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Introduction

Computing resources are costly for single organizational usage, hence using offered computing. services results in flexible, speedy and relatively fewer operating costs. The services include software, database, network, servers, analysis on the internet aka cloud. Software-as-a-Service is a method that offers access to software to its remote users from the cloud. The purchase and installation of a software is costlier than subscribing to it.

Piazza is a SaaS based cloud application that allows authenticated users to post their thoughts for other users authorised to the software. The users like and comment on each other's posts which builds a community altogether. This report concentrates on implementation, development and testing of a Piazza application.

The report starts with a brief introduction about the domain. Next section focuses on the resources such as tools and platforms used in implementation. Next, database model and file structure are described followed by UML modelling of the application. The later sections cover the installation of libraries, the authentication and validation using JWT (Copes, 2023), development of RESTful API (including CRUD operations), test cases generation and deployment.

Functionalities offered by Piazza are as listed below:

- 1. oAuth v2.0 protocol authorises the users
- 2. Authorised users can share their thoughts via text.
- 3. All posts are available to read to the valid users
- 4. Users can comment, like, dislike on the posts
- 5. The Post owner can set expiry time after which the post cannot be liked, disliked or commented.
- 6.The posts can be retrieved by a particular topic

Resources

Resources The tools and platforms used in implementation of this application are as listed below:

1. GCP – To create a VM instance for deployment

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- 2. Node JS Writing code in JS (Chris, 2021)
- 3. GitHub hosting code (Kaelin, 2022)
- 4. MongoDB Data storage (MongoDB tutorial, 2022)
- 5. Postman design and test the generated test cases (Node.js, 2022)

Database

The database is designed using MongoDB for piazza application. The schema design is as described:

Post Schema

```
models > JS PPOST > 🕼 PPOSTSchema > 🔑 post_owner > 🔑 type
      const mongoose = require('mongoose')
     const PPOSTSchema = mongoose.Schema({
          post_title:{
             type:String
         post_topic:{
             type:String,
             enum:['Politics', 'Health', 'Sport', 'Tech']
          likes_count:{
             type:Number,
              default:0
             type:Number,
              default:0
          comments:{
          post_date:{
              default:Date.now
          post_owner:{
              type:String
          post_time:{
          post_owner_id:{
              type:String
         post_status:{
```

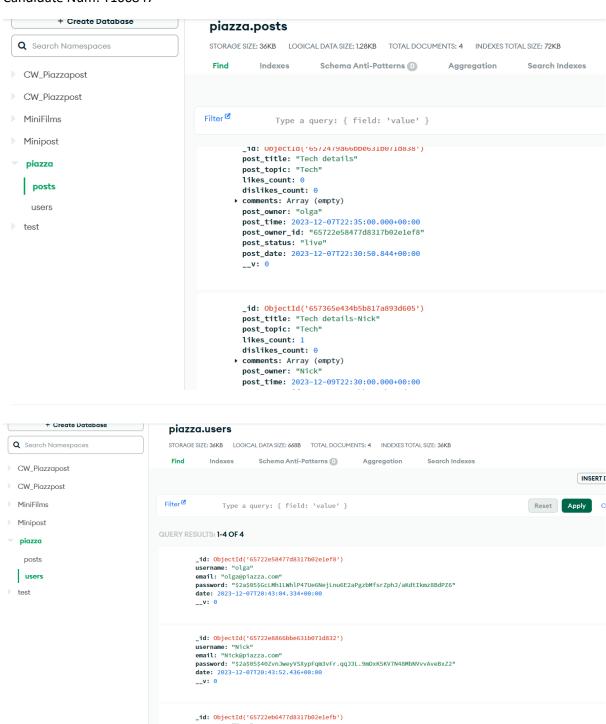
User Schema

```
models > JS User.js > [∅] userSchema
      const mongoose = require('mongoose')
      const userSchema = mongoose.Schema({
           username:{
               type:String,
               require:true,
               min:3,
               max:256
           email:{
               type:String,
               require: true,
               min:6,
               max:256
 15
           password:{
               type:String,
               require:true,
               min:6,
               max:1024
           date:{
               type:Date,
               default:Date.now
       })
      module.exports=mongoose.model('users',userSchema)
```

Database Structure

Mongo DB is used to manage the data. New database 'piazza' is created, and two collections posts and users are created. Posts holds all the messages and users hold the user details.

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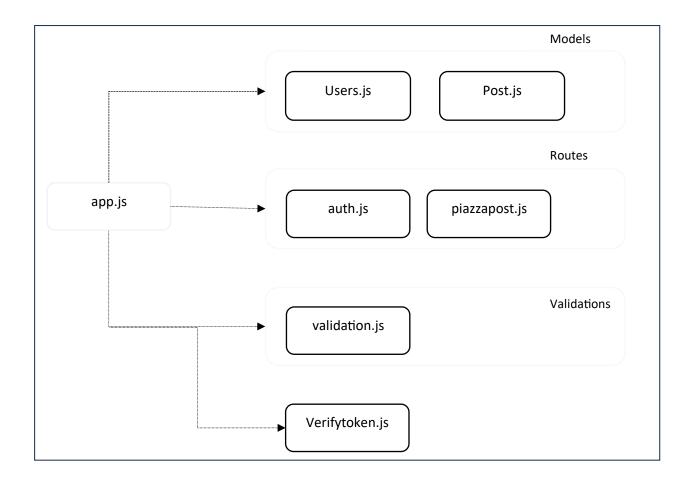


System Status: All Good

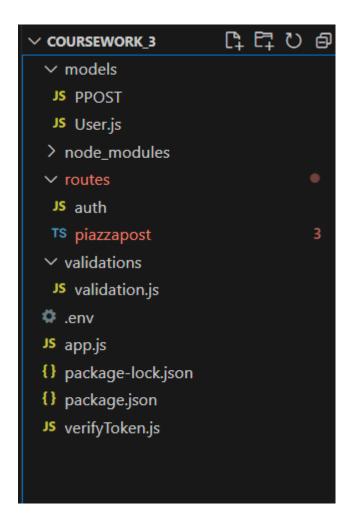
@2023 MongoDB, Inc. Status Terms Privacy Atlas Blog Contact Sales

File Structure

Files in the application are organized in MVC fashion; where models are stored in folder Models, View in the folder Routes and Controller in the Validations folder. The figure below describes detailed file structure formed. The app has three pages, home: app.js; auth.js, piazza.js that has all the feeds and validations.js to validate the input from the user at registration and login sessions. verifyToken.js contains code in relation to authentication discussed in later sections.



Files and folders directory structure of the application is given:



File Details

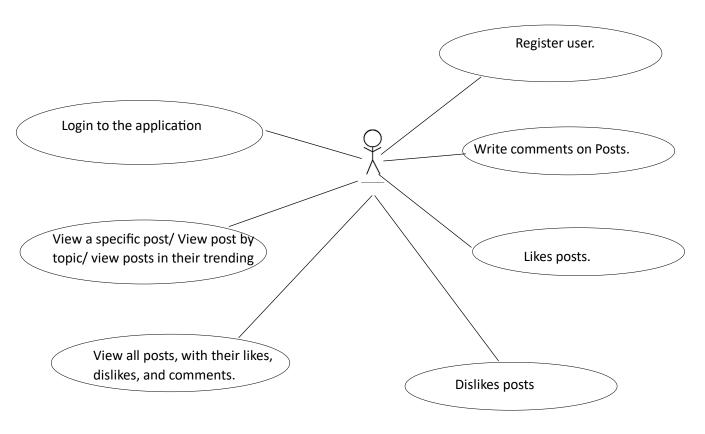
- 1. *app.js file:* This is the entry point to the application where middleware is created, API endpoints are mapped, connection to MongoDB is established and finally the server is set on port 3000.
- 2. models folder: Includes the files to create the model to define each database structure
 - a. Post.js: A schema to define the posts database table and export the model.
 - Post title String given by user
 - Post_topic Enum and holds four values 'Politics', 'Sport', 'Health' and 'Tech'
 - Likes_count Every time a post is liked, the counter is increased.
 - Dislikes_count Every time a post is disliked, the counter is increased.
 - Comments creates an array of comments when input by the user.
 - Post_date created by the system for every post
 - Post time expiry date time set for each post.
 - Post_owner_id created from the login authentication token to identify post owner.
 - Post_status Enum can hold 'live' and 'expired' calculated by the system. Defaults live and sets it to expired if current date > post_time.

- a. User.js: A schema to define the user's database table and export the model.
 - Username String and needs to be minimum 3 char and max 256, mandatory
 - Email email address and min 6 characters, mandatory
 - password string, min 6 characters, mandatory.
- 3. routes folder: Files to create the routes to the api endpoints
- a. posts.js: Imports the Post schema model and do the following operations with user authentication.
 - i. post- for posting a new post,
 - ii. get to get **all the posts** and get **posts by id**, to get **posts by topic**, to get posts by **topic** and **status**.
 - iii. post-to like a post by incrementing the likes_count
 - iv. Post to dislike a post by incrementing the dislikes count
 - v. post-to comment a particular post
- **b. user-auth.js:** Imports the User schema model and do the validations from validation.js file and after successful login give the auth-token to the user.
- 4. validations folder: a. validation.js: This file contains all the validations for user registration and login.
- 5. **verifyToken.js file**: This file contains the code for Token verification once it is provided by the user for CRUD operations after login
- 6. **env file:** This file contains the path DB_CONNECTOR to connect the application to the MongoDB and TOKEN_SECRET to generate token for authentication.

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Design

Use case Diagram



Implementation

Installing packages and libraries

- 1.npm init: This command generates the package. Json file in the root folder "Coursework_3", which contains all the project details, scripts and dependencies used for the project.
- 2. npm install: The following are the dependencies installed:
 - a. express: framework is required to develop web RESTful APIs
 - b. nodemon: very helpful in restarting the application as soon as the code files are changed and saved.
 - c. mongoose: this package is useful when MongoDB holds application data. It models, validates and manipulates data.
 - d. body-parser :helps in parsing the body that includes information when operations like POST, PATCH or PUT are involved.
 - e. dotenv: newly added feature that loads environment variables added into the .env file created by the developer.
 - f. joi: A package for object schema descriptions and validations.
 - g. jsonwebtoken: provides strong authentication by generating authentication tokens

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- h. bcryptjs: To encrypt and decrypt the passwords.
- 3. npm start: To start the server listening at port 3000, written in file app.js

Environment Setup

1. The packages are first installed using the terminal of Node JS. The package.json file contains the starting point of the application (figure 6). In Scripts, test:"echo..." is changed with start:"nodemon app.js". This confirms that the starting point of this application is app.js. Every time start command is invoked; it asks nodemon to run app.js app.

Basic Setup to run the node.js code.

These are the basic commands used:

specification of app.js as starting point

2. npm start – command starts the server and the web application is ready for testing as shown in figure.

```
COURSEWORK 3
∨ models
                                                                  const app = express()
require('dotenv').config()
> node_modules
                                                                  const bodyParser = require('body-parser')
const mongoose = require('mongoose')

✓ routes

JS auth
JS validation.js
                                                                  app.use(bodyParser.json())
JS app.js
{} package-lock.json
                                                                   app.use('/piazzapost',piazzaRoute)
app.use('/user',authRoute)
JS verifyToken.js
                                                                  app.get('/', (req,res)=>{
    res.send('Piazza test')
                                                                  const MURL = 'mongodb+srv://deepakarthick2022:cloud1234@cluster0.vqy4urh.mongodb.net/piazza?retryWrites=true&w=majority'
mongoose.connect(MURL)
                                                                  app.listen(3000, ()=>{
    console.log('Your server is up and running...')
                                                         SUCCESS: The process with PID 29416 has been terminated. PS C:\Users\karth\OneDrive\Deepa\Birbeck\cloud computing\coursework_2nd\Coursework_3> npm start
                                                         > coursework_1@1.0.0 start
> nodemon app.js
                                                           nodemon] 3.0.1
nodemon] to restart at any time, enter `rs`
nodemon] watching path(s): *.*
nodemon] watching extensions: js,mjs,cjs,json
nodemon] starting `node app.js
our server is up and running...
OUTLINE
```

npm start

3. The web application is deployed in virtual machine and has five replicas of the service implemented in Kubernetes using the deployment.yaml and service.yaml so the application can be accessed with url: 34.171.134.125 given by the 'get services' in Kubernetes, that invokes app.js file as shown in figure.

```
Welcome to Cloud Shell! Type "help" to get started.
Your Cloud Platform project in this session is set to cloudclass1-401818.
Use "gcloud config set project [PROJECT_ID]" to change to a different project. deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$ kubectl get services
                                         CLUSTER-IP EXTERNAL-IP PORT(S)
NAME
                        TYPE
                                                                                             AGE
kubernetes
                         ClusterIP
                                         10.32.0.1
                                                                            443/TCP
                                                                                             2d
                                                         <none>
piazza-post-service LoadBalancer 10.32.6.130 34.171.134.125 80:30044/TCP
                                                                                             29h
deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$
```

To get the External IP to run the application

4. Endpoints

API endpoints	Description
POST - 34.171.134.125/user/register	To register a new user
POST- 34.171.134.125/user/login	To login as a registered user
POST - 34.171.134.125/piazzapost	To create a new post
POST - 34.171.134.125/piazzapost/postId/likes	To like a particular post
POST - 34.171.134.125/piazzapost/postId/dislikes	To dislike a particular post
POST - 34.171.134.125/piazzapost/postId/comments	To comment on a post
GET - 34.171.134.125/piazzapost	To retrieve all the posts

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GET - 34.171.134.125/piazzapost/postId	To retrieve post by specific ID
GET - 34.171.134.125/piazzapost?topic=Sport	To get the posts corresponding to Sport Topic
GET- 34.171.134.125/ piazzapost?topic=Sport&status=expired	To get posts for Sport topic and expired status
GET- 34.171.134.125/piazzapost?topic=Sport&status=live	To get posts for Sport topic and live status
GET- 34.171.134.125/piazzapost/trending	To get the post that has most number of likes
	and dislikes

Libraries

The libraries express and nodemon are imported at the beginning before anything else in the application.

Authentication and Authorization using JWT

Authentication

Using email and password, user is allowed to login to the system. If the username does not exist in the database, it prompts 'User doesn't exist'. Similarly, for incorrect password, it displays the message to the user. Once the user is allowed to login with correct credentials, JWT creates an authentication token for the logged in user. This token is important to pass as parameter in the header to access the Piazza application further. The users in the application are authenticated using oAuth 2.0 protocol as shown in figure 9.

Authorization

The users are expected to register by providing their username, email and password. The application checks for the existing email and username, if either exists, it prompts that user that email or username exists and hence duplicate registration is not accepted. The user is not allowed to comment or like own posts. If the attempt is made the application sends a message that the operation is not allowed. No other user can edit or delete posts of the other users.

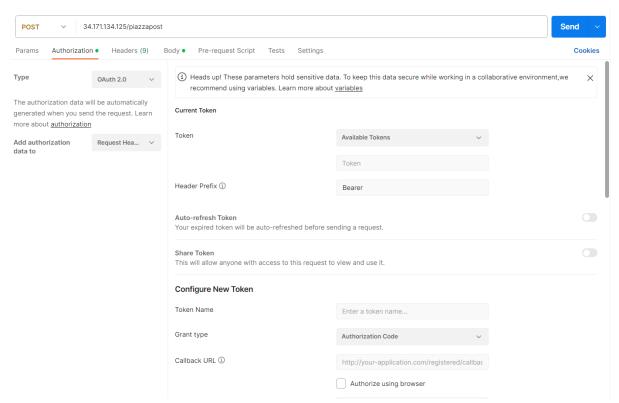


Figure 9 Authentication with oAuth 2.0

RESTful API Implementation

The implementation of RESTful API involves following basic and necessary steps:

- 1. Directory the directories are created as per the requirements of the application.
- 2. App Express the express and nodemon libraries are imported.
- 3. Schema The models are created as per requirements.
- 4. Authentication JWT authentication is important for secured application.

CRUD Functionalities

The application effectively implemented CRUD functionalities.

Create – creates users, posts and comments

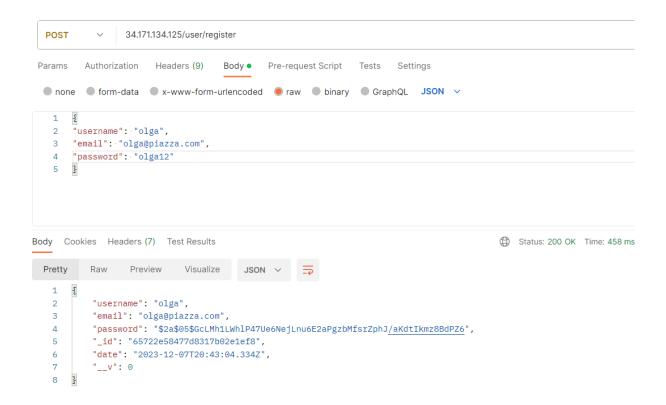
Read - reads data

Update – updates posts

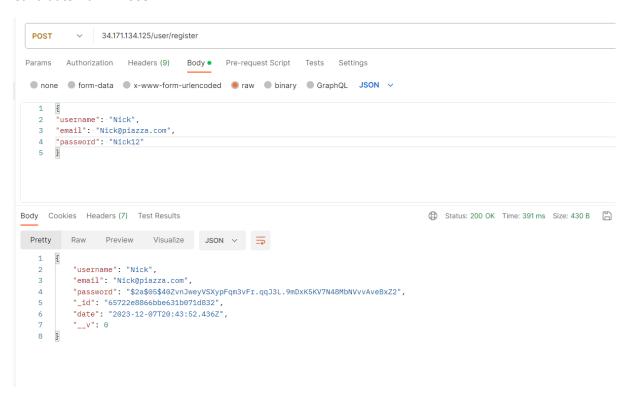
Delete – deletes posts

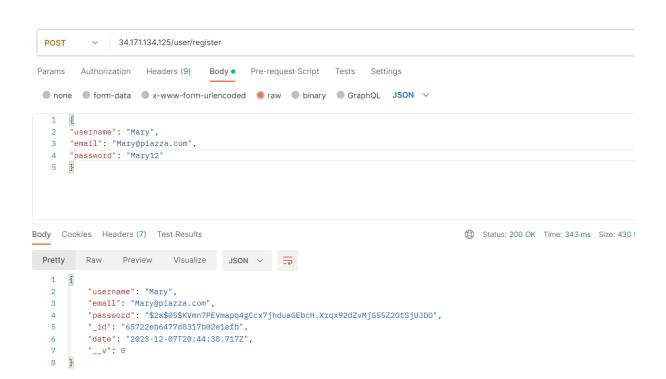
Testing the application.

TC1.Olga, Nick, Mary, and Nestor register and are ready to access the Piazza API.

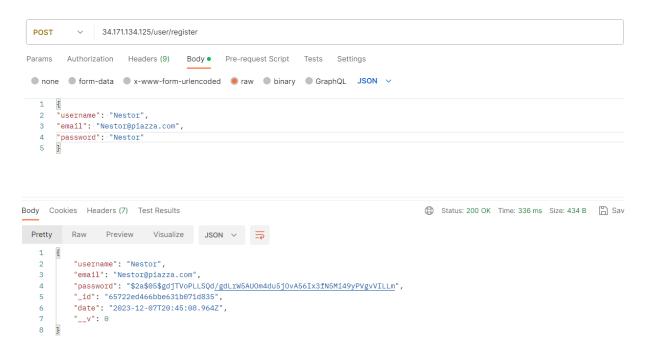


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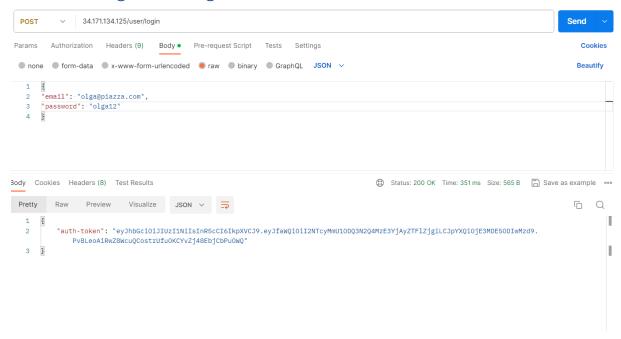


Users in the DB

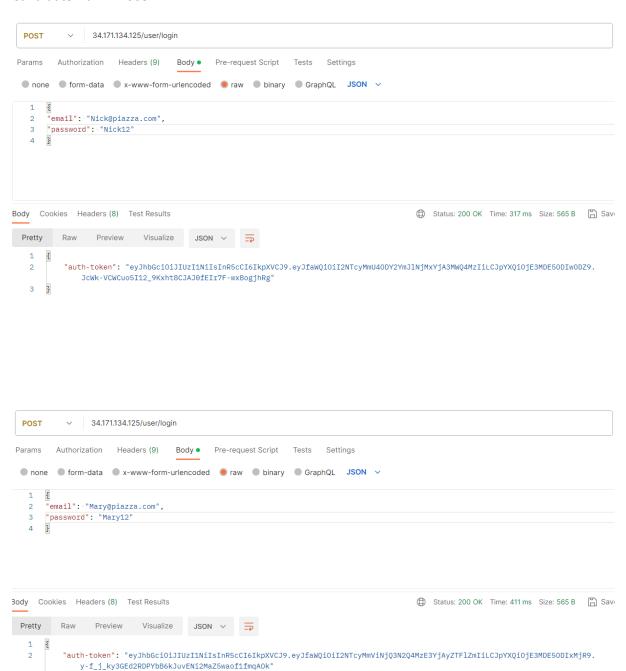
```
_id: ObjectId('65722eb6477d8317b02e1efb')
username: "Mary"
email: "Mary@piazza.com"
password: "$2a$05$KVmn7PEVmapq4gCcx7jhduaGEbcH.Xrqx92dZvMjG55Z2OtSjUJDO"
date: 2023-12-07T20:44:38.717+00:00
__v: 0

_id: ObjectId('65722ed466bbe631b07ld835')
username: "Nestor"
email: "Nestor@piazza.com"
password: "$2a$05$gdjTvOPLLSQd/gdLrW5AUOm4du5jOvA56Ix3fN5Mi49yPVgvVILLm"
date: 2023-12-07T20:45:08.964+00:00
__v: 0
```

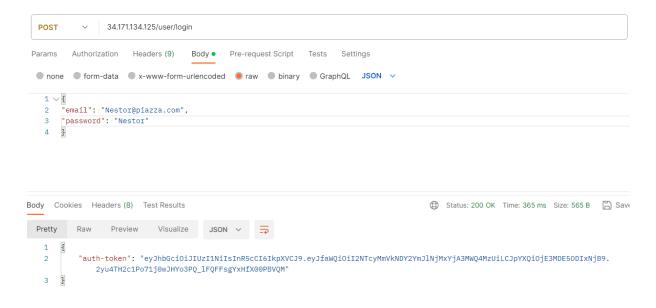
TC2. Olga, Nick, Mary, and Nestor use the oAuth v2 authorisation service to register and get their tokens.



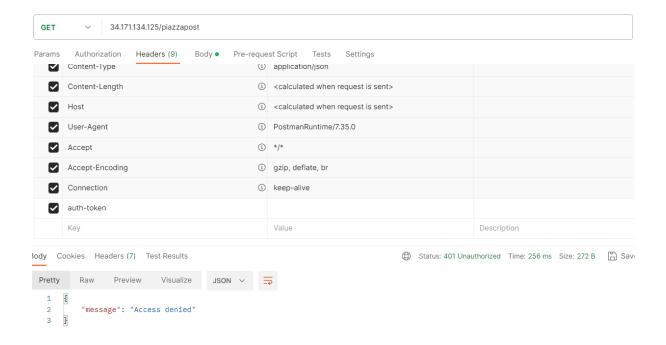
Candidate Num: Y106847



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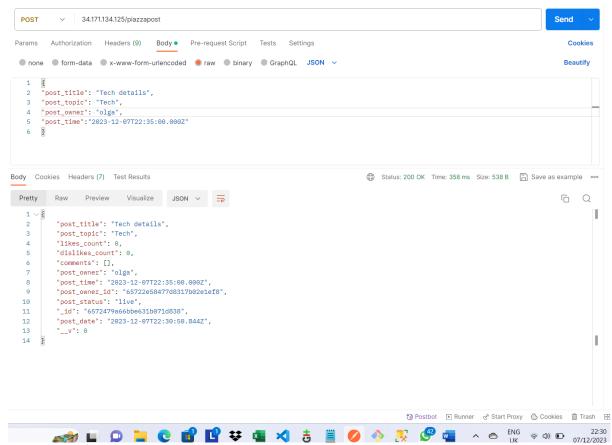


TC3 Olga makes a call to the API without using her token. This call should be unsuccessful as the user is unauthorised.



T4.Olga posts a message in the Tech topic with an expiration time (e.g. 5 minutes) using her token. After the end of the expiration time, the message will not accept any further user interactions (likes, dislikes, or comments).

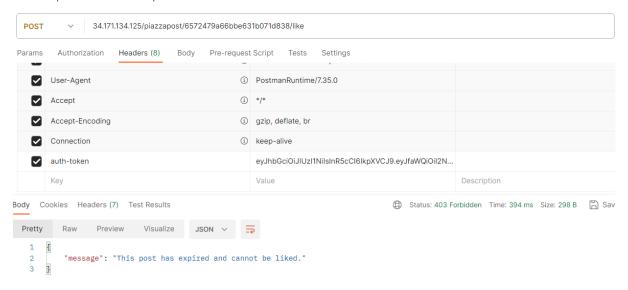
Posted a message with 5 min expiration time



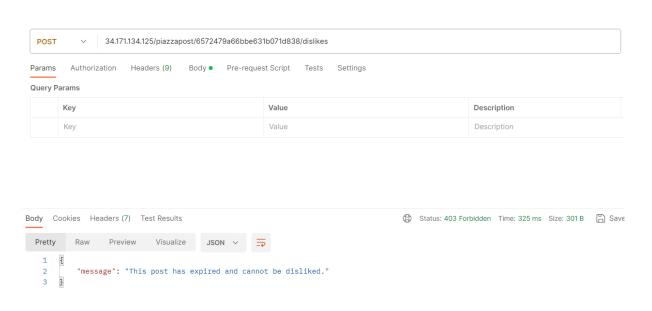
Msg in the DB

posts
users

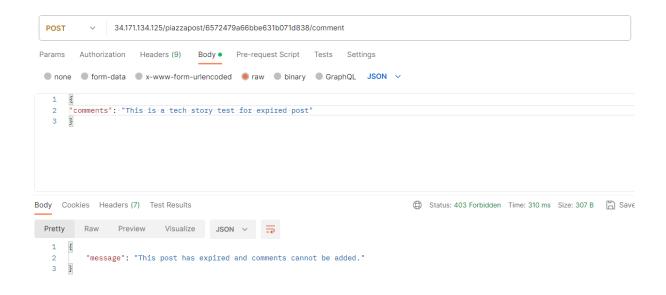
Like a post that is expired



Dislike a post that is expired.

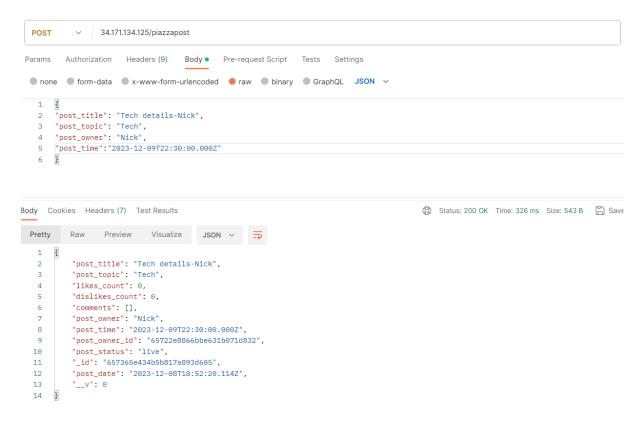


Add comment to expired post



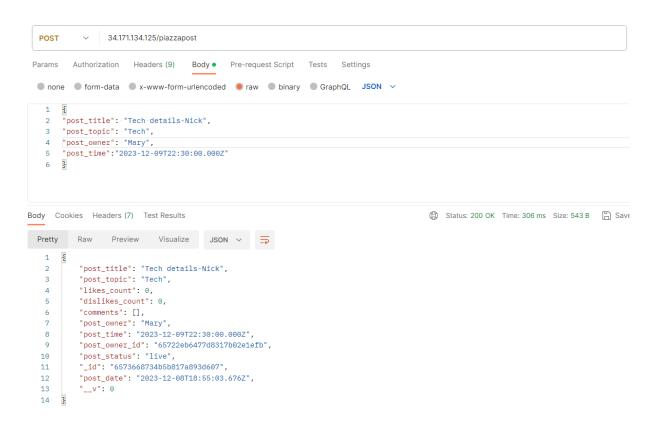
T5.Nick posts a message in the Tech topic with an expiration time using his token.

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T6.Mary posts a message in the Tech topic with an expiration time using her token.

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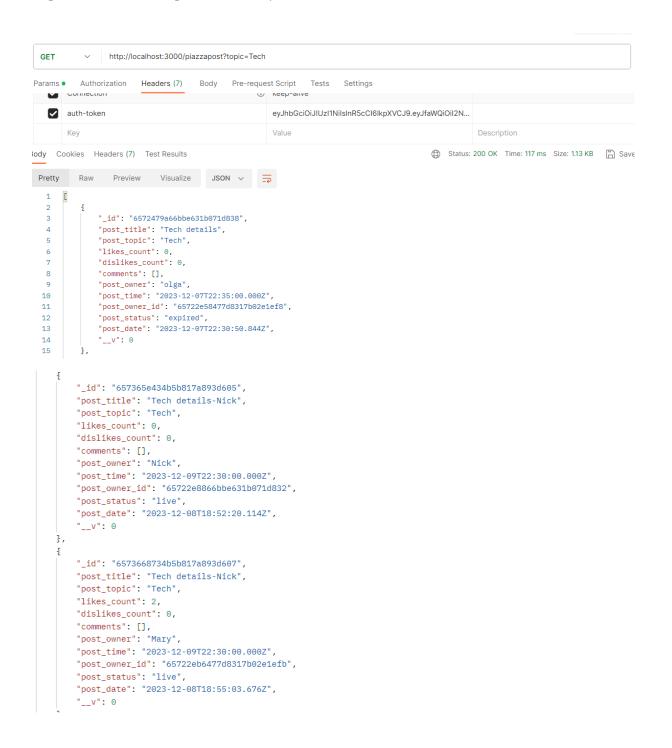


TC7. Nick and Olga browse all the available posts in the Tech topic; three posts should be available with zero likes, zero dislikes and no comments.

Nick browses Messages in Tech Topic using his login

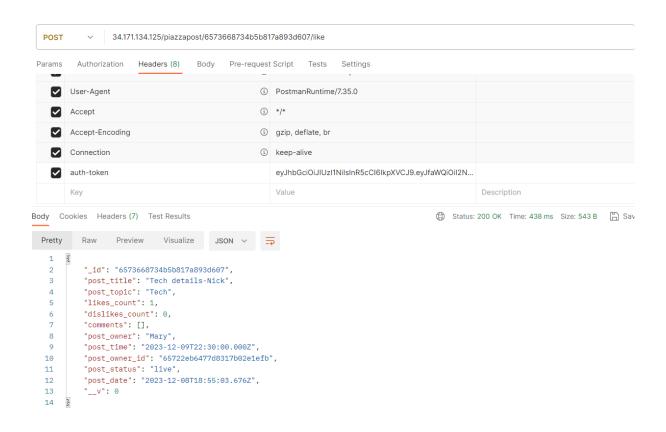
```
GET
            http://localhost:3000/piazzapost?topic=Tech
Params • Authorization Headers (7) Body Pre-request Script Tests Settings
                                                    ① PostmanRuntime/7.35.0
   ✓ User-Agent
   Accept
   ✓ Accept-Encoding
                                                    i gzip, deflate, br
   Connection
                                                    (i) keep-alive
   auth-token
                                                        eyJhbGciOiJIUz I1NilsInR5cCl6lkpXVCJ9. eyJfaWQiOil2N...\\
                                                                                                       Description
3ody Cookies Headers (7) Test Results
                                                                                            Status: 200 OK Time: 770 ms Size: 1.13 KB 🖺 Save
Pretty
          Raw Preview Visualize
               "_id": "6572479a66bbe631b071d838",
               "post_title": "Tech details",
"post_topic": "Tech",
                "likes_count": 0,
               "dislikes_count": 0,
               "comments": [],
               "post_owner": "olga",
"post_time": "2023-12-07T22:35:00.000Z",
  10
               "post_owner_id": "65722e58477d8317b02e1ef8",
"post_status": "expired",
"post_date": "2023-12-07T22:30:50.844Z",
  11
  12
  13
                __v": 0
  14
  15
            "_id": "657365e434b5b817a893d605",
            "post_title": "Tech details-Nick",
            "post_topic": "Tech",
            "likes_count": 0,
            "dislikes_count": 0,
            "comments": [],
            "post_owner": "Nick",
            "post_time": "2023-12-09T22:30:00.000Z",
            "post_owner_id": "65722e8866bbe631b071d832",
            "post_status": "live",
            "post_date": "2023-12-08T18:52:20.114Z",
             __v": 0
       },
            "_id": "6573668734b5b817a893d607",
            "post_title": "Tech details-Nick",
            "post_topic": "Tech",
            "likes_count": 0,
            "dislikes_count": 0,
            "comments": [],
            "post_owner": "Mary",
            "post_time": "2023-12-09T22:30:00.000Z",
            "post_owner_id": "65722eb6477d8317b02e1efb",
            "post_status": "live",
"post_date": "2023-12-08T18:55:03.676Z",
            "__v": 0
```

Olga browses Messages in Tech Topic



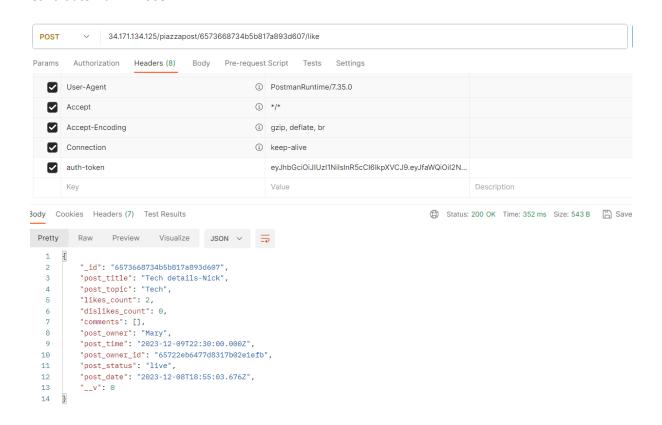
TC8. Nick and Olga "like" Mary's post on the Tech topic.

Nick likes Mary's post on the tech topic.



Olga like's Mary's post on the tech topic

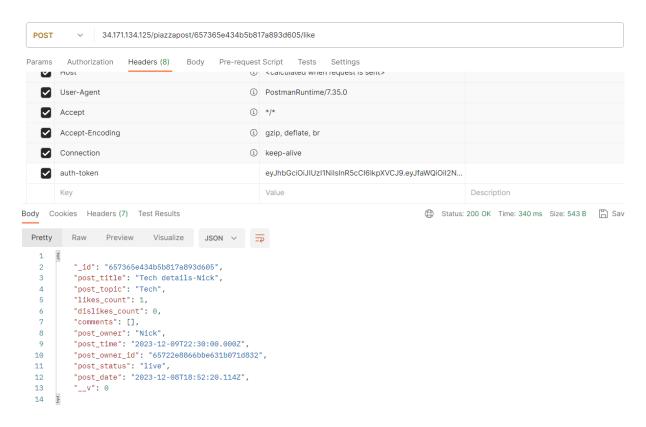
Deepa Karthick Candidate Num: Y106847



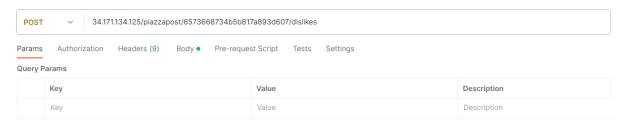
TC9.Nestor "likes" Nick's post and "dislikes" Mary's on the Tech topic

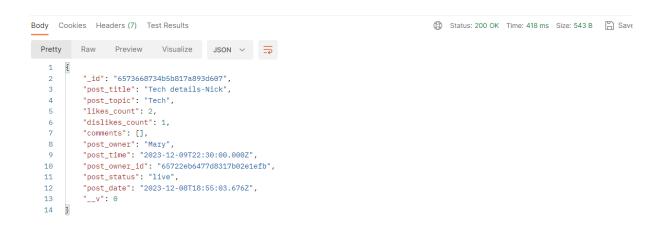
Nestor 'likes' Nick's post

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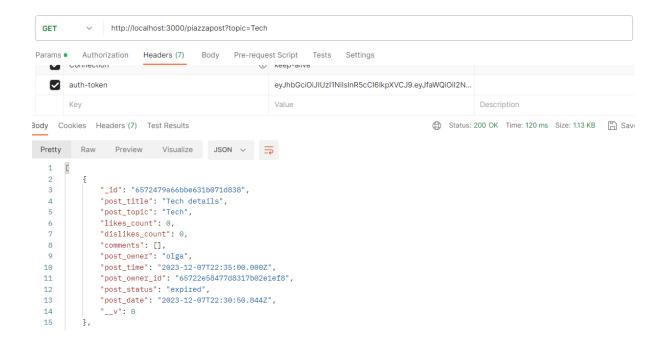


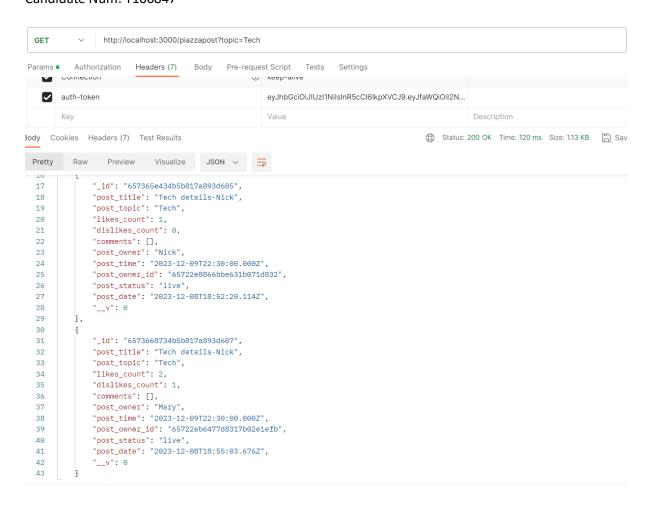
Nestor dislikes 'Mary's' post



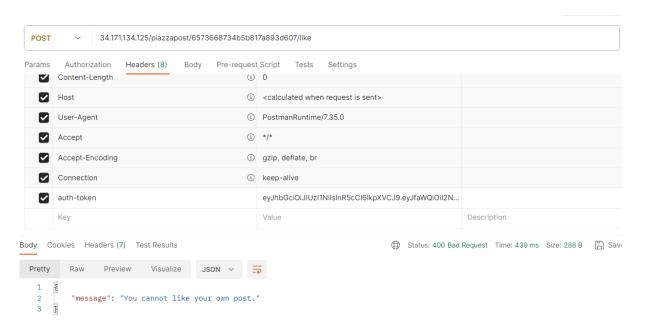


TC10. Nick browses all the available posts on the Tech topic; at this stage, he can see the number of likes and dislikes for each post (Mary has two likes and one dislike, and Nick has one like). There are no comments made yet.



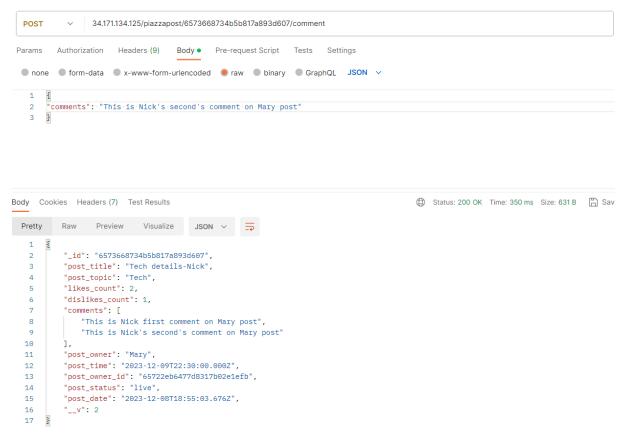


TC11. Mary likes her post on the Tech topic. This call should be unsuccessful; in Piazza, a post owner cannot like their messages.

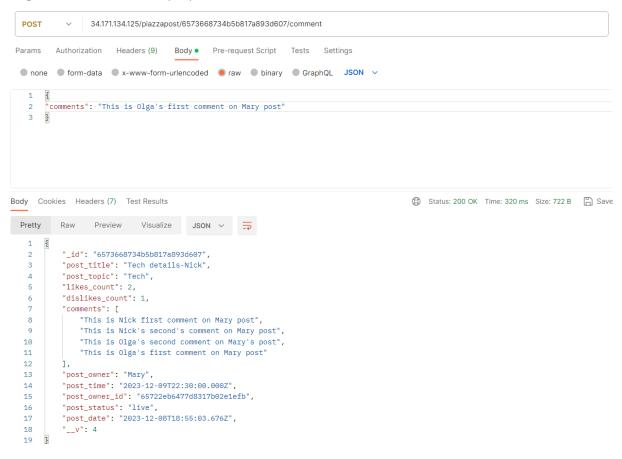


TC12. Nick and Olga comment on Mary's post on the Tech topic in a round-robin fashion (one after the other, adding at least two comments each)

Nick comment on Mary's post

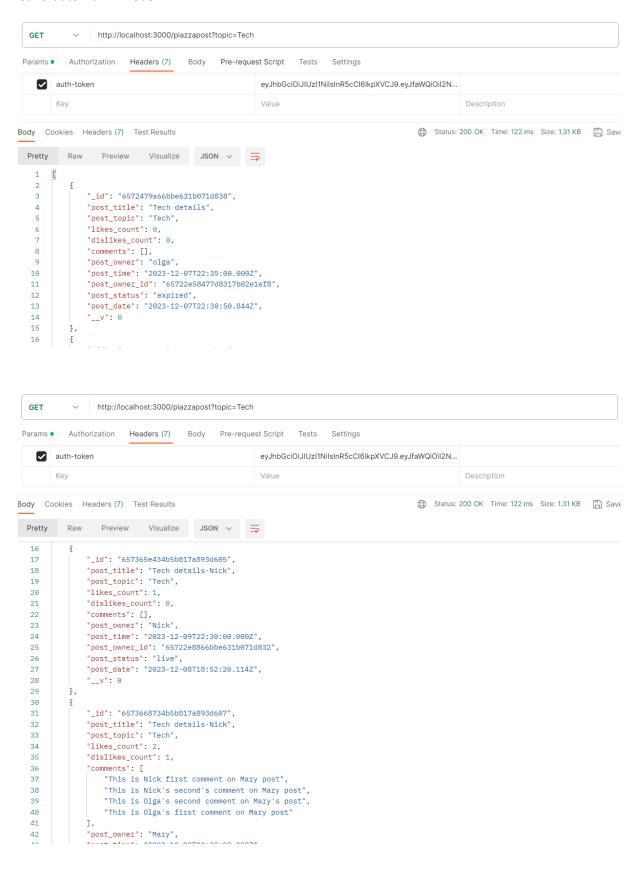


Olga comment on Mary's post

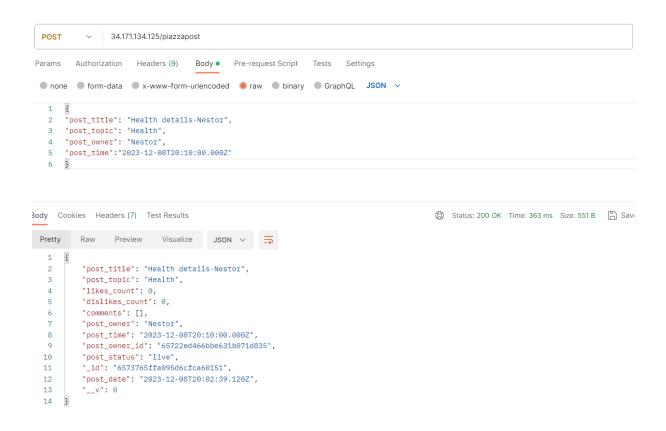


TC13.Nick browses all the available posts in the Tech topic; at this stage, he can see the number of likes and dislikes of each post and the comments made.

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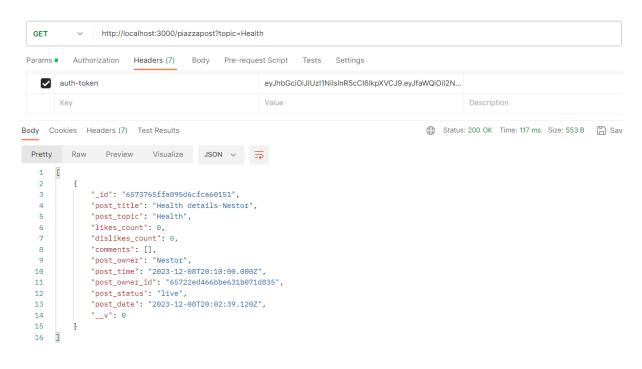
TC14. Nestor posts a message in the Health topic with an expiration time using her token



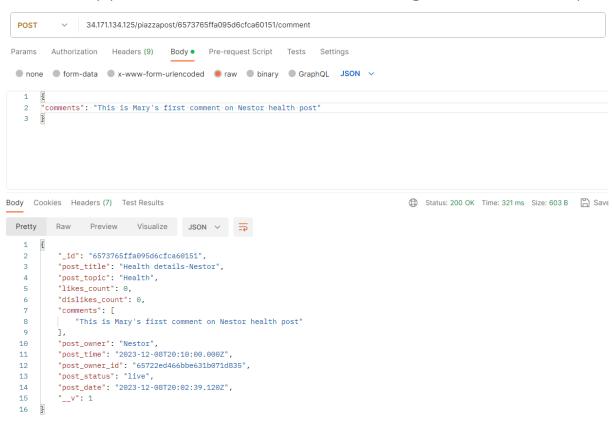
TC15. Mary browses all the available posts on the health topic; at this stage, she can see only Nestor's post.

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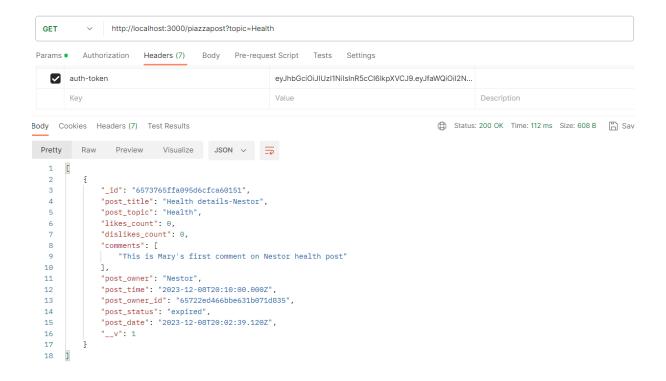
TC16. Mary posts a comment in Nestor's message on the Health topic.



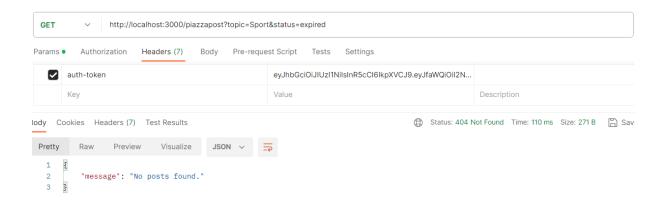
TC17. Mary dislikes Nestor's message on the health topic after the end of post-expiration time. This should fail.



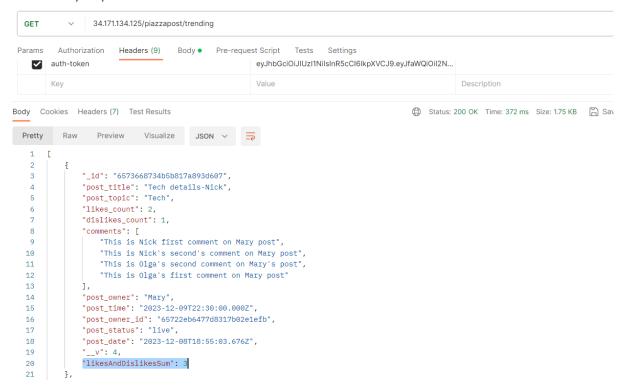
TC18. Nestor browses all the messages on the Health topic. There should be only one post (his own) with one comment (Mary's).



TC19. Nick browses all the expired messages on the Sports topic. These should be empty

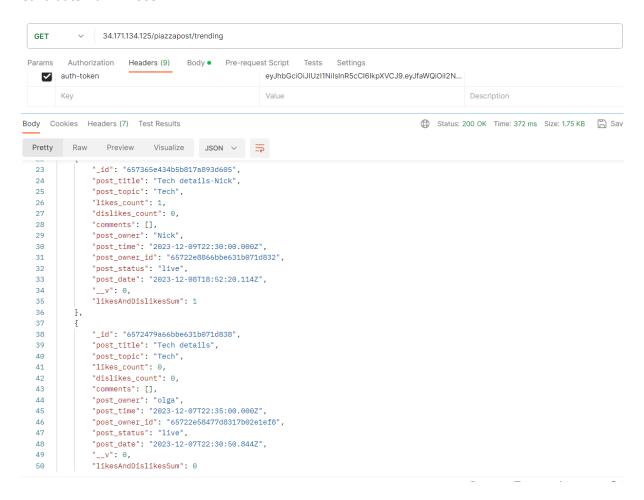


TC20. Nestor queries for an active post with the highest interest (maximum number of likes and dislikes) in the Tech topic. This should be Mary's post.



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Deploy your Piazza project into a VM using Docker

1.Code moved to Github

- 1. Git Init
- 2. git remote add origin https://github.com/deepakarthick82/Cloudcomputing.git
- 3. git add
- 4. git commit -m "Pushing my post"
- 5. git push -f origin master
- 6. git push
- 7. Git hub repository link

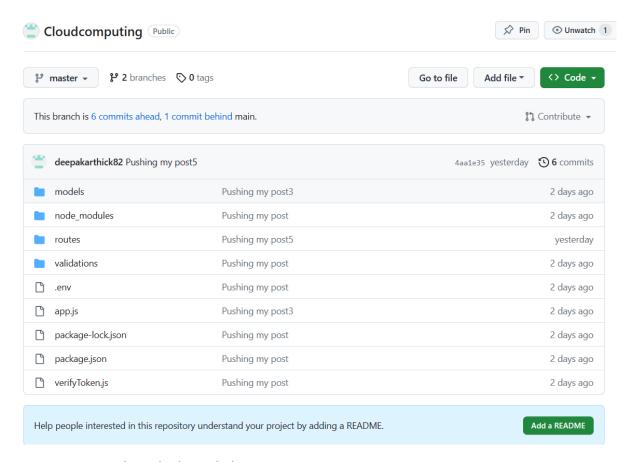
2.Github repo

The following screenshot shows the git commands used to upload the project into github repo.

```
[master 4aa1e35] Pushing my post5
1 file changed, 3 insertions(+), 2 deletions(-)

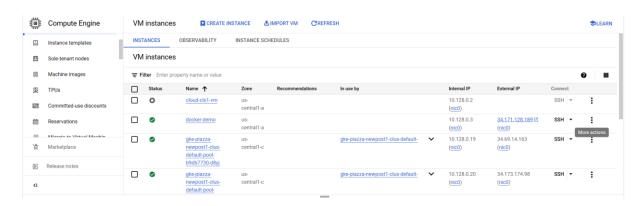
karth@Diya MINGW64 ~/OneDrive/Deepa/Birbeck/cloud computing/coursework_2nd/Coursework_3 (master)

§ git push
Enumerating objects: 7, done.
Counting objects: 100% (7/7), done.
Delta compression using up to 12 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (4/4), done.
Writing objects: 100% (4/4), 413 bytes | 413.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 4 (delta 2), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (2/2), completed with 2 local objects.
To https://github.com/deepakarthick82/Cloudcomputing.git
```



Code pushed to github

3. Created a VM in GCP virtual machine called docker-vm is created on google cloud.



Created VM named docker-demo in GCP

4. Command to push github code to VM:

git clone git@github.com:deepakarthick82/Cloudcomputing.git

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5. Code is pushed from Git to the VM and the code is checked out.

```
docker-user@docker-demo:~/Cloudcomputing$ ls
'Cloud Computing Coursework 2023 Piazza.pdf' app.js node_modules package.json validations
Dockerfile models package-lock.json routes verifyToken.js
docker-user@docker-demo:~/Cloudcomputing$
```

6.Create a docker file named dockerfile using pico command

```
docker-user@docker-demo:~$ cat Dockerfile

FROM alpine

RUN apk add --update nodejs npm

COPY . /src

WORKDIR /src

EXPOSE 3000

ENTRYPOINT ["node", "./app.js"]

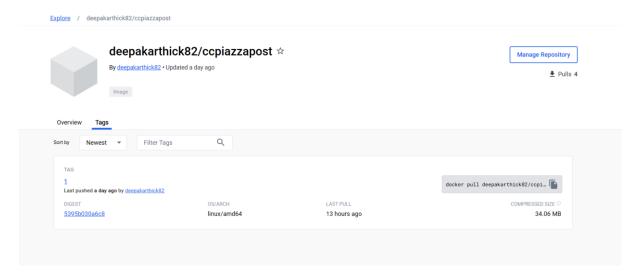
docker-user@docker-demo:~$ ^C
```

Contents of the Dockerfile

- 7.Docker image created using the command docker image build -t cloudcomputing-image .
- 8.Create a container and run it docker container run -d --name deepa-web --publish 80:3000 cloudcomputing-image
- 9. View created Docker images

```
docker-user@docker-demo:~$ docker images
REPOSITORY
                               TAG
                                         IMAGE ID
                                                       CREATED
                                                                      SIZE
deepakarthick82/ccpiazzapost
                                        b94a7d9403f4 29 hours ago
                                                                      94.3MB
                                        e6ccdb57cb85 5 days ago
mini-python3-image
                               latest
                                                                      253MB
ubuntu
                               latest
                                        b6548eacb063 7 days ago
                                                                      77.8MB
alpine
                               latest
                                        b541f2080109
                                                       7 days ago
                                                                      7.34MB
python
                               latest
                                        afb69f3af77f
                                                       6 weeks ago
                                                                      1.02GB
```

10. Pushed the code to docker hub: docker push deepakarthick 82/ccpiazzapost:1



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Deploy Piazza application in Kubernetes

1.Create Kubernetes Cluster



Piazza-newpost1-cluster is created

2.Create deployment.yaml using *pico* command in the cloud shell

```
app: piazza-post
template:
    metadata:
    labels:
        app: piazza-post
    spec:
        containers:
        - name: piazza-post
        image: deepakarthick82/ccpiazzapost:1
        imagePullPolicy: Always
        ports:
        - containerPort: 3000
deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$
```

3. Apply the deployment file using command kubectl apply -f deployment.yaml

PODS details:

```
deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$ kubectl qet pods
                                        READY STATUS
                                                         RESTARTS
                                                                     AGE
piazza-post-deployment-5d4549756d-468x4
                                        1/1
                                                         0
                                                                     23h
                                                Running
piazza-post-deployment-5d4549756d-78t21
                                        1/1
                                                                     23h
                                                Running
piazza-post-deployment-5d4549756d-7w57r
                                                Running
                                                                     23h
piazza-post-deployment-5d4549756d-djmzh
                                                Running
                                                                     23h
piazza-post-deployment-5d4549756d-1jgj5
                                        1/1
                                                Running
                                                          0
                                                                     23h
deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$
```

4.Create service.yaml using pico command and apply it using kubectl apply -f service.yaml

Deepa Karthick

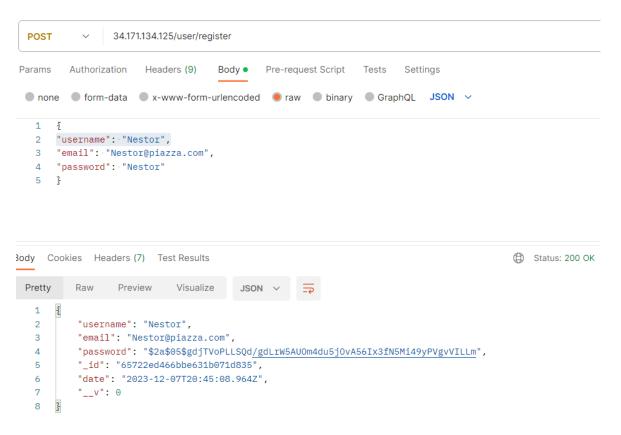
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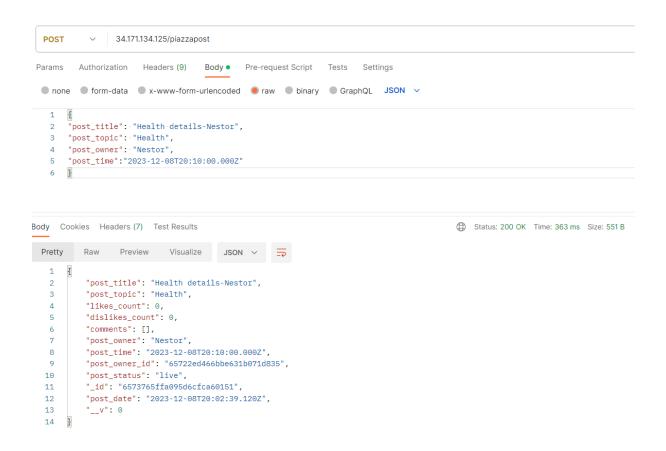
```
labels:
    app: piazza-post-service
spec:
    type: LoadBalancer
    ports:
    - name: http
        port: 80
        protocol: TCP
        targetPort: 3000
    selector:
        app: piazza-post
    sessionAffinity: None
deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$
```

5.Get the API end points under virtual machine IP address

```
Welcome to Cloud Shell! Type "help" to get started.
Your Cloud Platform project in this session is set to cloudclass1-401818.
Use "gcloud config set project [PROJECT_ID]" to change to a different project.
deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$ kubectl get services
                                               EXTERNAL-IP
                                                                                 AGE
NAME
                     TYPE
                                    CLUSTER-IP
kubernetes
                                    10.32.0.1
                     ClusterIP
                                                  <none>
                                                                  443/TCP
                                                                                 2d
piazza-post-service
                     LoadBalancer 10.32.6.130 34.171.134.125
                                                                  80:30044/TCP
                                                                                 29h
deepakarthick2022@cloudshell:~ (cloudclass1-401818)$
```

Test cases are triggered in Post man using the External IP





References

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Copes, F. (2022) JWT authentication: Best practices and when to use it, LogRocket Blog. Available at: https://blog.logrocket.com/jwt-authentication-best-practices/ (Accessed: December 11, 2022).

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