

Lobster Notes Project User Manual

Project: cos457_course_proj (Database & Web Application)

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1. Setting up the servers

For in-depth instructions on how to set up the server parts of this project, see `SETUP_GUIDE.md` in the same directory as this file.

2. Accessing the website

In order to access the Lobster Notes website from a browser, enter the following into your search bar and enter it:

`http://localhost:5173`

Note: If the above url does not work, try the url that is printed in the terminal that is running the webserver. It will be shown on a line with the following format:

→ Local: `http://localhost:5173/`

3. User creation and logging in

Upon entering the website, you will see the Account Creation page.

This page is where you will be able to create a user account. This account will be stored in the database, and is required in order to access the other parts of the website.

The account creation process requires a Username and Password, as well as selection of the account's role as either a Student or a Professor. Optionally, you can add courses to the user account. You are automatically logged in to the account after it is created.

4. Searching for resources

The ability to search for resources stored in the database is accessed through the search bar, clear button, and search button on the top header of the website. This will be accessible at all times while logged in on the website. When clicked, the search bar will search the database for entries matching the query in the search bar, and will redirect you to a page showing the results. The clear button empties the search bar and returns you to the homepage.

The search bar is able to query the title, body, keywords, and author of resources.

5. Accessing the note creator

Clicking the Notes button on the website header will bring you to the notes page, the hub for your notes. The left side of the page shows the note editor, which allows you to create notes for the database to store.

The note editor has the following fields for text entry:

- Title
 - The title of the note.
- Course
 - The course that the note is created for.
- Keywords
 - A comma separated list of keywords used in searches.
- Body
 - The body text of the note.

Only the title and body fields are required.

After entering text in the required fields, clicking the save note button will insert a new entry containing the submitted text into the database. This entry will be tied to the account that is logged in upon note submission, as well as the time the note was created. The note will now be stored in the database, meaning that it can be searched for by users, including those other than you.

6. Accessing notes you have created

On the notes page (see section 5 on how to access it), the right side of the screen will display the resources in the database that are associated with the currently logged in user.