

# User App Guide

App name: UniConnect

Authored by: Group 3

Uni Connect is a standard web application with registration, logging in, user customization, a tinder like connection system and a yelp like review system, aimed towards University students.

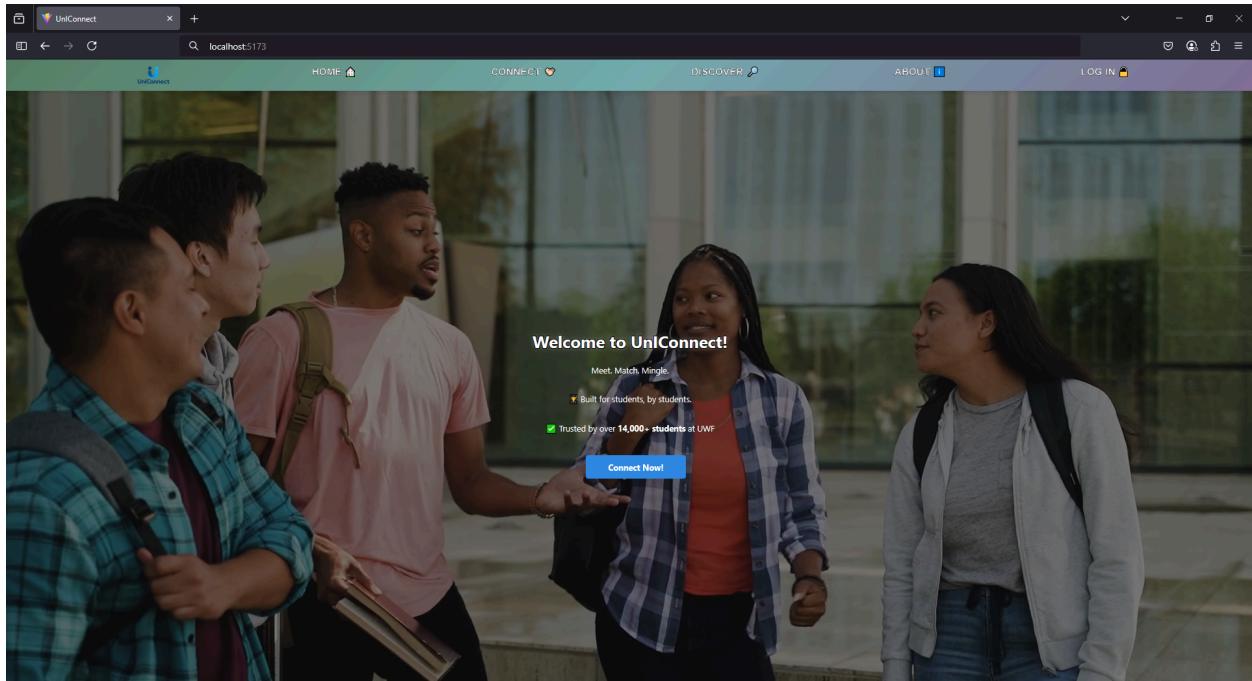
# Table Of Contents

<a href="#"><u>User App Guide</u></a> .....	1
<a href="#"><u>Table Of Contents</u></a> .....	2
<a href="#"><u>System use</u></a> .....	3
<a href="#"><u>Registration</u></a> .....	4
<a href="#"><u>Login</u></a> .....	5
<a href="#"><u>Profile View / Customization</u></a> .....	6
<a href="#"><u>Connect</u></a> .....	8
<a href="#"><u>Discover</u></a> .....	9
<a href="#"><u>Installation Instructions</u></a> .....	11
<a href="#"><u>FAQ</u></a> .....	12
<a href="#"><u>Troubleshooting</u></a> .....	13

## System use

Upon launching the application, you will be brought to a landing page, prompting you to log in or register to begin using the application. There will also be a navigation bar on the top, that can bring you to the various features of the application.

Home page Preview



## Registration

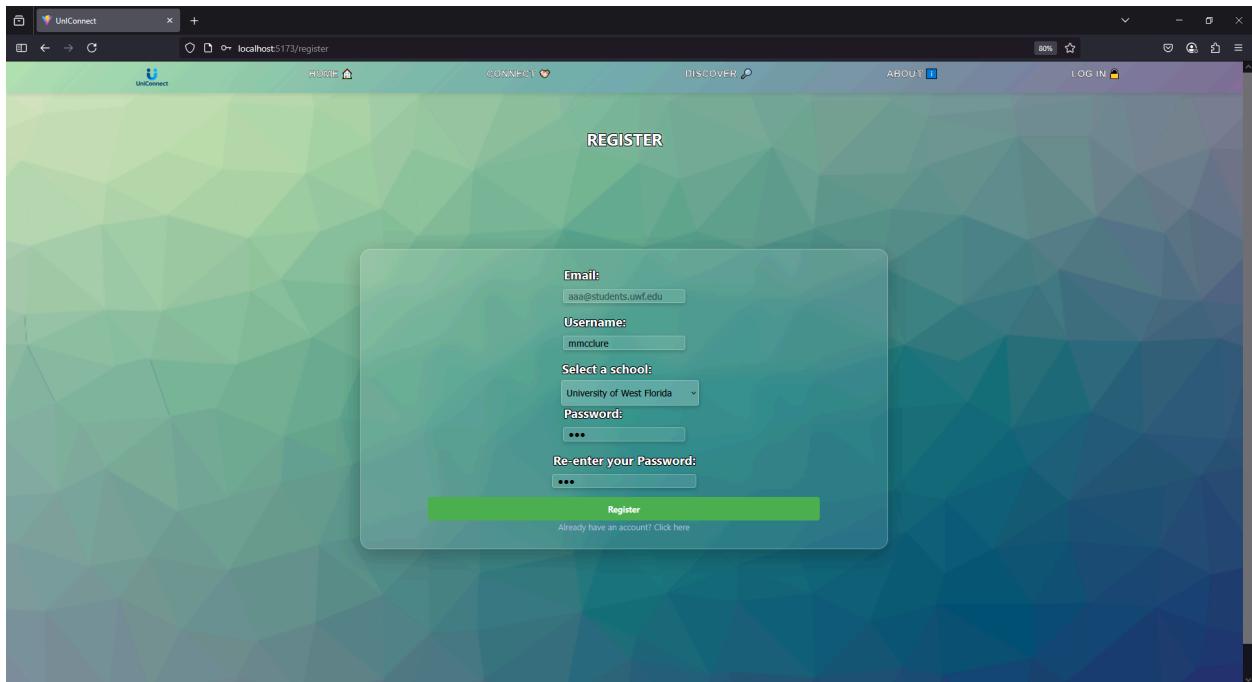
On clicking the ‘Connect Now!’ button on the home screen, a registration link on a protected page, or the registration link on the login page, you’ll be brought to a designated Register page. Here, you fill out a profile with your student email, a chosen username, selecting a school (only UWF access at this moment), and to enter and re-enter a password.

The password is checked to be within 8-12 characters, with 1 Upper case, 1 lower case letter, and 1 number.

You will not be allowed to register if either

- The email address provided is already in use
- Any field is empty
- The passwords entered do not match
- The password does not fit the security criteria

Registration page preview

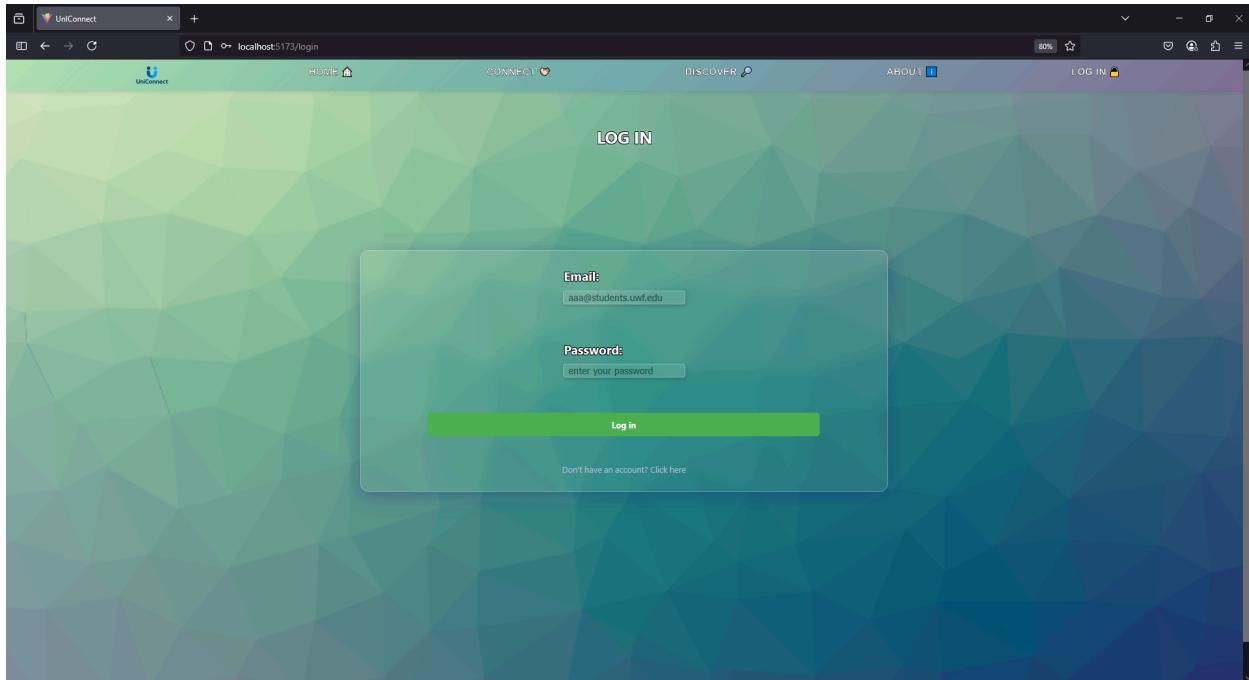


## Login

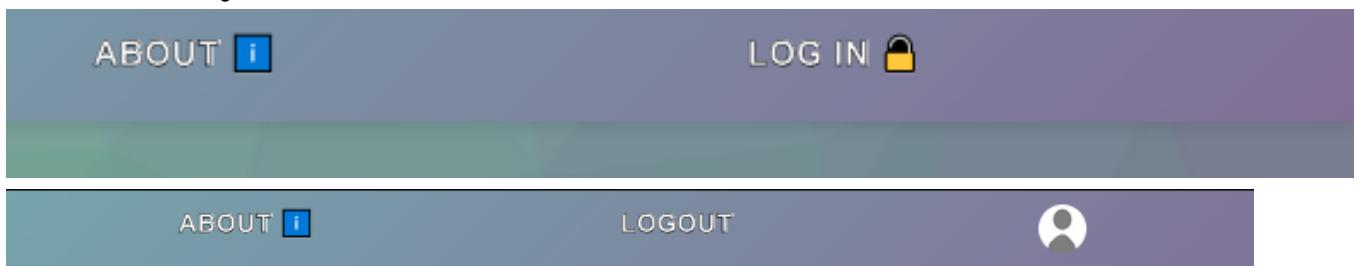
Once an account is created successfully, you can log in to the website. You are able to tell you are logged in if the login tab on the upper right, on the navbar, is replaced with a default icon. To login, you have to enter the previously entered email address and password to log in .You will not be able to log in if

- The email is not within the database
- if the password does not match with the email address
- any field is empty.

Login Page Preview



Navbar before / after login

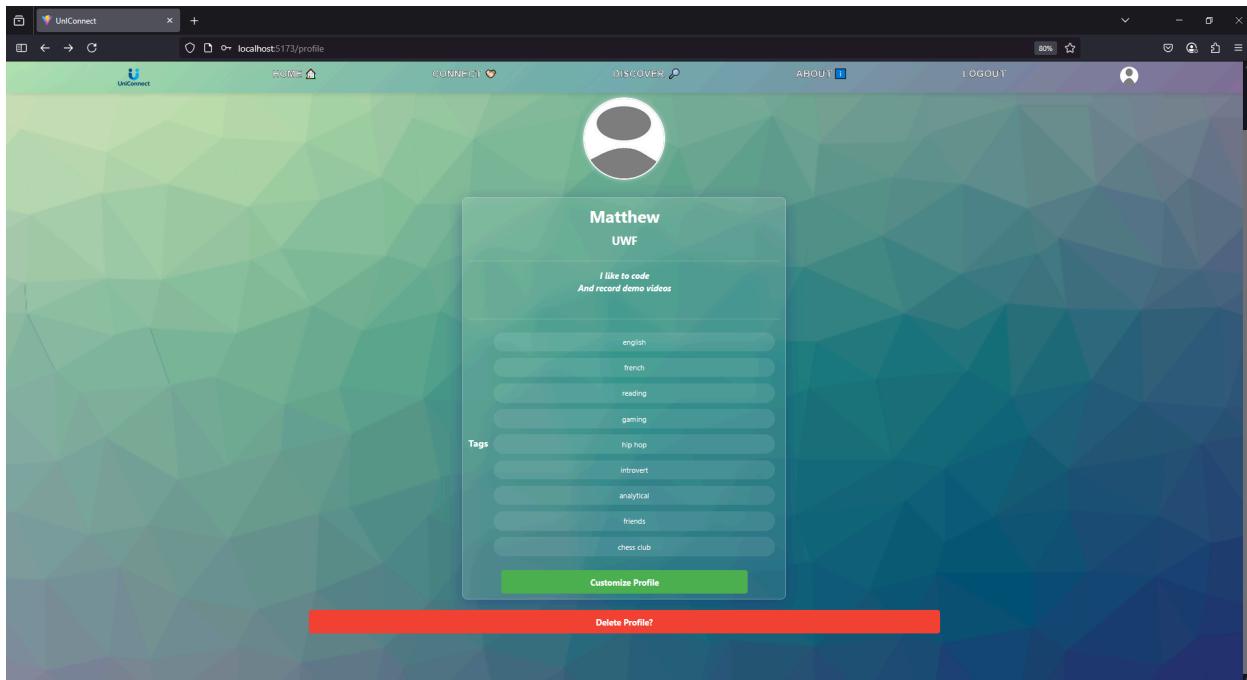


## Profile View / Customization

When you are logged in, you can click on your icon in order to view your profile page. On this page, you can see your profile icon, your name, your university, your bio, and your tags. You have two options at the bottom, to either customize your profile or delete your profile.

**Deleting your profile is permanent and not reversible.**

Profile View



When you click customize profile, there will be a number of text fields for you to enter into, to change your username, name, phone number, bio, and age. On the top, you can choose to change your profile picture, with a png image of up to 5Mb.

Underneath the text boxes, you have a scrollable list of categorized tags, that you click to select and deselect. You are allowed to choose up to 10, as these influence the Connect feature.

At the bottom of the page, you can change your password, with identical restrictions to the password selection on the registration page.

You can either save changes that you are happy with, or cancel if you change your mind.

## Customize profile page preview

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of a web application interface titled "UniConnect". The top screenshot shows the initial "Customize Your Profile" form, while the bottom screenshot shows a modified version where certain fields have been removed or altered.

**Top Screenshot (Initial State):**

- Profile Picture:** A circular placeholder image featuring a cartoon character wearing a red hat and a blue coat.
- Form Fields:**
  - Username:** mmeclure
  - Name:** Matthew
  - Phone #:** 1234567890
  - Bio:** I like to code And record demo videos
  - Age:** 22
- Select Your Tags (Choose up to 10):** A section for selecting interests from a list of 10 categories.
  - Languages:** English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, Japanese
  - Looking For:** Creative, Analytical, Friends, Study group, Roommate, Networking
  - Clubs/Sports:** Football, Basketball, Chess club, Debate team, Soccer, Volleyball

**Bottom Screenshot (Modified State):**

- Profile Picture:** Same as the top screenshot.
- Form Fields:**
  - Phone #:** 1234567890
  - Bio:** I like to code And record demo videos
  - Age:** 22
- Select Your Tags (Choose up to 10):** A section for selecting interests from a list of 10 categories.
  - Creative** (highlighted)
  - Analytical** (highlighted)
  - Friends**
  - Study group**
  - Roommate**
  - Networking**
  - Football**
  - Basketball**
  - Chess club**
  - Debate team**
  - Soccer**
  - Volleyball**
- Change Password:** A section for changing the password.
  - New Password:** Enter your new password
  - Confirm Password:** Confirm your new password
- Buttons:** Save Changes (green) and Cancel (red).

## Connect

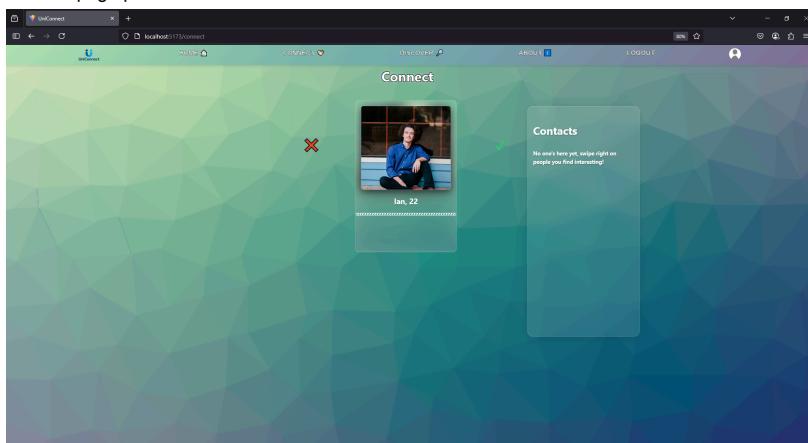
Using the top navigation bar, and clicking the connect tab, you will be brought to an isolated page. It will state loading users for a moment, and then display other user profiles that are registered on the website. Like tinder, you can swipe right if you are interested in speaking with them, or left if not. There is an underlying algorithm, where if users have similar tags to you then it will push them to the top of the card stack. This means if you have no tags, the website might take a moment to load the card stack.

When a user is swiped right, then they will be added to a contacts list, with their name, icon, and email address. There is a button to remove the user from the contact list, which will remove them from the list.

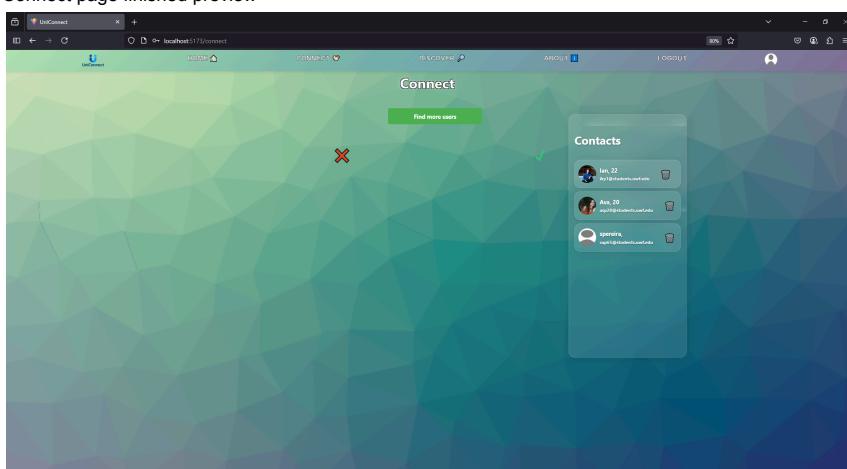
The other user will not know if you have swiped right or left on them, the only contact with the user will be made by the user

When all 5 users are decided on, a button to find more students will appear, where if you click, will generate 5 more users on the card stack to decide on.

Connect page preview



Connect page finished preview



## Discover

On the top navbar, you are able to click on the discover tab, to be brought to a page with a google map present on the center. You are able to use the map by clicking and dragging, and any location with a red pin is a location specifically added by UniConnect.

**you do not have to be logged in to access this page**

Clicking on any red pin will open up an overview of the location, as well as reviews, that shows a user's star rating and text review of a location.

If you are signed in, there will be a textbox and a star selector for you to submit your own rating to a location. You select a value 1-5 with one being a poor experience and a 5 being a positive experience, and a text review of the location.

If you write the review, then you have access to a bin button to the right of the review that will delete it from the location.

**Deleting your review is permanent and not reversible.**

Scrolling down further on the page will be a 'saved locations' tabe, where you can see the titles and details of all added locations to the map. Clicking on one will pan the map to center on that location, and open its information.

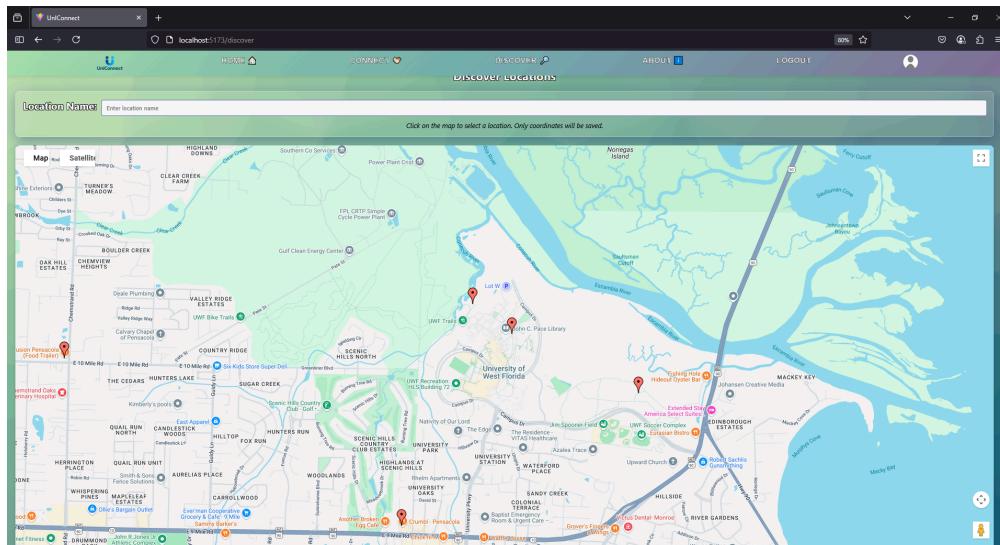
**Admin use:**

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On the top, there is a location name text box. If there is a value in the text box, you can click on the map, and the location is added and accessible by all users.

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Discover page preview



## Info Box Preview

The screenshot shows a map-based application interface for "Discover Locations". At the top, there are navigation tabs: HOME, CONNECT, DISCOVER, ABOUT, and LOGOUT. A search bar labeled "Location Name:" with the placeholder "Enter location name" is positioned above the map. Below the search bar, a message says "Click on the map to select a location. Only coordinates will be saved." A central modal window titled "Library" displays a red flag icon and the text "Added: 4/20/2025, 10:07:33 PM". It contains two rating entries: "spewvia" with a 1-star rating and "lany" with a 5-star rating. There is a "Your Rating" dropdown, a "Leave a comment (optional)" text area, and a green "Submit" button. The background map shows various locations in the area, including Rosemary Beach, Magnolia Lake Estates, Highland Downs, Clear Creek Farm, and the University of West Florida. A red location marker is placed near the university campus.

## Installation Instructions

To install and use UniConnect, you need to clone the repository onto your machine. This requires a Node.js installation, and a MongoDB database, either local or accessible to you.

you run the commands on a bash terminal

`'git clone [repository-link]'`

To install all project files onto your machine.

To run the application, there are detailed instructions here, or within the project's readme.

To install all dependencies, ensuring that your terminal is cd into the repository name, you have to cd into UniFront, AND UniBack and run.

`'npm i'`

separately in each directory.

Within ./UniBack/src/config, create a config.env file to set up a AURI and JWT\_SECRET key.

We utilize MongoDB atlas, and host the database on its associated website. Given the structure of the application, it should allow for the use of separate databases, but know that it is not tested.

Once everything is setup, you have to set up two different terminals.

On one, you set up the backend by cding into UniBack/src/ and running

`'node server.js'`

On the other, you set up the frontend by cding int UniFront/ and running

`'npm run dev'`

After running the frontend, there should be a listed url for you to open the application on your page

## FAQ

**Q: What if the app doesn't start?**

A: Check that all environment variables are set correctly and that your database server is running.

**Q: Can I run this on Windows / Mac / Linux?**

A: It is confirmed to run on a windows machine using node.js, the others may not work.

**Q: Will there be other campuses than UWF?**

A: Once the project is submitted and there is time, and we wish to invest more time into the project, the potential for other campuses being included is possible.

**Q: Can I change the theme or anything visual about the page?**

A: No.

**Q: Is there any way to recover the password or account if lost?**

A: No.

**Q: Does this application send emails on my behalf or to me?**

A: No, this application does not send any emails.

## Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Server won't start	Missing or wrong .env file	Ensure a proper .env file setup.
Database Connection Failed	Wrong DB credentials	Double check DB_USER or whatever field is used for database connections in .env
Page not found (404)	Route typo	Check router settings in UnlBack, or check logs
CORS error	Frontend-backend misconfiguration	Setting up and double checking proper CORS policies