

User Manual – QuickForms AI

Course: CSC 318 – Software Engineering Principles

Assignment: Final Project – QuickForms AI

Deliverable: *User Manual*

Project Title: QuickForms AI – Smart Form & Workflow Builder

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1. Introduction

QuickForms AI is a lightweight, AI-powered form builder that helps small businesses, clubs, and individuals generate and manage online forms quickly. By combining natural language prompts with a drag-and-drop editor, users can create surveys, registrations, or contact forms without writing code.

Technology Stack:

- **Frontend:** React + Vite
- **Backend:** Node.js + Express
- **Database:** Prisma ORM with SQLite/Postgres
- **AI Layer:** Large Language Model (LLM) for intelligent field generation

Core Features:

1. AI-powered form generation.
2. Drag-and-drop customization.
3. Shareable links for form distribution.
4. Response storage in a database.
5. CSV export for analytics.

This manual will guide you through installation, setup, usage, troubleshooting, and FAQs.

2. Getting Started

2.1 System Requirements

- **OS:** Windows 10/11, macOS, or Linux

- Node.js: v18+
 - Package Manager: pnpm (recommended) or npm v9+
 - Database: SQLite (default) or Postgres (optional)
 - Browser: Chrome (recommended), Edge, Safari, or Firefox
 - Internet connection for sharing links
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2.2 Installation & Setup

Step 1 – Clone Repository:

```
git clone https://github.com/your-username/quickforms-ai.git
cd quickforms-ai
```

Step 2 – Install Dependencies:

```
# Frontend
cd apps/web
pnpm install # or npm install

# Backend
cd ../api
npm install
```

Step 3 – Configure Environment (.env):

```
DATABASE_URL="file:./dev.db"
OPENAI_API_KEY="your_api_key_here"
PORT=5000
```

Step 4 – Initialize Database:

```
pnpm prisma migrate dev --name init
```

Step 5 – Run Application:

- Backend API → <http://localhost:4000>
- Frontend → <http://localhost:5173>

```
# Start backend
cd apps/api
pnpm run dev

# Start frontend
cd apps/web
pnpm run dev
```

✅ Open <http://localhost:5173> to access QuickForms AI.

3. Using QuickForms AI

3.1 Creating a New Form

1. Launch the dashboard.
2. Click **“New Form.”**
3. Enter: Title, description, and input fields.
4. Use AI prompt: *“Create a registration form with name, email, and password fields.”*
5. Customize via drag-and-drop editor.

3.2 Publishing & Sharing a Form

1. Select the form from the dashboard.
2. Click **“Share Link.”**
3. Copy and distribute the link via email, chat, or social media.
4. Respondents can access the link directly.

3.3 Submitting & Collecting Responses

- Respondents complete the fields and click **Submit.**
- Submissions are stored in the backend and viewable in the dashboard.

3.4 Viewing & Exporting Results

1. Open the dashboard.
2. Select a form.
3. Click **“Export CSV.”**
4. Download and open in Excel, Google Sheets, or other analytics tools.

4. Example Workflow

- A club leader creates a “**Member Interest Survey.**”
- Shares link on WhatsApp and email.
- Members respond.
- Leader exports CSV and analyzes responses in Excel.

5. Testing the System

- Run backend tests:

```
cd apps/api
npm test
```

- Manual test: Create form → Submit response → Export results.

6. Troubleshooting

Issue	Possible Cause	Solution
API not running	Port conflict / bad .env	Ensure port 4000 is free; check .env
Frontend won't start	Missing dependencies	Run <code>npm install</code> in apps/web
Database error	Migration not run	Run <code>npx prisma migrate dev</code>
Forms not saving	Backend not running	Start backend before frontend
Link not opening	Broken/corrupted URL	Copy the link again from the dashboard
CSV won't open	Wrong app	Use Excel, Google Sheets, or Notepad
Fields not visible	Browser cache	Refresh (Ctrl+Shift+R)
AI not responding	Missing/invalid API key	Update <code>.env</code> with a valid key

7. FAQs

Q: Do respondents need an account?

A: No, anyone with the link can submit.

Q: Can I edit a form after publishing?

A: Yes, edits are live instantly.

Q: Is my data private?

A: Data is stored securely and is only exportable by the form creator.

Q: Can I deploy online?

A: Yes, use Vercel (frontend) + Render/Heroku (backend).

Q: Can I customize themes?

A: Yes, through frontend React components.

Q: Is authentication available?

A: Not yet; planned for future updates.

8. Support & Contact

For assistance, contact the development team via the GitHub repo:

- GitHub Issues: [QuickForms AI Repository](#)
- Email: (eriamoha@uat.edu / eric@amoheric.com)