

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

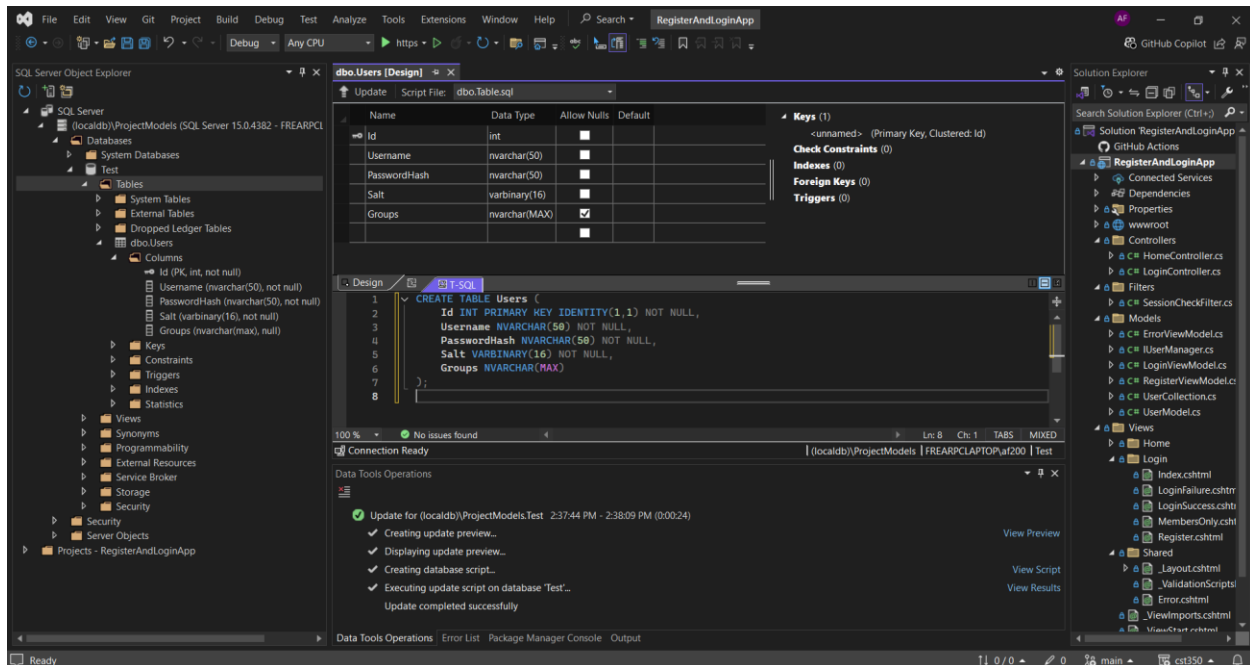


Figure 1 The screenshot shows the Users table created in SQL Server with fields for Id, Username, PasswordHash, Salt, and Groups, as part of the database setup.

Users Table Data Insertion

The screenshot displays the Visual Studio IDE with the 'RegisterAndLoginApp' project open. The 'SQL Server Object Explorer' on the left shows the 'Test' database, with the 'dbo.Users' table selected. The 'dbo.Users [Data]' view in the center shows a table with the following data:

Id	Username	PasswordHash	Salt	Groups
1	Susan	somehash	0xDEADBEEF	Admin, User
2	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL

The 'Data Tools Operations' pane at the bottom shows the following steps:

- Update for (localdb)\ProjectModels\Test 2:37:44 PM - 2:38:09 PM (0:00:24)
- ✓ Creating update preview... View Preview
- ✓ Displaying update preview...
- ✓ Creating database script... View Script
- ✓ Executing update script on database 'Test'... View Results
- Update completed successfully

The 'Solution Explorer' on the right shows the project structure, including 'Controllers', 'Filters', 'Models', 'Views', and 'Views\Shared'.

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

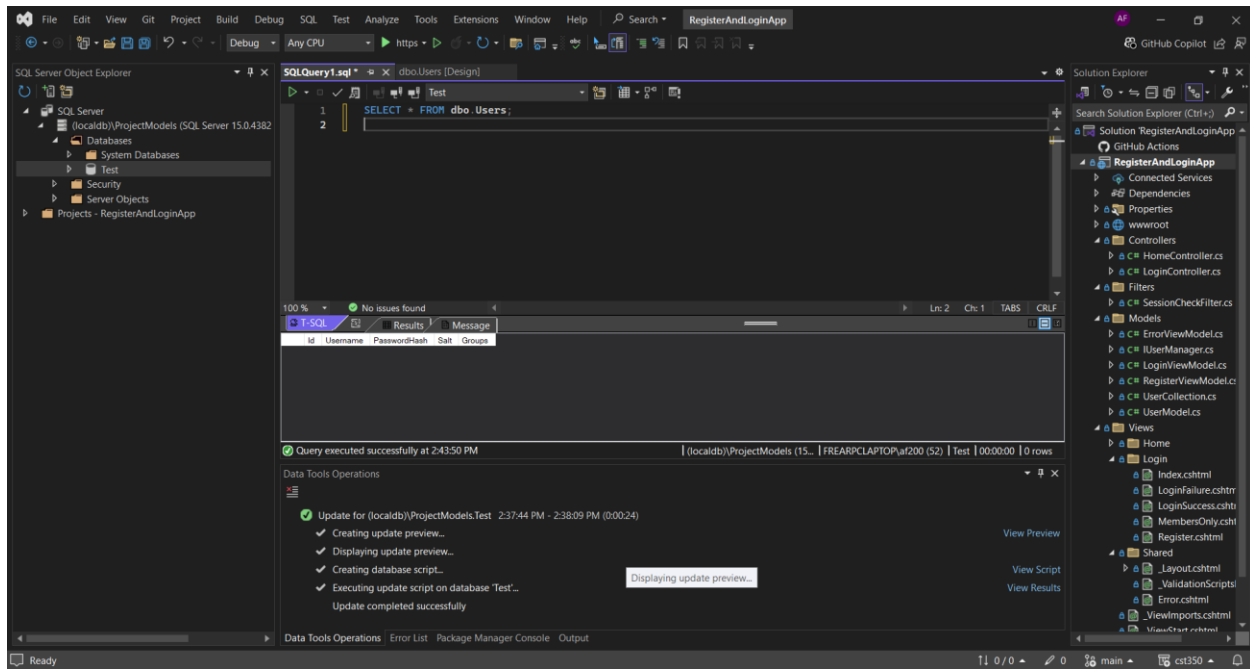


Figure 3 Here, we see the validation step where the `SELECT * FROM dbo.Users` query confirms that the user data is successfully saved in the database.

New Registered User - Login Success

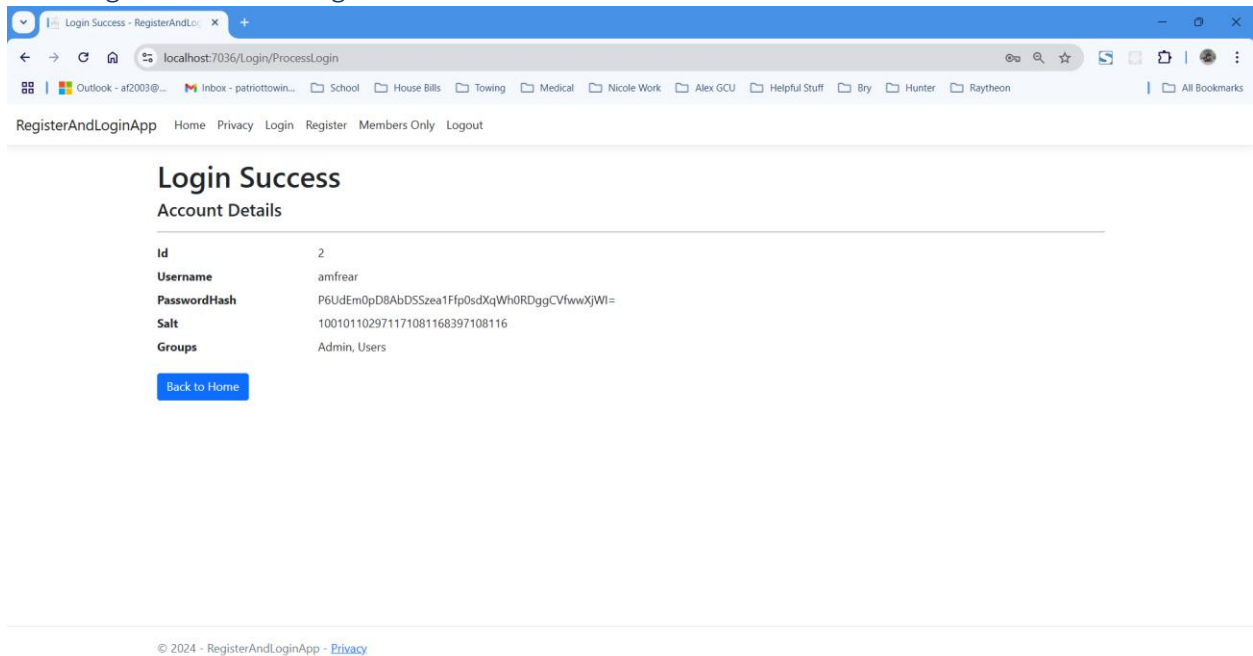


Figure 4 The screenshot shows a successful login by the newly registered user, displaying account details, including Username, PasswordHash, Salt, and Groups.

New Registered User in Database

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE with the following components:

- File Explorer:** Shows the project structure with files like `LoginController.cs`, `UsersDAO.cs`, and `dbo.Users [Data]`.
- Table View:** Displays the `dbo.Users` table with the following data:

Id	Username	PasswordHash	Salt	Groups
1	Susan	somehash	0xDEADBEEF	Admin, User
2	amfrear	P6UdEm0pDBA...	0x64656661756...	Admin, Users
3	NULL	NULL	NULL	NULL
- Diagnostic Tools:** Shows a diagnostics session for 1:14 minutes, with tabs for Events, Process Memory (MB), and CPU (% of all processors).
- Call Stack:** Shows the current call stack with the method `RegisterAndLoginApp.RegisterUser`.
- Output Window:** Shows the output of the application, including the message "Connection Ready".

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

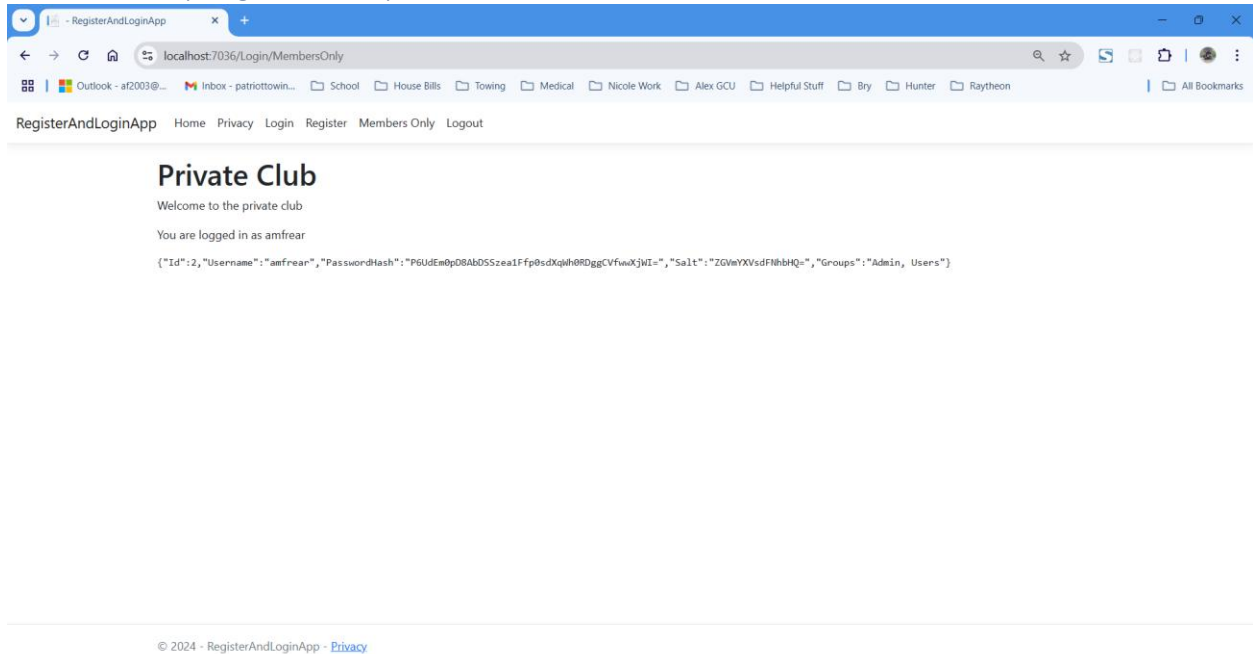


Figure 6 This screenshot demonstrates that the newly registered user has successfully accessed the Members-Only page, confirming the session validation and restricted access.

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

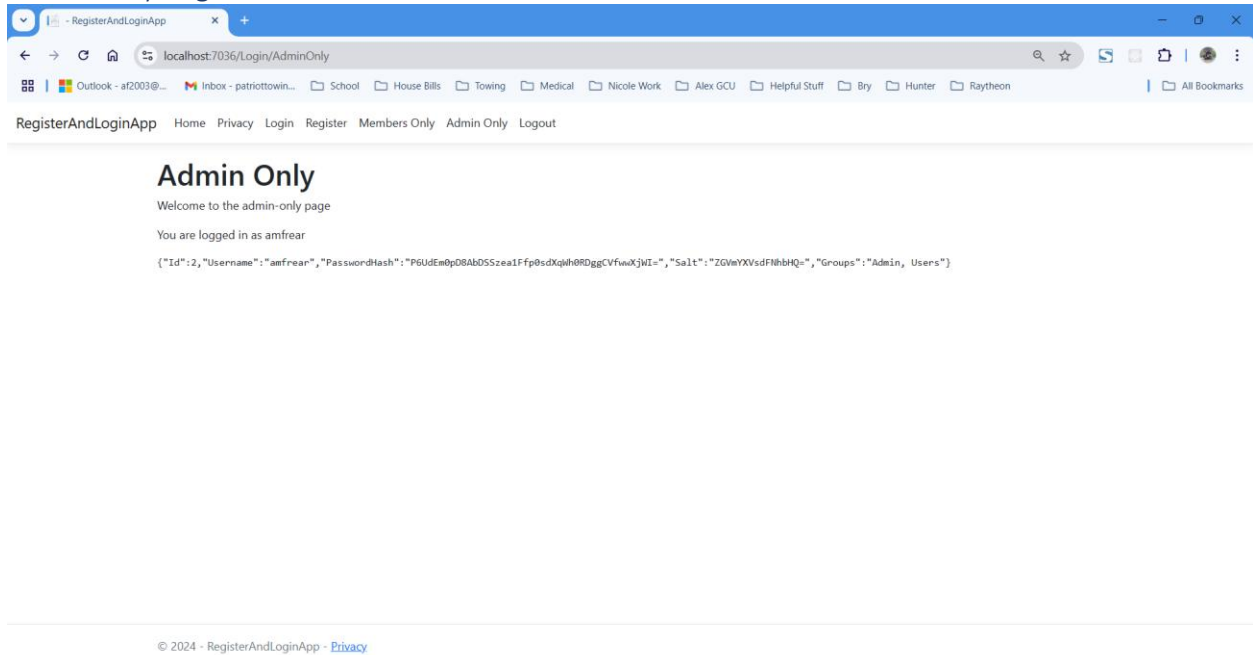


Figure 7 The screenshot shows the Admin-Only page, which is accessible only to users who belong to the Admin group, demonstrating group-based access control.

User Only Access Restriction

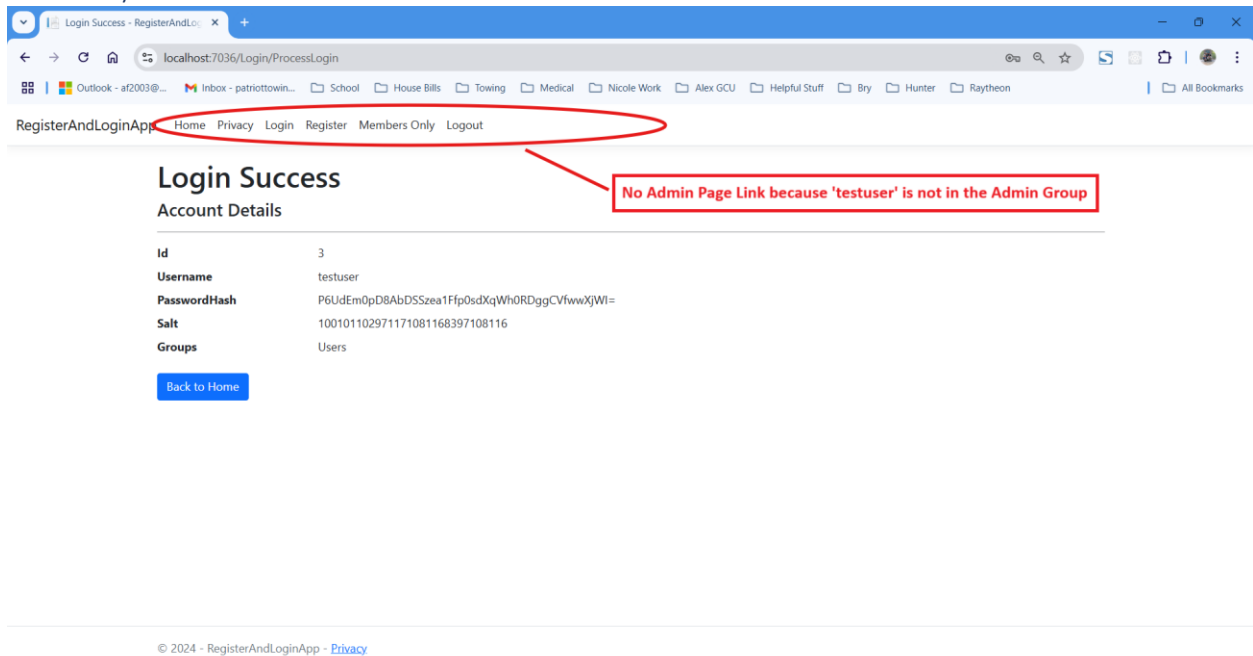


Figure 8 This screenshot demonstrates that a regular user, who is not part of the Admin group, is restricted from accessing the Admin-Only page, ensuring role-based access.

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.