

Sprint 2 – Completed User Story (Technical Development)

1. User Story Description

User Story ID: US 13

Title: Madison login

Priority: P1 / 1

Story Points: 2

User Story:

As Madison (site owner), I want to log in securely so that I can manage my site content without unauthorized access.

2. Acceptance Criteria

- Given I am logged out, When I enter valid credentials, I should be logged in securely.

3. Technical Implementation Details

This branch implements a **database-based authentication system** with login/logout functionality for the Real Estate Portal Django application. The implementation replaces the previous settings-based authentication with a proper SQLite database-backed user system that matches the ERD schema design.

Key Features:

- Custom User model extending Django's `AbstractBaseUser`
- Email-based authentication (no username required)

- Password hashing using Django's PBKDF2 algorithm
- Secure logout using POST requests (CSRF protected)
- Admin-managed user accounts (no public registration)
- Session-based authentication
- Custom login form with email validation and normalization

Authentication Flow:

1. User navigates to `/login/`
2. Enters email address and password
3. Django validates credentials against database
4. On success: User is authenticated and redirected to homepage
5. On failure: Error message displayed
6. Logout: Secure POST request clears session and redirects to login page

4. Code Breakdown

4.1 Models Updated/Created:

Created: `listings/models.py` - Custom User Model

```

class UserManager(BaseUserManager):
    """Manager for custom User model."""
    def create_user(self, email, password=None, firstname='', lastname=''):
        """Create and return a regular user."""
        # Validates email, normalizes it, creates user with hashed password

    def create_superuser(self, email, password=None, firstname='', lastname=''):
        """Create and return a superuser."""
        # Creates user with staff and superuser privileges

class User(AbstractBaseUser):
    """Custom User model matching the database schema."""
    user_id = models.AutoField(primary_key=True, db_column='User_ID')
    email = models.EmailField(unique=True, db_column='Email')
    password = models.CharField(max_length=128, db_column='Password_Hash')
    firstname = models.CharField(max_length=100, db_column='Firstname')
    lastname = models.CharField(max_length=100, db_column='Lastname')

    # Django auth fields
    is_active = models.BooleanField(default=True)
    is_staff = models.BooleanField(default=False)
    is_superuser = models.BooleanField(default=False)
    date_joined = models.DateTimeField(auto_now_add=True)

    USERNAME_FIELD = 'email'
    REQUIRED_FIELDS = ['firstname', 'lastname']

    def get_full_name(self):
        """Return full name for display."""
        return f'{self.firstname} {self.lastname}'.strip()

```

Key Model Features:

- Maps to database schema columns (User_ID , Email , Password_Hash , Firstname , Lastname)
- Uses email as the username field (no separate username)
- Includes Django authentication fields for permissions and session management
- Custom manager for creating users and superusers

4.2 Views Implemented:

Updated: `listings/views.py`

```
def home(request):
    """Public homepage showing published listings."""
    # Use is_visible for filtering (backward compatible with is_published property)
    listings = Listing.objects.filter(is_visible=True).order_by('-listed_date')
    return render(request, 'listings/home.html', {'listings': listings})
```

Authentication Views:

- **Login:** Uses Django's built-in `LoginView` with custom form (`CustomLoginForm`)
- **Logout:** Uses Django's built-in `LogoutView` (POST-only for security)
- Both views are configured via URL patterns, not custom view functions

View Configuration:

- Login view configured in `listings/urls.py` with custom template and form
- Logout view configured with redirect to login page
- Home view updated to work with authenticated users (displays user name in navigation)

4.3 URLs Added:

Updated: `listings/urls.py`

```

from django.contrib.auth import views as auth_views
from .forms import CustomLoginForm

urlpatterns = [
    path('', views.home, name='home'),
    path('home/', views.home, name='home_alias'),
    path(
        'login/',
        auth_views.LoginView.as_view(
            template_name='accounts/login.html',
            authentication_form=CustomLoginForm
        ),
        name='login'
    ),
    path('logout/', auth_views.LogoutView.as_view(), name='logout'),
]

```

URL Routes:

- /login/ - Login page (GET: display form, POST: authenticate)
- /logout/ - Logout endpoint (POST only, redirects to login)
- / and /home/ - Homepage (shows listings, displays user info if logged in)

Root URL Configuration: realestate_portal/urls.py

```

urlpatterns = [
    path('admin/', admin.site.urls),
    path('accounts/', include('django.contrib.auth.urls')),
    path('', include('listings.urls')),
]

```

4.4 Templates Created:

Created: templates/accounts/login.html

```

{% extends 'base.html' %}

{% block content %}
<div class="login-page">
    <div class="login-container">
        <div class="login-left">
            <div class="login-form-card">
                <div class="message">Welcome to AdVance Real Estate</div>
                <form method="post" action="{% url 'login' %}" class="login-form">
                    {% csrf_token %}
                    <!-- Email field with icon -->
                    <!-- Password field with icon -->
                    <!-- Submit button -->
                    <div class="form-footer">
                        <p>Need an account? Contact your administrator.</p>
                    </div>
                </form>
            </div>
        </div>
        <aside class="login-right">
            <!-- Promotional content -->
        </aside>
    </div>
</div>
{% endblock %}

```

Updated: templates/base.html

```

<nav>
    {% if user.is_authenticated %}
        <span>Welcome, {{ user.get_full_name|default:user.email }}!</span>
        <form method="post" action="{% url 'logout' %}" style="display: inline;">
            {% csrf_token %}
            <button type="submit">Logout</button>
        </form>
    {% else %}
        <a href="{% url 'login' %}">Login</a>
    {% endif %}
</nav>

```

Template Features:

- Two-column layout (login form on left, promotional content on right)
- Email and password fields with icons
- CSRF token protection
- Error message display
- Responsive design
- Secure logout form (POST request)

4.5 Any Supporting Utility Functions:

Created: listings/forms.py - CustomLoginForm

```
class CustomLoginForm(AuthenticationForm):
    """Custom login form using email instead of username."""
    username = forms.EmailField(
        label='Email',
        widget=forms.EmailInput(attrs={
            'class': 'form-control',
            'autofocus': True,
            'placeholder': 'Enter your email'
        })
    )
    password = forms.CharField(
        widget=forms.PasswordInput(attrs={
            'class': 'form-control',
            'placeholder': 'Enter your password'
        })
    )

    def clean_username(self):
        """Normalize email to lowercase."""
        username = self.cleaned_data.get('username')
        if username:
            username = username.lower().strip()
        return username
```

Form Features:

- Extends Django's AuthenticationForm
- Uses EmailField instead of CharField for username

- Email normalization (lowercase, trimmed)
- Custom styling classes for form controls
- Autofocus on email field

Settings Configuration: `realestate_portal/settings.py`

```
# Custom User Model
AUTH_USER_MODEL = 'listings.User'

# Authentication Backend
AUTHENTICATION_BACKENDS = [
    'django.contrib.auth.backends.ModelBackend',
]

# Authentication URLs
LOGIN_URL = 'login'
LOGIN_REDIRECT_URL = '/'
LOGOUT_REDIRECT_URL = 'login'
```

Admin Configuration: `listings/admin.py`

```
@admin.register(User)
class UserAdmin(BaseUserAdmin):
    """Admin interface for custom User model."""
    list_display = ['email', 'firstname', 'lastname', 'is_staff', 'is_active', 'date_joined']
    list_filter = ['is_staff', 'is_superuser', 'is_active', 'date_joined']
    search_fields = ['email', 'firstname', 'lastname']
    ordering = ['email']
    readonly_fields = ['date_joined']
```

Admin Features:

- Custom UserAdmin for managing user accounts
- List display with key user information
- Filtering by staff status, superuser status, active status
- Search by email, first name, last name
- Read-only date_joined field

5. Testing Performed

Manual Testing:

Login Functionality:

- Valid credentials: User successfully logs in and is redirected to homepage
- Invalid email: Error message displayed ("Please enter a valid email address")
- Invalid password: Error message displayed ("Please enter a correct email and password")
- Empty fields: Form validation prevents submission
- Email normalization: Email addresses are converted to lowercase automatically
- Session persistence: User remains logged in across page navigation
- Login redirect: After login, user is redirected to homepage (/)

Logout Functionality:

- Secure logout: Logout requires POST request (CSRF protected)
- Session cleared: User session is properly terminated
- Redirect: After logout, user is redirected to login page
- GET request blocked: Attempting logout via GET returns 405 Method Not Allowed

User Interface:

- Navigation display: Shows "Welcome, [Full Name]!" when logged in
- Login link: Shows "Login" link when logged out
- Logout button: Displays as button in navigation when logged in
- Responsive design: Login page displays correctly on different screen sizes

Admin Interface:

- User creation: Admin can create new users via Django admin
- Password hashing: Passwords are automatically hashed (PBKDF2)
- User management: Admin can edit, activate/deactivate, and delete users
- Date joined: Automatically set and displayed as read-only

Security Testing:

- CSRF protection: All forms include CSRF tokens
- Password hashing: Passwords stored as hashes, not plain text
- Session security: Django session framework properly configured
- Secure logout: POST-only logout prevents CSRF attacks

Database Testing:

- User model: Custom User model correctly mapped to database schema
- Migrations: All migrations applied successfully
- Foreign keys: Listing model correctly references User model
- Data integrity: User accounts persist correctly in database

System Checks:

- `python manage.py check` - No errors
- `python manage.py migrate` - All migrations applied successfully
- Database schema matches ERD design (~99% match rate)

6. Screenshots / Evidence

(Screenshots to be added:)

- Login page with form
- Successful login redirect to homepage
- Navigation showing logged-in user
- Logout functionality
- Admin interface for user management
- Error messages for invalid credentials

7. GitHub Repository Link

Repository: <https://github.com/tbrzezowsky/ISQA8210-Team3>

Branch: database-login

Key Commits:

- Initial database-based login implementation
- Photo table typo fix (`Phot_Display_Order` → `Photo_Display_Order`)
- Listing NOT NULL constraints enforcement
- Schema comparison documentation

Related Documentation:

- `PROJECT_GUIDE.md` - Complete project documentation
- `SCHEMA_COMPARISON.md` - ERD vs Implementation comparison
- `DATABASE_LOGIN_IMPLEMENTATION.md` - Technical implementation details

8. Live Application Link

(To be updated when deployed:)

- Development: <http://127.0.0.1:8000/>
- Login: <http://127.0.0.1:8000/login/>
- Admin: <http://127.0.0.1:8000/admin/>

Additional Notes

Database Schema Compliance:

- Implementation matches ERD schema design (~99% match rate)
- Only difference: Photo table typo correction (improvement)
- All NOT NULL constraints enforced
- Foreign key relationships properly configured

Security Features:

- Password hashing: PBKDF2 with SHA256
- CSRF protection: Enabled on all forms
- Session-based authentication: Secure session management
- Secure logout: POST-only requests
- Email validation: Built-in Django email field validation

User Management:

- **Admin-only user creation:** No public registration form
- **User accounts:** Created and managed through Django admin interface

- **Credentials:** Shared securely by site administrator
- **Password management:** Admin can change user passwords

Migration Files:

- `0001_initial.py` - Initial schema creation (User, Listing, lookup tables, etc.)
- `0002_fix_photo_display_order_typo.py` - Photo table column name correction
- `0003_enforce_listing_not_null_constraints.py` - Listing NOT NULL constraints

Document Version: 1.0

Last Updated: November 2025

Branch: database-login

Status:  Complete and Ready for Review