end interactions built with React.

Pages/components include: Login, Registration, Chat List, Chat Window, User Profile.

Handles sending and receiving messages in real time.

Authentication Module:

Handles user login, registration, and JWT token generation.

Ensures secure access to chat features.

User Management Module:

Stores user profiles, online/offline status, and user roles.

Enables adding, searching, and blocking users.

Chat Module:

Handles creation of chat rooms or direct messages.

Supports sending/receiving messages, storing chat history in MySQL.

Implements message delivery status (sent, delivered, read).

Notification Module:

Real-time notifications for new messages using WebSockets (Socket.IO).

Handles browser or app notifications.

Message Storage Module:

Saves chat messages, timestamps, sender, and receiver IDs in MySQL.

Ensures message retrieval and history management.

3.2. Use Case Diagram

A use case diagram in the **Unified Modeling Language (UML)** is a graphical representation that illustrates the interactions between **actors** (users or

external systems) and a system, showcasing various **use cases** or functionalities that the system provides. It helps in understanding the functional requirements of a system from the perspective of its users.

The technologies used for your chat application (**React, Node.js/Express**, and **MySQL**) define the *implementation* details, but the Use Case Diagram focuses on the *user-facing functionality* and the *system's boundary*.

Key Components of a Use Case Diagram:

Actors:

Represent external entities interacting with the system.

For a chat application, the primary actor is a **User**.

Displayed as stick figures or labeled ovals.

Use Cases:

Represent functionalities or services offered by the system to its actors.

Described as ovals containing the name of the use case.

Each use case describes a specific interaction or task that the system performs for an actor (e.g., Send Message, Register Account).

Relationships:

Associations (lines): Show the interaction between actors and use cases. Actors are associated with use cases they interact with or perform.

\$\| \text{include} \gg\$: A relationship where the behavior of the included use case is a necessary part of the base use case's behavior. (e.g., \$\text{Send Message} \\$ \| \text{include} \gg \\$ \text{Authenticate}\$)

\$\| \text{extend} \gg\$: A relationship where the extended use case may conditionally insert behavior into the base use case.

System Boundary:

Represents the scope or boundary of the system under consideration (in this case, the **Chat Web Application**).

Encloses all the use cases.

Purpose of Use Case Diagrams:

Requirement Analysis:

Use case diagrams help in eliciting, organizing, and understanding the functional requirements of a system from the perspective of its users or external entities.

System Design:

Use case diagrams provide a foundation for system design by outlining the major system functions and how users interact with them.

Communication:

They serve as a simple, high-level view of the system's functionality that can be easily understood by technical and non-technical stakeholders.

Use Case Diagram for Chat Web Application

Here is a description of the key elements and a visual representation (conceptual diagram) for your React, Node/Express, MySQL-based chat application.

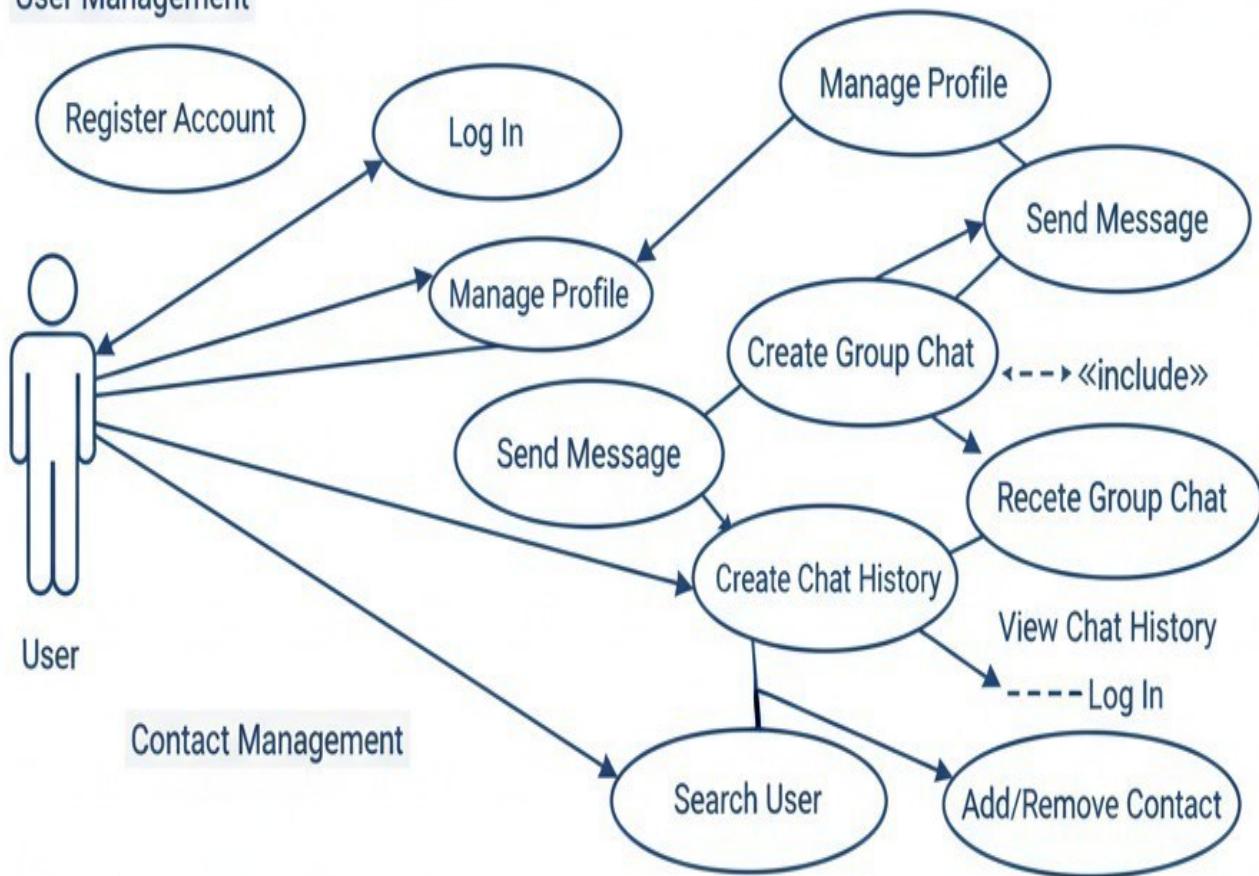
Actor Name	Description
User	The primary person who interacts with the chat application to register, log in, send/receive messages, and manage contacts.
System (Implicit)	Represents the external system boundary where all the use cases reside.

Use Cases (Core Functionalities)

Category	Use Case Name	Description
User Management	Register Account	Allows a new User to create an account with credentials and basic profile information.
	Log In	Allows a User to authenticate their identity to access the system.
	Log Out	Allows a User to securely terminate their session.
	Manage Profile	Allows a User to view and update their profile information (e.g., status, name, profile picture).
Communication	Send Message	Allows a User to send a text, image, or file message to another User or a group.
	Receive Message	The system delivers a message to the intended User in real-time.
	Create Group Chat	Allows a User to initiate a chat among multiple selected Users.
	View Chat History	Allows a User to retrieve and display past messages in a chat conversation.
	Search User	Allows a User to search for other registered Users.
Contact Management	Add/Remove Contact	Allows a User to manage their list of contacts or friends.

Chat Web Application

User Management



3.3 Activity Diagram

An activity diagram in the **Unified Modeling Language (UML)** is a graphical representation of the sequential or parallel flow of control and data between activities within a system. It is essentially a sophisticated flowchart that shows the step-by-step business or operational workflow of a system, often illustrating the implementation of a specific **use case**.

Key Components of an Activity Diagram:

Activity:

Represents a single step, action, or task that is performed in the workflow.

Displayed as a **rounded rectangle**.

Example (for a chat app): "Enter Credentials," "Validate User," or "Retrieve Chat History."

Initial Node (Start Node):

Marks the beginning of the workflow or process.

Displayed as a **solid black circle**.

Every activity diagram must have one initial node.

Final Node (End Node):

Marks the completion of the entire workflow or process.

Displayed as a **solid black circle enclosed by a larger circle**.

A diagram can have multiple final nodes, representing different completion points.

Control Flow (or Edge):

Represents the transition from one activity to the next.

Displayed as a **solid line with an arrowhead**.

It shows the order in which the activities are executed.

Decision Node:

Represents a point where the flow of control splits based on a Boolean condition (e.g., true/false).

Displayed as a **diamond**.

The outgoing flow lines are labeled with **guard conditions** (e.g., [If Valid], [Else]).

Merge Node:

Represents a point where two or more conditional flows (split by a Decision Node) reunite into a single outgoing flow.

Displayed as a **diamond** () .

It does *not* synchronize parallel flows, it only consolidates alternative paths.

Fork Node:

Represents a point where a single flow splits into **multiple concurrent (parallel) flows** of control.

Displayed as a **solid thick horizontal or vertical bar**.

All outgoing flows from a Fork Node proceed simultaneously.

Join Node:

Represents a point where multiple concurrent (parallel) flows are synchronized and merged back into a single flow.

Displayed as a **solid thick horizontal or vertical bar**.

The process cannot proceed beyond the Join Node until all incoming flows are completed.

Swimlanes (Partitions):

Used to group related activities into visual partitions, typically based on the **actor** or **component** responsible for performing those activities.

Displayed as **vertical or horizontal segmented columns**.

Example (for a chat app): Separating activities performed by the **User (React Front-end)** from activities performed by the **System (Node/Express Back-end)**.

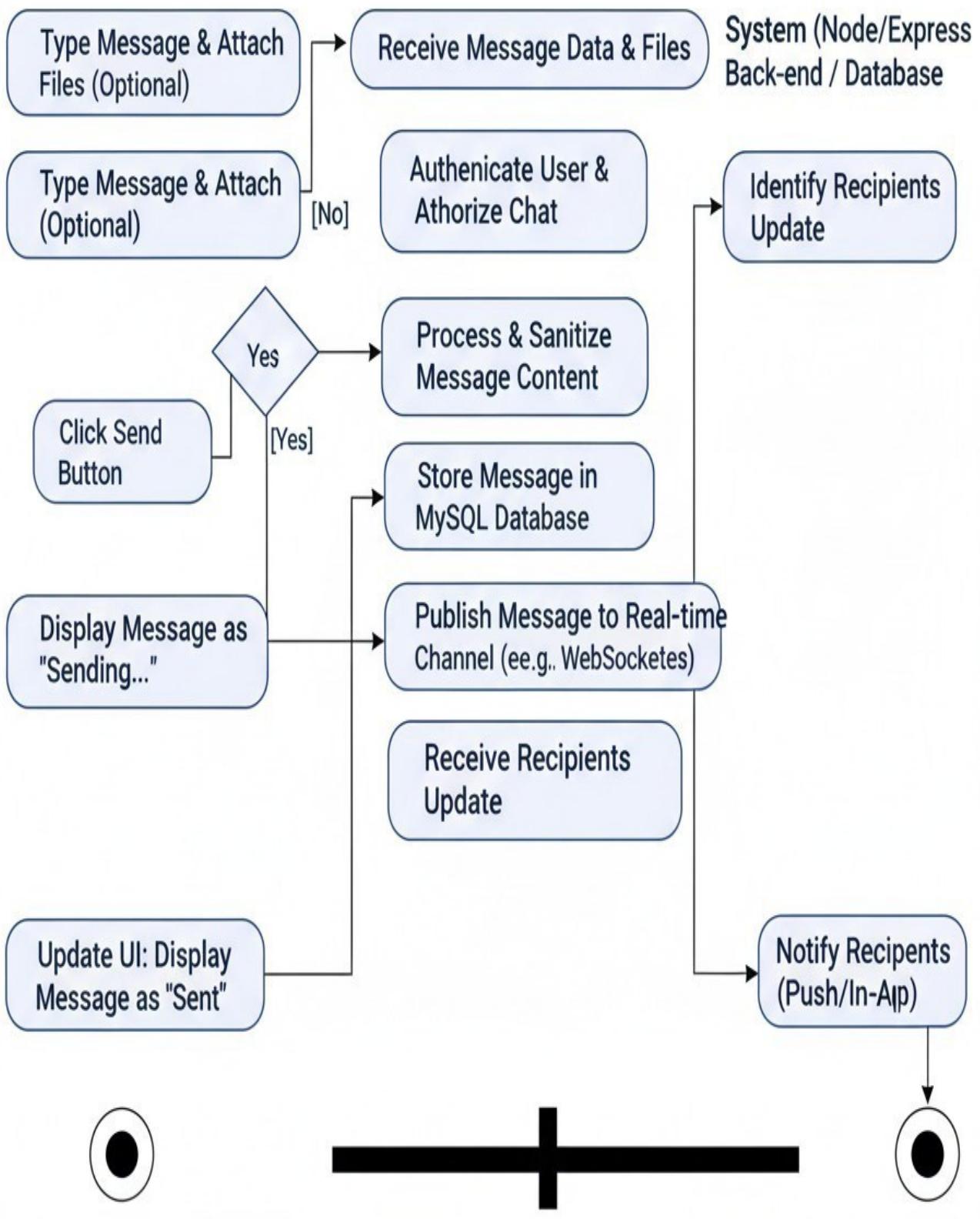
Purpose of Activity Diagrams:

Process Modeling: They visually model the operational step-by-step processes of a system, showing the precise flow of control.

Workflow Analysis: They help in identifying bottlenecks, redundancies, or complex branching logic within a business process.

Use Case Detailing: They are often used to define the detailed, step-by-step logic for complex use cases (like or) and how different system components interact to fulfill the requirement.

Activity Diagram: Send Message Workflow



3.4 Class Diagram

A Class Diagram is a type of **static structure diagram** in the **Unified Modeling Language (UML)** that describes the structure of a system by showing the system's classes, their attributes, methods (operations), and the relationships among them. It provides a conceptual blueprint for how the system's logic and data will be structured in an object-oriented paradigm.

Key Components of a Class Diagram:

1. Classes

Classes are the primary building blocks of the diagram. They are represented by a **rectangle divided into three compartments**:

Compart	Content	Description
Top	Class Name	The name of the class (e.g., User, Message, Chat).
Middle	Attribute	The data/properties held by the class instance (e.g., +username: String, passwordHash: String).
Bottom	Operations (Methods)	The functions/behavior the class can perform (e.g., +sendMessage(content: String), +login(credentials)).

Visibility Notations (Access Modifiers):

\$+\$ (Public): Accessible from anywhere.

\$-\$ (Private): Accessible only within the class.

\$\#\\$ (Protected): Accessible within the class and its subclasses.

2. Relationships

Lines connecting the classes represent how they interact.

Relationship Type	Notation	Description
Association	Simple line	A general link between two classes, often representing a peer-to-peer relationship (e.g., a User knows another User as a contact). Multiplicity is typically shown on the ends (e.g., \$1 \dots *\$).
Aggregation	\$text{Hollow Diamond}\$	A "has-a" relationship where one class contains others, but the contained classes can exist independently (e.g., a Chat \$Diamond\$ has Messages, but the Messages might be archived if the Chat is deleted).
Composition	\$text{Solid Diamond}\$	A strong "has-a" relationship where the contained class cannot exist without the container class (e.g., a ChatGroup \$blacksquare\$ is composed of a MemberList which ceases to exist if the group is destroyed).
Generalization	\$text{Hollow Triangle}\$	An "is-a" relationship, representing Inheritance (e.g., a GuestUser \$triangle\$ \$to\$ \$text{is a type of}\$ User).
Dependency	\$text{Dashed Arrow}\$ \$(\dashrightarrow)\$	A weaker relationship where one class uses another (e.g., the Message class may temporarily depend on an AttachmentService).

Class Diagram for Chat Web Application

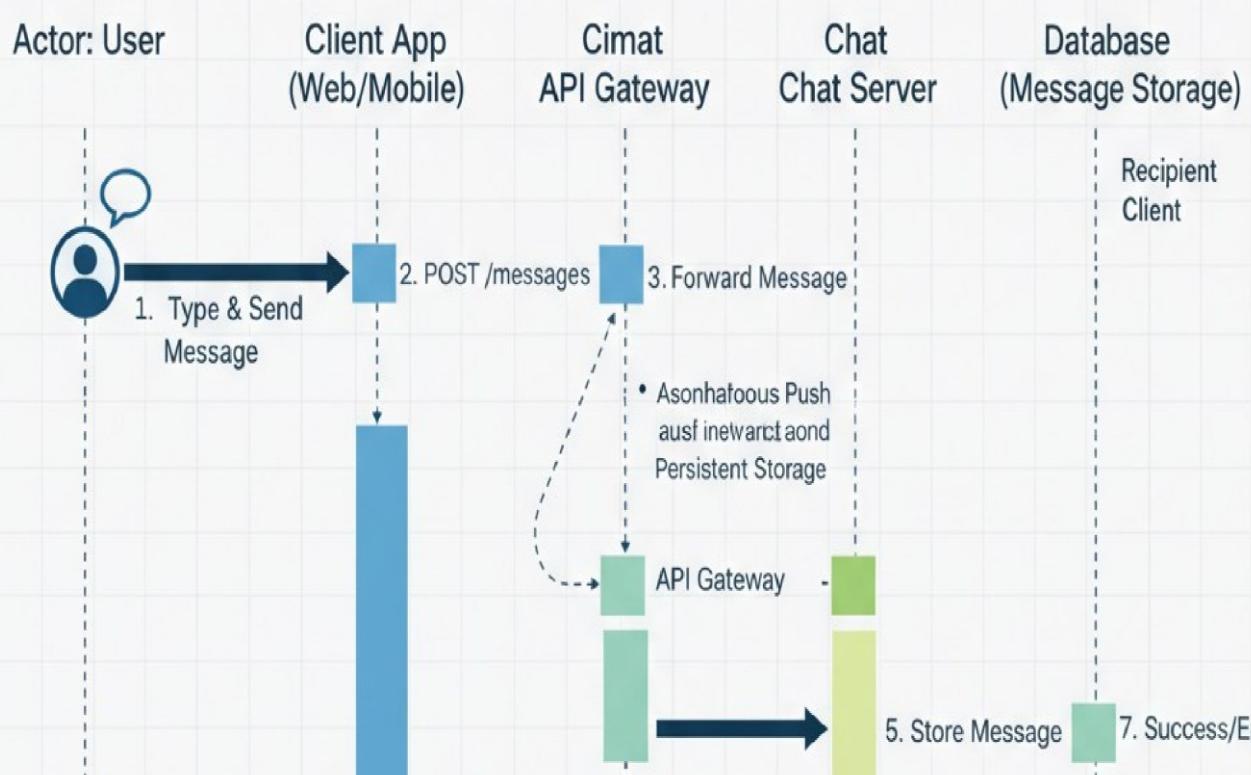
This conceptual diagram outlines the core logical components (classes) required for your React/Node/MySQL chat application.

Core Classes for the Chat Application:

Class	Attributes (Examples)	Operations (Methods) (Examples)
User	\$-\$ userID: int \$+\$ username: String \$-\$ passwordHash: String \$+\$ status: String	\$+\$ register() \$+\$ login() \$+\$ updateProfile() \$+\$ searchUser()
Message	\$-\$ messageID: int \$-\$ senderID: int \$+\$ content: String \$+\$ timestamp: DateTime \$+\$ readStatus: Boolean	\$+\$ send() \$+\$ edit() \$+\$ delete(forAll: Boolean)

\$\text{Chat} \rightarrow \\$\text{User}\$ (Association: \$1 \rightarrow *\$): A Chat has many Participants (Users).

Sequence Diagram: Chat Website - Sending a Message Sequence



(Generalization:): A GroupChat Chat, inheriting its basic properties (like history and participants) and adding group-specific functionality.

3.5 State Diagram

A State Chart Diagram, also known as a State Machine Diagram or State Transition Diagram, is a Unified Modeling Language (UML) behavioral diagram. It is used to model the dynamic behavior of an object or an entire system by showing the sequence of states that an object goes through during its lifetime, the events that cause a transition from one state to another, and the actions that result from a state change.

It primarily focuses on the conditions (states) an object can be in, rather than the flow of control (like a Flowchart or Activity Diagram).

Key Components of a State Chart Diagram

Component	Description	Notation
State	A condition or situation in the life of an object during which it A rounded rectangle, satisfies some condition, labeled with the state performs some action, or waits name. for some event.	
Initial State	The starting point of the state machine. Every state chart A solid filled circle. must have exactly one.	
Final State	The end point of the state machine, where the object's A filled circle nested processing is considered inside a larger circle. complete.	
Transition	A solid arrow indicating a move A solid arrow labeled from one state to the next. It is with: Event [Guard triggered by an event. Condition] / Action	
Event	An occurrence that can trigger a Part of the transition state change. It's listed on the label (e.g., user_click, transition arrow. timeout, login_success).	
Component	Description	Notation
Guard	A Boolean expression that must be true for the transition to occur. It's optional.	Placed in square brackets on the transition label (e.g., [password_valid]).

	Placed after a forward slash / on the transition
Action	An activity performed during a transition or while label (e.g., / entering/exiting a state. <code>display_error</code>).

Export to Sheets

Purpose of State Chart Diagrams for Your Website

For a website or a specific interactive component within it (like a form, a user session, or an ordering process), a State Chart Diagram is essential for modeling and clarifying the reactive, event-driven aspects of the user experience and backend logic.

1. Modeling Complex Interactive Elements (e.g., Forms, Wizards)

Example: A multi-step sign-up or checkout process.

Purpose: It clearly maps out every possible stage (State like *Step 1: Contact Info*, *Step 2: Payment*, *Step 3: Review*), the exact Events (e.g., *Next Button Clicked*, *Payment Failed*) that move the user forward or backward, and the Guard Conditions (e.g., `[form_data_valid]`) that prevent invalid transitions. This ensures robust logic and prevents users from bypassing steps.

2. Defining the Lifecycle of a Key Object (e.g., User Session, Order)

Example: An Order object's journey on an e-commerce site.

Purpose: It tracks the lifetime of the object from creation to termination: *Initial Placed Confirmed Shipped Delivered Final*. It makes it clear to all stakeholders which internal and external events (e.g., *Payment Gateway Success*, *Warehouse Confirms Shipment*) trigger a status update, which is crucial for integrations and error handling.

3. User Interface (UI) and Navigation Flow

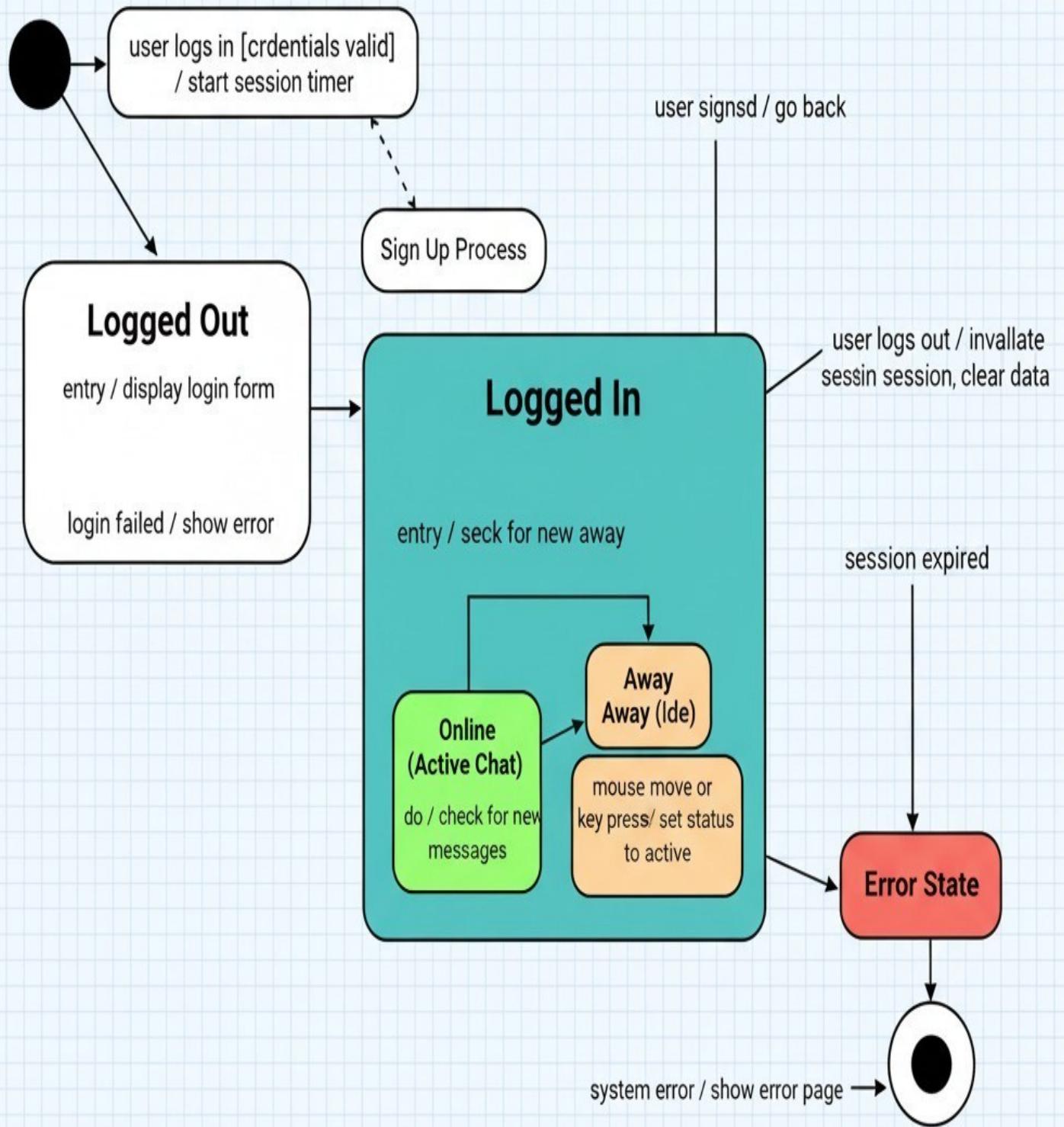
Example: The state of a button or an entire navigation pane.

Purpose: It helps design user interfaces that respond correctly to user input. For a button, states could be *Disabled Enabled Hover Pressed*. For a user, states could be *Logged Out Logged In (Basic) Logged In (Admin)*, clearly showing how specific events (login, role change) change the UI's functionality.

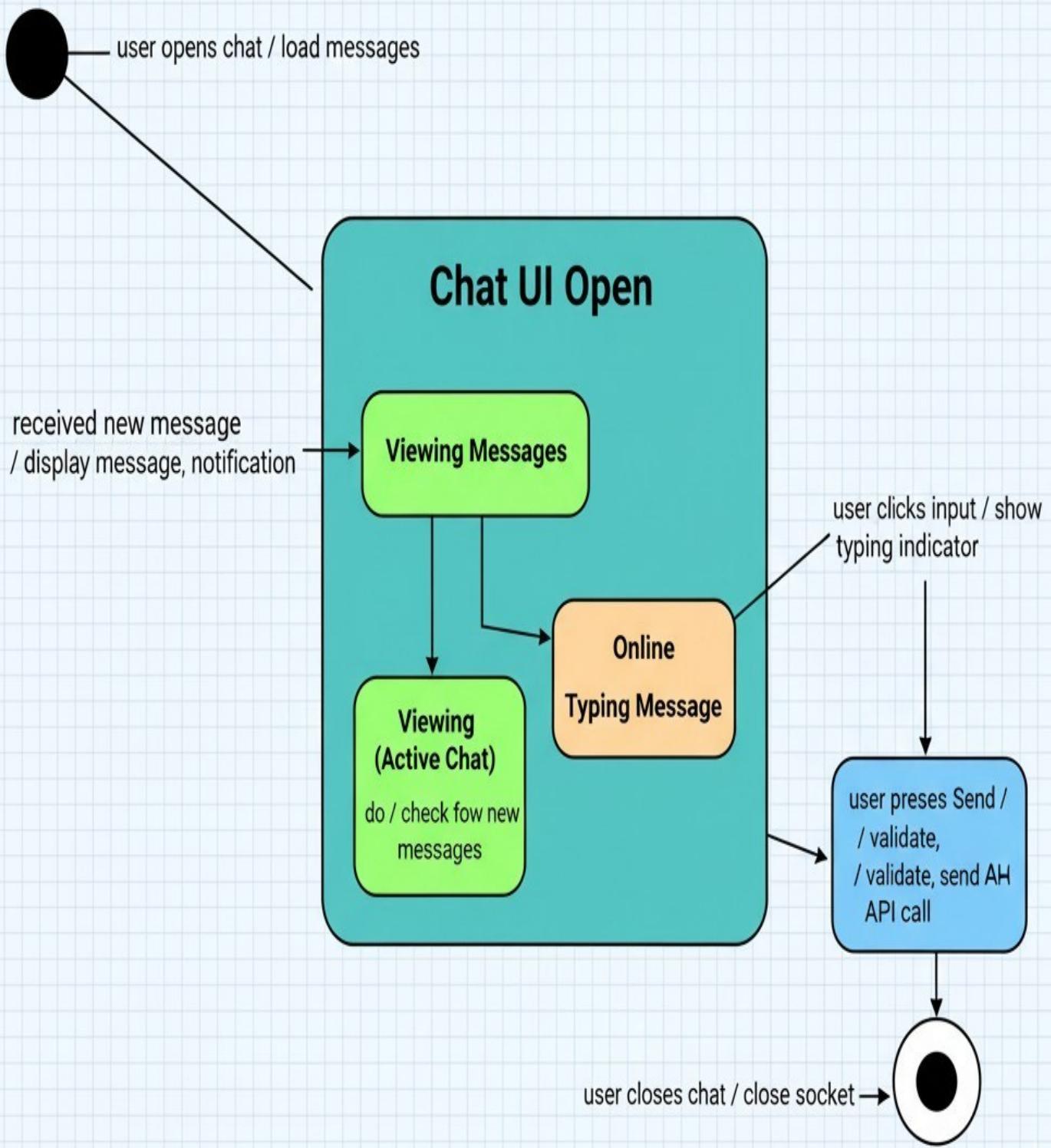
4. Specifying System Requirements and Testing

Purpose: The diagram provides a precise, visual specification of the system's behavior. QA teams can use the defined states and transitions to create comprehensive test cases that ensure every event and guard condition is handled correctly, significantly improving the stability and reliability of the website.

Chat Website User Session Lifecycle



Chat User Interface & Message Lifecycle



3.6 Component Diagram

A **Component Diagram** is a **Unified Modeling Language (UML)** structural diagram that shows the physical structure of the system as a set of interconnected components. It helps model the implementation view of a system by focusing on the organization and dependencies among the system's software components, such as executables, libraries, databases, or modules.

Key Components of a Component Diagram

A component diagram primarily uses three types of elements to represent the system's architecture:

Component	Description	Notation
Component	A modular, deployable, and replaceable part of a system that encapsulates its contents and manifests its interfaces. It is typically a high-level grouping of classes or other components.	A rectangle with two small rectangles protruding from the left side (like a building block).
Interface	Defines a set of operations (services) that a component provides or requires.	Represented by a lollipop (at the end of a line) connected to the component.
• Provided Interface	Services that the component offers to other components.	Represented by a socket (a semi-circle) connected to the component.
• Required Interface	Services that the component needs from other components to function.	
Component	Description	Notation

Port	<p>A distinct interaction point between a component and its environment or between its boundary of the internal parts. Interfaces are usually connected to ports.</p>
Dependency	<p>Indicates that a change in one component (the independent) might affect the other dependent component.</p> <p>A dashed arrow pointing from the independent component to the dependent component.</p>

[Export to Sheets](#)

Purpose of Component Diagrams for a Web Chat Website Project

For your **web chat website project**, a Component Diagram is an invaluable tool for system architects and developers to design, visualize, and communicate the high-level, physical deployment structure.

Defining the Architecture: It provides a clear, high-level map of your system's technology structure. You can model key components like the **Frontend Web App, API Gateway, Chat Service, User Management Service**, and **Database**.

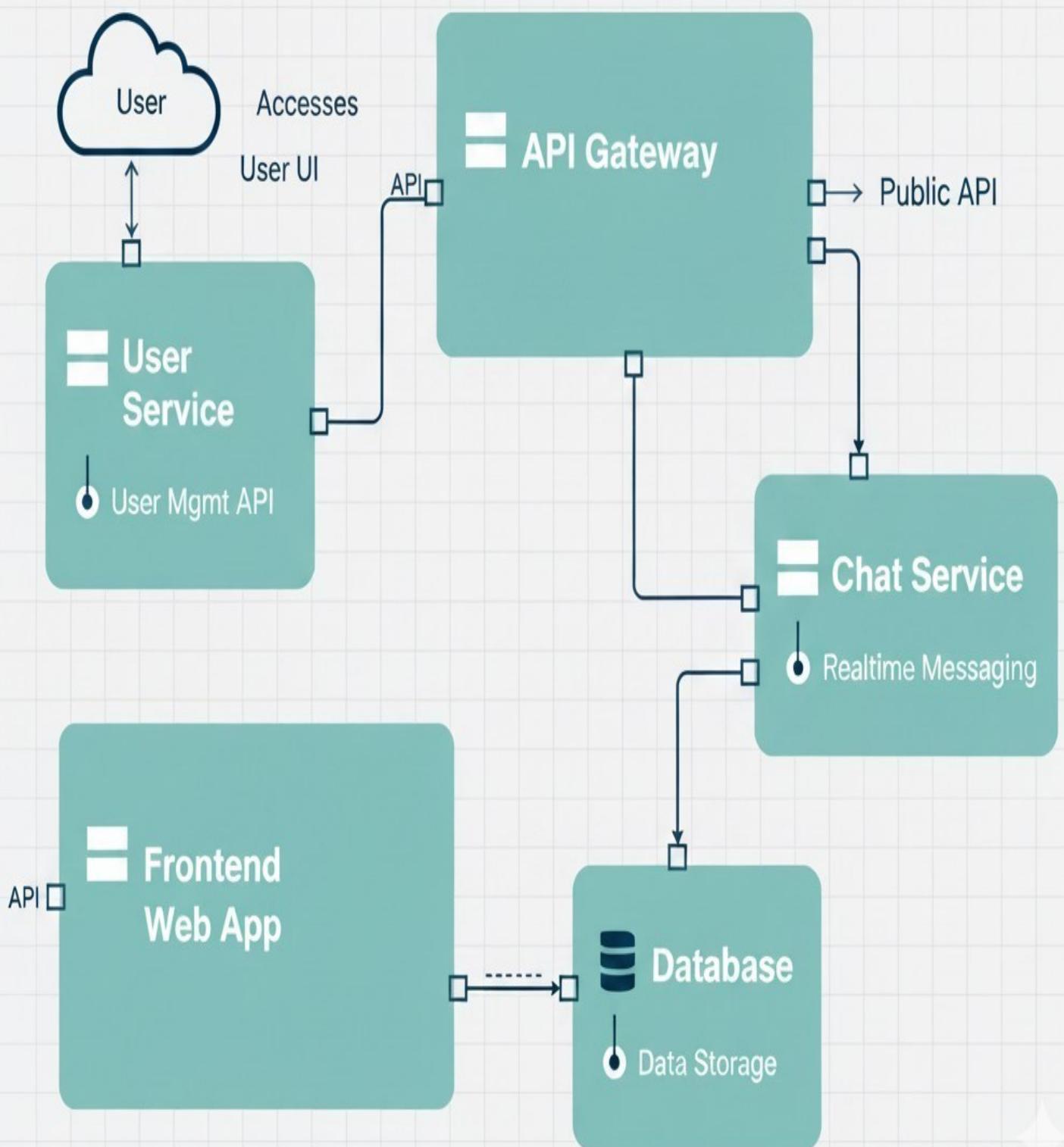
Visualizing Dependencies: It precisely shows how different software pieces rely on each other. For example, the **Frontend Web App** requires the interfaces provided by the **API Gateway**, and the **Chat Service** requires interfaces from the **Database** (for message storage) and the **User Management Service** (for presence/status). This helps prevent circular dependencies and simplifies maintenance.

Facilitating Team Allocation: By clearly segmenting the system into distinct components with well-defined interfaces, you can easily allocate development teams to work on specific, independent modules.

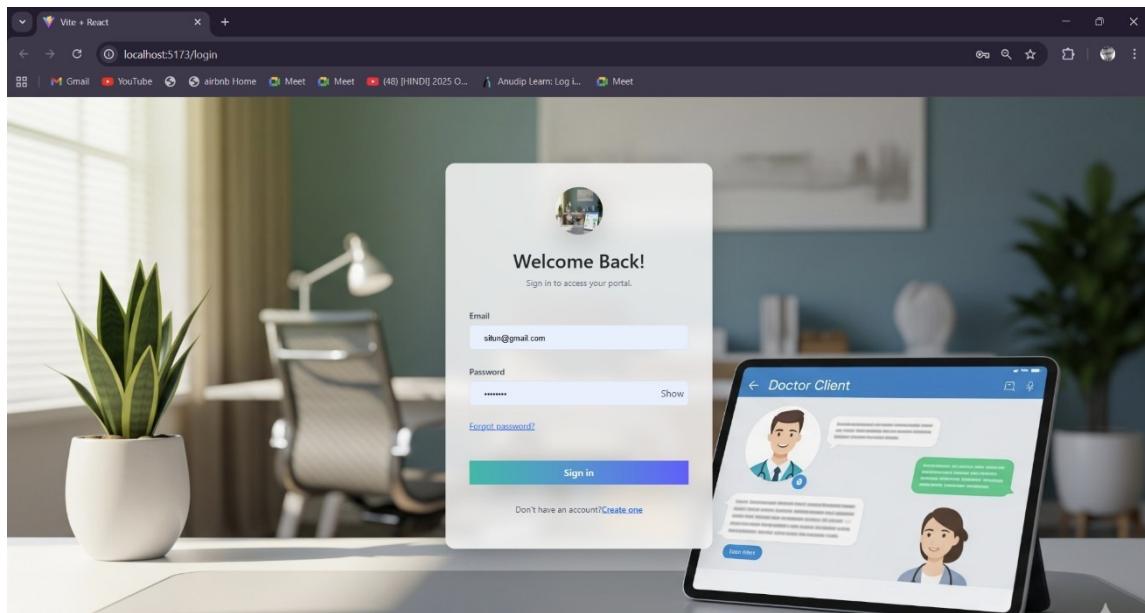
Planning for Deployment and Scaling: Since components map to physical, deployable artifacts (e.g., microservices, Docker containers, executable files), the diagram is crucial for the DevOps team. It helps determine which components need to be deployed together and which need to be scaled.

independently (e.g., scaling the **Chat Service** heavily while the **User Management Service** scales less frequently).

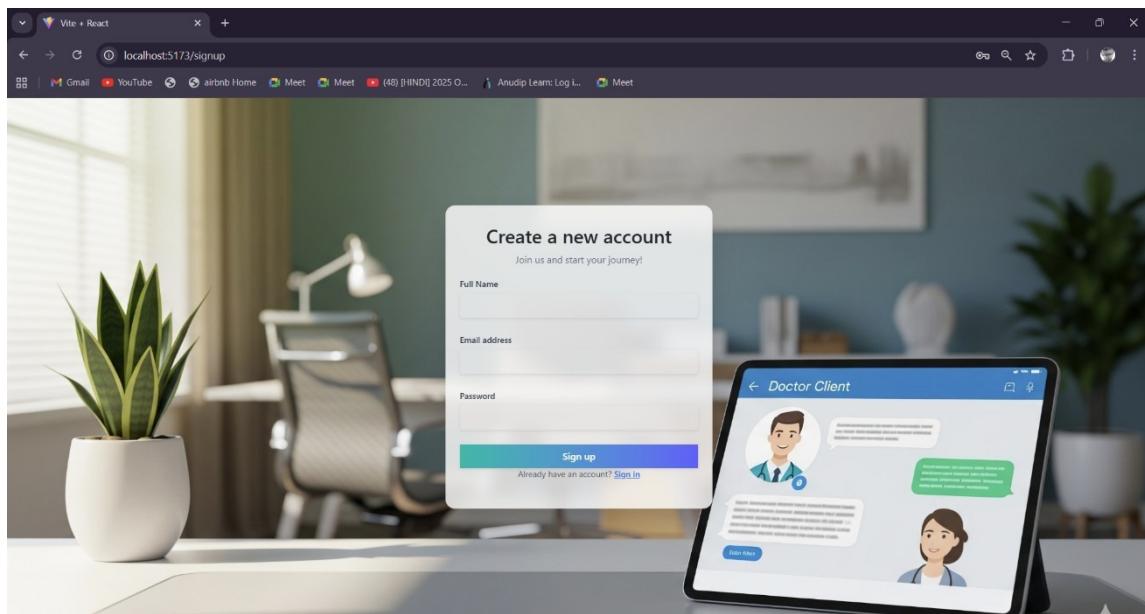
Chat Website:



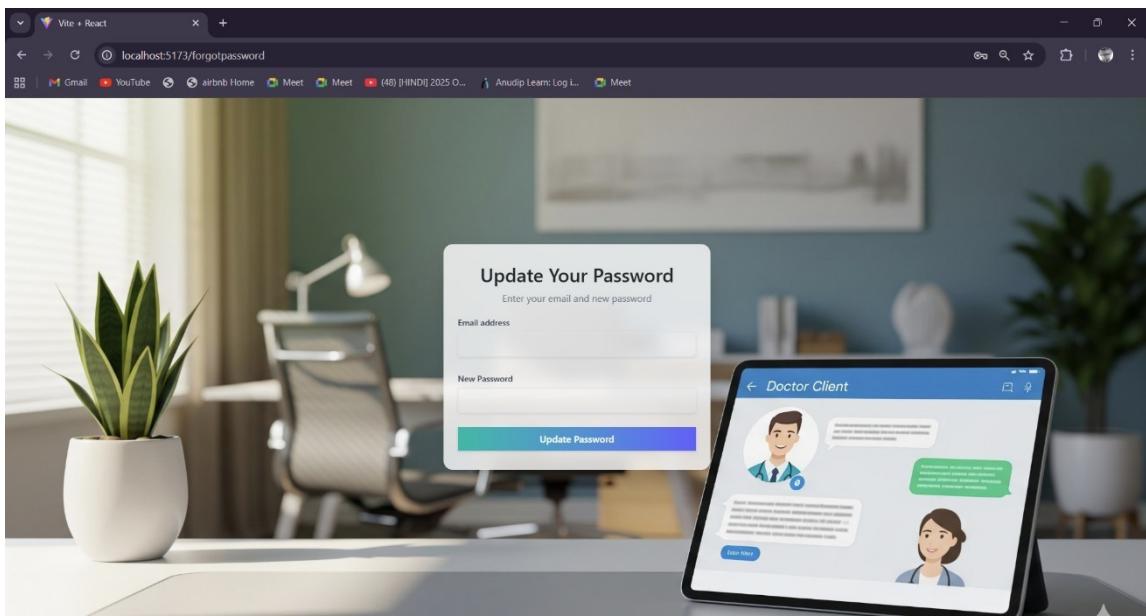
CHAPTER 4: Screenshots



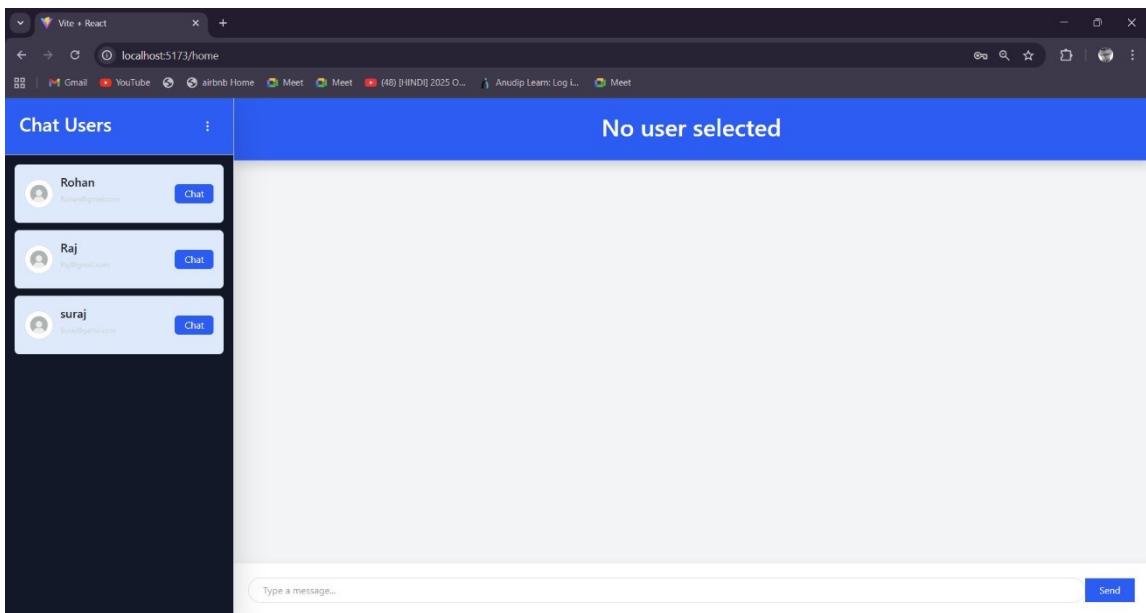
Login page



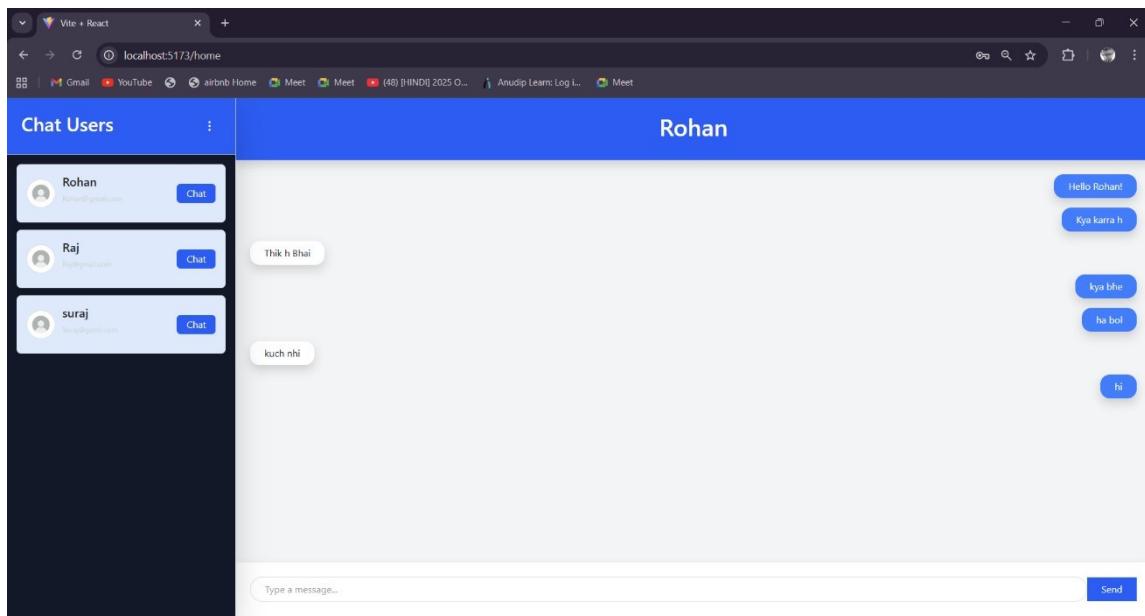
Signup page



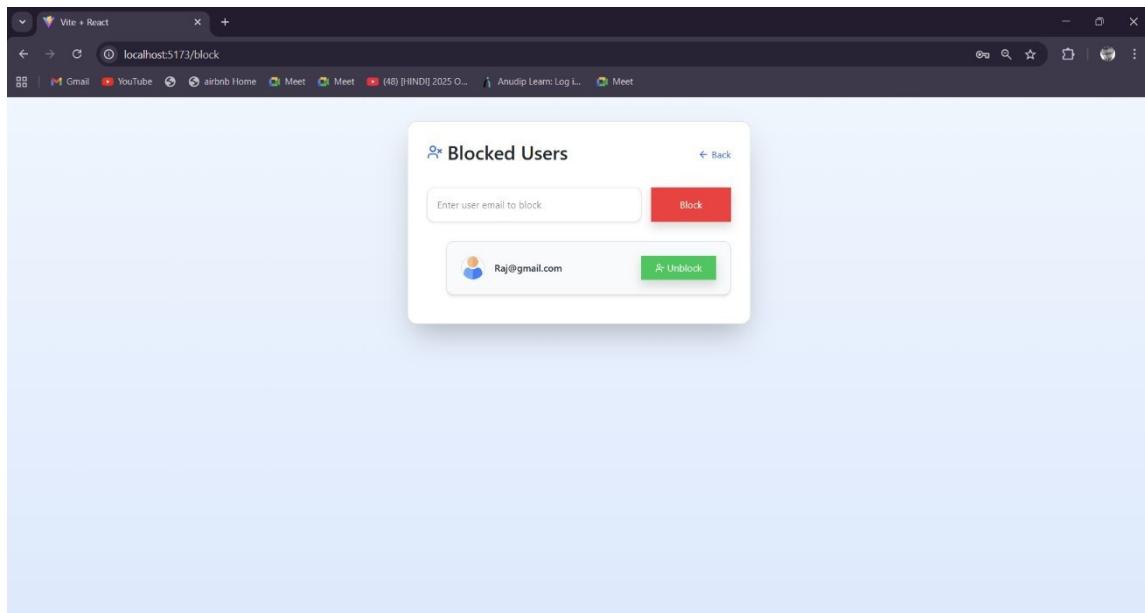
Update Password page



Home page



Chat interphase



Block User Page

CHAPTER 5: Implementation

This chapter focuses on the implementation phase of the Chat Website project. It describes how the system was developed using various technologies such as React.js, Node.js, Express.js, MySQL, Bootstrap, and bcrypt. The implementation phase is where the theoretical design is transformed into a fully functional web application.

5.1 Introduction

The implementation stage involves converting the system design into an operational program. The Chat Website was implemented using a combination of client-side and server-side technologies to provide a secure, efficient, and user-friendly communication platform.

The system enables users to register, log in, send and receive messages, block or unblock users, update passwords, and delete their accounts.

5.2 System Architecture

The Chat Website is based on a three-tier architecture, consisting of:

1. Frontend (Client Layer):

The frontend is built using React.js, which provides a component-based structure for faster rendering and modular development. Bootstrap is used for responsive design, ensuring the interface adapts to various screen sizes and devices. The frontend interacts with the backend using Axios through RESTful APIs.

2. Backend (Application Layer):

The backend is implemented using Node.js and the Express.js framework. It handles the business logic, user authentication, password encryption, blocking/unblocking users, and message management. It processes API requests from the frontend and communicates with the database layer.

3. Database Layer:

The MySQL database stores all user information, messages, and blocked-user data. The database is designed with proper relationships, primary keys, and foreign keys to ensure data consistency and integrity.

5.3 Environment Setup

The following tools and technologies were used during implementation:

Component	Technology / Tool
Operating System	Windows 11
Frontend	React.js, Bootstrap
Backend	Node.js, Express.js
Database	MySQL
Security	bcrypt
Communication	Axios (REST API)
Environment Configuration	dotenv
Version Control	Git and GitHub

All necessary dependencies were installed using npm (Node Package Manager). Environment variables were managed securely through a .env file to store credentials and configuration details.

5.4 Database Implementation

The database was implemented in MySQL to store and manage userrelated data.

Major Tables:

- Users Table: Stores details such as user ID, name, email, and encrypted password.
- Messages Table: Contains sender and receiver IDs along with message content and timestamps.
- Blocks Table: Maintains relationships between users who are blocked or unblocked.

Each table is linked through relational constraints to ensure data integrity and smooth communication between users.

5.5 Backend Implementation

The backend forms the core logic of the Chat Website. It was developed using Node.js and Express.js, which provide a lightweight yet powerful framework for handling HTTP requests and responses.

Key Functionalities:

- User Authentication: Users can sign up and log in using their email and password. Passwords are securely hashed using bcrypt.
- Message Management: Allows users to send and retrieve messages stored in the database.
- User Blocking System: Users can block or unblock others. Blocked users are prevented from sending messages to those who blocked them.
- Account Management: Users can update passwords or permanently delete their accounts.
- Error Handling: The backend includes centralized error handling for consistent and clear API responses.

The server follows a modular structure, with separate files for routes, controllers, middleware, and database connections, which improves readability and maintainability.

5.6 Frontend Implementation

The frontend interface is implemented using React.js, ensuring a dynamic and responsive user experience.

Main Components:

- Login and Signup Pages: Handle user authentication.
- Home Page: Displays a list of available users.
- Chat Interface: Shows previous messages and allows users to send new messages.

- User Settings: Provides features to block/unblock users, update passwords, and delete accounts.

Bootstrap is used to design a visually appealing and responsive layout. The frontend communicates with the backend through Axios, which makes REST API calls for every user action.

5.7 Security Implementation

To ensure data security and protect user privacy, the following measures were implemented:

- Password Encryption: All passwords are hashed using bcrypt before being stored in the database.
 - Form Validation: Both client-side and server-side validation are performed to prevent invalid input and SQL injection.
 - CORS Configuration: Configured to allow secure communication between the frontend and backend.
 - Error Handling: Ensures that all exceptions and errors are logged and handled gracefully.
-

5.8 Testing and Validation

Testing was conducted to ensure the system meets the required functionality and performance standards.

Types of Testing:

- Unit Testing: Tested individual modules such as login, registration, and messaging.
- Integration Testing: Ensured smooth communication between the frontend and backend.
- System Testing: Validated that all features functioned correctly as a complete system.
- User Acceptance Testing: Ensured that the application is userfriendly and meets project requirements.

5.9 Deployment

The system can be deployed on any hosting environment supporting Node.js and MySQL.

- Frontend Deployment: React build files can be hosted on Netlify, Vercel, or within the Express server's static folder.
- Backend Deployment: The Node.js and Express server can be hosted on platforms like Render, Railway, or AWS EC2.
- Database Deployment: MySQL can be hosted locally or using a cloud service like ClearDB or PlanetScale.

Environment variables are configured securely before deployment to protect sensitive information.

CHAPTER 6: TESTING

6.1 Introduction

Testing is a crucial phase of software development that ensures the system functions as intended and meets user requirements. It helps identify errors, defects, and inconsistencies in the system before deployment.

In this project, the Chat Website was thoroughly tested to verify that all components — including the frontend, backend, and database — work together seamlessly. The testing process focused on ensuring system reliability, security, usability, and performance.

6.2 Objectives of Testing

The main objectives of testing the Chat Website are as follows:

- To verify that each module performs its intended function correctly.
 - To ensure that user inputs produce the expected results.
 - To identify and eliminate any logical, functional, or design errors.
 - To confirm that the system meets functional and non-functional requirements.
 - To validate system performance, security, and data integrity.
-

6.3 Types of Testing Performed

Different types of testing techniques were applied during the development of the Chat Website to ensure software quality and correctness.

6.3.1 Unit Testing

Unit testing focuses on testing individual components or modules of the system.

Each function and API endpoint in the backend was tested independently to ensure it produces the correct output.

Examples include:

- Verifying user registration and login functions.
 - Checking password encryption using bcrypt.
 - Testing CRUD operations (Create, Read, Update, Delete) on messages and users.
-

6.3.2 Integration Testing

Integration testing was conducted to ensure that different modules interact correctly when combined.

This included testing the communication between the React frontend, Express backend, and MySQL database.

Focus areas:

- Validating API responses from the backend to the frontend.
 - Ensuring that form submissions from the frontend correctly update the database.
 - Verifying error messages and success notifications displayed to users.
-

6.3.3 System Testing

System testing involves testing the entire application as a complete and integrated system.

It verifies that the overall functionality meets the specified requirements.

Major system testing areas included:

- User registration, login, and logout flow.
 - Message sending and retrieval between users.
 - Blocking and unblocking functionality.
 - Updating passwords and deleting accounts.
 - Responsive design checks on various devices using Bootstrap.
-

6.3.4 Functional Testing

Functional testing ensures that the system performs all required operations according to the functional specifications.

The following functions were tested:

- Registration and login authentication.
 - Password encryption and validation.
 - Sending and receiving messages.
 - Blocking/unblocking users.
 - Deleting user accounts.
-

6.3.5 User Acceptance Testing (UAT)

User Acceptance Testing was conducted to confirm that the system is userfriendly and meets the expectations of end users.

Several users were asked to test the chat website by performing tasks such as account creation, chatting, and blocking users.

Feedback from users helped verify:

- Ease of navigation.
 - Proper layout and responsiveness.
 - Correctness of results and message flow.
 - Overall usability of the system.
-

6.3.6 Database Testing

Database testing ensures that data is accurately stored, retrieved, and updated in the MySQL database.

The following aspects were validated:

- Data integrity after insertions, updates, and deletions.
- Verification of foreign key relationships.
- Checking if passwords are stored in encrypted form only.

- Ensuring blocked users cannot send messages to one another.
-

6.3.7 Security Testing

Since the system handles user credentials and personal data, security testing was performed to ensure safe data handling and prevent unauthorized access.

Key security tests included:

- Verification of password hashing using bcrypt.
 - Testing for SQL injection and form validation.
 - Ensuring CORS and authentication mechanisms restrict unauthorized users.
 - Validating that blocked users cannot access restricted chat areas.
-

6.4 Test Cases

Below is a summary of major test cases performed during the testing phase:

Test Case ID	Test Description	Expected Result	Actual Result	Status
TC01	User Registration with valid details	Account created successfully	As expected	Pass
TC02	User Login with valid credentials	Redirected to home page	As expected	Pass
TC03	Login with invalid credentials	Displays error message	As expected	Pass
TC04	Sending a message to another user	Message stored and displayed	As expected	Pass

TC05	Blocking a user	Blocked user unable to send messages	As expected	Pass
TC06	Updating password	Password updated successfully	As expected	Pass
TC07	Deleting account	Account removed from database	As expected	Pass
TC08	Data validation for empty fields	Error message displayed	As expected	Pass
TC09	Accessing system without login	Redirected to login page	As expected	Pass
TC10	Testing responsiveness on mobile view	Layout adjusts correctly	As expected	Pass

CHAPTER 7: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the **results** obtained after successfully implementing and testing the Chat Website system. It also discusses the outcomes in relation to the project's objectives and expected functionality.

The system was developed using **React.js**, **Node.js**, **Express.js**, **MySQL**, **Bootstrap**, and **bcrypt**, aiming to provide a secure, user-friendly, and efficient platform for online communication between users. The results show that the system performs as intended and meets all the major functional requirements.

7.2 Objectives Achieved

The main objectives of the project were to design and develop a **Chat Website** that allows users to communicate securely and efficiently. All major goals have been successfully achieved, as summarized below:

Objective	Status
To allow users to register and log in securely	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved
To enable one-to-one chat functionality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved
To store and retrieve messages from a database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved
To allow users to block and unblock others	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved
To allow users to update their password and delete accounts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved
Objective	Status
To provide a responsive and user-friendly interface using Bootstrap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Achieved



To ensure data security using password hashing (**bcrypt**)

Achieved

The successful completion of these objectives demonstrates that the system fulfills its design goals effectively.

7.3 System Output

The implemented Chat Website provides the following key outputs and features:

7.3.1 User Registration and Authentication

Users can register by entering their details such as name, email, and password. The system verifies that all fields are valid and ensures passwords are securely hashed using **bcrypt** before storage. The login process authenticates users with their credentials and grants access to the chat interface.

7.3.2 Chat Interface

The chat interface allows users to send and receive messages conveniently. Messages are stored in the **MySQL** database and displayed in an organized conversation format. The user interface is designed using **Bootstrap**, making it clean, simple, and responsive across devices.

7.3.3 User Management Features

Users can:

- **Update Passwords** to maintain security.
- **Block/Unblock Users** to control unwanted communication.
- **Delete Accounts** if they no longer wish to use the service.

All these actions are processed through the backend API and reflected in the database immediately.

7.3.4 Data Storage and Retrieval

The **MySQL** database successfully stores user profiles, chat history, and blocked-user information. Data retrieval is efficient and reliable, ensuring quick response times during user interactions.

7.4 Discussion of Results

The developed system was tested under various scenarios, and the outcomes were consistent with the expected behavior. The following discussions highlight key observations and evaluations:

7.4.1 Performance

The system demonstrated smooth and responsive operation. Communication between the React frontend and Express backend through **Axios** was fast and reliable. Data retrieval from MySQL was efficient, ensuring minimal delay in message loading.

7.4.2 Usability

The user interface was found to be intuitive and easy to navigate. The use of Bootstrap enhanced the overall appearance and made the layout responsive, ensuring proper display on laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

7.4.3 Reliability

All major functions, such as login, registration, and messaging, worked without failure during testing. The system handled invalid inputs gracefully by displaying appropriate error messages and preventing crashes.

7.4.4 Security

Password encryption using **bcrypt** ensured that user passwords are stored securely. The system also prevents unauthorized access by verifying authentication before allowing users to send or view messages. Blocking functionality adds an extra layer of privacy control for users.

7.4.5 Database Efficiency

The relational design of the database ensured smooth interaction between the tables. Data integrity was maintained, and all foreign key constraints worked correctly. CRUD operations (Create, Read, Update, Delete) were executed without errors.

7.5 Comparison with Existing Systems

Compared to existing simple chat systems, this project offers several improvements:

- Enhanced **security** through password hashing and validation.
- Clear **separation of frontend and backend** for modularity and easier maintenance.
- A **clean and responsive UI** created using Bootstrap.
- User control features such as **block/unblock** and **account management**, which are not always available in basic chat platforms.

7.6 Advantages of the System

The developed Chat Website offers the following advantages:

- Easy and secure communication between users.
- Reliable message storage and retrieval through MySQL.
- Improved user experience with a responsive and modern interface.
- Strong authentication and password protection using bcrypt.
- Efficient performance and quick response time.
- Flexible architecture, allowing future integration of real-time communication.

7.7 Limitations

Although the system performs effectively, a few limitations were identified:

- The chat is not in **real-time** (messages are updated upon reload or new request).
- **Group chat** functionality is not available.
- **Media file sharing** (images, videos, documents) is not supported.

- No notification system for new messages.

These limitations can be addressed in future enhancements.

7.8 Future Enhancements

Future versions of the project can include:

- **Real-time communication** using WebSockets or Socket.io.
 - **Group chat and broadcast features.**
 - **File and media sharing capabilities.**
 - **User status indicators** (online/offline).
 - **Chat search and message filters.**
 - **Dark/light mode themes** for better accessibility.
-

7.9 Summary

The implementation and testing of the Chat Website have produced positive results.

The system successfully meets its objectives by allowing secure, efficient, and user-friendly online communication.

All functional requirements — such as user registration, authentication, message exchange, password management, and user blocking — were achieved. The discussion confirms that the system is reliable, secure, and well-structured for future scalability and improvements.

CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

8.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the **conclusion** of the Chat Website project and outlines its **future scope** for further development. The project successfully achieved its goal of creating a secure, efficient, and user-friendly webbased chat system using modern web technologies such as **React.js**, **Node.js**, **Express.js**, **MySQL**, **Bootstrap**, and **bcrypt**.

8.2 Conclusion

The Chat Website project was designed and implemented to enable secure communication between users in a simple and intuitive interface. Throughout the development process, the focus was placed on **security**, **usability**, and **performance**.

The backend, built with **Node.js** and **Express.js**, efficiently manages user authentication, message storage, and server-side logic. The frontend, developed using **React.js** and styled with **Bootstrap**, provides a clean and responsive interface for users to send and receive messages easily. Passwords are securely hashed using **bcrypt**, ensuring data protection and user privacy.

The system underwent extensive testing to validate all features, including:

- User registration and login,
- Sending and receiving messages,
- Password updates and account management, and
- User blocking/unblocking functionalities.

All components worked as expected, confirming that the system fulfills its intended objectives.

Overall, the project demonstrates a strong understanding of full-stack web development principles and successfully integrates multiple technologies to build a functional communication platform. It serves as a solid

foundation for future enhancements such as real-time chat and media sharing capabilities.

8.3 Achievements

The following key outcomes were achieved through the development of this project:

- Developed a **secure login and registration system** using encrypted passwords.
- Implemented a **functional chat interface** for smooth communication between users.
- Designed a **relational database** using MySQL for efficient data storage and retrieval.
- Created a **responsive user interface** using Bootstrap and React.js.
- Implemented user management features like **block/unblock**, **password update**, and **account deletion**.
- Ensured system reliability, usability, and scalability for future expansion.

These achievements validate the success of the project in meeting its core objectives.

8.4 Future Scope

Although the system is fully functional and meets its current goals, there are several opportunities for enhancement to make it more robust and feature-rich. The potential future improvements include:

1. **Real-Time Messaging**
 - Integrate **Socket.io** or **WebSocket** technology for instant message updates without page reloads.
2. **Group Chat Functionality** ◦ Allow users to create and participate in group conversations.
3. **File and Media Sharing**

- Enable users to send images, videos, and documents through the chat interface.

4. Online/Offline Status Indicators

- Show live user status to improve interactivity and engagement.

5. Message Notifications

- Implement real-time notifications for new messages or user activity.

6. Chat Search and Filters

- Add message search functionality to easily find previous conversations.

7. Enhanced Security Features

- Include two-factor authentication (2FA) and email verification for improved user safety.

8. Modern UI Improvements

- Add **dark/light mode**, emojis, and improved layout transitions for a better user experience.

9. Mobile Application Integration

- Extend the system to mobile platforms using frameworks like **React Native** for Android and iOS users.

8.5 Summary

The Chat Website project successfully demonstrates the application of fullstack web technologies to build a secure and responsive communication system.

It fulfills the intended requirements of user authentication, chat functionality, and data management with efficiency and reliability.

While the system currently serves as a strong prototype for personal or institutional use, the proposed future enhancements can transform it into a **real-time, scalable, and feature-rich communication platform**.

In conclusion, the project achieved its goals and laid a solid foundation for future advancements in **modern web-based chat applications**.

CHAPTER 9: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

9.1 Introduction

This chapter lists all the references, websites, tutorials, and resources that were used during the development of the **Chat Website** project. These sources provided valuable guidance in understanding various technologies, concepts, and frameworks such as **React.js**, **Node.js**, **Express.js**, **MySQL**, **Bootstrap**, and **bcrypt**.

9.2 Books and Academic References

1. *Ethan Brown*, “**Web Development with Node and Express**”, O’Reilly Media, 2019.
 2. *Alex Banks and Eve Porcello*, “**Learning React: Modern Patterns for Developing React Apps**”, O’Reilly Media, 2020.
 3. *Robin Nixon*, “**Learning PHP, MySQL & JavaScript: With jQuery, CSS & HTML5**”, O’Reilly Media, 2018.
 4. *Flavio Copes*, “**The Node.js Handbook**”, FreeCodeCamp Publication, 2018.
 5. *Brad Dayley and Brendan Dayley*, “**Node.js, MongoDB and Angular Web Development**”, Addison-Wesley, 2017.
 6. *David Flanagan*, “**JavaScript: The Definitive Guide**”, O’Reilly Media, 2020.
-

9.3 Online Documentation and Tutorials

1. **React.js Official Documentation** – <https://react.dev>
2. **Node.js Official Documentation** – <https://nodejs.org>
3. **Express.js Documentation** – <https://expressjs.com>
4. **MySQL Official Documentation** – <https://dev.mysql.com/doc>
5. **Bootstrap Framework** – <https://getbootstrap.com>

6. **Axios Documentation** – <https://axios-http.com>
 7. **bcrypt.js GitHub Repository** –
<https://github.com/kelektiv/node.bcrypt.js>
-

9.4 Web Resources and Learning Platforms

1. **FreeCodeCamp Tutorials** – <https://www.freecodecamp.org>
 2. **W3Schools Online Web Tutorials** – <https://www.w3schools.com>
 3. **MDN Web Docs (Mozilla Developer Network)** –
<https://developer.mozilla.org>
 4. **GeeksforGeeks Web Development Tutorials** –
<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org>
 5. **Stack Overflow Developer Community** – <https://stackoverflow.com>
 6. **TutorialsPoint Web Development Guides** –
<https://www.tutorialspoint.com>
 7. **YouTube Tutorials on React and Node.js** – Channels such as
Programming with Mosh, Traversy Media, and CodeWithHarry.
-

9.5 Research and Reference Articles

1. "Building Secure Web Applications with Node.js" – Medium Article, 2021.
 2. "Optimizing React.js Performance in Large Applications" – Dev.to Blog, 2022.
 3. "Using RESTful APIs for Scalable Web Systems" – ResearchGate Publication, 2021.
-

9.6 Summary

The above resources significantly contributed to the successful development and completion of the Chat Website project. The combination of **official documentation, online tutorials**, and

academic books provided both theoretical knowledge and practical implementation support.

These references guided the design, development, testing, and deployment phases of the project effectively.