

COSC 310

System Setup & Deployment Overview

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Architecture

The task management system implements a modern full-stack web application architecture that separates concerns between frontend and backend while enabling efficient deployment as a single unit:

Frontend (React.js Application)

- Framework: React.js with functional components and hooks
- State Management: Redux for centralized application state
- Build System: Vite for fast development and optimized production builds
- Styling: Tailwind CSS for utility-first styling approach
- Real-time Communication: Socket.IO client for bidirectional event-based communication
- Routing: React Router for client-side navigation
- Data Visualization: React Chartjs-2 for dashboard analytics

Backend (Node.js Server)

- Framework: Express.js for RESTful API endpoints
- Database: MongoDB with Mongoose ODM for data modeling and validation
- Authentication: JSON Web Tokens (JWT) with access and refresh token strategy
- Real-time Communication: Socket.IO server with JWT authentication integration
- API Organization: Modular route structure organized by domain (auth, users, tasks, admin)
- Error Handling: Centralized middleware for consistent error responses
- Logging: Winston for structured application logging
- Testing: Jest for unit and integration testing

Application Flow

1. Frontend sends authenticated requests to backend API endpoints
1. Backend validates requests, processes business logic, and interacts with the database
1. Real-time updates are pushed to clients via Socket.IO connections
1. Authentication state is maintained with HTTP-only cookies for refresh tokens and local storage for access tokens

Containerization Strategy

The application uses a multi-stage Docker build process for optimized image size and security:

Stage 1 (Frontend Build):

- Uses Node.js 18 base image
- Installs frontend dependencies from package.json
- Builds static assets with Vite
- Results in optimized production-ready frontend bundle

Stage 2 (Application Server):

- Fresh Node.js 18 base image
- Installs backend dependencies
- Copies backend source code
- Integrates frontend build output from Stage 1 into backend's public directory
- Exposes port 3200 for the application
- Runs the combined application with a single command

Environments

The system is designed to operate seamlessly across different environments:

Development Environment

- Frontend:
 - Runs on Vite development server (port 5173)
 - Hot module replacement for instant feedback
 - Connects to backend via configured proxy or CORS
 - Environment variables managed via .env files
- Backend:
 - Runs on port 3200 (configurable via PORT environment variable)
 - CORS explicitly configured to allow connections from frontend dev server
 - MongoDB connection string specified via MONGO_URI environment variable
 - JWT secrets specified via environment variables
 - Nodemon for automatic server restarts during development
- Development Workflow:
 - Run frontend and backend separately during development
 - Backend: `cd backend && npm run dev`
 - Frontend: `cd frontend && npm run dev`

Testing Environment

- Backend Testing:
 - Jest test runner with custom configuration

- MongoDB memory server for isolated database testing
- Supertest for HTTP endpoint testing
- Custom mocks for external dependencies
- Test setup in jest.setup.js
- Frontend Testing:
 - Jest and Vitest for component and integration tests
 - React Testing Library for component testing
 - MSW (Mock Service Worker) for API mocking
 - Custom test utilities in test helpers

Production Environment

- Deployment Strategy:
 - Single Docker container deployment
 - Backend serves static frontend files from /public directory
 - Application runs on port 3200
 - Environment variables provided via Docker Compose or direct environment configuration
 - Persistent storage mounted for logs and potential file uploads
- Runtime Configuration:
 - Environment variables loaded from .env file
 - Production-specific optimizations enabled
 - Error stack traces hidden from client responses
 - Winston logging configured for production format

CI/CD Pipeline

The project implements a comprehensive CI/CD pipeline using GitHub Actions:

Pipeline Triggers

- Push Events:
 - Branches: main, development
 - Triggers full pipeline execution
- Pull Request Events:
 - Target Branches: main, development
 - Runs tests to validate proposed changes

CI/CD Jobs and Workflow

1. Testing Job (run-tests)

- Environment: Ubuntu latest with Node.js 18
- Backend Testing Steps:
 - Check out repository code
 - Install backend dependencies: `cd backend && npm install`
 - Execute test suite: `npm test`
 - Tests include unit tests for controllers, models, and middleware
 - Integration tests for API endpoints
- Frontend Testing Steps:
 - Install frontend dependencies: `cd frontend && npm install`
 - Execute test suite: `npm test`
 - Tests include component rendering, state management, and API interactions

2. Docker Build and Publish Job (docker-publish)

- Dependencies: Requires successful completion of run-tests job
- Execution Conditions: Only runs on main branch pushes
- Steps:
 - Check out repository code
 - Authenticate with Docker Hub using secrets:
 - `DOCKERHUB_USERNAME`
 - `DOCKERHUB_PASSWORD`
 - Build multi-stage Docker image
 - Push image to Docker Hub with tag: `mochi21/taskmanagment:latest`

Deployment Process

Continuous Deployment

- Image Retrieval:
 - Latest image pulled from Docker Hub: `mochi21/taskmanagment:latest`
 - Specified in `docker-compose.yml`
- Container Configuration:
 - Container named: `task-management-container`
 - Port mapping: Host port 3200 to container port 3200
 - Environment variables loaded from `./backend/.env`

Deployment Command:

`Docker-compose up -d`

Environment-Specific Configurations

- Development and staging environments can use the same Docker image with different environment variables
- Configuration for different environments managed through environment-specific .env files or Docker Compose overrides

Security Considerations

- Authentication: JWT tokens with appropriate expiration and refresh mechanism
- Authorization: Role-based access control (admin vs. regular users)
- Data Protection: Environment variables for sensitive information
- API Security: Input validation and sanitization via middleware
- Container Security: Multi-stage build to minimize attack surface
- Network Security: Only necessary ports exposed (3200)