



Aloq User Manual

by Aloq Team, © Copyright 2025

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Introduction

*Welcome to the **User Manual** for **Aloq**!*

We're thrilled to introduce you to **Aloq**, an application specifically designed to help businesses and startups make informed decisions when choosing technological parks or incubators. Whether you're a small business looking for the perfect office location or a growing startup seeking tailored amenities, Aloq is here to simplify the process and guide you to the best choice based on your unique priorities.

This user manual is crafted to provide all the information you need to get started with Aloq and use it effectively. From installing the application to understanding its features and troubleshooting common issues, you'll find everything you need right here.

Purpose of Aloq

The primary purpose of Aloq is to empower users to:

- Compare available parks/incubators based on specific **criteria** like cost, location, parking, and others.
- Use advanced **AHP (Analytic Hierarchy Process)** methods to ensure precise prioritization of your needs.
- Save time by making smarter decisions with data-driven recommendations.

Aloq is intuitive, feature-rich, and designed with your convenience in mind. With its clean interface and efficient functionalities, businesses can make decisions confidently.

What's in This Manual?

This manual will guide you through every step, including:

- Installing and configuring Aloq.
- Navigating the user interface.
- Utilizing key features like searching, setting criteria, and viewing historical searches.
- Troubleshooting common issues.
- Reaching out to our support team for help.

We hope Aloq becomes an essential tool in your decision-making process. Let's get started!

System Requirements

To ensure a smooth experience while using Aloq, please make sure your system meets the following requirements:

1. Hardware Requirements

- **Processor:** A dual-core processor (Intel i3 or equivalent) or higher.
- **Memory (RAM):** Minimum of 4GB RAM; 8GB or more recommended for optimal performance.
- **Storage:** At least 500MB of free disk space for installation and temporary files.
- **Display:** A screen resolution of 1280x720 or higher for best visibility.

2. Software Requirements

- **Operating System:**
 - Windows 10 or later.
 - macOS 10.15 (Catalina) or later.
 - Latest stable versions of Linux distributions (Ubuntu, Fedora, etc.).
- **Web Browser** (for accessing the frontend):
 - Google Chrome (recommended).
 - Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari (latest versions supported).

3. Backend and Database Requirements

- **Backend:**
 - Hosted on **Render**, no additional setup required by the user.
- **Database:**
 - PostgreSQL, hosted on **Render** (pre-configured and integrated).

4. Network Requirements

- **Internet Connection:**
 - A stable internet connection with a minimum speed of 5 Mbps is required to interact with the online features.
 - HTTPS support for secure connections.

5. Supported Devices

Aloq can be accessed on the following devices:

- **Desktop Computers:** Full feature access and optimal experience.
- **Laptops:** Lightweight and fully supported.

6. Additional Recommendations

- Ensure your web browser is updated to the latest version to avoid compatibility issues.
- If you encounter performance issues, try closing unnecessary applications or tabs to free up system resources.

Installation Instructions

This section will guide you through the process of setting up Aloq on your local machine for development or testing purposes.

Prerequisites

Before starting, ensure the following software is installed on your computer:

- [Git](#) (for cloning the repository)
- [Node.js](#) (version 16 or later, for running the application)
- [npm](#) (comes with Node.js)
- [PostgreSQL](#) (for setting up the database).
- A code editor such as [Visual Studio Code](#) (optional, but recommended).

Alternatively, you can access the live deployed version of Aloq directly at aloq.vercel.app without requiring any local setup.

1. Clone the Repository

Start by cloning the Aloq GitHub repository to your local machine:

```
git clone https://github.com/goncalocoval/aloq.git
cd aloq
```

2. Install Dependencies

Aloq consists of two main parts: the **frontend** and **backend**. You'll need to install dependencies for both.

Backend Setup:

1. Navigate to the server directory and install the required dependencies:

```
cd server
npm install
```

Frontend Setup:

1. Navigate to the client directory and install the dependencies:

```
cd ../client
npm install
```

3. Configure the Database

Aloq uses **PostgreSQL** as its database.

Local Database Setup:

1. Install PostgreSQL on your machine (if not already installed).
2. Create a new database called aloq.
3. Add the connection string to your backend .env file (see below).

Remote Database Option:

If you prefer a remote database, you can use services like Supabase, Render, or Railway to host your PostgreSQL instance. Update the connection string accordingly.

4. Set Up Environment Variables

Configure environment variables required for the backend and frontend.

Backend (/server/.env):

Create a .env file in the server directory and add the following variables:

```
DATABASE_URL=postgresql://<user>:<password>@<host>:<port>/aloq
JWT_SECRET=your_jwt_secret
FRONTEND_URL= https://your-frontend-url
```

Frontend (/client/.env):

Create a .env file in the client directory and add:

```
NEXT_PUBLIC_API_URL=https://your-backend-url
```

5. Seed the Database

Populate the database with initial data (e.g., parks):

1. Navigate to the server directory and run the seed script:

```
cd server
npx prisma db seed
```

5. Run the Backend

Start the backend server:

1. Navigate to the server directory and run the server:

```
cd server
npm run start
```

The backend should now be running on <http://localhost:3300>.

6. Run the Frontend

Start the frontend application:

1. Navigate to the client directory and run the application:

```
cd client  
npm start
```

The application should open automatically in your default browser at <http://localhost:3000>.

7. Access the Application

Once both the backend and frontend are running:

- Access the application via <http://localhost:3000>.
- Use the appropriate credentials or register a new account to begin using Aloq.

8. Deployment

If you wish to deploy Aloq, follow these steps:

- **Frontend:**
Deploy to a hosting platform like **Vercel**.
- **Backend:**
Deploy to a server platform like **Render** or any Node.js hosting service.

Alternatively, use the live deployed version available at alok.vercel.app.

Troubleshooting

- If you encounter issues, ensure your dependencies are correctly installed and environment variables are set up.
- Verify that your database is running and accessible using the connection string provided.
- Check the logs for detailed error messages (npm run dev provides detailed output).

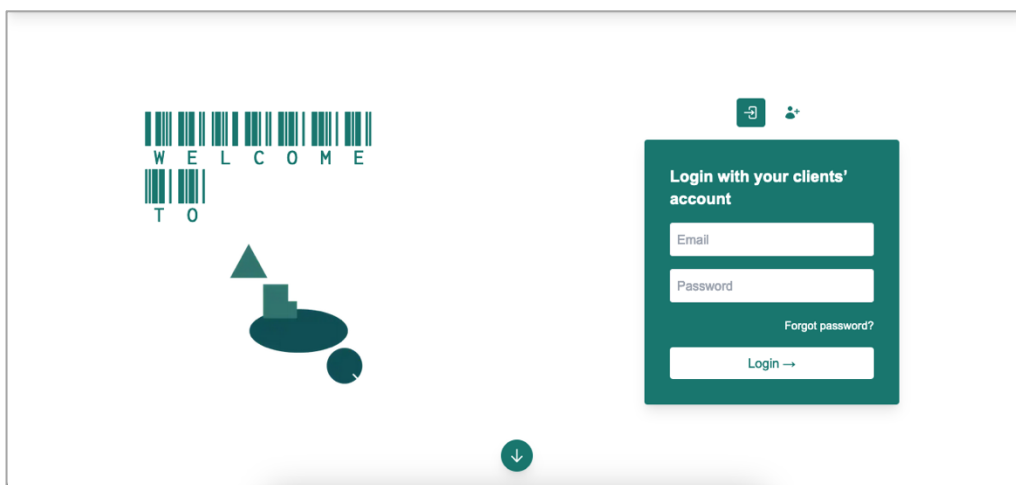
User Interface Overview

Welcome to the Aloq application's user interface! This section provides a detailed walkthrough of the various components and features available in the application. Aloq is designed to be intuitive and user-friendly, offering a seamless experience for conducting searches, managing profiles, and viewing search history.

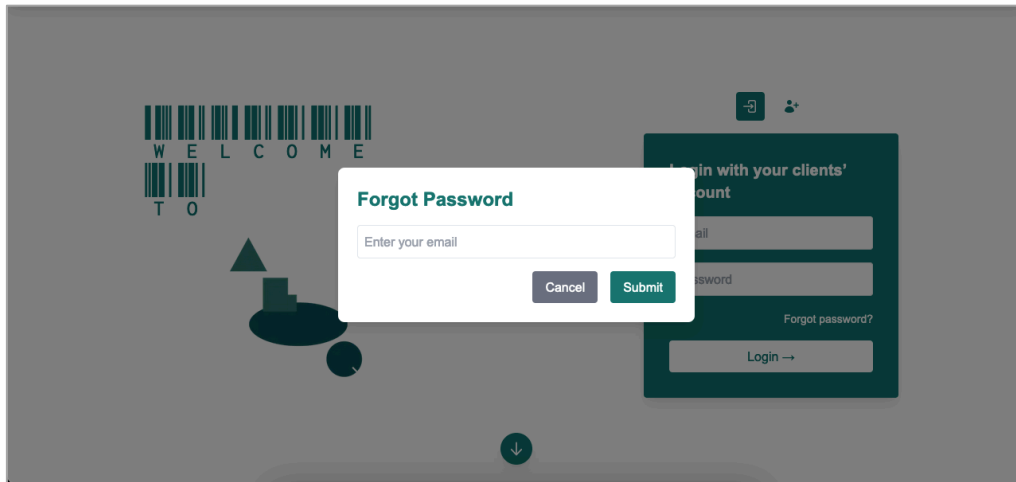
1. Login and Registration Page

This is the starting point of the application, where users can log in or register to access their account.

- **Structure:**
 - **Left Side:** Displays the Aloq logo.
 - **Right Side:** Contains the login or registration form.
 - **Footer:** A button is centered at the bottom of the page, providing additional information about the application, such as its purpose and the team behind it.
- **Login Form:**
 - Fields for entering **email** and **password**.
 - A **Forgot Password** link opens a modal where the user can enter their email to reset their password.
 - A **Login Button** to authenticate the user.
 - **Validation:** Ensures email exists and password is correct.



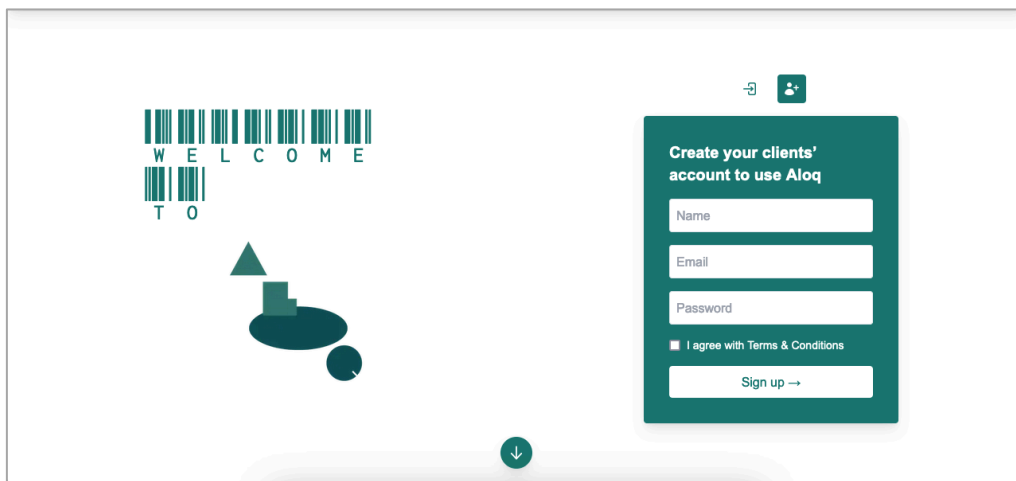
1 - Login Form



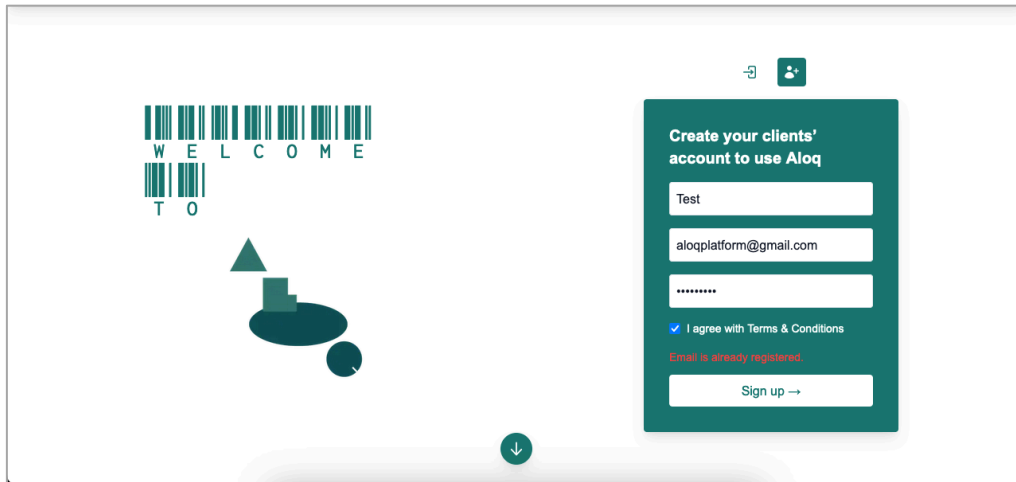
2 - Forgot Password Modal

- **Registration Form:**

- Fields for entering **name**, **email**, and **password**.
- A checkbox to agree to the terms and conditions.
- A **Register Button** to submit the form.
- **Validation:** Ensures the email is unique, the password meets security standards, and all fields are filled correctly.
- Upon successful registration, the user is redirected to the login form, and a verification email is sent to the registered email address.

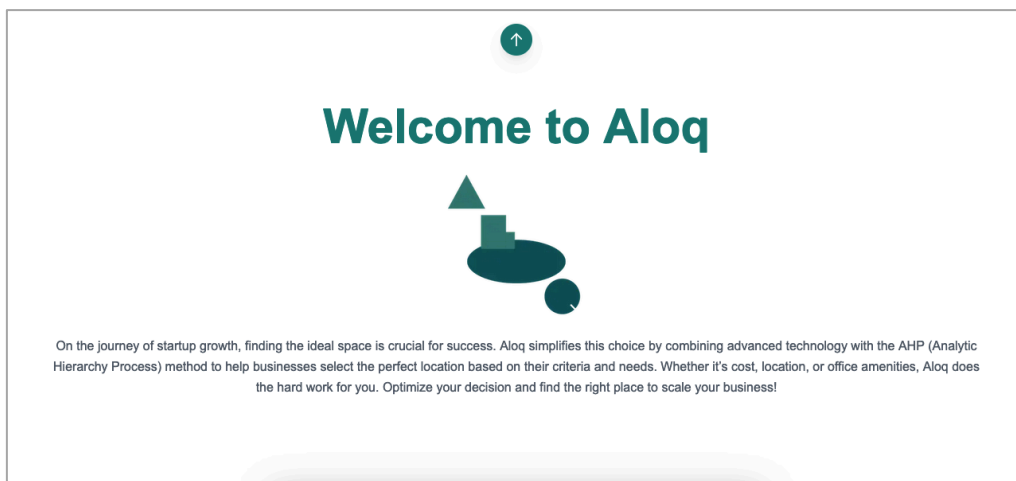


3 - Register Form



4 - Form Validation Message

- **Footer Button:**
 - Provides information about the application, such as its purpose, the team, and other key details.



5 - Application Information

2. Dashboard

Once logged in, users are redirected to the dashboard, which includes the main functionalities of the application.

- **Sidebar:**

Provides quick navigation to the following sections:

- **Profile**
- **Search**
- **History**
- **Logout**



6 - Sidebar

3. Profile Section

The profile section is the default view upon login. It allows users to manage their account details.

- **Details:**

- Displays the user's registered information.
- Users can edit the **Details** field and update their password if needed.
- All changes are validated and saved securely in the database.

7 - Client Section

4. Search Section

This is the core functionality of the application, enabling users to perform searches based on various criteria.

- **Criteria Selection:**
 - Users can select criteria by clicking on them. Clicking again deactivates the selected criterion.
 - At least one criterion must be selected.
 - Criteria include:
 1. **Cost** (with fields for maximum cost and priority).
 2. **Location** (with fields for entering the location and priority, along with dynamic suggestions from the database).
 3. **Parking** (priority).
 4. **Meeting Rooms** (priority).
 5. **Office With Furniture** (priority).
 6. **Transport** (priority).
 7. **Canteen** (priority).

New Search

Select Criterias:

Cost (£/month)

Location

Parking

Meeting Rooms

Office With Furniture

Transport

Canteen

Reset Search

10 - New Search Section

New Search

Select Criterias:

Cost (£/month)
Priority 1
Max Cost

Location

Parking

Meeting Rooms

Office With Furniture

Transport
Priority 6

Canteen

Reset Search

9 - Search with Criterias Selected

New Search

Select Criterias:

Cost (£/month)

Location
Priority 1
City or Area
Lisboa
Porto
Braga
Coimbra

Parking

Meeting Rooms

Office With Furniture

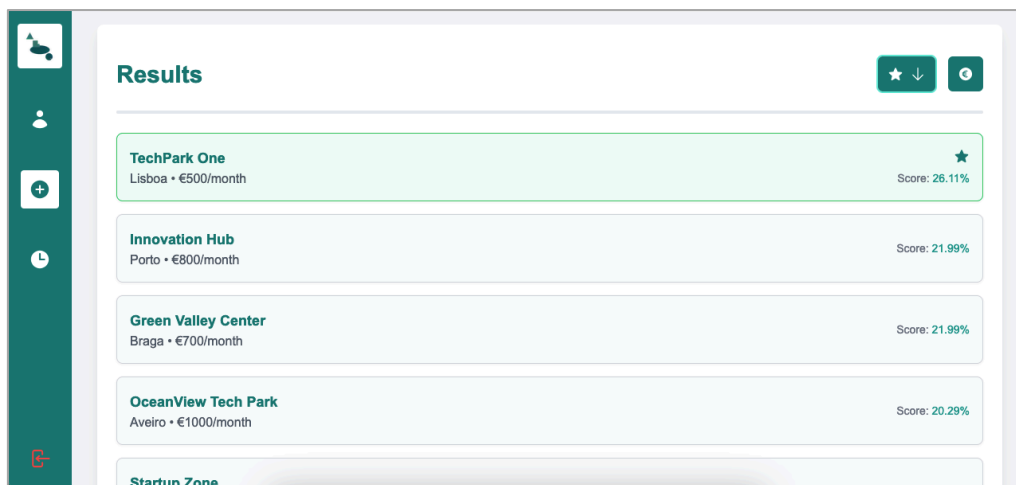
Transport

Canteen

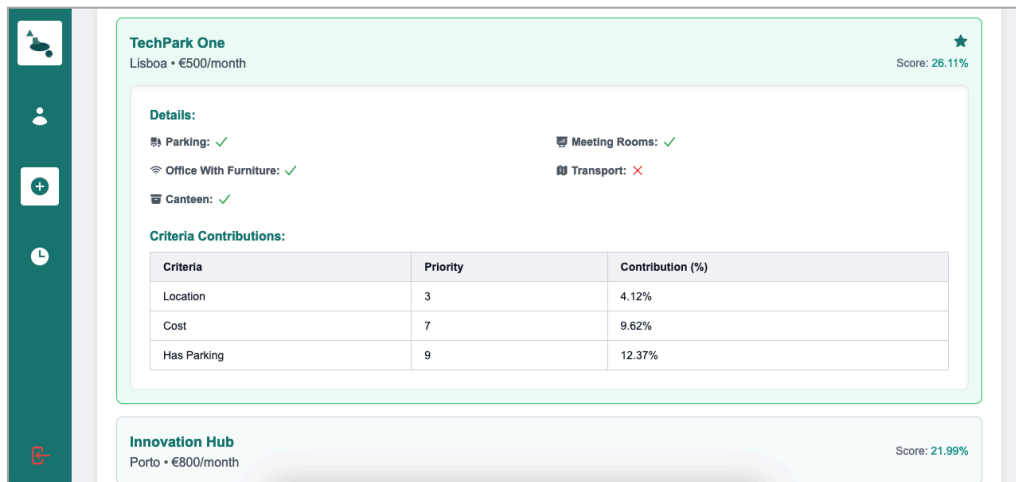
Reset Search

8 - Location Suggestions in Search

- **Search and Reset Buttons:**
 - **Search:** Executes the search and displays results if found.
 - **Reset:** Clears all selected criteria and resets the search.
- **Results:**
 - Automatically scrolls to the results section upon search.
 - Displays the **name**, **location**, **cost**, and **score** of each park.
 - Results are ordered from **best to worst** by default.
 - Includes buttons to sort by **score** (ascending or descending) and **cost** (ascending or descending).
 - Users can expand results to see more details, including:
 - Park details.
 - Contributions of each criterion to the score (displayed as percentages).
 - The best results are highlighted with a **star icon**.



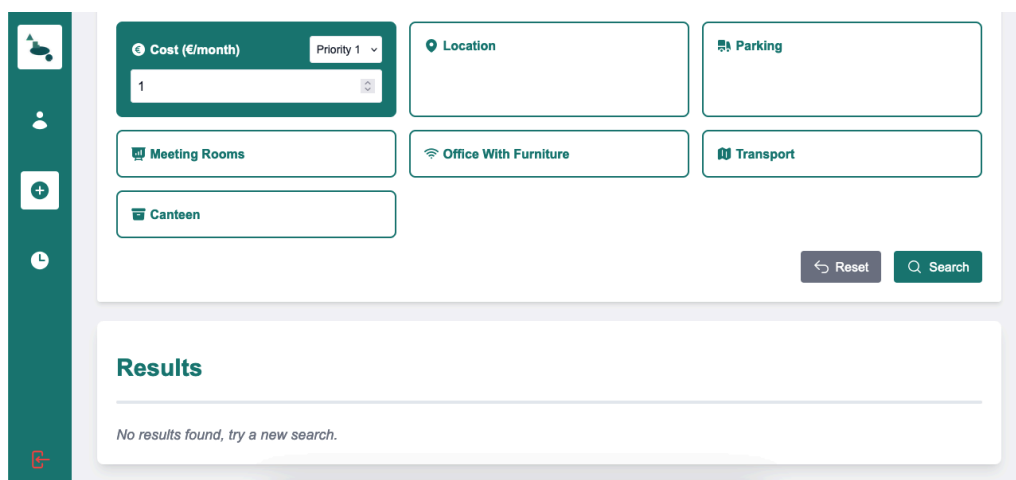
11 - Results Section



12 - Result Expanded

- **No Results:**

If no results are found, a message informs the user accordingly.



13 - No Results

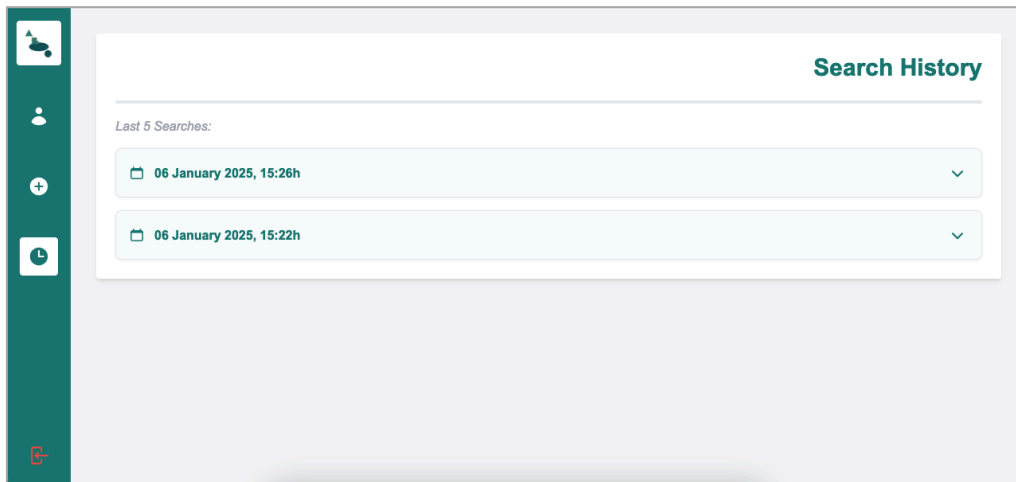
5. History Section

The history section allows users to view their past searches.

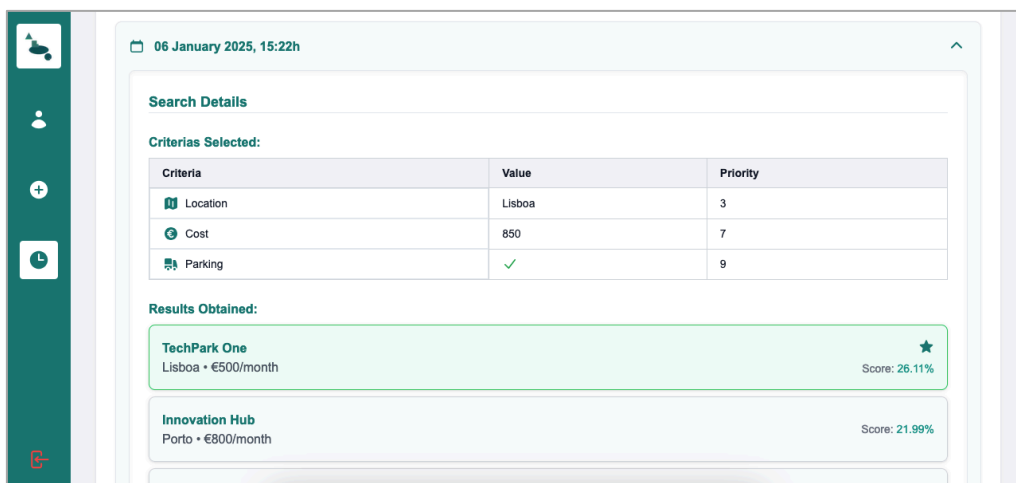
- **Search History:**

- Displays the last **five searches**, ordered from most recent to oldest.
- Each entry shows the date and time of the search.
- Clicking on an entry reveals:
 - The criteria used in the search (values and priorities).
 - The results obtained, ordered from best to worst.

- Results include the **park name**, **location**, **cost**, and **score** but cannot be expanded further.



15 - Search History



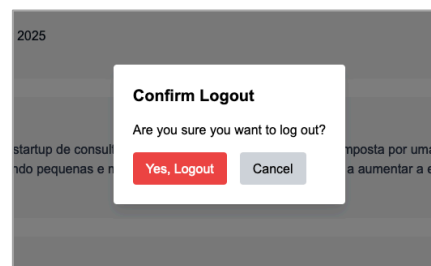
14 - Search History Expanded

- No History:**

If no history exists, a message informs the user.

6. Logout

The logout option logs the user out and redirects them to the login page. All session data is cleared securely.



16 - Logout Modal

Using Aloq

This section provides a step-by-step guide on how to use Aloq effectively, covering all core functionalities from login to conducting searches and viewing history.

1. Login and Registration

Logging In:

1. On the left side of the screen, you'll see the Aloq logo, and on the right, the login form.
2. Enter your registered email and password in the respective fields.
3. If you've forgotten your password, click the **"Forgot Password"** link. A modal will appear where you can enter your email to reset your password.
4. Once ready, click **"Login"** to proceed to the dashboard.

Registering an Account:

1. Click the **"Register"** button below the login form to switch to the registration view.
2. Fill in the fields for your **name**, **email**, and **password**.
3. Agree to the terms and conditions by checking the checkbox.
4. Click **"Register"**. If everything is valid, your account will be created, and you'll receive a verification email.

2. Navigating the Dashboard

After logging in, you'll be directed to the main dashboard. On the left, you'll find a sidebar with navigation options for:

- **Profile:** View and update your account details.
- **New Search:** Conduct new searches based on criteria.
- **Search History:** Access your past searches.
- **Logout:** Exit the application.

3. Using the Profile Section

1. Click "**Profile**" icon in the sidebar.
2. You'll see your clients' details, including the name, email, verification status and other details.
3. Below, you'll find:
 - A text area to edit your **Details** (e.g., additional personal information). After editing, click "**Save**" to update.
 - An option to **change your password**, which prompts you to enter the new password.
4. All updates are saved securely and instantly.

4. Performing a New Search

1. Navigate to "**New Search**" icon in the sidebar.
2. Select your criteria by clicking on them. Active criteria will turn green, while inactive ones remain transparent. At least one criterion is required.
3. For each criterion:
 - Set its **priority** using the dropdown (1-9, with 1 being the least important).
 - If the criterion is **Cost**, enter a maximum budget.
 - If the criterion is **Location**, either type the location or select one from the suggestions.
4. Once your criteria are set, click "**Search**". Results will scroll into view automatically.
5. If you want to reset all criteria, click "**Reset**" to clear the selection.

5. Viewing Search Results

1. After performing a search, results are displayed below the criteria section, ordered by score from best to worst.
2. Each result card shows:
 - The **park name, location, cost, and score**.
 - A **star icon** in the top-right corner for the best results.
3. You can:
 - **Expand a result** by clicking on it to view details such as parking availability, meeting rooms, and more.
 - View a **breakdown of contributions** by each criterion, shown in a table with percentages.
4. Use the buttons at the top-right of the results to reorder:
 - By **Best Results** (ascending/descending).
 - By **Cost** (ascending/descending).

6. Accessing Search History

1. Click "**Search History**" icon in the sidebar.
2. You'll see a list of your last five searches, displayed from the most recent to the oldest.
3. Each history entry shows:
 - The **date and time** of the search.
 - The **criteria used**, along with their values and priorities.
 - The **results** obtained during that search, showing park name, location, cost, and score.
4. Click on any entry to expand and view its details. If no history is available, a message will inform you of this.

7. Logging Out

1. To log out of the application, click "**Logout**" icon in the sidebar.
2. Confirm and you'll be redirected to the main login page.

This concludes the practical steps to using Aloq. If you encounter issues, proceed to the next section on troubleshooting.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is Alog?

Alog is an application designed to help startups and businesses evaluate and choose the best technology parks or incubators based on customizable criteria such as location, cost, and available facilities.

2. How do I create an account on Alog?

To create an account, follow these steps:

1. Navigate to the registration form on the homepage.
2. Enter your full name, email, and password.
3. Agree to the terms and conditions by checking the provided checkbox.
4. Click the **Register** button.
5. Check your email inbox for a verification email and validate your account using the provided code.

3. I forgot my password. How can I reset it?

If you've forgotten your password:

1. Click the **Forgot Password** link on the login form.
2. Enter your email address in the provided field and submit the request.
3. Check your email inbox for a password reset link.
4. Follow the link to create a new password.

4. How do I perform a search for technology parks?

1. Log in to your account and navigate to the **New Search** section via the sidebar.
2. Select one or more criteria by clicking on them (at least one criterion is required).
3. For each selected criterion, you can define its priority (1-9). For cost and location, you can specify additional details.
4. Click the **Search** button. Results will appear below, sorted from best to worst based on your preferences.

5. Can I save my searches?

Yes! All your searches are automatically saved and can be accessed later in the **History** section.

6. How is the score for each result calculated?

The scores are calculated using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP), taking into account the priorities and values you've defined for each selected criterion. Each criterion contributes proportionally to the final score.

7. How do I view my search history?

1. Navigate to the **History** section from the sidebar.
2. You'll see a list of up to the last 5 searches, ordered from the most recent to the oldest.
3. Click on any search to view its details, including the selected criteria, their priorities, and the results.

8. Can I update my account details?

Yes, you can update your profile details by:

1. Navigating to the **Profile** section.
2. Editing the **Details** field or changing your password.
3. Saving the changes by clicking the respective buttons.

9. What should I do if no results appear for my search?

If no results are found, consider:

- Adjusting the criteria or priorities to be more flexible.
- Checking the available parks and their details to ensure they match your needs.

10. Is Aloq accessible via mobile devices?

Currently no. Aloq is design to be a desktop application for now, with plans for being fully functional on mobile devices in the future. However, you can access the latest version via the deployed URL: alop.vercel.app.

11. How do I log out of the application?

To log out, click on the **Logout** button in the sidebar. This will redirect you back to the homepage.

12. I encountered an error. How can I get help?

If you encounter any technical issues or have further questions:

- Check the **Troubleshooting** section of this manual for common solutions.
- Contact support directly using the details provided in the **Contacting Support** section.

Troubleshooting

Even with Aloq's user-friendly design and robust functionality, issues can sometimes arise. This section provides solutions for common problems and steps to troubleshoot effectively.

1. I cannot log in to my account.

- **Possible Issues:**
 - Incorrect email or password.
 - Your account email wasn't verified in a 30-day period.
- **Solutions:**
 - Double-check your login credentials.
 - If you've forgotten your password, use the **Forgot Password** feature to reset it.
 - Ensure you have verified your account by clicking the link available in your email.

2. I didn't receive the verification email.

- **Possible Issues:**
 - Email might be in your spam or junk folder.
 - Incorrect email address entered during registration.
- **Solutions:**
 - Check your spam or junk folder.
 - Verify that you entered the correct email address during registration.
 - If you still haven't received the email, try re-registering or contact support for assistance.

3. The application shows no results for my search.

- **Possible Issues:**
 - Criteria too restrictive or unmatched with available parks.
 - Data mismatch between selected criteria and park attributes.
- **Solutions:**
 - Broaden your search criteria or lower priority levels for less crucial factors.

- Ensure the parks in the database match your defined criteria.

4. I encountered an error message: "Total score is zero. Ensure that the criteria match the available park data."

- **Possible Issues:**

- Criteria chosen might not apply to any park in the database.

- **Solutions:**

- Reassess your selected criteria and ensure they're reasonable.
- For example, check if the location or cost value matches the available data.

5. The application doesn't load or displays an error page.

- **Possible Issues:**

- Internet connectivity issues.
- Backend or frontend service temporarily unavailable.

- **Solutions:**

- Ensure you have a stable internet connection.
- Retry accessing the application after a few minutes.
- If the issue persists, check the application status on [Render](#) or contact support.

6. I'm unable to update my profile or password.

- **Possible Issues:**

- Missing required fields or invalid input.
- Server-side validation failed.

- **Solutions:**

- Ensure all required fields are filled in correctly.
- For passwords, follow the required format (e.g., minimum length, complexity).

7. Location suggestions are not appearing in the search form.

- **Possible Issues:**

- No matching locations found in the database.
- Temporary server issue fetching locations.

- **Solutions:**
 - Confirm that the database contains parks with locations matching your input.
 - Reload the application and try again.

8. I can't see my search history.

- **Possible Issues:**
 - No searches have been performed yet.
 - Temporary database connectivity issue.
- **Solutions:**
 - Perform a search to populate your history.
 - If you've already performed searches but they don't appear, log out and log back in.

9. I forgot to log out from a shared device.

- **Solutions:**
 - Log in to your account on another device and reset your password.

10. The application's performance seems slow.

- **Possible Issues:**
 - Large database queries or internet latency.
- **Solutions:**
 - Ensure a stable internet connection.
 - Report any consistent performance issues to support.

Tip: If the problem persists and isn't listed above, don't hesitate to reach out via the **Contacting Support** section for personalized assistance.

Contacting Support

At Aloq, we prioritize providing our users with top-notch support. If you encounter any issues or have questions that are not resolved by the troubleshooting section, our support team is here to assist you.

When to Contact Support?

You should contact support if:

- You experience persistent technical issues not addressed in this manual.
- You need assistance with account-related problems, such as login, registration, or password recovery.
- You want to provide feedback or suggest new features for Aloq.
- You notice any unexpected behavior or bugs in the application.

How to Contact Support?

- **Email**

Send an email to **aloqplatform@gmail.com** with the following details:

- Your full name.
- A brief description of the issue.
- Steps to reproduce the issue (if applicable).
- Screenshots or error messages for better context.

Response Time

Our support team aims to respond to all inquiries within **24-48 hours**. For urgent issues, please use the email channel and include “URGENT” in the subject line.

Additional Resources

For self-help, you can also:

- Revisit the **FAQ** or **Troubleshooting** sections in this manual.
- Check the official documentation on the GitHub repository or submit an Issue: [Aloq GitHub](#).

Note: When contacting support, please ensure you include as much detail as possible. This will help our team resolve your issue faster and more efficiently.

Conclusion

Thank you for choosing Aloq! We hope this manual has provided you with all the necessary guidance to use the application effectively. We are committed to improving your experience and welcome any feedback you may have. Enjoy using Aloq!

The Aloq Team