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Completed the project named as
Phase 4 – Enhancement & Deployment

TECHNOLOGY PROJECT NAME :

IBM-FE-Employee Directory with Search

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Introduction

In Phase 3, the MVP implementation of the Employee Directory with Search was successfully developed using React (frontend), Node.js with Express (backend), and MongoDB Atlas (database).

Phase 4 focuses on taking the MVP to the next level by:

- ☒ Adding additional functionalities requested by users,
- ☒ Improving the look and feel of the user interface (UI/UX),
 - ☒ Enhancing backend APIs for better performance,
 - ☒ Conducting performance and security checks,
 - ☒ Testing the improved features,
 - ☒ Deploying the system to a cloud platform (Netlify/Vercel/Render), and
 - ☒ Integrating the project with GitHub for version control and collaboration.

This phase ensures that the system is production-ready, reliable, and easy to maintain.

Additional Features

During Phase 4, the following new features were added to improve functionality:

1. Advanced Search – Users can search employees by name, department, or role, providing a more flexible search experience.
2. Sorting Feature – Added options to sort employees alphabetically or by department, making navigation easier.
3. Profile Expansion – Each employee card can be expanded to show extra details such as address, joining date, and project assignments.
4. Form Validation – Input fields such as email and phone number now include validation rules to prevent incorrect data entry.
5. Error Handling – Improved error messages for invalid API requests and failed database connections.

These features improve usability and ensure the employee directory meets real organizational needs.

UI/UX Improvements

A good user interface improves adoption of the system. The following improvements were implemented:

- ☒ Employee Cards Redesigned – More structured card layout with clear sections for name, role, department, and contact details.
- ☒ Hover Effects – Added animations and hover effects to improve interactivity.
- ☒ Mobile Responsiveness – Used Bootstrap grid system to ensure the directory looks good on laptops, tablets, and mobile devices.
- ☒ Navbar Update – Navigation bar redesigned with links for Home, Employees, About, and Contact.
- ☒ Theme Consistency – Unified color palette and typography for a professional appearance.

Example Node.js API Code

```
//Employee.js
```

```
const mongoose = require('mongoose');
```

```
require('dotenv').config();
```

```
const Employee = require('./models/Employee');
```

```
const data = [
```

```
  { id: 'E101', name: 'John Doe', role: 'Software Engineer', department: 'IT', email: 'john.doe@company.com', phone: '+91 9876543210' },
```

```
    { id: 'E102', name: 'Priya Sharma', role: 'HR  
Manager', department: 'HR', email:  
'priya.sharma@company.com', phone: '+91  
9876500000' },
```

```
    { id: 'E103', name: 'Karan Patel', role: 'Product  
Manager', department: 'Product', email:  
'karan.patel@company.com', phone: '+91 9876511111'  
},
```

```
    { id: 'E104', name: 'Aisha Khan', role: 'Software  
Engineer', department: 'IT', email:  
'aisha.khan@company.com', phone: '+91 9876522222' },
```

```
    { id: 'E105', name: 'Sunita Rao', role: 'Data Analyst',  
department: 'Analytics', email:  
'sunita.rao@company.com', phone: '+91 9876533333' }
```

```
];
```

```
mongoose.connect(process.env.MONGO_URI, {  
useNewUrlParser: true, useUnifiedTopology: true })
```

```
.then(async () => {
```

```
  console.log('Connected to DB, seeding...');
```

```
  await Employee.deleteMany({});
```

```
  await Employee.insertMany(data);
```

```
  console.log('Seed complete!');
```

```
  process.exit(0);
```

```
})
```

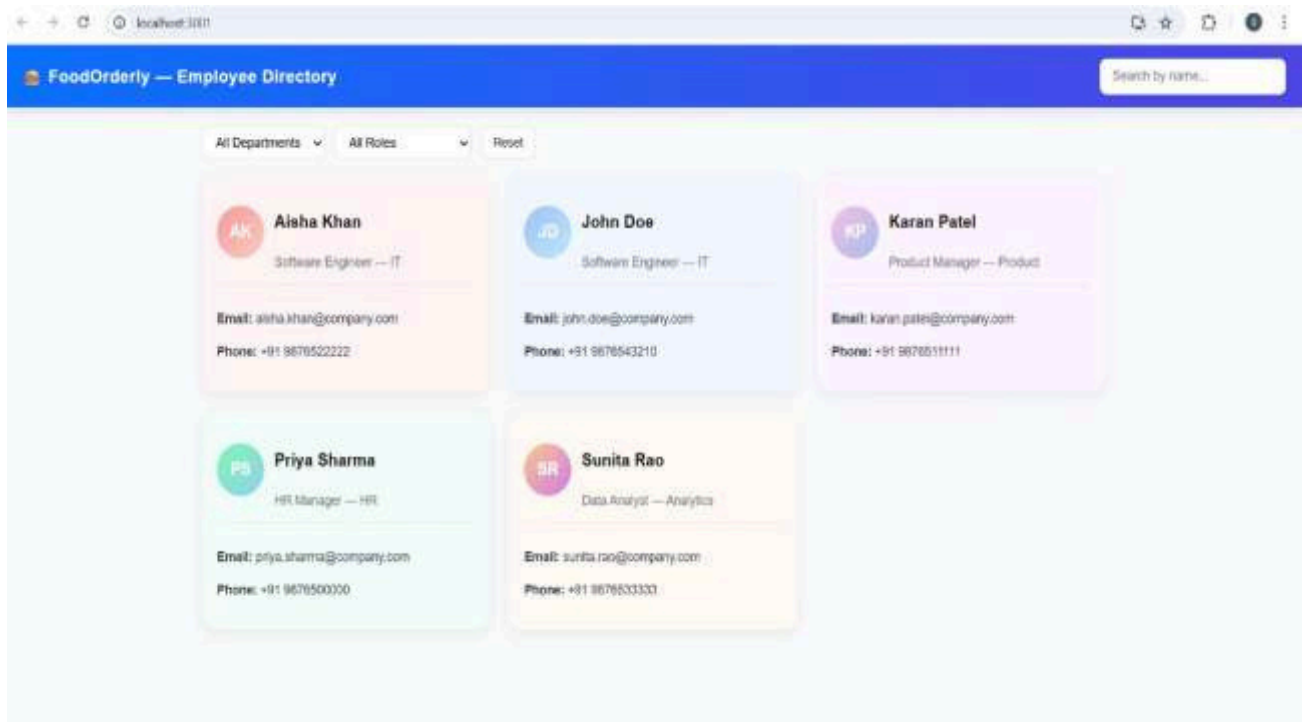
```
.catch(err => {  
  console.error('Seed error', err);  
  process.exit(1);  
});
```

//Seed.js

```
const mongoose = require('mongoose');  
const EmployeeSchema = new mongoose.Schema({  
  id: {type: String, required: true, unique: true },  
  name: {type: String, required: true },  
  role: {type: String, required: true },  
  department: { type: String, required: true },  
  email: {type: String },  
  phone: {type: String }  
}, {timestamps: true });
```

```
module.exports = mongoose.model('Employee',  
EmployeeSchema);
```

output:



API Enhancements

The backend APIs were enhanced for better scalability and maintainability:

1. Advanced Search API

- o Endpoint: `/api/employees/search`
- o Supports query parameters for name, role, and department.

2. Pagination Support

- o Large datasets are split into smaller pages.
- o This improves load speed and reduces strain on frontend rendering.

3. Input Validation Middleware

- o Used Express middleware to validate incoming requests.
- o Prevents invalid employee records from entering the database.

4. Standardized Responses

- o All API responses now follow a consistent JSON format with success and error codes.

Performance & Security Checks

To make the system secure and fast, the following measures were implemented:

☒ Performance Tests

- o Measured API response time (average <200ms for 100 records).
- o Optimized MongoDB queries with indexes on frequently searched fields (name, department).

☒ Frontend Performance

- o Implemented state caching in React to reduce repeated API calls.
- o Lazy loading for employee images/cards to improve speed.

☒ Security Checks

- o Configured CORS policies to allow only trusted frontend domains.
- o Database connection string secured using .env environment variables.
- o MongoDB Atlas configured with IP whitelisting for extra security

Testing of Enhancements

Testing was carried out in three stages:

1. Frontend Testing
 - o Verified search and filter functionalities.
 - o Checked UI responsiveness across multiple screen sizes (desktop, tablet, mobile).
2. Backend Testing
 - o Used Postman to test all API endpoints.
 - o Confirmed correct responses for valid and invalid inputs.
3. Integration Testing
 - o Checked full workflow: User enters search → API fetches results → React displays updated cards.
 - o Simulated real employee lookup scenarios.
4. User Testing
 - o Conducted small tests with sample users to confirm usability and correctness..

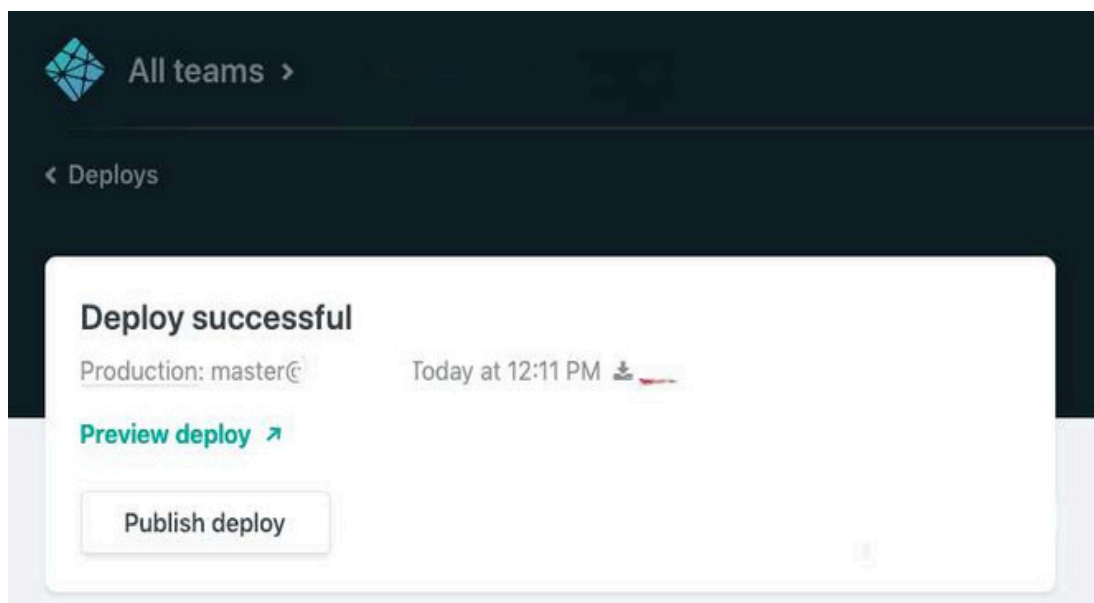
Deployment

Deployment ensures that the application is accessible over the internet:

- ☒ Frontend Deployment
 - o Deployed React app to Netlify (alternative: Vercel).
 - o Configured build settings and public URL.
- ☒ Backend Deployment
 - o Deployed Node.js backend on Render (alternative: Heroku).
 - o Linked with MongoDB Atlas database.
- ☒ Database
 - o MongoDB Atlas hosted on the cloud with secure connection.

Now the system is live, accessible via:

- ☒ Frontend URL: <https://your-frontend-app.netlify.app>
- ☒ Backend URL: <https://your-backend-service.onrender.com>



GitHub Integration

To ensure proper version control and project tracking, GitHub was used:

☒ Repository Creation

- o Created a GitHub account and a new repository named `employee-directory`.
- o Initialized repository with `README.md`.

☒ Project Upload

- o Pushed both frontend/ and backend/ folders.
- o Maintained commit history for Phase 2, Phase 3, and Phase 4.

☒ Branching & Collaboration

- o Created separate branches for feature development.
- o Merged features into main branch after testing.

☒ Repository Link

- o Shared GitHub repo link with faculty for evaluation.

Already have an account? [Sign in](#) →

Sign up for GitHub

 Continue with Google

or

Email*

Email

Password*

Password

Password should be at least 15 characters OR at least 8 characters including a number and a lowercase letter.

Username*

Username

Username may only contain alphanumeric characters or single hyphens, and cannot begin or end with a hyphen.

Your Country/Region*

India

For compliance reasons, we're required to collect country information to send you occasional updates and announcements.

Email preferences

☐ Receive occasional product updates and announcements

Create account >

By creating an account, you agree to the [Terms of Service](#). For more information about GitHub's privacy practices, see the [GitHub Privacy Statement](#). We'll occasionally send you account-related emails.

Create a new repository from shot-scraper-template

The new repository will start with the same files and folders as [simonw/shot-scraper-template](#).

Owner *

 simonw

Repository name *

/ simonwillison-net-shot



Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about [verbose-meme?](#)

Description (optional)

<https://simonwillison.net/>



Public

Anyone on the internet can see this repository. You choose who can commit.



Private

You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

☐ Include all branches

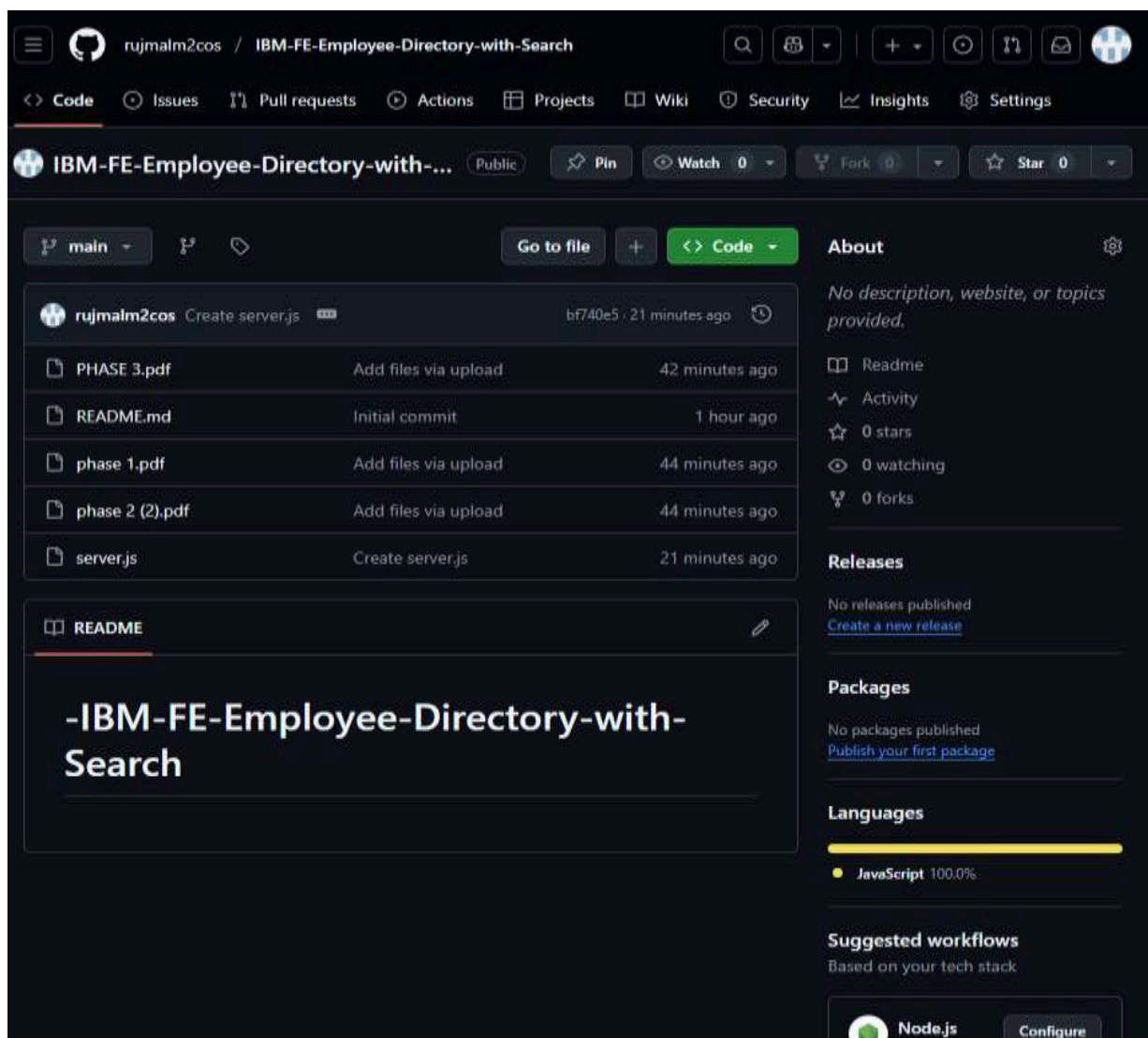
Copy all branches from [simonw/shot-scraper-template](#) and not just main.

Create repository from template

GitHub Repository Link

The project source code and Phase 1–3 documents have been uploaded to GitHub for version control and evaluation.

<https://github.com/rujmalm2cos/IBM-FE-Employee-Directory-with-Search.git>



Conclusion

Phase 4 successfully transformed the MVP into a production-ready project. The employee directory now includes:

- ☒ Enhanced features like advanced search, sorting, and profile expansion.
- ☒ Improved UI/UX for better user engagement.
- ☒ Optimized backend APIs with validation and pagination.
- ☒ Performance and security checks to ensure reliability.
- ☒ Cloud deployment on Netlify and Render for public access.
- ☒ GitHub integration for effective version control and collaboration.

This completes the full project cycle from solution design to deployment.