**User Guide**

**Overview**

In this comprehensive user guide, we will walk you through the steps of using our URL shortener with an expiration feature and the accompanying user-friendly web interface hosted on Amazon S3.

**Steps for Shortening a URL**

Access the User-Friendly Web Interface:

Visit [URL Shortener](https://url-shortner-cc.s3.amazonaws.com/frontend.html) to access our intuitive web page designed for URL shortening.

Input Long URL:

Locate the input field on the web page.

Enter your long URL into the provided text field.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Click on the "Shorten URL" button to initiate the shortening process.

View Shortened URL and Expiration Time:

A screenshot of a computer

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Once the process is complete, you will be presented with a shortened URL.

The default expiration time is set to 24 hours, ensuring the security of the link.

**Using Shortened URLs**

Accessing Shortened URLs:

To access the original long URL, simply click on the shortened URL.

You will be seamlessly redirected to the original content.

**Important Notes**

Due to limited access to domain names, our project utilizes the API Gateway domain for constructing shortened URLs. This approach enables us to maintain an efficient and cost-effective solution while working within the constraints of our academic environment. Users will interact with shortened URLs generated using the API Gateway domain, ensuring accessibility and functionality without the need for a dedicated domain.

Expiration Feature:

By default, shortened URLs are set to expire after 24 hours.

This adds an additional layer of security to the URLs.

**Error Handling:**

If an URL has expired, a clear message will indicate the expiration.

A close up of a computer screen

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