PASS NEST: SECURE AND SERENE

PROJECT REPORT

21AD1513- INNOVATION PRACTICES LAB

Submitted by

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Reg. No. 211422243317

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of degree

of

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY

in

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND DATA SCIENCE

PANIMALAR ENGINEERING COLLEGE, CHENNAI-600123

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November, 2024

BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report titled "PASSNEST"is the bonafide work of **SSRINITHI.S.M**, Register No.**211422243317** who carried out the project work under my supervision. Certified further, that to the best of my knowledge the work reported herein does not form part of any other project report or dissertation on the basis of which a degree or award was conferred on an earlier occasion on this or any other candidate.

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ABSTRACT

In an era dominated by digital services and online interactions, the need for secure data storage and efficient management of user credentials has become critical. The escalating frequency of cyber-attacks, data breaches, and hacking incidents underscores the importance of protecting sensitive information, especially passwords, which act as the first line of defense in securing digital assets. Against this backdrop, **PassNest: Secure and Serene** emerges as a comprehensive solution aimed at addressing the growing demand for a reliable, user-friendly, and secure password management tool.

In today's interconnected digital landscape, users are required to manage numerous unique passwords, often leading to poor security practices such as password reuse, weak password choices, and inadequate storage solutions. These vulnerabilities heighten risks of phishing, data breaches, and unauthorized access.

This paper introduces **PassNest**, a sophisticated yet user-centric password management solution developed to enhance security and streamline the user experience. Built on the robust Django framework, PassNest incorporates advanced cryptographic standards like AES-256 encryption for data at rest and bcrypt hashing for passwords, safeguarding user credentials and ensuring a secure digital environment. Key features of PassNest include streamlined user authentication, comprehensive password encryption, proactive phishing detection, and seamless cross-device synchronization. Through rigorous testing and validation, PassNest demonstrates a powerful balance of security and accessibility, offering users a trustworthy tool that addresses the core needs for security, usability, and resilience in today's cybersecurity ecosystem.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I also take this opportunity to thank all the Faculty and Non-Teaching Staff Members of Department of Computer Science and Engineering for their constant support. Finally I thank each and every one who helped me to complete this project. At the outset we would like to express our gratitude to our beloved respected Chairman, **Dr.Jeppiaar M.A.,Ph.D,** Our beloved correspondent and Secretary **Mr.P.Chinnadurai M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.,** and our esteemed director for their support.

We would like to express thanks to our Principal, **Dr. K. Mani M.E., Ph.D.,** for having extended his guidance and cooperation.

We would also like to thank our Head of the Department, **Dr.S.Malathi M,E.,Ph.D.,** of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for her encouragement.

Personally we thank **KAVIYA.M M.E, Assistant professor** , Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for the persistent motivation and support for this project, who at all times was the mentor of germination of the project from a small idea.

We express our thanks to the project coordinators **DR. A.Joshi M.E., Ph.D.,** Professor & **Dr.S.Chakaravarthi ,M.E.,Ph.D.,** Professor in Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science for their Valuable suggestions from time to time at every stage of our project.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our family members, friends, and well-wishers who have helped us for the successful completion of our project.

We also take the opportunity to thank all faculty and non-teaching staff members in our department for their timely guidance in completing our project.

SSRINITHI.S.M

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS	MEANING
LAN	Local Area Network
MOSN	Mobile Opportunistic Social Network
TPA	Third Party Authority
SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
ORM	Object-Relational Mapping
API	Application Programming Interface
UX	User Experience
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
MVC	Model-View-Controller
CSRF	Cross-Site Request Forgery
SEO	Search Engine Optimization
CRUD	Create, Read, Update, Delete
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
XSS	Cross-Site Scripting

CHAPTER 1

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PASSNEST OVERVIEW

In today's digital age, the necessity for secure password management has never been more critical. With the exponential growth of online services, users are required to maintain numerous accounts, each demanding unique passwords to ensure security. According to studies, users often struggle to remember complex passwords, leading to a tendency to reuse passwords across multiple sites, which significantly increases the risk of cyberattacks. A password manager serves as a crucial tool, enabling users to securely store, manage, and generate strong passwords, ultimately enhancing their online security. By utilizing a password manager, users can create unique, complex passwords for each of their accounts, greatly reducing the likelihood of unauthorized access.

1.2 Importance of Network Security

Network security refers to the measures taken to protect the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of computer networks and data. As cyber threats evolve in sophistication and frequency, the importance of implementing robust security measures cannot be overstated. Password managers play a significant role in network security by reducing the risks associated with password reuse and weak passwords. They provide users with a secure environment to store their credentials and sensitive information. By centralizing password management, users can mitigate the risk of losing access to their accounts and ensure that sensitive information remains protected against potential breaches.

1.2.1 User Authentication

User authentication is a foundational aspect of network security, ensuring that only authorized individuals can access certain resources. Effective authentication mechanisms are critical in preventing unauthorized access and protecting sensitive data. Password managers enhance user authentication processes by allowing the use of strong, unique passwords for each account, thereby reducing the chances of credential theft. Furthermore, implementing features like two-factor authentication (2FA) can provide an additional layer of security, making it even harder for attackers to gain access, even if they obtain a user's password.

1.2.2 Data Encryption

Data encryption is a vital technique used to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access. A well-designed password manager employs strong encryption algorithms to secure user data, ensuring that even if the database is compromised, the information remains protected. This layer of security is essential for maintaining user trust and safeguarding personal information. Additionally, encryption not only protects passwords but can also secure other sensitive data such as answers to security questions and personal notes, providing a comprehensive solution for data protection.

1.3 Overview of the Project

The *PassNest: Secure and Serene* project is developed to address the growing need for effective password management solutions. Built using the Django framework, this password manager facilitates user sign-up, login, and password reset functionalities. It integrates Google SMTP for email communication, allowing for secure password recovery and account verification processes. The project aims to create a user-friendly interface while ensuring robust security measures are in place to protect user credentials. By employing industry-standard

security practices and focusing on user experience, *PassNest* seeks to provide a reliable solution for users concerned about online security.

1.3.1 Key Features

The primary features of the *PassNest* password manager include:

User Registration and Authentication: Enabling users to create accounts and securely log in, ensuring that their data is protected from unauthorized access.

Password Reset Functionality: Allowing users to reset their passwords through email verification, which helps maintain account security and recover access in case of forgotten passwords.

Secure Storage: Employing encryption to protect stored passwords, which ensures that even in the event of a data breach, user credentials remain secure and unreadable to unauthorized parties.

1.3.2 User Interface Design

A well-designed user interface is essential for any application, especially for a password manager. The *PassNest* interface is crafted to be intuitive and user-friendly, ensuring that users can easily navigate through the functionalities, from registration to password management. The design focuses on providing clear guidance at each step, minimizing user errors and enhancing overall experience. By utilizing modern design principles, such as responsive layouts and accessible navigation, *PassNest* aims to cater to users of all technical backgrounds, making password management a seamless experience.

1.4 Architecture Diagram

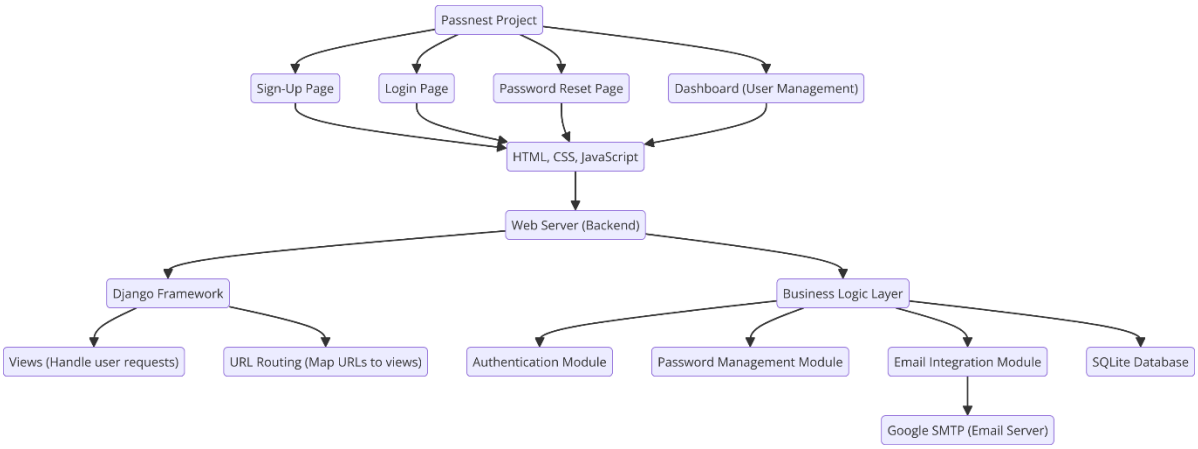

Figure.1.1 Architecture diagram

1.4.1 Application Components

The architecture of the *PassNest* application is designed to ensure seamless interaction between the frontend and backend components. This design allows the user to easily interact with the system while ensuring secure and efficient management of sensitive data. Below are the key components of the architecture:

1. **Frontend**: The frontend is the user-facing part of the application, built using technologies like HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. It is responsible for presenting the user interface (UI) that users interact with, including forms for sign-up, login, and password reset. The frontend captures user inputs and sends them to the backend for processing, while also displaying feedback such as error messages or success confirmations.
    - **User Interface (UI)**: Engaging and intuitive design that guides users through key interactions like registration, login, and password recovery. It ensures accessibility and a smooth user experience by clearly highlighting required actions and inputs.

- **Technologies Used**: HTML (for structure), CSS (for styling and layout), and JavaScript (for interactive elements like form validation).

2. **Backend**: The backend, built using the Django framework, handles the core logic and operations of the *PassNest* application. It processes the requests sent from the frontend, executes the appropriate business logic, interacts with the database, and then sends back the necessary responses to the user interface. The backend ensures that all interactions are secure, including user authentication, password handling, and email communication.
    - **Django Framework**: A robust and scalable framework that handles routing, views, authentication, and security functionalities.
    - **Security**: Ensures encryption of passwords, secure user authentication, and communication with external services like Google SMTP for email notifications.
3. **Database**: The application uses an SQLite database to store user credentials and other relevant data securely. It is a lightweight, serverless database that stores user information such as usernames, email addresses, and hashed passwords. The database structure is optimized to ensure performance while maintaining high standards of data integrity and security.
    - **SQLite**: An embedded relational database system that provides efficient storage of data with minimal setup.
    - **Data Security**: Uses encryption and hashing techniques to protect stored data, ensuring that sensitive information such as passwords remains secure even if unauthorized access to the database occurs.

1.5 Types of Security Issues

Despite the implementation of strong security measures, various security threats still persist and could potentially target password management systems. Some common security issues include:

1. **Phishing Attacks**: Phishing is a method used by attackers to deceive users into providing their sensitive information, such as login credentials, by impersonating a trustworthy entity (like a bank, email provider, or popular website). In the case of a password manager like *PassNest*, phishing attacks could target users by sending fraudulent emails that appear to be from the platform, prompting them to enter their password or click on malicious links.
    - **How It Happens**: Users may receive an email or visit a website that looks legitimate but is designed to steal their login credentials.
    - **Prevention**: It's crucial to educate users on recognizing phishing attempts and implementing features like email verification, HTTPS encryption, and multi-factor authentication to minimize risks.
2. **Data Breaches**: A data breach occurs when unauthorized individuals gain access to a system's database, potentially exposing sensitive information such as passwords. Even though passwords in *PassNest* are encrypted, a breach can still be devastating if other personal details are exposed. Cybercriminals could leverage this information for further attacks, identity theft, or selling the data on the dark web.
    - **How It Happens**: Hackers exploit vulnerabilities in the system, such as unpatched software, weak network security, or misconfigured databases.

- **Prevention**: Employ robust security measures like encryption, regular system updates, firewalls, and intrusion detection systems (IDS). Additionally, password managers should never store passwords in plain text; they should always be hashed with secure algorithms like bcrypt.

3. **Weak Passwords**: Many users create weak passwords that are easy to guess or use the same password across multiple sites. This practice significantly increases the chances of a successful brute-force attack or credential stuffing, where attackers try known passwords across different services. A password manager is essential in helping users generate and store complex passwords for each account they use, mitigating the risk of password-based attacks.

   How It Happens: Users set simple or repetitive passwords, making it easier for hackers to guess or crack them using automated tools.

   - **Prevention**: Password managers like *PassNest* help users by automatically generating strong, complex passwords that meet best practices (e.g., minimum length, combination of characters, numbers, and special symbols). Additionally, users should be encouraged to enable multi-factor authentication (MFA) to provide an extra layer of security

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

The following review delves into existing research and technologies that form the foundation of secure password management systems. Each subsection provides insights into different aspects of password management, encryption methods, and security challenges, along with their applications in the *PassNest: Secure and Serene* project.

2.1 PASSWORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Password management systems have become essential tools in ensuring secure access to digital platforms. With the increase in online services requiring authentication, users are burdened with managing numerous passwords. Historically, this led to poor practices, such as writing passwords down or using easily guessable credentials. Early password management systems were simple tools integrated into browsers or third-party applications, but they lacked sophisticated encryption methods and multi-device synchronization.

More recent systems have evolved into sophisticated, secure, and user-friendly applications. These password managers now feature encryption, password generation, and cloud synchronization. They allow users to securely store passwords and other sensitive information, such as credit card details or secure notes, across multiple devices. By doing so, they mitigate the risks associated with password reuse and poor password hygiene.

2.2 Existing research and technologies

let us explore some existing technologies from different reseach analysis and summarize them:

- **Bonneau & Preibusch (2010)**: This study delves into the effects of various password policies on user behavior. The authors found that overly strict policies may unintentionally weaken security, as users might create simpler passwords to remember them or resist policy adherence altogether. Their work underscores the importance of balancing security needs with user convenience.

- **Zhang & Wang (2017)**: By examining the usability of password managers, this study reveals that while these tools enhance password security, usability challenges—like complex interfaces or lack of integration with other systems—often deter users from adopting them. The findings highlight the need for user-friendly designs to maximize security tool adoption.

- **Ur et al. (2015)**: This research investigates how password management tools influence users' security practices. It demonstrates that these tools lead to stronger, unique passwords across platforms, but also stresses that users need guidance to use them effectively. The study points out the necessity of user education alongside tool deployment.

- **Florêncio & Herley (2010)**: Conducting a large-scale analysis of password habits, the authors identify prevalent behaviors like password reuse and weak password creation, which leave users vulnerable to attacks. This foundational study emphasizes the security risks of common user practices, reinforcing the importance of better password management tools.

- **NIST (2017)**: The National Institute of Standards and Technology provided updated digital identity guidelines, advocating for practices like multifactor authentication and the removal of mandatory password expiration. These guidelines aim to enhance security while also addressing user convenience, marking a shift towards more user-centered security policies.

- **Bonneau et al. (2012)**: This empirical study evaluates password expiration policies, finding that frequent password changes often fail to enhance security

and may encourage weaker passwords. The study advocates for reevaluating such policies to avoid unintentional negative impacts on password strength.

- **Pashalidis & Karat (2005)**: In a comprehensive survey, the authors examine the pros and cons of password management practices. Their findings discuss user reluctance to adopt password managers, often due to usability issues, and suggest that security solutions should consider the user experience to be effective.

- **Zhao & Sutherland (2015)**: This paper explores both the usability and security aspects of various password managers, noting that simplicity and ease of use are key factors for adoption. The study stresses that effective security tools must prioritize accessibility to encourage widespread adoption.

- **Sasse & Flechais (2005)**: Focusing on the relationship between security and usability, this study argues that poorly designed security systems drive users towards insecure practices, like reusing passwords. The authors suggest that security solutions must be user-friendly to prevent such vulnerabilities.

- **Stobert & Biddle (2014)**: Through a longitudinal study, this paper observes that users often maintain insecure password habits over time. The findings indicate a need for continuous education and user-friendly tools to break habitual behaviors and promote secure practices.

Section	Key Points	Application in PassNest
2.1 Password Management Systems	Password management systems are essential for secure access to digital platforms. Historically, users struggled with poor password hygiene due to managing multiple passwords. Modern systems incorporate features like encryption, password generation, and synchronization across devices.	PassNest incorporates modern features to enhance user experience and security, promoting better password practices through a user-friendly interface.

Section	Key Points	Application in PassNest
2.2 Encryption in Password Managers	Encryption is critical for safeguarding stored passwords. The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) and bcrypt are widely accepted as industry standards for encryption and password hashing. Proper key management is vital to maintaining security.	PassNest employs bcrypt for password hashing and AES encryption for securing sensitive data, ensuring robust protection against unauthorized access.
2.3 Human Mobility and Social Engineering	Social engineering poses significant security challenges, with phishing attacks tricking users into revealing credentials. User education is essential to combat these threats.	PassNest integrates phishing detection mechanisms and provides educational resources to enhance user awareness of security risks.
2.4 Data Breaches	Data breaches can expose personal information and often arise from weak security protocols and poor password management. Implementing strong encryption measures can mitigate the impacts of breaches.	PassNest uses strict encryption protocols for user data protection during both storage and transmission to minimize breach risks.
2.5 Cryptosystems in Password Management	Cryptographic algorithms are fundamental for securing sensitive data. Symmetric (e.g., AES) and asymmetric encryption, along with hashing algorithms, play key roles in protecting user credentials.	PassNest utilizes bcrypt for password hashing and TLS for secure communication, ensuring layered security against potential threats.

Section	Key Points	Application in PassNest
2.6 Mobile Social Networks	The rise of mobile devices introduces new security risks, including insecure connections and device theft. Encryption and biometric authentication are crucial for safeguarding data on mobile platforms.	PassNest supports cross-device synchronization with encryption and plans to implement biometric authentication for enhanced security in future updates.
2.7 Social Engineering and Password Reuse	Reusing passwords across multiple accounts significantly increases security vulnerabilities. A large percentage of users engage in this risky behavior, making them susceptible to credential stuffing attacks.	PassNest generates strong, unique passwords for each account and tracks usage to prevent password reuse, enhancing overall security.
2.8 Distributed Network Technologies	Cloud-based password managers must navigate security challenges in distributed networks, which can increase attack surfaces. Effective encryption and secure key management are necessary for protecting user data.	PassNest adopts principles of secure synchronization and key management to allow users safe access to credentials across devices.
2.9 Evolution of Security Architectures	Security architectures have transitioned from simple to complex multi-layered systems, integrating firewalls, encryption, multi-factor authentication (MFA), and intrusion detection systems (IDS).	The architecture of PassNest reflects a multi-layered approach to security, incorporating various measures to defend against cyber threats effectively.

Section	Key Points	Application in PassNest
2.10 Human Factor in Security Systems	Human error remains a leading cause of security breaches, emphasizing the need for user-centric designs that promote better security practices.	PassNest offers an intuitive interface and real-time feedback on password strength, educating users on best practices to reduce human errors and enhance security.

Table no .1

CHAPTER 3

Existing systems

- **Manual Password Management**

Memorization, Writing Down Passwords, Using Browsers to Store Passwords

Limitations:

Memory limitations lead to password reuse across multiple sites. Vulnerable to physical theft or loss. Browser-stored passwords can be compromised if devices are infected or shared with others.

- **Basic Password Management Tools**

Built-in Browser Password Managers

Simple Third-Party Password Managers

Limitations:

Limited encryption methods, which may not be strong enough to protect against sophisticated attacks.

Single point of failure if the password manager’s master password or vault is compromised.

Weak phishing protection.

- **Reusing Passwords Across Multiple Accounts**

Limitations:

Vulnerability to data breaches where a single compromised password can affect multiple accounts. Users often create simple, easy-to-remember passwords, making them vulnerable to brute force or social engineering attacks.

- **Vulnerability to Phishing Attacks**
- **No Cross-Device Synchronization Limitations**
- **Limited Integration with Modern Authentication Methods**

Limitations:

Password-only systems are more vulnerable to attacks, especially if users employ weak or reused passwords. Lack of two-factor authentication (2FA) support in many existing systems.

- **Poor User Experience and Complex Interfaces Limitations**

Limitations:

Complexity in setting up and using password managers may confuse non-technical users. Overwhelming options or cluttered interfaces can lead to poor user experience.

CHAPTER 4

SYSTEM DESIGN

This section outlines the system design of the *PassNest* application, illustrating its architecture and various diagrams that represent the functional aspects of the system. The design encompasses how the components interact, the data flow, and the roles of different entities within the application.

4.1 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

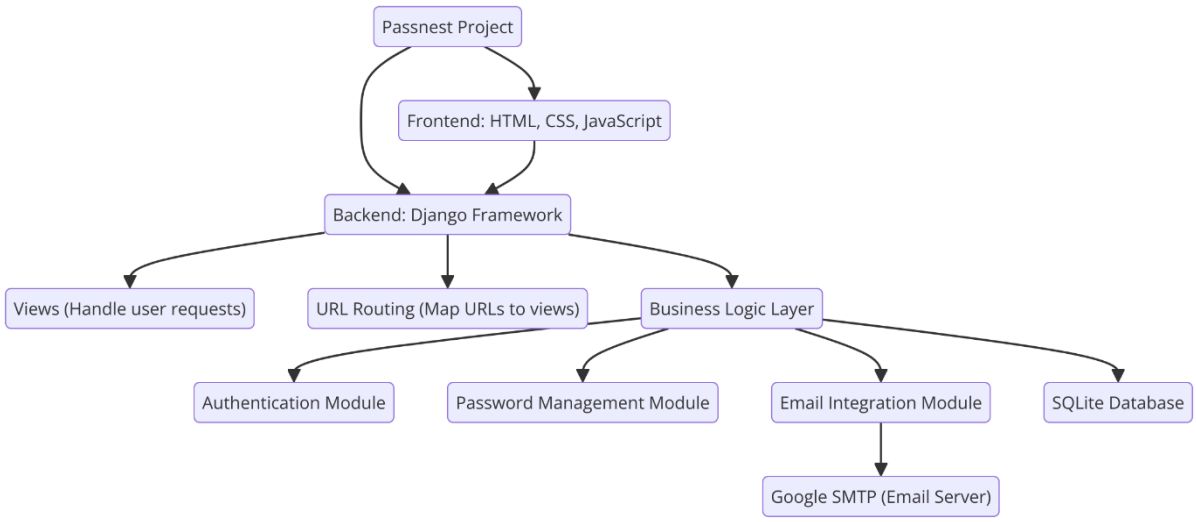

Figure.3.1 system architecture

The system design of the *PassNest* application is structured around a three-tier architecture that includes the Presentation Layer, Application Layer, and Data Layer. The Presentation Layer, built with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, provides an intuitive user interface for interactions such as user registration, login, and password management. The Application Layer, developed using Django, handles the core logic, including user authentication and data processing, while interfacing with the SQLite database in the Data Layer, which securely stores user credentials and sensitive information. Key diagrams elucidate this design: the class diagram outlines the main classes such as User, PasswordManager, and

EmailService, detailing their attributes and methods; the activity diagram illustrates workflows for critical processes like user registration and password resetting; the sequence diagram depicts interactions during user login, showcasing the step-by-step flow of operations; the use case diagram captures functional requirements, highlighting interactions between users and the system; and the data flow diagram represents how data moves through the application, from user inputs to database storage and retrieval. Collectively, these components and diagrams form a cohesive framework that ensures the security, functionality, and user-friendliness of the *PassNest* application.

4.2 CLASS DIAGRAM

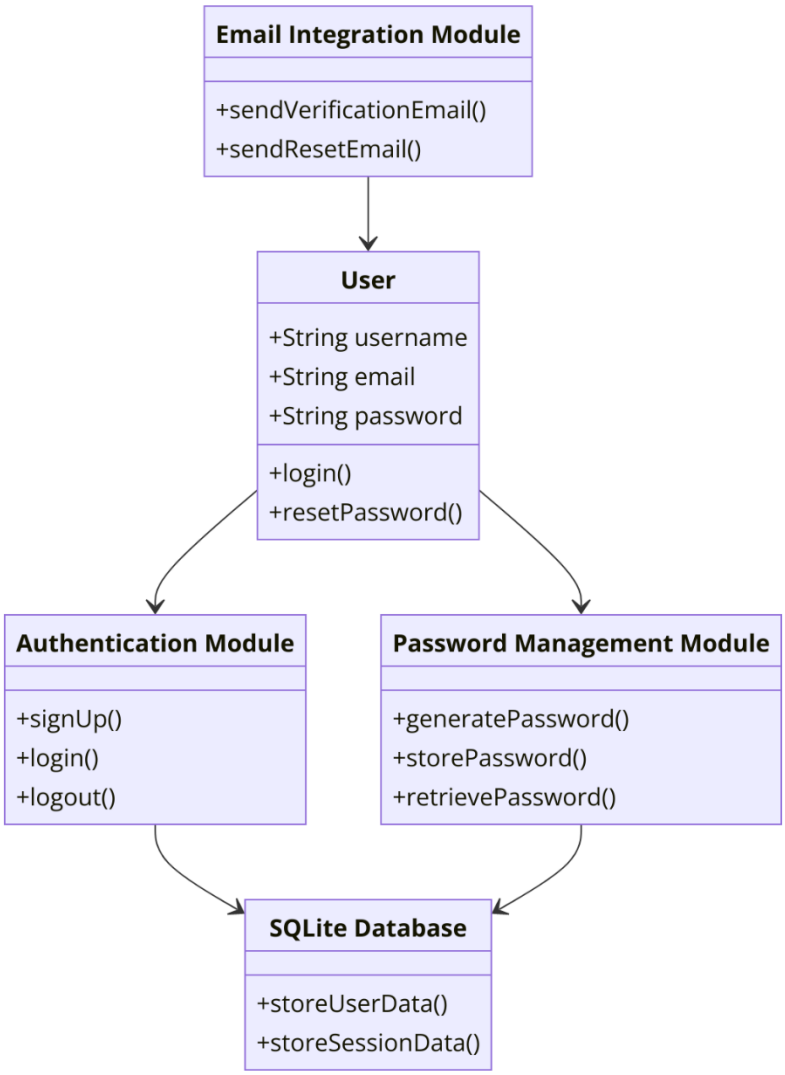

Figure.3.2 class diagram

The **class diagram** of the *PassNest* application illustrates its structure by detailing various classes, their attributes, and relationships. Key classes include **User**, which represents the application user with attributes such as username, email, and password_hash, and methods like sign_up(), login(), and reset_password(). The **PasswordManager** class manages the user's stored passwords, incorporating attributes like password_id, website, username, and password_hash, along with methods for add_password(), retrieve_password(), and delete_password(). Additionally, the **EmailService** class is responsible for email functionalities related to user verification and password resets, with attributes such as email_host and email_port, and methods like send_verification_email() and send_password_reset_email().

The class diagram represents the structure of the *PassNest* application, detailing the various classes, their attributes, and relationships. Key classes may include:

- **User**: Represents the application user. Attributes may include username, email, password_hash, and methods like sign_up(), login(), and reset_password().
- **PasswordManager**: Manages the user's stored passwords. Attributes include password_id, website, username, password_hash, and methods for add_password(), retrieve_password(), and delete_password().
- **EmailService**: Handles email functionalities for user verification and password reset. It may have attributes like email_host, email_port, and methods like send_verification_email(), send_password_reset_email().

4.3 ACTIVITY DIAGRAM

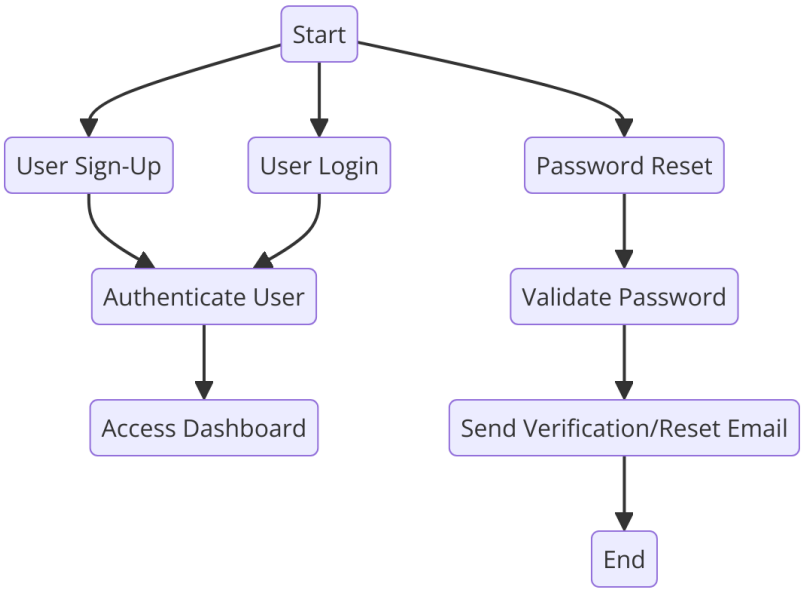

Figure.3.3 Activity diagram

The **activity diagram** visually represents the workflow within the *PassNest* application, detailing processes like user registration. The activity diagram provides a visual representation of the workflow within the *PassNest* application. It illustrates the steps involved in significant processes, such as user registration or password resetting. This includes steps such as entering user details, validating inputs, hashing the password, storing user information in the database, sending a verification email, and confirming successful registration. For example, the activity flow for user registration may include:

1. User enters details (username, email, password).
2. Validate inputs (check for uniqueness and password strength).
3. Hash the password.
4. Store user information in the database.
5. Send verification email.
6. Confirm successful registration.

4.4 SEQUENCE DIAGRAM

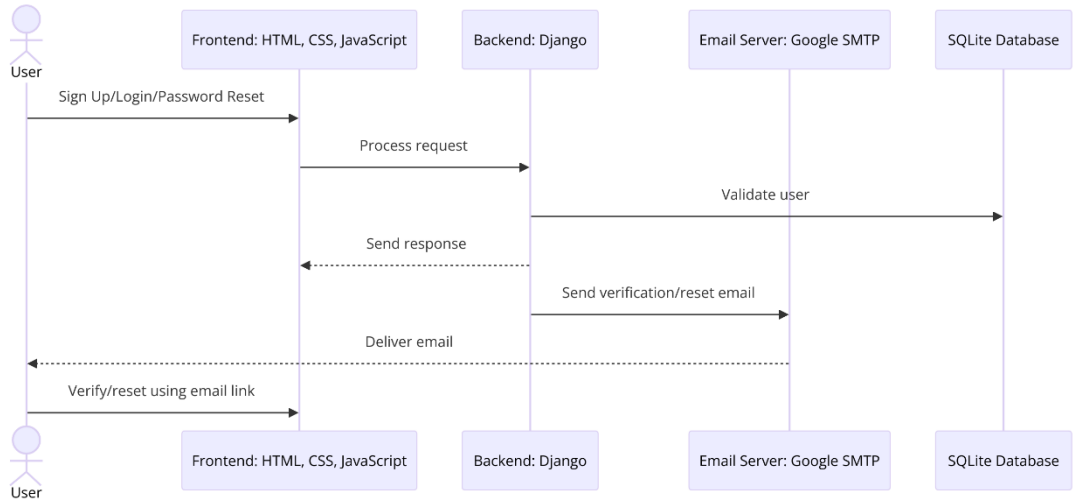

Figure.3.4 sequence diagram

The **sequence diagram** depicts the interactions between application components over time, illustrating the user login process. In this process, the user submits their credentials, the frontend requests authentication from the backend, the backend verifies the credentials against the database, generates a session token if valid, and displays the user's dashboard on the frontend. It outlines the order of operations during key processes, such as user login or password reset.

- User submits login credentials.
- Frontend sends a request to the backend for authentication.
- Backend verifies credentials against the database.
- If valid, the backend generates a session token and sends it to the frontend.
- Frontend displays the user’s dashboard

4.5 USE CASE DIAGRAM

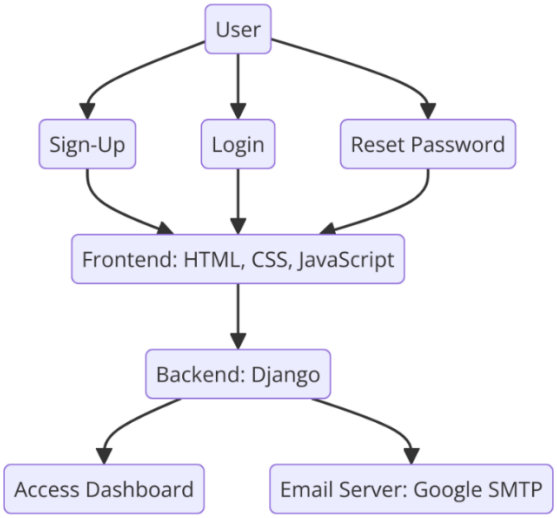

Figure 3.5 use case diagram

The **use case diagram** captures the functional requirements of *PassNest*, outlining interactions between users and the system. Key use cases include user registration, user login, password management, and password reset, providing a clear overview of the application's functionality and user interactions. The use case diagram captures the functional requirements of the *PassNest* application. It outlines the different actors (users) and their interactions with the system. Key use cases might include:

- **User Registration**: A new user signs up and creates an account.
- **User Login**: An existing user logs in to access their vault.
- **Password Management**: Users can add, retrieve, and delete passwords.
- **Password Reset**: Users can reset their passwords if forgotten

4.6 DATA FLOW DIAGRAM

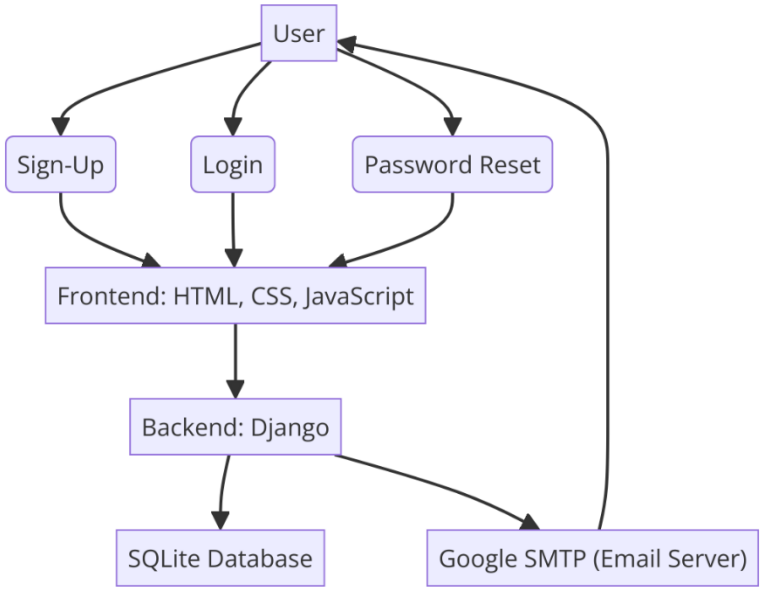

Figure. 3.6 Dataflow diagram

The data flow diagram for the *PassNest* application illustrates how data moves within the system, highlighting the inputs and outputs of various processes and detailing how data is stored or retrieved from the database. In the password management process, the user first inputs password details, including the website, username, and password. The application then processes this data by validating it for correctness and encrypting the password to ensure security. Once the data is processed, the encrypted information is securely stored in the database. When the user needs to access their passwords, the application retrieves the stored data from the database and decrypts it for display. This flow emphasizes the secure handling of sensitive information throughout the process and effectively represents the interactions and transitions within the application.

CHAPTER 5

MODULES

This Django-based web application is structured into multiple layers, each with distinct responsibilities. Below is a breakdown of the modules and components that make up this system, along with an explanation of how they interact with one another.

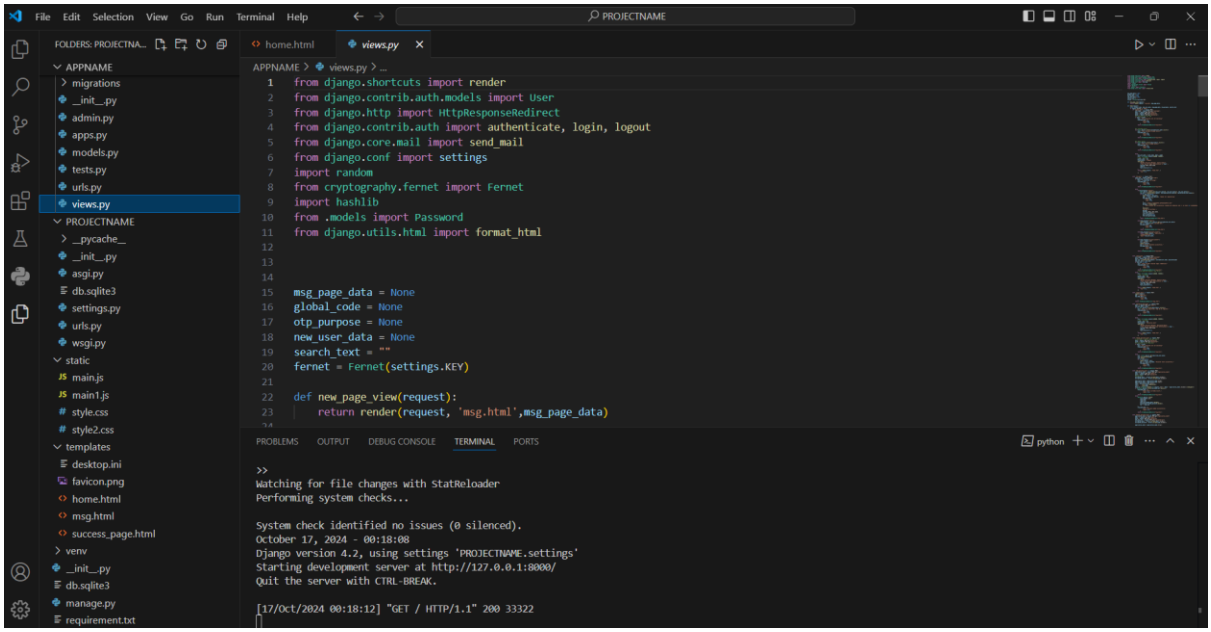

Figure.5.1 modules

5.1. APPNAME Directory

The APPNAME directory is the heart of the Django project, where all business logic resides. This folder contains the core files for defining models, views, and administrative functions, which form the foundation of the app's functionality. Each file within this directory plays a critical role in defining how data is structured, processed, and presented to users. As a modular and reusable part of the project, the app is designed to handle specific business tasks while interacting with other apps seamlessly.

5.1.1. apps.py

This file defines the application configuration for the APPNAME app. Each app in Django has an apps.py file, which allows for app-specific settings and configurations. The app is registered here as part of the larger Django project, ensuring that Django knows how to handle and load the app's components when needed. The apps.py file can also contain signals and hooks that are triggered when certain actions occur, such as sending notifications when a user signs up or performing background tasks when certain models are saved. As the project grows and evolves, this file becomes essential for managing the application's lifecycle.

5.1.2. models.py

The models.py file is responsible for defining the structure of your data in the form of Python classes. Each class represents a database table, and each attribute of a class represents a field in that table. For instance, a User model might include fields such as username, email, password, and date_joined. Django provides various field types, such as CharField, IntegerField, DateField, and ForeignKey, that map directly to their database counterparts. This file also includes any relationships between models, such as one-to-many or many-to-many relationships, which are critical in relational database systems. Django's ORM (Object-Relational Mapping) allows developers to interact with the database using Python code rather than writing raw SQL queries, simplifying database interactions significantly.

5.1.3. tests.py

Testing is an essential aspect of any robust software development process, and the tests.py file allows you to create unit and integration tests for your application. By writing test cases, you can ensure that individual components of the app, such as views, models, and forms, behave as expected. Django's built-in testing framework, which extends Python's unittest module, provides tools for writing and running these tests. For example, you can write a test to check if the registration page successfully creates a new user or if a blog post is displayed correctly on the homepage. Well-written tests help prevent regressions, bugs, and other issues from making their way into production.

5.1.4. views.py

The views.py file contains the business logic for handling requests and rendering responses. Views are responsible for interacting with the models to fetch or modify data, rendering HTML templates, and sending responses back to the client. Django supports both function-based views (FBVs) and class-based views (CBVs), each with its own advantages. FBVs are simple and straightforward, making them a good choice for small tasks, while CBVs provide more reusable, object-oriented code.

5.2. PROJECTNAME Directory

The PROJECTNAME directory contains the core configuration for the entire Django project. While the APPNAME folder handles the business logic, the files within this directory manage project-wide settings, URL configurations, and server interfaces. Each file serves a specific role in ensuring that the various apps within the project work together seamlessly.

5.2.1. asgi.py

This file is used when deploying the Django project with ASGI (Asynchronous Server Gateway Interface), the standard interface for handling asynchronous web applications in Python. ASGI is the successor to WSGI and allows Django to handle asynchronous tasks, such as WebSocket connections or long-running background tasks. By configuring asgi.py, you can deploy your application using ASGI-compatible servers like Daphne or Uvicorn, enabling features such as real-time notifications or chat functionality.

5.2.2. settings.py

Arguably the most important file in the PROJECTNAME directory, settings.py contains the configuration settings for the entire project. This includes database settings, installed apps, middleware, and static file locations. Each setting controls a specific aspect of how the project behaves, both in development and production environments.

For example, the DEBUG setting controls whether detailed error messages are shown (useful during development but a security risk in production). The ALLOWED_HOSTS setting defines which domains can access the project, preventing unauthorized access. Additionally, settings.py can be customized to load different settings based on the environment, such as using SQLite for local development and PostgreSQL for production.

CHAPTER 6

SYSTEM REQUIREMENT

This section outlines the system requirements for the successful deployment and execution of the Django-based web application. It includes both hardware and software requirements, along with a detailed description of the technologies used in the project. Each component plays a vital role in ensuring the performance, scalability, and reliability of the system.

6.1. Introduction

The Django web application is designed to operate in a modern computing environment with moderate hardware and software specifications. The application development process, which includes coding, testing, and deployment, relies on various technologies and tools to streamline the workflow. This section provides a comprehensive breakdown of the required system setup, including both development and production environments.

The following sub-sections cover the minimum hardware and software requirements needed to run the system smoothly. Along with hardware and software needs, the technologies and libraries utilized during development and deployment are discussed in detail.

6.2. Requirements

The system requirements are divided into two categories: hardware and software. Both categories are essential for ensuring that the Django application runs efficiently in both the development and production stages. Hardware requirements define the physical resources needed, while software requirements include the libraries, frameworks, and other essential tools.

6.2.1. Hardware Requirements

To run the web application effectively, the hardware should meet the following minimum requirements. These specifications apply to both local development environments and server deployment.

- **Processor:** Intel Core i5 or equivalent
- **RAM:** 8 GB (Minimum), 16 GB (Recommended for smoother performance)
- **Storage:** 500 GB HDD or SSD (for development), 100 GB SSD (for server deployment)
- **Network:** A stable internet connection for accessing cloud services and handling user requests
- **Monitor:** 1080p resolution for clear visuals during development
- **GPU:** Optional, but beneficial for tasks involving image processing

These hardware requirements ensure that the system can handle multiple simultaneous processes, including request handling, database interactions, and front-end rendering. The recommended setup allows for efficient multitasking, enabling developers to run servers, test suites, and code editors simultaneously without performance lags.

6.2.2. Software Requirements

The software requirements include operating systems, frameworks, and additional tools required to execute the Django web application. These software

components ensure the smooth operation of the system in both development and production environments.

- **Operating System:** Windows 10/11, Ubuntu 20.04+, macOS Big Sur or higher
- **Python:** Version 3.10 or higher
- **Django Framework:** Version 4.2 or higher
- **Database Management System:** SQLite for local development, PostgreSQL for production
- **Web Server:** Gunicorn or Nginx for production deployment
- **Version Control:** Git (for source code management and collaboration)
- **Browser:** Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox (for testing the web application)
- **Text Editor/IDE:** Visual Studio Code, PyCharm, or Sublime Text (for code writing and debugging)

6.3. Technology Used

This section details the technologies and libraries utilized during the development of the Django web application. A combination of both back-end and front-end technologies ensures that the application is functional, responsive, and user-friendly.

6.3.1. Software Description

6.3.1.1. Django Framework

Django is a high-level Python web framework that enables rapid development and clean, pragmatic design. It encourages the use of reusable components and follows the DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) principle, making it ideal for scalable web applications.

6.3.1.2. Python

Python is the programming language used to develop the backend of the application. Its simplicity, readability, and strong support for web development libraries make it an ideal choice for this project. Python's standard library, along with third-party packages, helps in building robust web applications quickly.

Python's compatibility with Django, its ease of learning, and its extensive community support were some of the key factors for its selection in this project.

6.3.1.3. SQLite

SQLite is a lightweight, file-based database management system used during the development phase of the application. It allows developers to test database interactions locally without requiring the setup of a dedicated database server. SQLite is suitable for small projects and local development, but for a production-level application, a more robust DBMS like PostgreSQL is recommended.

6.3.1.4. PostgreSQL

For deployment in a production environment, PostgreSQL is used as the database system. PostgreSQL is an advanced, open-source, object-relational database that supports both SQL and NoSQL querying. It is designed for reliability, data

integrity, and scalability, making it suitable for applications with high concurrency and complex queries.

6.3.2. Python Libraries Used

The following Python libraries and packages were essential in building this Django project. These libraries help manage various tasks, such as handling HTTP requests, working with HTML, interacting with databases, and more.

6.3.2.1. asgiref==3.6.0

ASGI (Asynchronous Server Gateway Interface) is a specification for Python web applications and servers to handle asynchronous tasks, such as WebSocket connections and background tasks. The asgiref library implements this specification, allowing Django to function asynchronously when necessary.

6.3.2.2. beautifulsoup4==4.12.2

BeautifulSoup is a Python library used for web scraping. It allows for parsing HTML and XML documents and extracting data from them. In this project, it can be used to gather data from web sources or to parse user-generated content.

6.3.2.3. certifi==2022.12.7

Certifi is a Python package that provides a collection of root certificates for verifying the authenticity of SSL certificates. It ensures secure connections for web applications by validating certificates from trusted authorities.

6.3.2.4. cffi==1.15.1

CFFI (C Foreign Function Interface) is a library that allows interaction between Python and C libraries. It is used internally by other Python libraries to provide low-level system access.

6.3.2.5. charset-normalizer==3.1.0

This library is used to detect and normalize character encodings in web content. It is particularly useful when handling text data that may be encoded using different standards.

6.3.2.6. Django==4.2

The core web framework used for this project, Django, is a powerful and secure web framework written in Python. Version 4.2 includes various improvements and optimizations, including better support for asynchronous views, a more robust ORM, and enhanced security features.

6.3.2.7. favicon==0.7.0

This library allows easy retrieval and handling of website favicons. In the project, this can be used to display site logos or icons dynamically.

6.3.2.8. html5lib==1.1

HTML5lib is a pure Python library for parsing HTML documents, following the specifications of the WHATWG HTML5 specification. It ensures that the application can handle HTML data conforming to modern web standards.

6.3.2.9. mechanize==0.4.8

Mechanize is a Python library used for automating interactions with websites, such as form submissions and link clicking. This can be particularly useful for testing user interactions with the web application.

6.3.2.10. Pillow==9.5.0

Pillow is the Python Imaging Library (PIL) fork that adds image processing capabilities to the application. It allows for resizing, cropping, and manipulating images uploaded by users.

6.3.2.11. python-decouple==3.8

This package provides a way to manage environment variables in the application, such as API keys and database credentials. It ensures that sensitive information is kept outside the source code, improving security and flexibility.

6.3.2.12. requests==2.29.0

Requests is a popular Python library for making HTTP requests. It simplifies the process of interacting with external APIs or fetching remote data. In this project, requests are used to integrate external services or communicate with third-party platforms.

6.3.2.13. sqlparse==0.4.4

This library is used to format and parse SQL queries, making it easier to work with database queries in the Django ORM.

6.3.2.14. termcolor==2.3.0

Termcolor is a simple library for adding color formatting to terminal outputs. This can be helpful for debugging purposes or for highlighting specific log messages during development.

6.3.2.15. tzdata==2023.3

This library provides timezone data, allowing the application to handle dates and times across different time zones correctly. Django uses tzdata to ensure accurate timestamping and scheduling.

6.3.2.16. urllib3==1.26.15

Urllib3 is a powerful HTTP client for Python. It is used internally by several libraries, such as requests, to handle HTTP connections and requests. It offers features such as thread safety, connection pooling, and retry handling.

6.3.2.17. webencodings==0.5.1

This package is used for encoding and decoding HTML and XML character data, ensuring proper handling of text inputs and outputs in the web application.

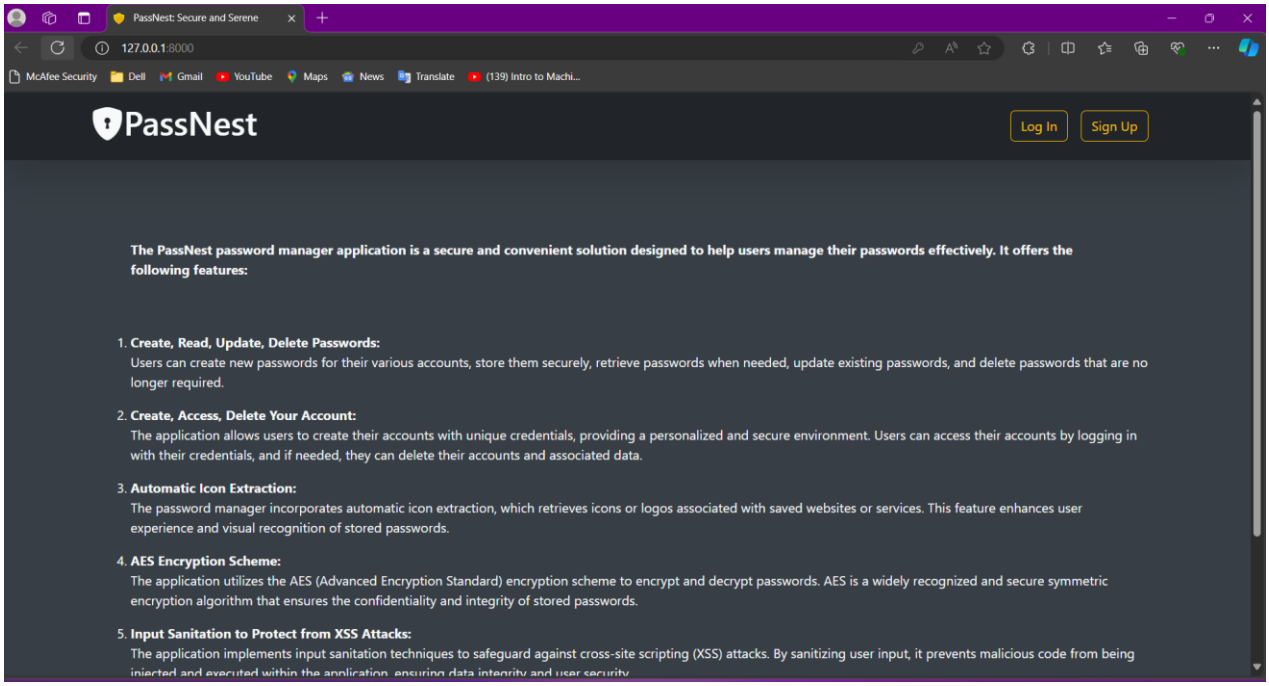

Fig 6.1 outcome

CHAPTER 7

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Setting Up the Development Environment

The foundation of any software project lies in establishing a robust development environment that allows developers to efficiently manage code, dependencies, and testing. For the PassNest project, Django was selected as the primary framework because of its simplicity, built-in security features, and extensive support for handling web-based projects.

2. Database Design and Implementation

The database is the backbone of any password manager, as it stores sensitive user credentials that need to be secured and efficiently retrievable. PassNest uses SQLite during development due to its simplicity and file-based nature, but the system is designed to be adaptable to larger databases like PostgreSQL or MySQL for production.

3. Encryption and Password Hashing

Encryption is at the core of PassNest's security architecture. Two types of encryption are employed:

1. AES-256 encryption: This method is used to protect sensitive user data, such as passwords, before they are stored in the database. AES-256 is one of the most secure encryption methods available and is widely adopted in industries ranging from finance to government.

2. bcrypt hashing: Passwords are hashed using bcrypt before being stored. Unlike encryption, hashing is a one-way process, meaning that even if the hashed password is stolen, it cannot be easily converted back to its original form. Bcrypt is designed to be slow, making brute-force attacks computationally expensive.

4. User Authentication System

Authentication is the process of verifying a user's identity before granting access to the system. For PassNest, user authentication is implemented using Django's built-in authentication system, which handles user login, logout, and password management functionalities. However, customizations are made to enhance security and user experience.

uppercase letters), ensuring that users follow best practices for password creation.

5. Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

To further enhance security, PassNest integrates two-factor authentication (2FA). This provides an additional layer of security by requiring users to input a one-time code after entering their password. 2FA is implemented using two primary methods:

1. Email-based 2FA: After a successful password entry, the system sends a one-time passcode (OTP) to the user's email. The user must input this code within a specific time frame to complete the login process.

2. Authenticator Apps: Integration with apps like Google Authenticator allows users to scan a QR code and receive time-based one-time passwords (TOTP) on their mobile device.

2FA significantly reduces the chances of account compromise, as attackers would need access not only to the user's password but also to their email or mobile device.

6. Email Integration

Emails play an essential role in user account management. From account verification to password resets, PassNest heavily relies on secure and reliable email communication.

- SMTP Configuration: PassNest uses Google's SMTP server to handle outgoing emails. This includes configuring Google's App Passwords to ensure that emails are sent securely.

- Email Templates: Django's templating system is used to create customizable email templates. This ensures consistency in the look and feel of emails, such as verification emails, password reset notifications, and alerts for suspicious login attempts.

To avoid misuse, rate-limiting is applied to email-sending functionalities. This ensures that a user cannot request multiple password resets in a short period, protecting against email flooding attacks

8. Error Handling and Validation

Ensuring that the application gracefully handles errors is crucial for both security and user experience. PassNest incorporates several layers of validation and error handling:

- Frontend Validation: JavaScript is used to perform client-side validation, checking user inputs before they are submitted to the server. This includes ensuring that email addresses are in the correct format and that passwords meet minimum security requirements.

- Backend Validation: Server-side validation ensures that inputs are rechecked for validity and security risks, such as SQL injection attacks.

- Error Pages: Custom error pages are created to handle common HTTP errors, such as 404 Not Found and 500 Internal Server Error. These pages provide users with clear instructions on how to proceed.

9. Security Considerations

Throughout the development process, security is embedded into every aspect of PassNest. Key security practices include:

- CSRF Protection: Django's built-in CSRF (Cross-Site Request Forgery) protection is enabled by default. This prevents unauthorized commands from being sent on behalf of an authenticated user.

- XSS Prevention: To protect against cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks, all user inputs are sanitized before being displayed. This prevents malicious code from being executed in the user's browser.

- HTTPS: All communications between the client and the server are secured using HTTPS. This ensures that sensitive information, such as passwords and authentication tokens, is transmitted securely.

CHAPTER 8

CONCLUDING REMARKS

8.1 CONCLUSION

In an era of escalating digital threats, effective password management is essential to secure sensitive information and protect user privacy. *PassNest: Secure and Serene* addresses critical security challenges by integrating robust encryption, user-friendly interfaces, and multi-layered authentication to provide a reliable, convenient solution for managing passwords. Through a blend of advanced cryptographic techniques and usability-focused design, *PassNest* promotes both security and accessibility, encouraging users to adopt stronger password practices without compromising on convenience. This project underscores the importance of a proactive approach to cybersecurity, setting a foundation for future enhancements to adapt to evolving security demands.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Code Snippets

A.1. User Authentication Logic (Django)

```
def new_page_view(request):
    return render(request, 'msg.html',msg_page_data)

def home(request):
    global global_code, new_user_data, msg_page_data, otp_purpose, search_text
    if request.method == "POST":
        if "signup_post" in request.POST:
            user_name = request.POST.get("username")
            email = request.POST.get("email")
            pswd = request.POST.get("password")
            pswd2 = request.POST.get("password2")
            #if passwords are not same
            if pswd != pswd2:
                msg = "Your passwords are not matching!"
                msg_page_data = {
                        "text":msg,
                        "code":True,
                    }
                return HttpResponseRedirect("msg.html")
```

Figure .9.1 snippet

A.2. Password Reset Functionality

```
    elif 'password_reset_post' in request.POST:
        email = request.POST.get("email")
        new_user_data = email
        if not User.objects.filter(email=email).exists():
            msg = "Email not registered. Sign Up to registe
            msg_page_data = {
                    "text":msg,
                    "code":True,
                }
            return HttpResponseRedirect("msg.html")

        else:
            otp = str(random.randint(100000, 999999))
            # otp = str(1234)
            global code = otp
```

Figure .9.2 password reset snippet

Appendix B: Software Requirements Installation Guide

B.1. Installing Django and Required Libraries

1. **Install Django:** Open your terminal and run:

   pip install django==4.2

2. **Install Required Python Libraries:** The project also relies on other libraries such as requests, Pillow, and beautifulsoup4. Install them using:

   pip install requests Pillow beautifulsoup4

3. **Setting up the Virtual Environment:** To ensure dependency isolation, it's advisable to create a virtual environment:

   python -m venv venv

   source venv/bin/activate

Appendix C: Migration and Running the Server in PASS NEST

C.1 Introduction

In the development and deployment process of PASS NEST, an essential part of setting up the system includes managing database migrations and running the server. The Django framework simplifies this process by providing built-in commands for database migration and server management, which ensures that the system is correctly configured to handle data storage and real-time operations. This appendix outlines the necessary steps for migrating the database and running the server to deploy the PASS NEST application.

C.2 Database Migrations

Database migration is a crucial step in ensuring that the database schema aligns with the models defined in the Django project. In PASS NEST, database migration allows for the creation of necessary tables and relationships in the database (e.g., user data, password hashing, session management, etc.). By using Django's built-in migration commands, the application ensures that any changes to the database structure are accurately reflected in the underlying SQLite database (or other databases, if used).

Steps for Migrating the Database:

1. **Initial Setup**: Before running any migrations, ensure that Django and the required dependencies are installed. Install the dependencies by running:

pip install -r requirements.txt

2. **Check for Migrations:** After making sure all the models are properly defined, use Django's migration system to prepare the database. First, create migration files that will contain instructions on how to build the tables for the models:

python manage.py makemigrations

3. **Apply the Migrations:** Once the migration files are created, apply the migrations to your database to build the schema:

python manage.py migrate

This command executes the migration and creates the necessary tables in the database, such as tables for user information, session data, and other system-related information.

4. **Verifying the Migration:** After running the migration, you can check the database (using an SQLite browser or similar tools) to verify that the required tables have been created and populated with initial data.

Notes on Migration:

- If any changes are made to the Django models during development (e.g., adding new fields or tables), the migration commands (makemigrations and migrate) need to be re-run to update the database schema.
- For larger applications, especially in production environments, it's advisable to use more robust database systems such as PostgreSQL or MySQL instead of SQLite, though the migration process remains largely the same.

C.3 Running the Django Server

After completing the database migration, the next step is to run the Django development server. This allows the PASS NEST system to be accessed locally via a web browser for development and testing purposes.

Steps for Running the Server:

1. **Starting the Server**: Once the database has been successfully migrated, the Django server can be started with the following command:

   python manage.py runserver

2. **Accessing the Application:** After the server is running, open a browser and navigate to **http://127.0.0.1:8000/.** You will be directed to the homepage or login page of PASS NEST, depending on the system configuration. From there, users can interact with the sign-up, login, and password reset functionalities, and administrators can manage users through the dashboard.

3. **Shutting Down the Server**: To stop the server, press CTRL + C in the terminal where the server is running. This will shut down the development server.

Customization Options for Running the Server:

- **Custom Port:** If the default port 8000 is in use or you wish to change the port, you can specify a different port by adding the port number at the end of the command:

python manage.py runserver

This will start the server at **http://127.0.0.1:8000/.**

- **Production Server:** For deployment in a production environment, Django's development server is not suitable. Instead, a production-grade server such as Gunicorn or uWSGI should be used, along with NGINX or Apache for reverse proxying. Additionally, the server should be run with DEBUG set to False in the Django settings.

C.4 Verifying Server Functionality

Once the server is running, it is important to ensure that all functionalities are working as expected. This includes verifying that:

- Users can successfully register, log in, and manage their profiles.
- Emails are being sent for verification and password reset via Google's SMTP server.
- Passwords are securely hashed and stored in the database.

Debugging and Troubleshooting:

- If issues arise while running the server, Django provides detailed error messages in the terminal, which can help pinpoint the issue.
- Common issues include incorrect configurations in the settings.py file, especially in database connections or email settings. Be sure to check that all required environment variables (such as the SMTP configuration) are properly set.

C.5 Summary

In this appendix, we have outlined the key processes for migrating the database and running the Django server in the PASS NEST system. These steps are critical for ensuring that the system operates as expected, with a properly structured database and a server capable of handling real-time user interactions. The migration process ensures that the database is in sync with the models, while running the server enables users to interact with the system via a web browser. Properly executing these steps lays the foundation for a secure, efficient, and scalable user authentication system.

Appendix D: Glossary

ORM (Object-Relational Mapping): A technique that allows developers to interact with the database using the object-oriented paradigm, simplifying database operations by abstracting SQL queries.

Virtual Environment: A Python tool that isolates project-specific dependencies from system-wide packages**.**

SQLite: A lightweight, file-based database system used for development purposes. It is widely used in smaller applications or during the early stages of development.

SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol): A protocol for sending emails. In this project, Google SMTP is used for sending password reset and account verification emails.

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