Technical documentation – **PONG**

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1. Project Overview

PONG is a web-based version of the classic Pong game with both single-player and real-time multiplayer modes.

Users can:

- Register and log in
- Create and join game rooms
- Play online in real time

2. Architecture

• **Frontend**: React + Vite

• Backend: Node.js + Express + Socket.IO

• **Database**: PostgreSQL

• **Proxy**: Nginx Proxy Manager

• Cloudflare Tunnel: Secures all traffic and exposes app to network

• **Hosting**: Raspberry Pi 4 with Ubuntu Server 24.04

• Management: Portainer.io for container orchestration

3. Backend

Technologies

- Node.js + Express
- PostgreSQL
- Socket.IO
- bcrypt (password hashing)
- JWT (authorization)

All scripts and configuration exists in server.js file.

Imports and express configuration:

Database Configuration:

```
const pgClient = new Client({
        user: 'user',
        host: 'ip address of rPi',
        database: 'pong',
        password: 'password',
        port: 5432,
//user and password also should be moved to environment variable
});
pgClient.connect()
        .then(() => console.log('PostgreSQL connected'))
        .catch(error => console.error('PostgreSQL connection error', error));
```

HTTP Endpoints:

/create - For user registration via POST:

```
app.post('/create', async (request, response) => {
       const {username, password} = request.body;
              const result = await pgClient.query(
                     'SELECT COUNT(*) FROM users WHERE username = $1',
                     [username]
              if(result.rows[0].count === '0'){
                     const hashedPassword = await bcrypt.hash(password, 10);
                     await pgClient.query(
                            'INSERT INTO users (username, password) VALUES ($1, $2)',
                            [username, hashedPassword]
                     const token = jwt.sign({name: username}, KEY, {expiresIn: '1h'});
                     response.status(201).json({token});
              else{
                     return response.status(409).json({message: 'User with this name exists'});
       catch(error){
              response.status(400).json({error: error.message});
```

/login – For user logging via POST:

```
app.<mark>post('/login'</mark>, async (request, response) => {
       const {username, password} = request.body;
       try {
              const result = await pgClient.query(
                      'SELECT password FROM users WHERE username = $1',
                     [username]
              if (result.rows.length === 0) {
                     return response.status(401).json({error: 'This username doesnt exists'});
              const dbPassword = result.rows[0].password;
              const isMatch = await bcrypt.compare(password, dbPassword)
              if (isMatch) {
                     const token = jwt.sign({name: username}, KEY, {expiresIn: '1h'});
                      response.status(200).json({token});
              else {
                      response.status(401).json({error: 'Invalid password'});
       catch (error) {
              response.status(500).json({error: error.message});
```

/verify – For verifying JWT via GET:

```
app.get('/verify', (request, response) => {
    const auth = request.headers['authorization'];
    const token = auth && auth.split(' ')[1];
    if (!token) return response.sendStatus(401);
    jwt.verify(token, KEY, (error, decoded) => {
        if (error) return response.sendStatus(403);
        response.status(200).json({name: decoded.name});
    });
});
```

WebSocket (Socket.IO):

JWT authentication for WebSocket server access:

Real time events:

create_room - for room creation:

join_room - for joining existing room and starting game:

```
socket.on('join_room', (roomId, username) => {
    const room = io.sockets.adapter.rooms.get(roomId);
    const users = roomUsers.get(roomId);
    if ( room && room.size === 1 ){
        socket.join(roomId);
        socket.roomId = roomId;
        users.player2 = socket;
        users.p2name = username;
        users.p2y = 400;
        users.playAgain = 0;
        socket.emit('room_joined', { role: 'left'});
        io.to(roomId).emit('start_game', {p1: users.p1name, p2: users.p2name});
        gameLoop(roomId, socket);
    }
}
```

move- for sending to other player paddle movement:

disconnect – for ending game and deleting room if opponent disconnects:

play_again – for handling request for rematch:

Game logic:

```
async function gameLoop (roomId) {
       const score = { p1: 0, p2: 0 };
       const ball = { x: 900, y: 400 }; //middle of pitch
       const directions = [
              { dx: 10, dy: 10 },
               { dx: 10, dy: -10 },
               { dx: -10, dy: 10 },
               { dx: -10, dy: -10 }
       let ballV = directions[Math.floor(Math.random() * 4)];
       //direction randomized as px per frame
       const intervalId = setInterval(async () => {
               ball.x += ballV.dx;
               ball.y += ballV.dy;
               if (ball.y <= 0 | | ball.y >= 755) {
                      ballV.dy *= -1;
               if (ball.x \le 10 \mid |ball.x \ge 1765) {
                      const status = await checkIfLost(roomId, ball);
                       switch(status){
                              case 0: // ball bounced off paddle
                                      ballV.dx *= -1;
                                      ball.x += ballV.dx;
                                      break;
                              case 1: //p1 lost
                                      score.p2++;
                                      io.to(roomId).emit('score', score);
                                      ball.x = 900;
                                      ball.v = 400;
                                      ballV = directions[Math.floor(Math.random() * 4)];
                                      await new Promise(res => setTimeout(res, 1000));
                                      break;
                              case 2: //p2 lost
                                      score.p1++;
                                      io.to(roomId).emit('score', score);
                                      ball.x = 900;
                                      ball.y = 400;
                                      ballV = directions[Math.floor(Math.random() * 4)];
                                      await new Promise(res => setTimeout(res, 1000));
                                      break;
```

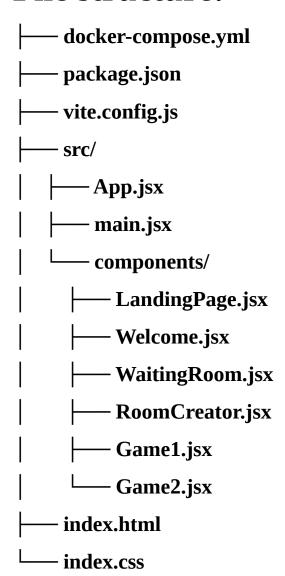
```
if (score.p1 >= 10 || score.p2 >= 10) {
                      io.to(roomId).emit('game_over', score);
                      clearInterval(intervalId);
                      return;
              io.to(roomId).emit('ball_move', { x: ball.x, y: ball.y, score });
       }, 1000 / 60); //60 FPS
function checkIfLost (roomId, ball) {
       return new Promise((resolve) => {
              const room = roomUsers.get(roomId);
              if (!room) {
                   return resolve(0);
              if (ball.x <= 10) { //checks if ball is on p1 side
                      const paddleY = room.p1y;
                      if (ball.y < paddleY | | ball.y > paddleY + 80) { //checks if ball is on paddle
                             resolve(1);
                      else {
                             resolve(0);
              else if (ball.x \geq 1765) { //checks if ball is on p2 side
                      const paddleY = room.p2y;
                      if (ball.y < paddleY || ball.y > paddleY + 80) { //checks if ball is on paddle
                             resolve(2);
                       else {
                             resolve(0);
              else {
                      resolve(0);
       });
```

4. Frontend

Technologies

- React
- Vite
- Socket.IO-client
- TailwindCSS

File structure:



Components

App.jsx:

- Controls main views and passes functions to switch between them.

```
const [view, setView] = useState('landing');
const [gameMode, setGameMode] = useState(null);
const viewManagement = () =>{
      switch (view) {
             case 'start':
                     return < Welcome
                                   onButtonClick={(mode) => {
                                          setView('waitingRoom');
                                          setGameMode(mode);
             case 'landing':
                     return < Landing Page
                                   onLogin={() => setView('start')}
             case 'waitingRoom':
                     return < Waiting Room
                                   view={gameMode}
                                   onButtonClick={setView}
```

LandingPage.jsx:

- Main functions:
 - UseEffect checking if active JWT exists in local storage and log in if verified

```
useEffect(() => {
    const token = localStorage.getItem('token');

if (token){
    fetch('https://backend-pong.konradito.win/verify', {
        method: 'GET',
        headers: { Authorization: `Bearer ${token}` }
    })

    .then(async response => {
        if (response.status === 200) {
            const data = await response.json();
        }
}
```

Login via POST /login and save JWT in local storage

```
const logIn = async (event) => {
       event.preventDefault();
       const credentials = {
              username: event.target.username.value,
              password: event.target.password.value
      };
       try{
              const response = await fetch ('https://backend-pong.konradito.win/login', {
                      method: 'POST',
                     headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/json' },
                     body: JSON.stringify(credentials)
              });
              if(response.status === 200){
                     const data = await response.json();
                     localStorage.setItem('token', data.token);
                     localStorage.setItem('username', credentials.username);
                      console.log('User logged');
                     onLogin(); //activate case 'start' in App.jsx
              else{
                      const data = await response.json();
                      console.error('Error:', data.message || data.error);
                      alert('Error:', data.message || data.error);
       catch (error) {
              console.error('Connection error:', error);
              alert('Connection error:', error);
```

Register via POST /create and save JWT in local storage

```
const register = async (event) => {
       event.preventDefault();
       if (event.target.password.value === event.target.retypedPassword.value){ //form requires
retyping password
              const credentials = {
                      username: event.target.username.value,
                      password: event.target.password.value
              };
              try{
                      const response = await fetch ('https://backend-pong.konradito.win/create', {
                             method: 'POST',
                             headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/json' },
                             body: JSON.stringify(credentials)
                      if(response.status === 201){
                             const data = await response.json();
                             localStorage.setItem('token', data.token);
                             localStorage.setItem('username', credentials.username);
                             console.log('User created');
                             onLogin(); //activate case 'start' in App.jsx
                      }
                      else{
                             const data = await response.json();
                             console.error('Error:', data.message || data.error);
                             alert('Error:', data.message | | data.error);
              catch (error) {
                      console.error('Connection error:', error);
                      alert('Connection error:', error)
       else{
              alert('Passwords didnt match');
```

Welcome.jsx:

- Welcome screen with game mode selection (single or multiplayer).

WaitingRoom.jsx:

- if single-player mode picked → launches Game1 component.
- if multiplayer mode picked → launches RoomCreator component.

Game1.jsx:

- Single-player (offline) mode:
 - Game starts instant by useEffect

- Mouse movement triggers changePaddlePosition function that change paddle coordinates ref
- changeBallPosition function is triggered every frame.

- If ball coordinate y is near top or bottom wall, ball dy (movement speed in y axis) is multiplied by -1.
- Same thing is happening if ball x is near left or right wall but it also checks if paddle y coordinate matches ball y and only if it is matching, dx is multiplied by -1.

```
const changeBallPosition = () => {
       const x = ballXY.current.x;
       const y = ballXY.current.y;
       if(x \le 10)
              if(checkIfLost()){
                  return;
       ballV.current.dx *= -1;
       else if(x >= 1765) {
              ballV.current.dx *= -1;
              setCounter(prevCounter => prevCounter + 1);
       ballXY.current.x += ballV.current.dx;
       if (y >= 755){
              ballV.current.dy *= -1;
       else if(y \le 0){
             ballV.current.dy *= -1;
       ballXY.current.y += ballV.current.dy;
```

RoomCreator.jsx:

- Creates, joins and starts a game room via Socket.IO.

```
const createRoom = () => {
       connectSocket();
       socketRef.current.emit('create_room',localStorage.getItem('username'));
const joinRoom = () => {
       connectSocket();
       socketRef.current.emit('join_room', roomId.toUpperCase(), localStorage.getItem('username'));
const connectSocket = () => {
       const token = localStorage.getItem('token');
       const socket = io("https://backend-pong.konradito.win", {
              auth: {
                     token: token
       });
       socketRef.current = socket;
       socket.on('room_created', (data) => {
              setRoomId(data.roomId);
              setRole(data.role);
              setCreatedRoom(true);
       socket.on('room_joined', (data) => {
              setRole(data.role);
       socket.on('start_game', (data) => {
              setPlayers({p1: data.p1, p2: data.p2});
              setGameStarted(true);
```

- Handles room code, player roles, game start.

```
const handleCode = (event) => {
    if (event.target.value.length <= 6){
        setRoomId(event.target.value);
    }
}

const handleEnter = (event) => {
    if (event.key === 'Enter') {
        if (event.target.value.length === 6) {
            joinRoom();
        }
        else{
            alert('Room ID must be at least 6 characters long');
        }
    }
}
```

- Starts Game2 component when both players are ready (gameStarted variable is true).

Game2.jsx:

- Two-player (online) mode:
 - Real-time sync via Socket.IO.

```
else {
                       paddleRightRefY.current = y - 140;
       else if(role === 'right') {
               if (y - 140 > 700) {
                       paddleLeftRefY.current = 700;
               else if (y - 140 < 0) {
                      paddleLeftRefY.current = 0;
               else {
                      paddleLeftRefY.current = y - 140;
socket.current.on('ball_move', (data) => {
       const x = data.x;
       const y = data.y;
       ballRef.current.style.right = `${x}px`;
       ballRef.current.style.top = `${y}px`;
socket.current.on('score', (data) => {
       setScore(data);
})
socket.current.on('game_over', (data) => {
       setGame(false);
       setScore(data);
       if (role === 'left') {
               setDidWon(data.p2 > data.p1);
       else {
               setDidWon(data.p2 < data.p1);</pre>
socket.current.on('opponent_disconnected', () => {
       setOpponentIsPresent(false);
})
socket.current.on('start_game', (data) => {
       setScore({p1: 0, p2: 0});
       setPlayers({p1: data.p1, p2: data.p2});
       setGame(true);
       setPlayAgainButton(true);
```

```
setOpponentIsPresent(true);
});
```

}, []);

• Synchronizes paddle and ball movement.

```
const changePaddlePosition = (event) => {
       if(role==='right') {
              if (event.pageY - 140 > 700) {
                     paddleRightRefY.current = 700;
              else if (event.pageY - 140 < 0) {
                     paddleRightRefY.current = 0;
              else {
                      paddleRightRefY.current = event.pageY - 140;
              socket.current.emit('move', {roomId: roomId, role: role, paddleY:
paddleRightRefY.current, pageY: event.pageY});
       else if(role==='left') {
              if (event.pageY - 140 > 700) {
                     paddleLeftRefY.current = 700;
              else if (event.pageY - 140 < 0) {
                     paddleLeftRefY.current = 0;
              else {
                      paddleLeftRefY.current = event.pageY - 140;
              socket.current.emit('move', {roomId: roomId, role: role, paddleY:
paddleLeftRefY.current, pageY: event.pageY});
```

TailwindCSS

Besides basic style for menu and game components, app requires 1800x800 resolution because of game field size, so if browser window is smaller, it displays warning

```
@media (max-width: 1799px), (max-height: 799px) {
       main,
       .ball,
       .paddle,
       .counter,
       .menuBox
       .youLostBox {
              display: none;
       .tooSmall {
              display: flex;
div className={
       'tooSmall h-full w-full hidden justify-center items-center text-center text-white text-6xl'
                      Window is too small.
              <h2>
                      To play pong you need at least: 1800×800.
              </h2>
       </div>
</div>
```

5. Docker and deployment

All apps where deployed using portainer.io. docker-compose.yml files:

Nginx Proxy Manager:
version: '3.8'
services:
app:
image: 'jc21/nginx-proxy-manager:latest'
restart: unless-stopped
ports:
- '80:80'
- '443:443'
- '81:81'

- volumes:
 - ./data:/data
 - ./letsencrypt:/etc/letsencrypt

Cloudflared:

version: '3.8'

services:

cloudflared:

image: wisdomsky/cloudflared-

web: 2025. 2.1 @ sha 256: 2c7 ad 1c94f56db 004f587d4e9f71aa 4d5b541e564dda 9

73cab51458266c2c3a3

entrypoint: /bin/sh -c "node /var/app/backend/app.js"

environment:

- EDGE_IP_VERSION=auto
- METRICS_ENABLE=false
- METRICS_PORT=60123
- NODE_VERSION=18.20.7
- PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin
- PROTOCOL=auto
- VERSION=2025.2.1
- WEBUI_PORT=14333
- YARN_VERSION=1.22.22

restart: unless-stopped

```
Backend:

docker-compose.yml:

version: '3.8'
services:

backend:

build: .

container_name: pong_backend
ports:

- "3000:3000"
environment:

- NODE_ENV=production
labels:

- com.casaplatform.app=pong_backend
restart: unless-stopped
```

Dockerfile

FROM node:20-alpine

WORKDIR /app

COPY package*.json ./

RUN npm install --omit=dev

COPY . .

EXPOSE 3000

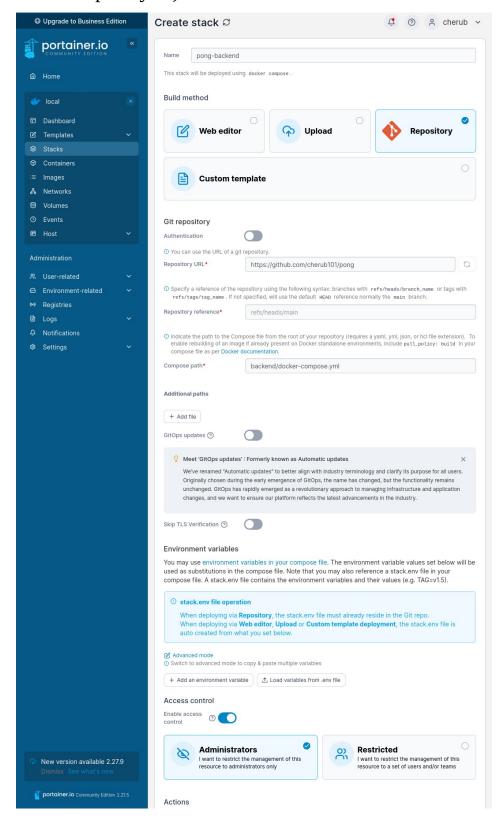
CMD ["npm", "start"]

```
Frontend:
docker-compose.yml:
version: "3.8"
services:
     pong-react-app:
          build: .
          ports:
                - "3001:80"
          environment:
                - NGINX VERSION=1.29.0
                - NJS_VERSION=0.9.0
          deploy:
                resources:
                     limits:
                     memory: 1846M
          restart: unless-stopped
Dockerfile
FROM node:20-alpine AS build
```

```
WORKDIR /app
COPY package*.json ./
RUN npm install
COPY .
RUN npm run build
FROM nginx:alpine
COPY --from=build /app/dist /usr/share/nginx/html
EXPOSE 3001
CMD ["nginx", "-g", "daemon off;"]
```

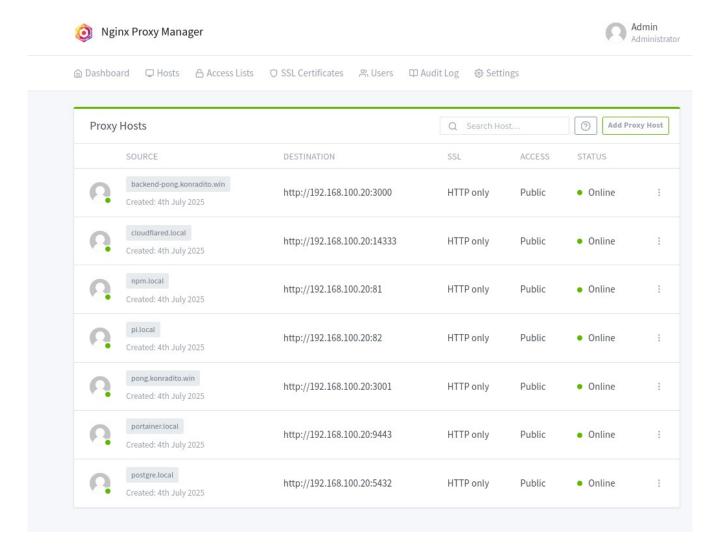
NPM and Cloudflared were directly composed by script but frontend and backend were downloaded from git.

Example for backend (for frontend, remember to change compose path to frontend/docker-compose.yml):



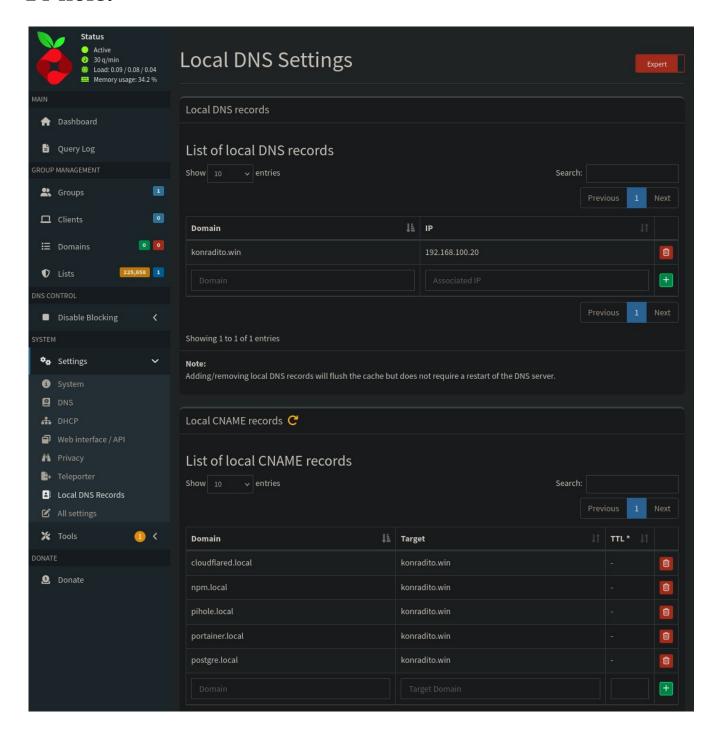
6. Port forwarding and DNS configuration

Nginx proxy manager:



Names .local where configured in pi-hole DNS configuration

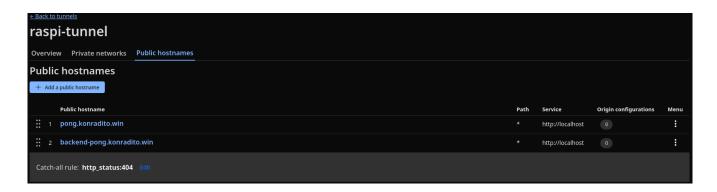
Pi-hole:



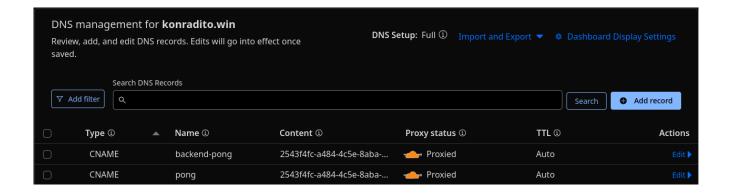
Backend and frontend dns records where added to cloudflare while creating tunnel

Cloudflare:





When public hostname is created, the CNAME record pointing to tunnel is automatically created:



7. Final Notes

This project was developed as part of a student initiative to explore real-time multiplayer applications using modern web technologies. It showcases:

- A functional web-based Pong game with single-player and real-time multiplayer modes
- User authentication using JWT and bcrypt
- Real-time communication with Socket.IO and WebSocket
- A complete Dockerized deployment pipeline using Nginx Proxy Manager, Cloudflare Tunnel, and Portainer
- Responsive and scalable frontend architecture with React, Vite, and TailwindCSS

This is the first version of the project.

It is currently in an active development stage, and several enhancements are planned, including:

- Matchmaking and public lobby system
- ELO rating for multiplayer and a scoreboard for single-player mode
- Improved security (e.g., rate limiting, input validation)
- Power-ups to enhance gameplay dynamics
- Improved styling and animations for a better user experience

Author:

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