

# Project Guide: Shared Client Portal for Freelancers & Agencies

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## Problem

Freelancers and small agencies often manage client communication and files across tools like Google Docs, Notion, Email, and Dropbox. This leads to disorganization, unprofessional interactions, and time lost keeping everything in sync. A centralized portal can solve this problem.

## Project Goal

Build a web application that allows freelancers and agencies to create secure, customizable client-specific portals to share documents, updates, and enable collaboration.

## Key Features

- Create client-specific portals
- Upload & organize files/documents
- Post project updates (rich text)
- Threaded comments per file/update
- Client access via secure link
- Optional drag-and-drop dashboard layout
- User authentication for freelancers
- Stripe integration for monetization

## MVP Scope (First 4 Weekends)

Weekend 1:

- Set up project (React, Node.js, Express, MongoDB)
- Implement user authentication (JWT or Firebase Auth)
- Basic dashboard to create/manage client portals

Weekend 2:

- File upload with cloud storage (Cloudinary/S3)
- Feed to display uploaded files and updates

Weekend 3:

- Comment system on files/updates
- Secure client access to individual portals

Weekend 4:

- UI polish
- Stripe setup (1 free client, pay for more)
- Deployment (Vercel + Render/Fly.io)

## **Tech Stack**

Frontend:

- React, TailwindCSS or Material UI
- React Router, React Dropzone, React Quill

Backend:

- Node.js, Express.js
- MongoDB, Mongoose

Others:

- JWT or Firebase Auth
- Cloudinary/Firebase Storage/S3 for file handling
- Stripe for payments
- Deployment: Vercel (frontend) + Render or Fly.io (backend)

## **Monetization Model**

Freemium:

- 1 client portal free
- Monthly subscription (via Stripe) for more clients or extra features

Future Options:

- Custom branding
- Email notifications
- Analytics on client interactions

## **Why This Matters**

- Real pain point validated across freelance communities
- Helps you build a monetizable SaaS with real use cases
- Easy to expand from MVP
- Good showcase of full-stack MERN skills