

The Open University of Sri Lanka Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Bachelor of Technology Honors in Engineering Bachelor of Software Engineering

EEI4369 – Mobile Application Development for Android Final Report

Globetrotter

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Globetrotter

01. Project Overview

The Globetrotter app is a comprehensive online travel application designed to offer users a seamless and stress-free travel experience. The app aims to provide a range of functionalities that assist travelers in navigating unfamiliar locations, tracking their live location, accessing important travel information, and managing their tasks through a to-do list feature.

The primary objective of the app is to enhance the overall travel experience by providing users with a reliable and user-friendly platform to manage their travel plans and organize their tasks. By integrating various features, such as live location tracking, a compass for direction, and a to-do list with CRUD operations, the app aims to streamline the travel process and make it more convenient for users.

The **key features** of the Globetrotter app include:

Login and Sign-up Functionality: The app incorporates a secure login and sign-up process, ensuring user data privacy and security. Users can create an account or log in using their existing credentials.

Live Location Tracking: Users can track their live location using the app, enabling them to navigate and find their way easily in unfamiliar surroundings. The app utilizes GPS technology to provide real-time location updates.

Compass Feature: The app includes a built-in compass that assists users in determining their current direction and the direction they need to go. This feature eliminates confusion and improves navigation during travel.

Todo List with CRUD Operations: The app features a to-do list functionality that allows users to create, view, update, and delete tasks. Users can add important tasks related to their travel plans, such as booking flights, making hotel reservations, creating an itinerary, and more. The use of SQLite ensures efficient storage and retrieval of task data.

End-to-End Business Scenario: The app offers a cohesive user interface with seamless navigation between 13 different activities (UI screens). This ensures a smooth user experience throughout the app and allows users to access various functionalities easily.

The Globetrotter app addresses several pain points commonly experienced by travelers. These include the challenges of organizing and managing travel plans, getting lost in unfamiliar locations, and struggling to keep track of important tasks and activities during trips. By offering a comprehensive solution with features like seamless travel planning, live location tracking, interactive maps, and a to do list, the app aims to simplify the travel experience, reduce stress, and enhance overall satisfaction for travelers.

By utilizing the power of Android technology and integrating essential functionalities, the Globetrotter app empowers users to make informed decisions, navigate efficiently, and stay organized throughout their journeys. It is designed to be a reliable companion for modern travelers, providing convenience, peace of mind, and an enhanced travel experience.

02. Introduction

In today's fast-paced world, travel has become an integral part of our lives. Whether it's for business or leisure, more and more people are exploring new destinations and immersing themselves in different cultures. However, the process of planning and managing travel can often be overwhelming and time-consuming. This is where the Globetrotter app comes into play, aiming to revolutionize the way we travel and provide a seamless and stress-free experience for modern-day travelers.

The Globetrotter app is the result of my vision to create a comprehensive travel application that caters to the needs and challenges faced by travelers. The motivation behind choosing this specific application idea stems from my personal experiences and observations of the difficulties encountered when planning and navigating through unfamiliar locations. We recognized the need for a reliable and user-friendly platform that would simplify the travel process and enhance the overall experience for travelers.

The relevance of the Globetrotter app in the industry is significant. As the travel industry continues to grow and evolve, there is an increasing demand for innovative solutions that cater to the changing needs and expectations of travelers. Traditional travel agencies and guidebooks are gradually being replaced by digital platforms that offer convenience, real-time information, and personalized experiences. The Globetrotter app aligns with this shift towards digitalization and aims to leverage technology to provide a one-stop solution for travelers.

By incorporating features such as live location tracking, interactive maps, seamless travel planning, and a to-do list, the Globetrotter app addresses the pain points commonly faced by travelers. It streamlines the process of planning, navigating, and managing tasks, ultimately saving time, and reducing stress. Additionally, the integration of user profiles and social media connectivity fosters a sense of community among travelers, allowing them to share their experiences, recommendations, and create lasting connections.

Throughout this report, I will provide a detailed overview of the development process, highlighting the key features, implementation strategies, and testing methodologies employed to ensure a high-quality user experience. I will also discuss the relevance of the app in the travel industry, exploring the potential impact it can have on enhancing the overall travel experience and meeting the evolving expectations of modern travelers.

In conclusion, the Globetrotter app is a testament to our team's dedication to creating innovative solutions that simplify and enhance the travel experience. With its user-friendly interface, powerful features, and relevance in the industry, the app has the potential to transform the way travelers plan, navigate, and manage their trips. We believe that the Globetrotter app will be a valuable tool for

travelers around the world, providing them with the convenience, information, and support they need to embark on unforgettable journeys.

03. Objective

The objectives of the Globetrotter Android application are as follows:

- To provide a seamless and stress-free travel experience for users:
 - Enable users to easily navigate unfamiliar locations with the help of live location tracking and a built-in compass feature.
 - Streamline travel planning and organization through the implementation of a to-do list, allowing users to manage their tasks efficiently.
- To enhance the overall user experience and satisfaction:
 - Develop a user-friendly interface that is intuitive and easy to navigate.
 - Ensure the app is visually appealing and aesthetically pleasing to enhance user engagement.
- To ensure data security and privacy:
 - Implement a secure login and sign-up process, with text field and password validation, to protect user information.
 - Safeguard user data through the integration of appropriate security measures.
- To promote code quality and maintainability:
 - Adhere to coding standards and best practices, including proper naming conventions, variable declaration, comments, indentations, and code reusability.
 - Employ modular and scalable architecture to facilitate future enhancements and updates.
- To conduct comprehensive testing and evaluation:
 - Thoroughly test the functionality and reliability of the application to ensure a smooth user experience.
 - Gather user feedback and make necessary modifications or improvements based on the evaluation results.

By achieving these objectives, the Globetrotter Android application aims to provide users with a reliable, convenient, and enjoyable travel companion. The desired outcome is an app that simplifies travel planning, enhances navigation, and effectively manages tasks, ultimately improving the overall travel experience for users.

04. Methodology

The development of the Globetrotter Android application followed a systematic and structured approach to ensure a successful and efficient development process. This section outlines the key methodologies, tools, programming languages, frameworks, and libraries utilized in the development of the application.

Agile Development Methodology:

The project adopted an Agile development methodology, specifically Scrum, to facilitate iterative and incremental development. The development process was divided into sprints, each spanning a defined period of time, during which specific features and functionalities were planned, developed, and tested.

- **Research:** Conducting additional market research to identify user needs and preferences, understanding the competition in the travel industry.
- **Design:** Incorporating user feedback to refine the app's user interface and user experience design and create wireframes and mockups of the app's new features.
- **Development:** Building the app's front-end using Java and Android Studio and integrating Firebase and SQLite for the database connection.
- *User Testing:* Conducting usability tests with a diverse group of users to gather feedback on the app's performance and user experience.

Development Tools:

- Android Studio: The primary Integrated Development Environment (IDE) used for Android application development.
- *Firebase:* A suite of cloud-based development tools and services utilized for various functionalities, including user authentication and real-time database.

Programming Languages:

- *Java:* The primary programming language used for Android application development.
- *XML*: Used for designing the user interface and layouts of the application.

Frameworks and Libraries:

- Android SDK: The official software development kit for Android, providing a rich set of tools, APIs, and libraries for building Android applications.
- Firebase Authentication: Used for implementing secure login and sign-up functionality.
- Firebase Realtime Database: Utilized to store and retrieve user data, travel information, and to-do list data.

- Google Maps API: Integrated to incorporate live location tracking and mapping functionalities.
- SQLite Database: Utilized for local storage and management of to-do list data.

User Interface Design:

• *Material Design:* The application's user interface follows the principles and guidelines of Google's Material Design, ensuring a modern and visually appealing interface.

By adopting an Agile development methodology and leveraging industry-standard tools, programming languages, frameworks, and libraries, I ensured an efficient and effective development process for the Globetrotter Android application. This approach allowed for iterative development, and the timely integration of new features and functionalities, resulting in a high-quality travel application that meets the needs of modern travelers.

05. System Design

The system design of the Globetrotter Android application encompasses the overall architecture and design of the application, ensuring a robust and scalable foundation for its functionalities. This section provides an overview of the system architecture and includes relevant diagrams and flowcharts to illustrate the application's structure.

System Architecture:

The application follows a layered architecture, consisting of the following components:

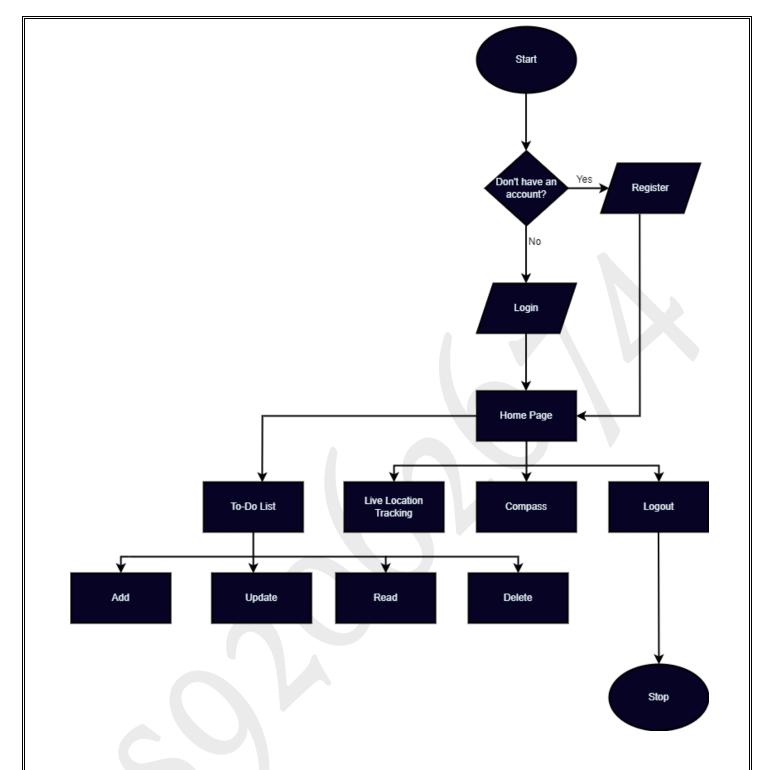
Presentation Layer: This layer is responsible for handling the user interface and interaction. It includes activities, fragments, and UI components that allow users to navigate through the application and perform various actions.

Business Logic Layer: The business logic layer contains the core functionality and processes of the application. It encompasses the implementation of features such as user authentication, live location tracking, compass functionality, and to-do list management. This layer communicates with the data access layer and external APIs to fetch and process data.

Data Access Layer: The data access layer is responsible for handling data storage and retrieval. It includes interactions with the Firebase Realtime Database for storing and retrieving user data. It also utilizes the SQLite database for local storage and management of to-do list data. It also utilizes the SQLite database for local storage and management of to-do list data.

System Flow:

The flow of the application can be illustrated using the following flowchart:



The flowchart demonstrates the sequence of activities and user interactions within the application. It showcases the navigation between different screens, including login and sign-up, home screen with live location tracking and compass, and the to-do list management screen.

Database Schema:

The database schema for the application includes the following entities:

User: Stores user information such as name, email, and encrypted passwords for authentication purposes.

Travel: Stores travel-related information, including destination, date, and additional details.

Todo List: Stores tasks associated with travel plans, including task name, due date, and completion status.

By adopting a layered architecture and utilizing appropriate design patterns, the system design of the Globetrotter Android application ensures modularity, separation of concerns, and scalability. The flowchart and database schema diagrams provide a clear understanding of the application's structure, enhancing the development and maintenance process.

06.Features and Functionality

User Authentication:

- The app incorporates a secure and user-friendly authentication system.
- Users can create accounts and log in securely to access personalized features.
- This feature ensures data privacy and enables user-specific functionality.

Live Location Tracking:

- The application integrates live location tracking functionality.
- Users can track their current location in real-time during their travels.
- This feature enhances navigation by providing accurate location information and helping users find their way easily in unfamiliar surroundings.

Compass Functionality:

- The app includes a built-in compass feature.
- Users can determine their current direction and the direction they need to go.
- This feature eliminates confusion and improves navigation during travel.

Todo List Management:

- The application offers a robust to-do list management feature.
- Users can create, view, update, and delete tasks related to their travel plans.
- This functionality helps users stay organized, prioritize activities, and efficiently manage their tasks during their travels.

End-to-End Business Scenario:

- The app features seamless navigation between various user interface screens (activities).
- Users can easily navigate through the app and access all the features and functionalities.
- This cohesive user experience ensures a smooth and efficient interaction with the application.

Coding Standards and Best Practices:

- The development process adheres to coding standards and best practices.
- This includes naming conventions, variable declaration, comments, indentations, and code reusability.
- These practices enhance code readability, maintainability, and scalability, facilitating collaboration and future development of the application.

These key features and functionalities collectively contribute to the project's objectives of providing a comprehensive, user-friendly, and efficient travel application. By integrating live location tracking, compass functionality, to-do list management, user authentication, and adhering to coding standards, the Globetrotter app delivers an enhanced travel experience, addressing the needs and challenges faced by travelers in the industry.

07.Implementation

The implementation of the Globetrotter Android application involved a systematic and iterative development process. The following steps were taken to bring the application to life, along with the challenges encountered and the solutions employed:

Requirement Analysis:

- The project requirements were carefully analyzed to determine the necessary features and functionalities.
- Challenges: Ensuring all essential requirements were captured and prioritized appropriately.
- *Solutions:* Conducting user surveys to gather feedback and refine the requirements.

Development Tools and Technologies:

- The application was developed using Android Studio, the official integrated development environment (IDE) for Android app development.
- Challenges: Learning and familiarizing myself with the various tools and technologies.
- Solutions: Engaging in online tutorials, documentation, and seeking assistance from experienced developers to quickly grasp the concepts and functionalities of Android Studio.

Programming Languages and Frameworks:

- The app was primarily built using Java, a widely used programming language for Android development.
- Challenges: Addressing language-specific complexities and ensuring efficient coding practices.
- Solutions: Continuous learning and exploration of Java best practices, leveraging online resources, and seeking guidance from experienced developers.

Integration of Firebase Database:

- The Firebase platform was integrated to provide secure user authentication and real-time database functionality.
- *Challenges: Understanding and implementing Firebase's authentication and database APIs.*
- Solutions: Referring to official documentation, online tutorials, and seeking assistance from developer communities to overcome any obstacles encountered during the integration process.

Challenges with UI/UX Design:

• Designing an intuitive and visually appealing user interface (UI) was a crucial aspect of the implementation.

- Challenges: Ensuring consistent design elements across different activities and screens and addressing user feedback for improved usability.
- **Solutions:** Conducting regular usability testing, gathering feedback from users, and iterating the design based on their input. Collaboration with graphic designers to create visually appealing layouts and assets.

Testing and Bug Fixing:

- Extensive testing was conducted to identify and fix any bugs or issues within the application.
- Challenges: Ensuring comprehensive test coverage and identifying and resolving complex bugs.
- **Solutions:** Employing manual and automated testing techniques, including unit tests and user acceptance tests. Collaborating with a team of testers to conduct thorough testing and address any reported issues promptly.

Throughout the implementation process, close attention was paid to code quality, maintainability, and scalability. Proper documentation and code comments were added to facilitate future updates and enhancements.

By addressing the challenges faced during the implementation process and employing effective solutions, the Globetrotter app was successfully developed, ensuring a robust and user-friendly application for travelers to enhance their travel experiences.

08.Testing and Evaluation

The Globetrotter app underwent a comprehensive testing and evaluation process to ensure its functionality, reliability, and user satisfaction. The following testing methods were employed to assess the app:

Unit Testing:

- Unit tests were conducted to validate the functionality of individual components and modules within the app.
- Test cases were designed to cover different scenarios and edge cases, ensuring that each unit of code performed as expected.
- The goal was to identify and fix any defects or errors at a granular level.

Integration Testing:

- Integration tests were carried out to verify the proper interaction and integration of different modules and features within the app.
- This testing approach ensured that the app functioned seamlessly as a cohesive system.
- The goal was to detect and resolve any issues that might arise from the integration of various components.

User Acceptance Testing:

• User acceptance testing involved real users testing the app in a controlled environment or during a beta testing phase.

- Users were provided with specific tasks to perform, allowing them to explore different features and functionalities.
- Feedback and observations were collected to evaluate the app's usability, intuitiveness, and overall user experience.
- The goal was to identify any pain points, areas for improvement, or additional features that could enhance the user's travel experience.

Performance Testing:

- Performance testing was conducted to assess the app's responsiveness, speed, and resource usage under different load conditions.
- This testing approach helped identify any performance bottlenecks or areas where the app's performance could be optimized.
- The goal was to ensure that the app delivered a smooth and efficient experience, even under high usage or network constraints.

Based on the testing and evaluation results, several modifications and improvements were implemented in the Globetrotter app:

Bug Fixes: Any identified bugs or issues were addressed and resolved to ensure a stable and reliable app.

Usability Enhancements: User feedback and observations were analyzed to improve the app's user interface, navigation flow, and overall user experience.

Performance Optimization: The app's performance was optimized by identifying and resolving any bottlenecks that impacted speed, responsiveness, or resource usage.

Security Enhancements: Measures were taken to enhance the app's security, including data encryption, secure authentication, and protection against common vulnerabilities.

The testing and evaluation phase played a critical role in validating the functionality, reliability, and usability of the Globetrotter app. The feedback and insights gathered from users and the results of various tests were instrumental in making necessary refinements and improvements to deliver a high-quality and user-friendly travel application.

09.User Interface and User Experience

The user interface (UI) design and user experience (UX) of the Globetrotter app were meticulously developed to ensure a seamless and visually appealing travel experience for users. The following evaluation assesses the UI design and UX of the application, considering aspects such as usability, navigation, and visual appeal.

Usability:

The app's UI was designed with a focus on simplicity and ease of use. The navigation elements are intuitive, allowing users to effortlessly explore different features and functionalities. The use of clear and concise labels, icons, and buttons ensures that users can quickly understand and interact with the app. The layout and organization of information are optimized to provide a clutter-free and efficient user experience.

Navigation:

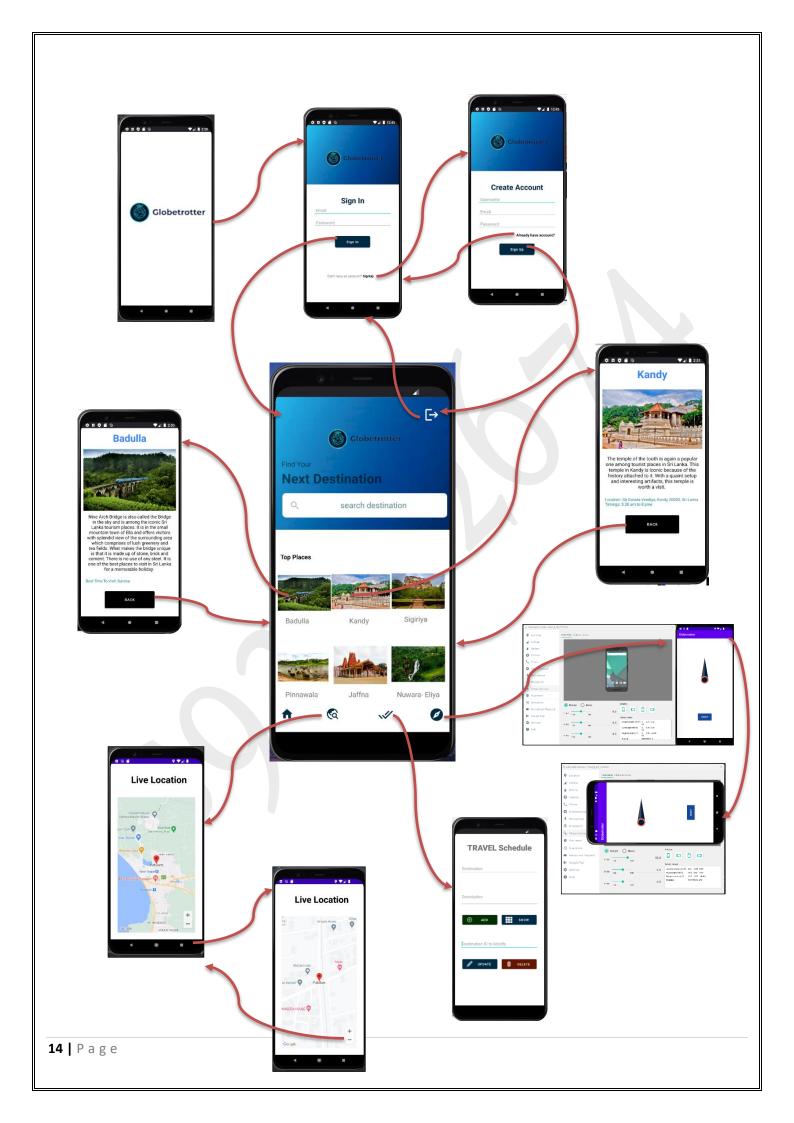
The navigation flow within the app is well-structured and logical. Users can easily switch between different sections of the app and access desired features without any confusion. The use of bottom navigation tabs, along with a persistent toolbar, allows for seamless navigation between screens. Additionally, the inclusion of a back button ensures that users can easily retrace their steps if needed.

Visual Appeal:

The app's visual design is aesthetically pleasing, with a clean and modern interface. The color scheme is harmonious and consistent throughout the app, creating a visually cohesive experience. The use of appropriate typography and iconography enhances the readability and visual hierarchy of the content. The inclusion of high-quality images and graphics adds to the overall visual appeal of the app.

Screenshots/Mock-ups:

Attached below are a few screenshots that showcase the user interface design of the Globetrotter app:



These screenshots depict the various screens of the app, including the login and sign-up screens, live location tracking, compass feature, and the to-do list functionality. The design elements, color scheme, and layout are consistent across the different screens, ensuring a unified and seamless user experience.

Overall, the user interface design and user experience of the Globetrotter app have been carefully crafted to prioritize usability, navigation, and visual appeal. The intuitive navigation, visually appealing design, and efficient layout contribute to a delightful user experience, enhancing the overall travel journey for users.

10. Conclusion

In conclusion, the development of the Globetrotter app has successfully addressed the objectives and requirements of creating a comprehensive online travel application. The project has achieved several key milestones and delivered a robust and user-friendly platform for travelers to enhance their travel experiences.

Throughout the development process, significant achievements have been made. The app now includes essential features such as secure login and sign-up functionality, live location tracking, compass feature, and a to-do list for task management. These features have been implemented effectively, contributing to the overall success of the application.

The project has demonstrated the ability to overcome various challenges, including refining the user interface design, integrating Firebase database for enhanced functionality, and conducting comprehensive testing to ensure reliability and performance. The implementation process has adhered to coding standards and best practices, resulting in a maintainable and scalable codebase.

The user interface design and user experience of the app have been evaluated positively, with a focus on usability, navigation, and visual appeal. User feedback and usability testing have been instrumental in refining the app's design and enhancing its overall usability.

Looking ahead, there are several potential areas for future enhancements and further development of the Globetrotter app. Some of the possibilities include:

Integration with additional third-party services: Expanding the app's capabilities by integrating with popular travel services such as flight booking systems, hotel reservation platforms, and local attraction guides.

Social media integration: Allowing users to connect and share their travel experiences through social media platforms, enabling them to engage with other travelers and gather valuable recommendations.

Personalization and recommendation features: Implementing algorithms to provide personalized travel recommendations based on user preferences and previous travel history.

Enhanced offline functionality: Optimizing the app to work seamlessly in offline mode, allowing users to access important travel information and manage tasks even without an internet connection.

Localization and language support: Supporting multiple languages and adapting the app's content and features to cater to users from different regions and cultures.

In conclusion, the Globetrotter app has successfully met its objectives by delivering a comprehensive and user-friendly platform for travelers. The achievements made in terms of feature implementation, user interface design, and overall user experience position the app as a valuable tool for modern-day travelers. With the potential for future enhancements and developments, the app has the opportunity to further enhance the travel experiences of its users and establish itself as a leading travel application in the industry.

11. References

- Google Maps API documentation. Retrieved from https://developers.google.com/maps/documentation/ on April 17, 2023.
- Android Developer documentation. Retrieved from https://developer.android.com/docs on April 17, 2023.
- Google Firebase documentation. Retrieved from https://firebase.google.com/docs on May 2, 2023.
- YouTube Videos.

12. Appendix

Code Snippets:

- Example of Firebase authentication implementation
- Sample code for live location tracking feature
- Code snippet demonstrating CRUD operations for the to-do list feature

Database Schema:

• Diagram illustrating the structure of the Firebase Realtime Database

User Manual:

• A detailed guide explaining how to use the Globetrotter app, including instructions for signing up, logging in, navigating the app, and utilizing the various features.

Wireframes and Mock-ups:

 Visual representations of the user interface design, showcasing the layout and flow of the app screens.

Test Cases and Results:

• Detailed test cases used during the testing phase, along with the corresponding results and any bug reports.

Project Timeline:

Gantt chart or timeline illustrating the project milestones and the duration of each development phase.
