CST-350 Activity 3 Database and Users

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GitHub Link: https://github.com/amfrear/cst350/tree/main/Activity_3

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Part 1: Database Setup and Integration Overview

Screenshots

Users Table Creation

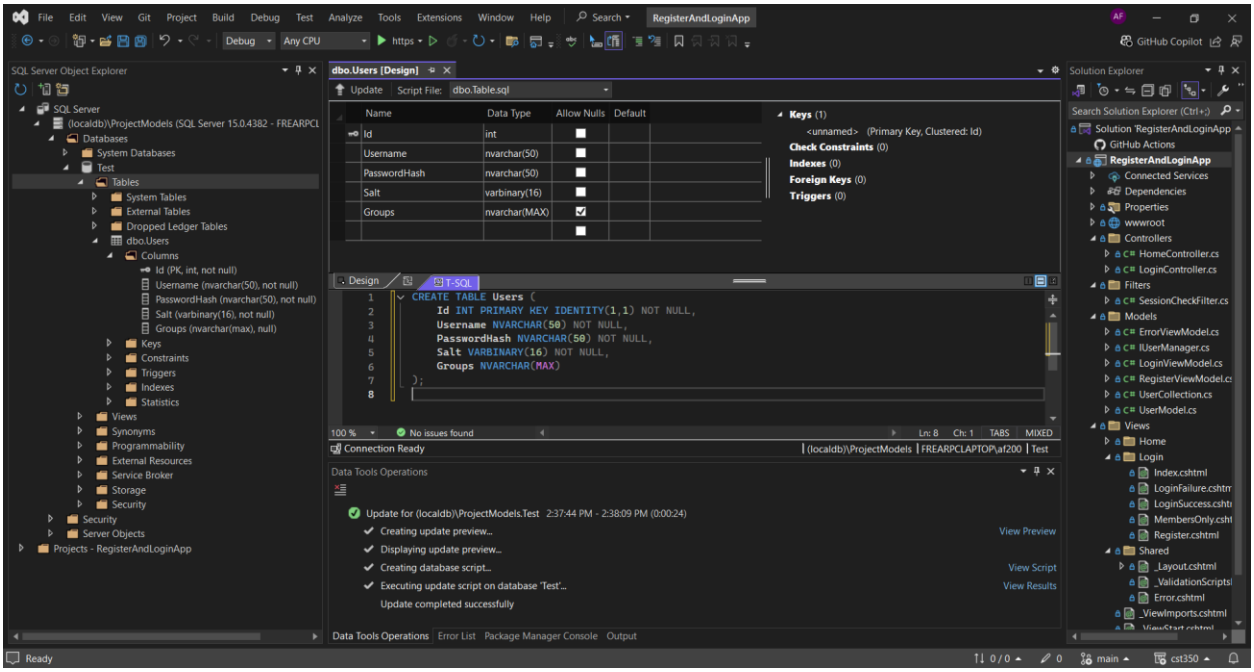

Figure 1 The screenshot shows the Users table created in SQL Server with fields for Id, Username, PasswordHash, Salt, and Groups, as part of the database setup.

Users Table Data Insertion

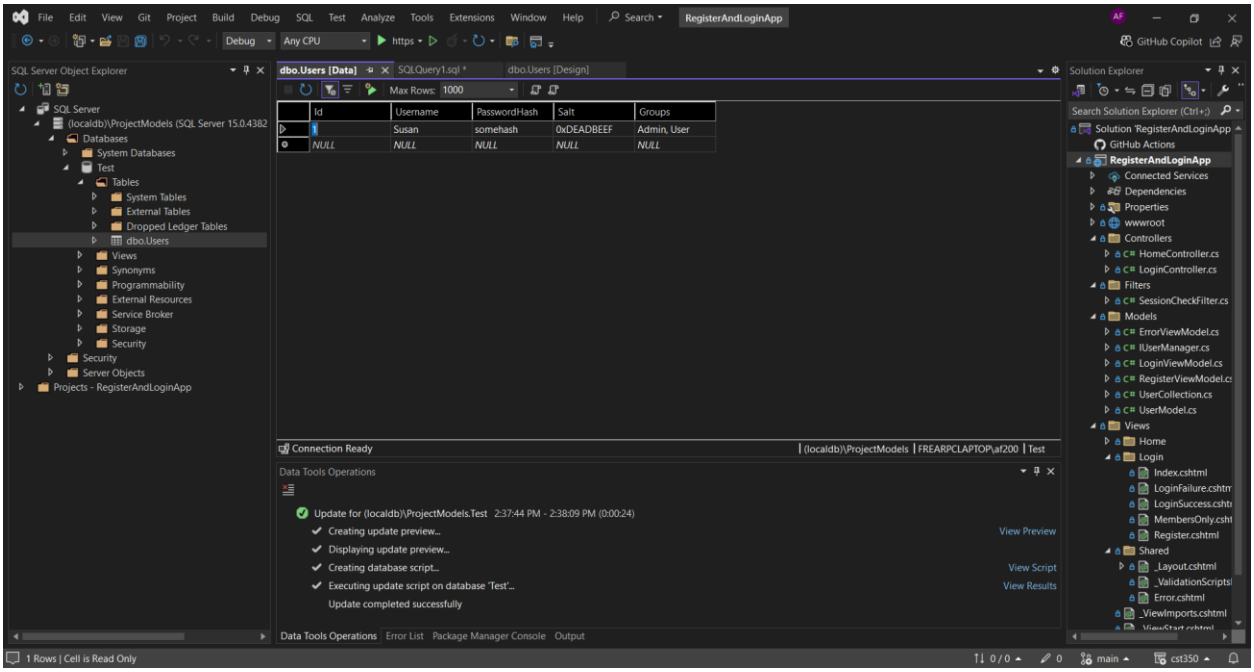

Figure 2 This screenshot displays the insertion of a new user into the Users table, populating fields such as Username, PasswordHash, Salt, and Groups.

Users Table Data Validation

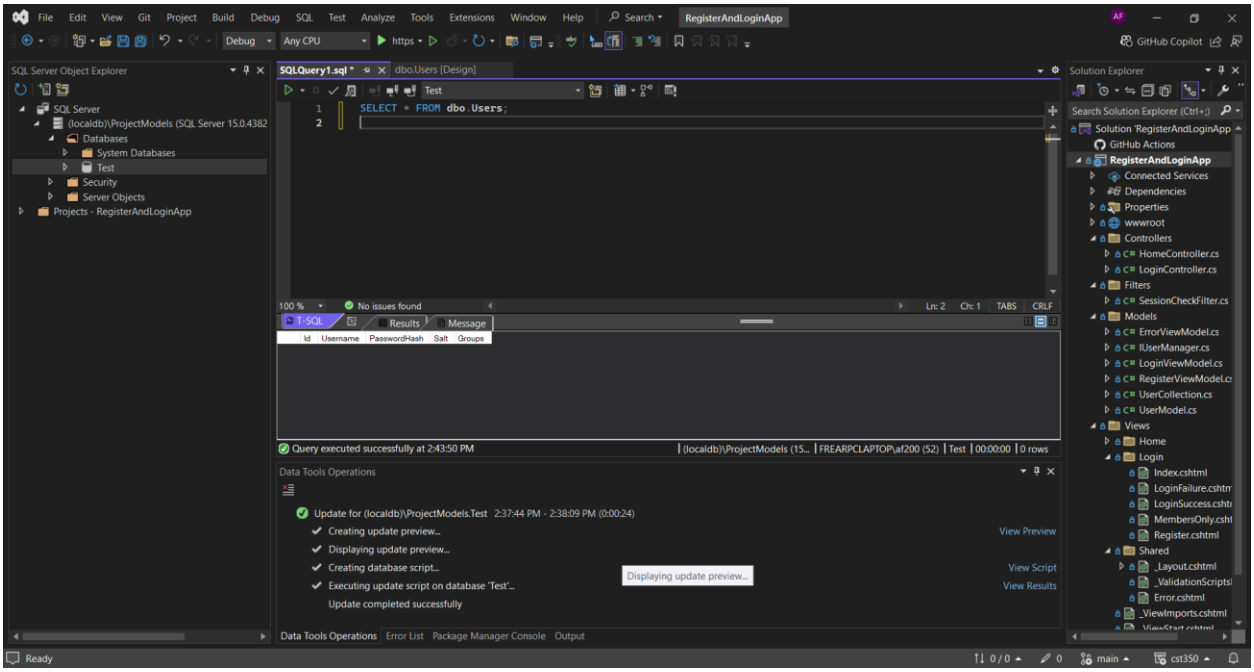

*Figure 3 Here, we see the validation step where the SELECT * FROM dbo.Users query confirms that the user data is successfully saved in the database.*

New Registered User - Login Success

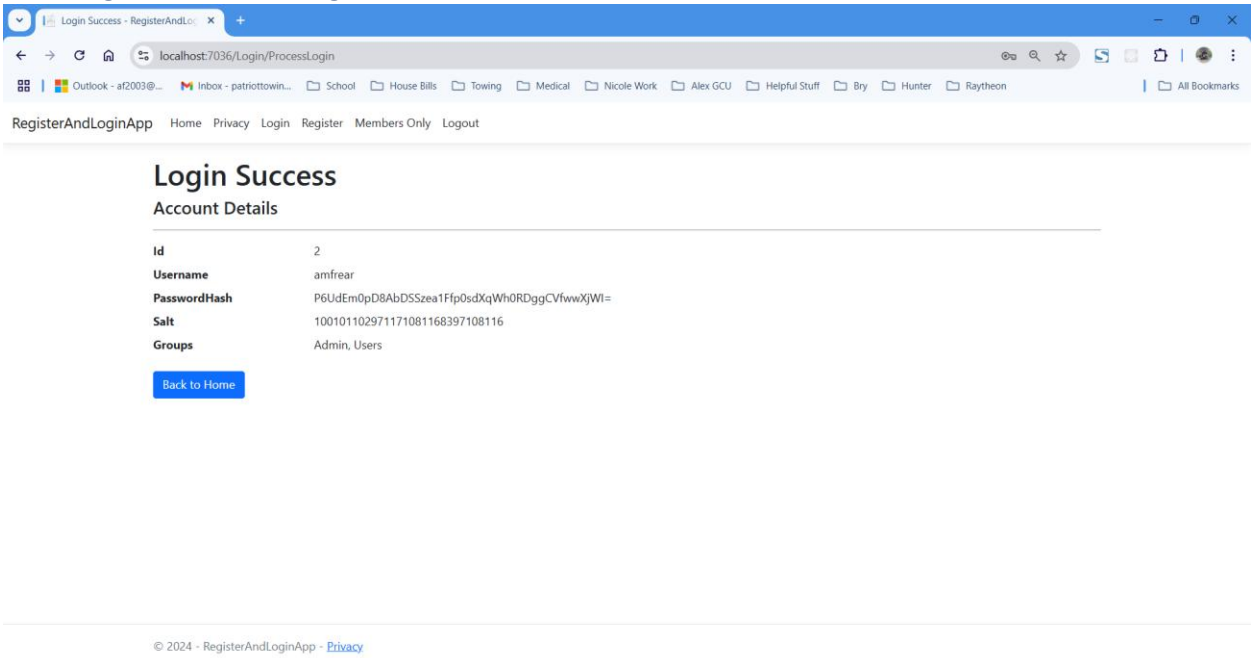

Figure 4 The screenshot shows a successful login by the newly registered user, displaying account details, including Username, PasswordHash, Salt, and Groups.

New Registered User in Database

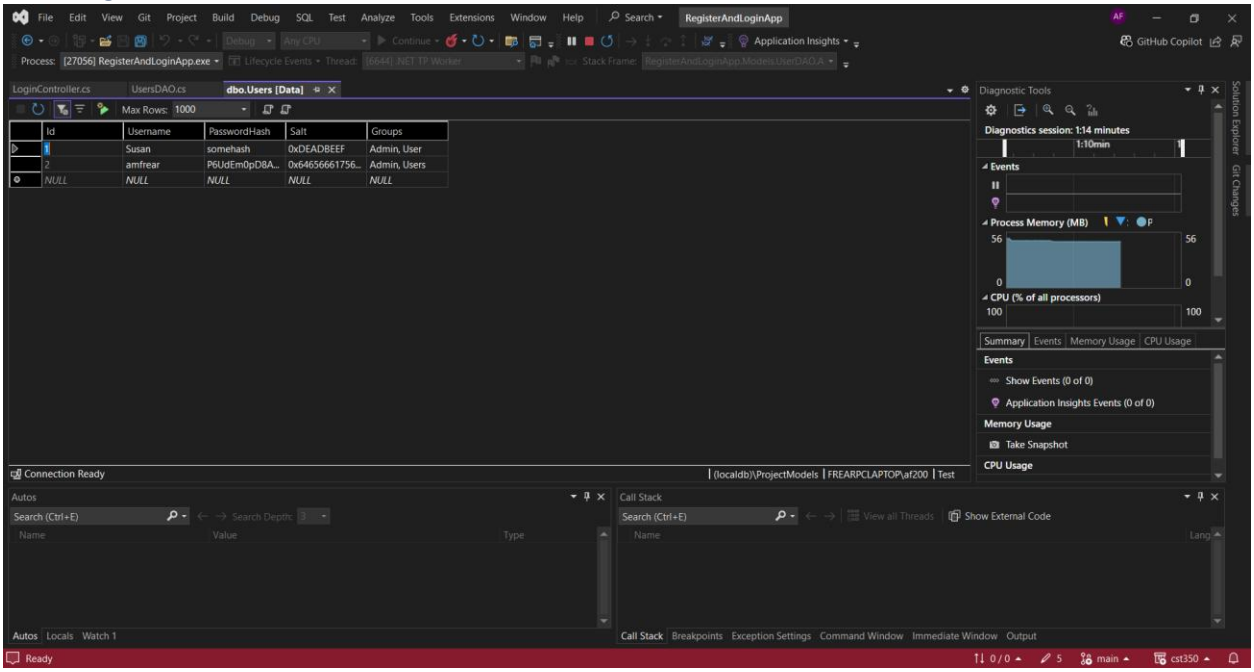

Figure 5 The new user entry is verified within the database, showing that the registration functionality successfully added the user details to the Users table.

Members Only Page Access by New User

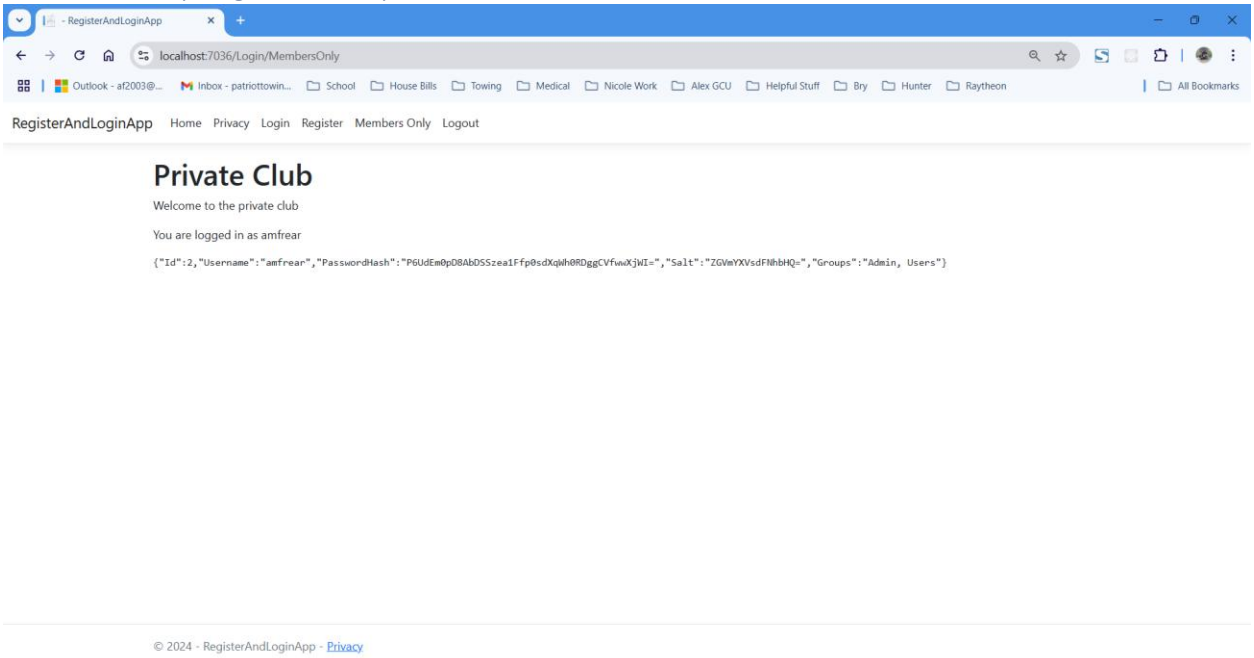

Figure 6 This screenshot demonstrates that the newly registered user has successfully accessed the Members-Only page, confirming the session validation and restricted access.

Summary of Key Concepts (Part 1)

In Part 1 of this activity, I integrated the login and registration system with a SQL Server database. This involved setting up a Users table in SQL Server to securely store user data, implementing SQL commands in C# for data insertion and validation, and developing a registration and login system with password hashing and salting to enhance security. Additionally, I created a Members-Only page that uses session-based access control to restrict access to authenticated users only. Through these tasks, I gained practical experience in managing user data within a database and enforcing authentication requirements for protected pages.

Part 2: User Group Access

Screenshots

Admin Only Page

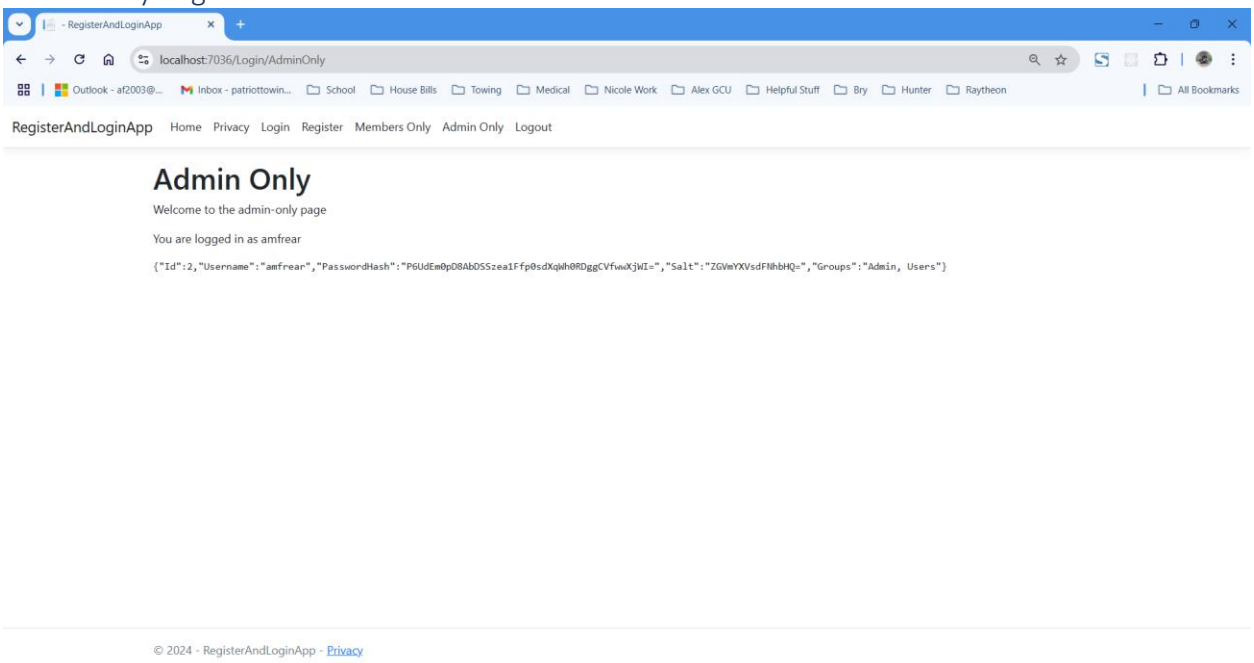

Figure 7 The screenshot shows the Admin-Only page, which is accessible only to users who belong to the Admin group, demonstrating group-based access control.

User Only Access Restriction

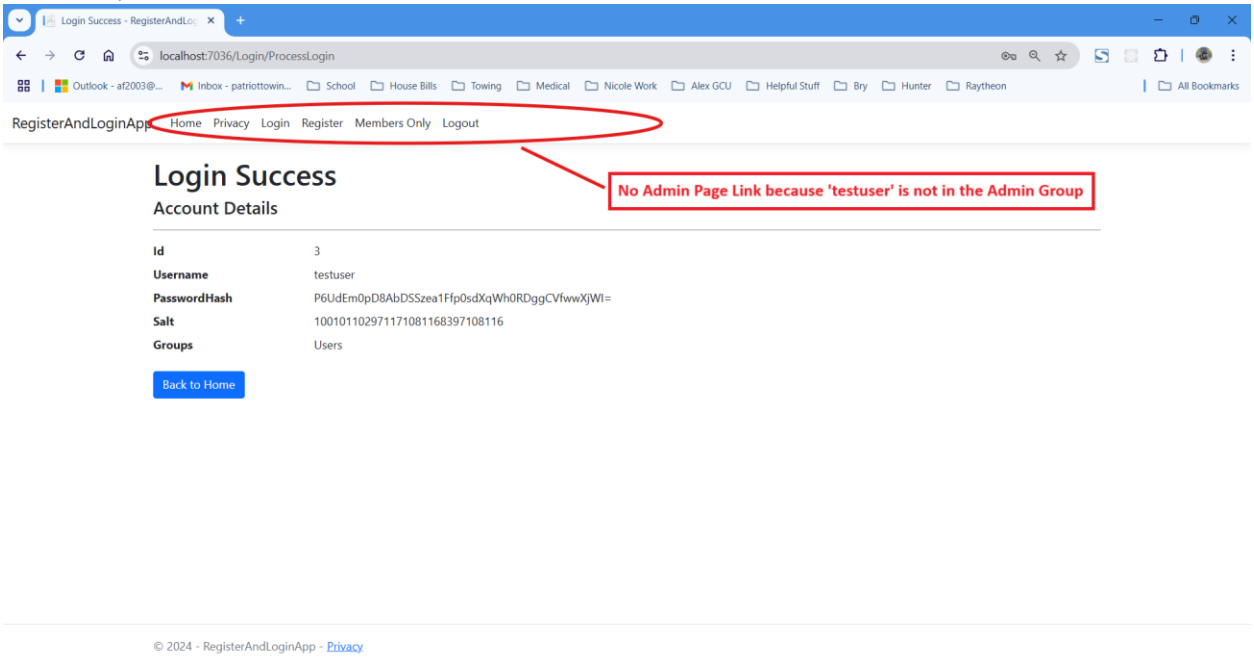

Figure 8 This screenshot demonstrates that a regular user, who is not part of the Admin group, is restricted from accessing the Admin-Only page, ensuring role-based access.

Summary of Key Concepts (Part 2)

In Part 2 of this activity, I implemented role-based access control by creating an Admin-Only page that is restricted to users in the Admin group. I developed a custom action filter, AdminCheckFilter, which verifies the user's role by checking session data for group membership. This filter redirects non-admin users attempting to access the Admin-Only page back to the login page. Through this process, I learned how to use custom filters to enforce group-specific access restrictions in ASP.NET Core MVC, enhancing both the security and structure of my application.