

CategoryService Does Not Reject Empty Names

System Impact Summary

While testAddCategory_NullName prevents null names, the service still permits empty or whitespace-only category names, leading to categories that render as blank entries in the UI and break navigation menus.

Description

The existing unit test testAddCategory_NullName verifies that passing null as the category name produces a 400 response. However, passing an empty string ("") or whitespace (" ") is not tested and currently accepted by CategoryService.addCategory(...), resulting in categories with no visible label.

Steps to Reproduce

1. Create a Category instance with a non-null categoryId but set categoryName empty string.
2. Call categoryService.addCategory(testCategory, "").
3. Observe that the service returns HTTP 200 and saves the blank-named category in the repository.

Expected Behavior: The service should treat empty or whitespace-only names as invalid and return a **400 Bad Request** with the message "Category name cannot be null or empty!".

Actual Behavior: The method accepts the empty name, calls categoryRepository.save(...), and returns HTTP 200, creating a category with no label.

Severity: Low – Leads to blank categories in the UI, confusing users and degrading navigation UX.

Affected Component(s): CategoryService, CategoryRepository

Root Cause: Validation only checks for null but does not trim or verify non-emptiness of the provided name string.

Proposed Fix: Enhance the null/empty check in addCategory.