

The goal

The goal of the URL shortener app is to make links shorter. The main reason of developing this app is that links at the current state are very long, which makes them hard to organize, but also they require a lot of space in the chat window or the email. Company's policy forbids the usage of 3rd party URL shorteners, such as bit.ly. The app is supposed to be embedded as a widget, which is why it's lightweight and simple.

The user

A customer is the user. The user of the URL shortener application can do two things with the current version of the app. He can either paste a link into the input bar and receive a shortened link, or paste the shortened link into the browser, which will redirect him to the assigned website.

Current functionalities

MVP consists of React for front-end, Go for the back-end and MongoDB for storing data.

MVP includes:

- Link validation
- Search for duplicates of entries in database
- Redirect handler

MVP doesn't include:

- Link expiration

Process of getting a new, shortened link:

1. User pastes a link into the input bar, then clicks a button to shorten his link,
2. Application validates if entered link is valid. If the link is invalid, an error is displayed, and the link is not sent to the backend. If it's correct, the link gets sent to the backend.
3. Back-end checks in the database if the link has been previously stored. If so, the shortened link is being sent back to the frontend. If it's a new link, the back-end generates a new, shortened link and sends it to the database. If no error regarding database connection occurs, the shortened link is being sent back to the front-end and displayed on the website.

Process of using a shortened link:

1. User pastes a link into the browser.
2. Back-end receives a shortened link, searches for matches in database. If there's a match, user gets redirected to the assigned website. If there's no match, user gets redirected to the front page of the URL shortener application.