# **Technological University Dublin Tallaght Department of Computing**

April 2021, Fourth year project

**Employee Connectivity Tracker** 

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### Introduction

With the COVID-19 outbreak, most workplaces closed their offices and sent their employees to work from home. And with the reduction of face-to-face interactions said employees are more likely to start feeling isolated and close themselves off.

The 'Employee Connectivity Tracker' application provides the Managers/Team leaders with the required tools to detect such behaviour on time and reach out to teammates that may be isolated.

### Logical architecture

The logical architecture (Figure 1) includes a few components:

- Blazor client the user interface of the application.
- .NET 5 Web API contains most of the processing logic.
- Azure App Services where the application is hosted as a web server.
- Microsoft Graph API the communication data is pulled from this API.
- Azure SQL Database cloud database of choice.
- Azure Active Directory user authentication.
- GitHub code repository and issue tracking.
- Azure Pipelines continuous integration pipeline.

The logical architecture on Figure 1 is how the application can be scaled up to handle an increase in demand. The Azure plan for students does not allow for adding scaling options to App Services or databases, so the actual architecture does not include scaling.

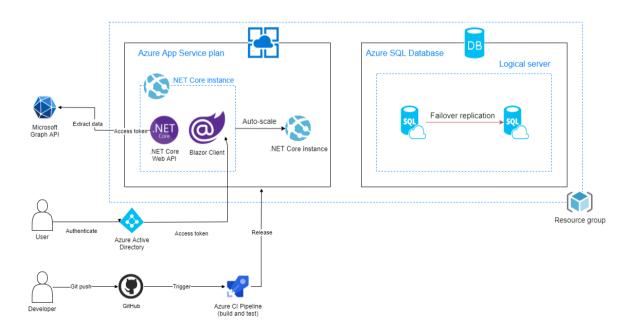


Figure 1. Potential logical architecture.

### Database schema

The schema was initially designed to contain the users' information – the last time they signed in, and their communication data – emails and scheduled Outlook meetings. At a later stage in-app teams were added, and more information needed to be stored for each user, such as their email address and full name. Administrators are distinguished by simply having a record in the Administrators table with a valid foreign key pointing to a user.

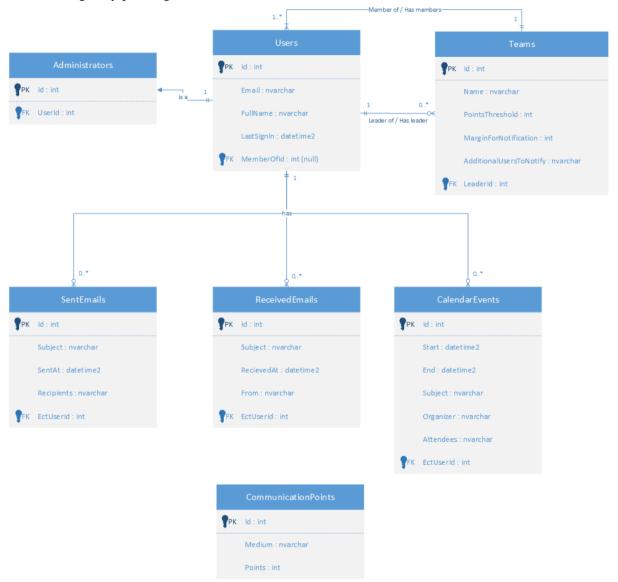


Figure 2. Database schema.

### API structure

The .NET 5 Web API includes various endpoints to control access and perform CRUD operations. Endpoints are grouped logically in controllers (Figure 3):

• Auth

Contains HTTP GET operations that return a true/false value. (except for /is-leader-for-team which returns either null if the user does not have access or an object if they do)

CommunicationPoints

Contains operations to read out and update the communication points table.

- Home
  - HTTP PUT endpoint that triggers the retrieval of the user's communication data from Microsoft Graph API.
  - HTTP GET endpoint to retrieve the communication records from the database for a specific user.
- Team
  - o Contains all endpoints that support full CRUD functionality for in-app teams.
  - Contains utility endpoints that return the stats for a full team, notification options and hashed team id.

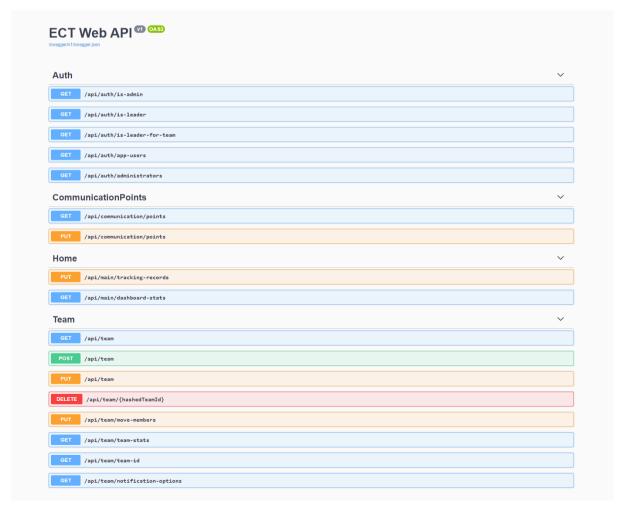


Figure 3. Open API – Swagger page.

# Access to Microsoft Graph API

Whenever a user clicks on 'Log in' or tries to load a protected page that requires authentication without the required credentials, they are presented with a Microsoft login pop-out (Figure 4). If the user's browser does not allow pop-ups, then they are instead redirected to a Microsoft login page (Figure 5).

After entering their credentials, Microsoft verifies them against the defined rules in the Azure App Registration for the client (Figure 6). If all the validations pass, and the user's organization has allowed the user to log into the application (Figure 7), then they will be redirected to the web application and the third-party libraries handle creating and maintaining the session.

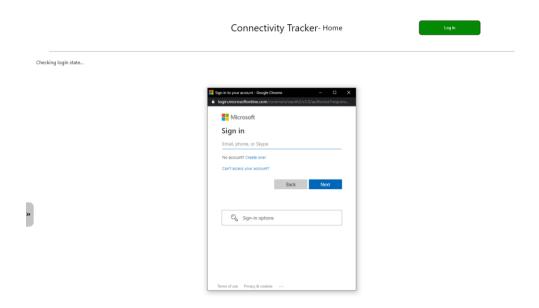


Figure 4. Login with Microsoft – pop-out.

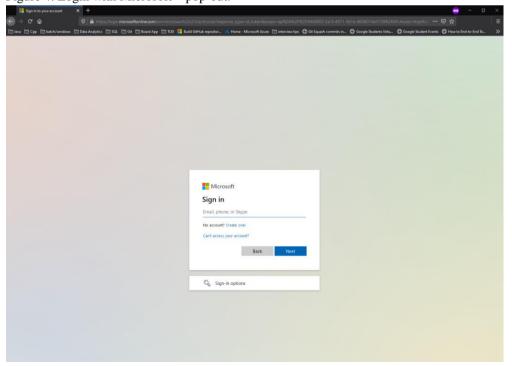


Figure 5. Login with Microsoft – redirect.

#### X00149863 Pavel Ivanov - Employee Connectivity Tracker

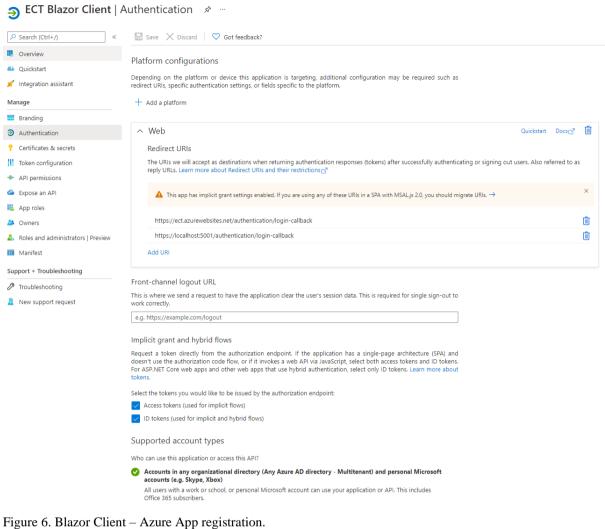




Figure 7. Organization denied access to application.

### Extracting data from Microsoft Graph API

Whenever the user logs in successfully they are redirected to the home page of the app (Figure 8). Once the page has loaded, the Blazor client initiates a request to the API. This request contains a personalized token that includes read permissions for email and Outlook Calendar data (Figure 9). The API endpoint then uses that token to retrieve all the emails and scheduled meetings for that user since their last log in and persist them to the database.

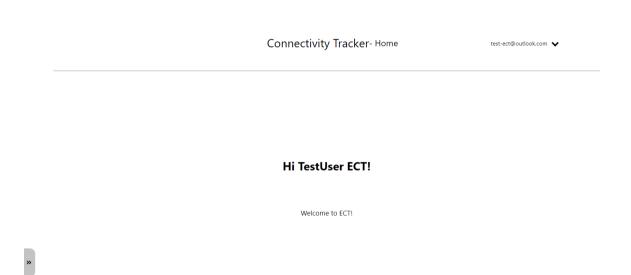


Figure 8. Home page.

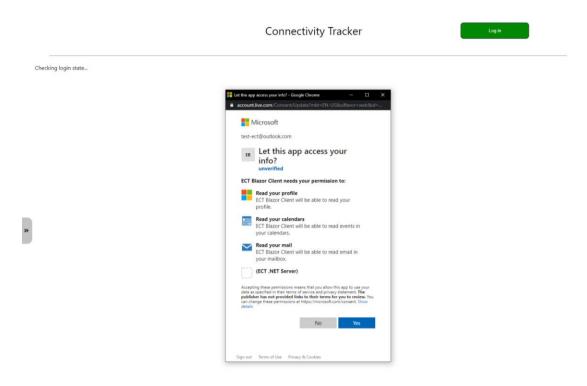


Figure 9. Microsoft prompts new users to explicitly give the application read access to emails and calendars.

### Viewing the data

Each user has access to the data the application has retrieved for them. The data itself is presented in visualisations for easier consumption. Every user has access to a personal dashboard (Figure 10), where they can view the data as 2 graphs – a double line graph to represent the sent and received emails, and a horizontal bar chart to display the scheduled meetings.

In the top-left side of the dashboard page, an input field in the form of a date range picker can be found (Figure 11) which filters the data displayed on the dashboard.

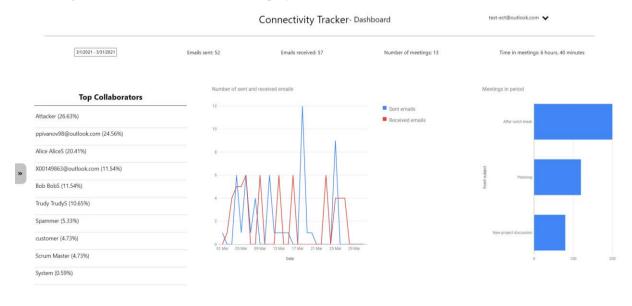


Figure 10. TestUser ECT's Personal dashboard for all data in March.

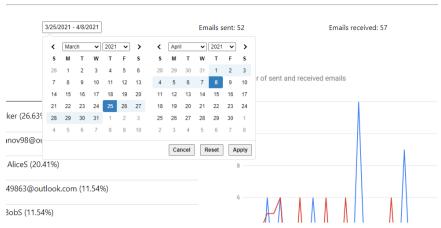


Figure 11. Date range picker. Open-source package: <a href="https://github.com/jdtcn/BlazorDateRangePicker">https://github.com/jdtcn/BlazorDateRangePicker</a> NuGet: <a href="https://www.nuget.org/packages/BlazorDateRangePicker/">https://www.nuget.org/packages/BlazorDateRangePicker/</a>

# Creating in-app teams

In-app teams can be registered by the administrators (Figure 12).

The page is designed with user experience in mind. It comprises of two input fields: one for the team's name and one for the team leader. The team leader field is linked with a data list populated with all available users that can be selected. Typing in the field filters the options and saves the user double checking or scrolling through before making the selection.

Members can be added to the roster by simply clicking on the button beside them. The list of selectable users can be filtered via the 'Filter...' field above them.

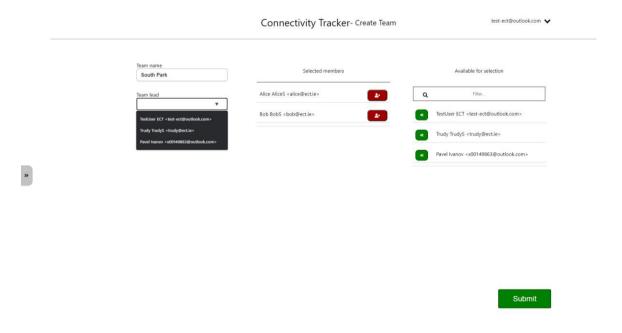


Figure 12. Create Team page.

# Viewing the data generated by team members

Team leaders have access to more pages and have additional options on the navigation menu. One of these options is "My Team", where they are presented with a dashboard, that looks very similar to the Personal dashboard view with the difference that My Team summarises the communication data for all members within that team (Figure 13).

On this page the team leader can get an overview of how their team is doing. The interactive graphs provide some detail about the underlying data per individual (Figure 14). If the user sees some inconsistencies or simply decides to view how a single member has been doing recently - they can click on the light-blue button beside their name (Figure 13) which will open a new browser tab and display them a dashboard only for that person (Figure 15).



Figure 13. My Team – summarised team information.

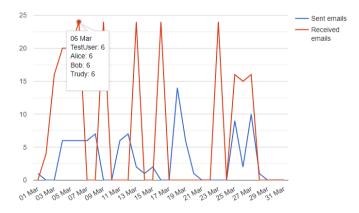


Figure 14. My Team – interaction with line graph.

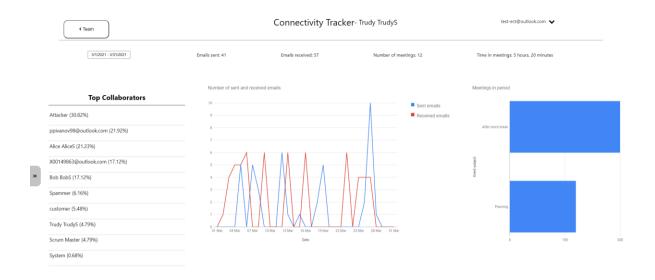


Figure 15. Drilling into a team member to view more details.

# Different forms of communication – different weights

As per the initial requirements for this project, it was necessary to assign different weights to different types of communication in order to identify teammates who may be becoming isolated. Administrators are authorized to access the page 'Manage Mediums' (Figure 16) where they can modify the weights in points for each communication medium that the application supports. Each medium can be assigned between 0 and 100 points that will then be used for automated email notifications (see <a href="Email notifications and notification options">Email notifications and notification options</a> for more). These configurable values are also used to determine the top collaborators of a user (Figures 10 and 15) as well as to display the total points for a team member on the My Team view (Figure 13).

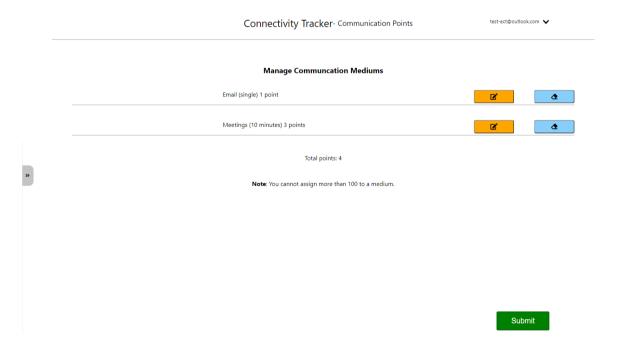


Figure 16. Manage Communication Mediums page.

## Email notifications and notification options

Apart from viewing the team members' data and making a decision based on what they see, the team leaders can configure 'notification options' for a particular team (Figures 13 and 17). These notification options include a minimum number of 'points' to be generated by each member within a week's timeframe. Another configurable option is to set a maximum percentage of drop in the communication data. To clarify what these options are doing, they are both accompanied by a help text which is displayed only when the user hovers over the information icon, i.e., a tooltip (Figure 18).

At the end of every week a background job processes each of the registered in-app teams and determines which teammate should be reported as potentially isolated by taking the aforementioned notification options into account. If a team member has less points than the points threshold or their communication has dropped more than what the team leader has specified, then they will be silently added to the weekly email report sent to the team leader (Figure 19).

The recipients of said report are also configurable, except for the team leader who will always receive it (see *Users to notify* in Figure 17).

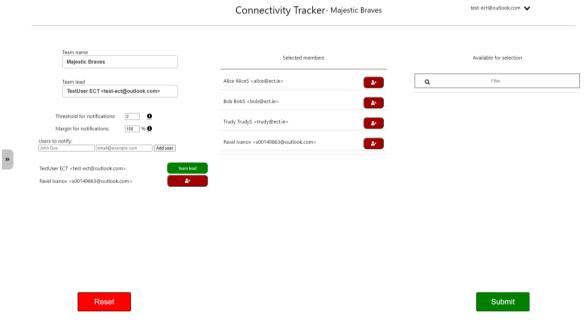


Figure 17. Manage Team page.

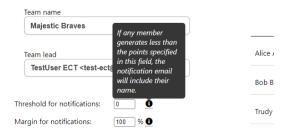


Figure 18. Notification options tooltip.

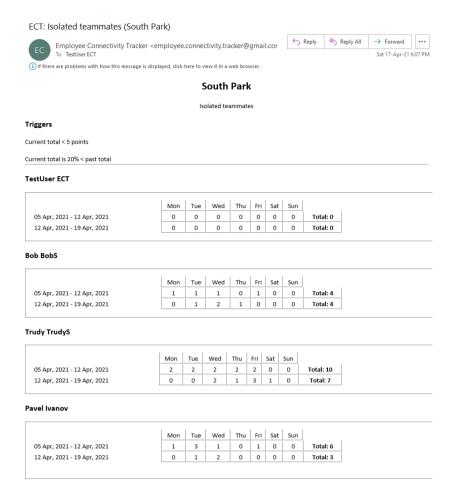


Figure 19. Email notification for team.

#### Data behind the notification:

Alice AliceS has:

- 10 points for dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- 9 points for dates between 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

(She is above the threshold and within the 20% margin. Hence, she is **not included** in the report)

#### Bob BobS has:

- 4 points for dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- 4 points for dates between 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

(He is **below** the threshold and within the 20% margin)

#### Trudy TrudyS has:

- 10 points for dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- 7 points for dates between 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

(She is above the threshold and has 30% drop in communication)

#### Pavel Ivanov has:

- 6 points for dates between 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- 3 points for dates between 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

(He is **below** the threshold and has 30% drop in communication)

## Additional functionality for administrators

### Moving members between two teams

Apart from creating teams and managing the medium weights, the administrators also have the ability to move members between two teams (Figure 20). The page consists of two input fields to select the teams, and once a team is selected the members appear with 2 buttons beside them – Move and Remove.

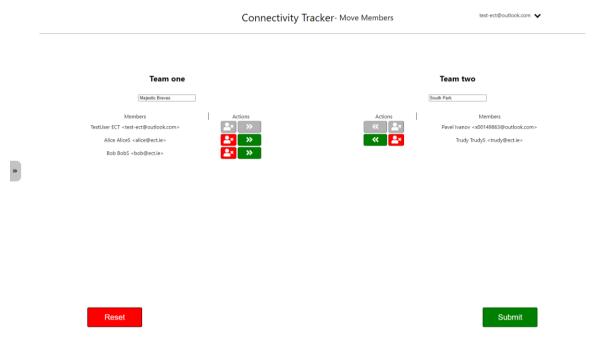


Figure 20. Move Members page.

### Viewing all teams and their roster

Administrators also have access to a page where they can view all teams, their members, and the notification options that apply to them (Figure 21). An input field at the top of the list of teams serves the purpose of a filter, where the administrator can type in a keyword and all teams whose name partially matches the keyword will be displayed. This page also enables the administrators to disband a team, which frees up the members and makes them eligible for selection in another team (Figure 22).

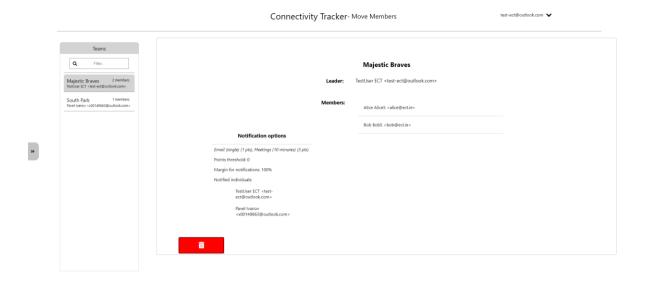


Figure 21. View Teams page.

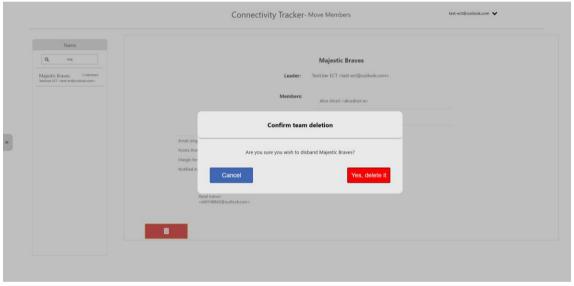


Figure 22. Delete team confirmation.

### Unit tests

The application includes a unit test project utilizing the MSTest framework. This project contains 59 unit tests that verify the methods that support the core logic of the application are working as expected (Figure 23) and any changes that introduce a defect will most likely be caught by them.

#### The unit tests cover:

- Helper and utility methods.
- Custom authorization attributes (API authorization).
- Methods used in front-end logic.
- Methods fetching and updating the user's communication records.
- Email notification methods.
- Other methods comprising the core functionality.

	1.2 sec
■ CtBlazorApp.ServerTests (59)	1.2 sec
D 🐼 AuthorizationAttributesTests (4)	697 ms
D 🐼 CommunicationPointsComponen	68 ms
D SectDbContextExtensionsTests (23)	386 ms
▷ 🕢 EctUserExtensionsTests (6)	27 ms
▷ 🕏 EmailContentsTests (2)	17 ms
▷ 🕏 EmailNotificationsTests (2)	15 ms
▷ 🕢 ManageTeamClassTests (10)	13 ms
D SharedMethodsTests (8)	< 1 ms

Figure 23. Local run of tests in ServerTests project.

### Component tests – bUnit

Since the front-end client is built using .NET Blazor framework, it could be tested with a new testing library – bUnit (see <u>GitHub page</u> for more). It enables the writing of tests that verify the contents of a component and conditional rendering, all without having to launch and/or host a server to run the tests against (unlike Selenium tests that require the application to be deployed).

The MSTest project that includes this library contains 27 unit tests that cover component access, filters, button operations, etc., for the following components:

- Create Team page.
- Manage Team page.
- Move Members page.

The results from the code coverage analysis (Figure 25) show that the overall coverage is not near perfect, but the crucial code blocks where obscure bugs may occur are well covered (e.g., methods in the Server.Extensions namespace or the Server.MailKit namespace).



Figure 24. Local run of tests in ClientTests project.

Hierarchy	Not Covered (Blocks)	Not Covered (% Blocks)	Covered (Blocks)	Covered (% Blocks)
▲ Pavel Ivanov_DESKTOP-R9 2021	4706	71.12%	1911	28.88%
<ul> <li>ectblazorapp.client.dll</li> </ul>	1620	66.83%	804	33.17%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Client	59	100.00%	0	0.00%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Client.Graph	230	100.00%	0	0.00%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Client.Pages	543	41.93%	752	58.07%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Client.Page	655	100.00%	0	0.00%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Client.Shared	133	71.89%	52	28.11%
<ul> <li>ectblazorapp.server.dll</li> </ul>	2872	80.20%	709	19.80%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server	151	70.89%	62	29.11%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Auth	6	22.22%	21	77.78%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Com	86	100.00%	0	0.00%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Cont	562	100.00%	0	0.00%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Cron	93	100.00%	0	0.00%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Exte	133	22.09%	469	77.91%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Mail	17	9.77%	157	90.23%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Migr	1808	100.00%	0	0.00%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Server.Pages	16	100.00%	0	0.00%
<ul> <li>ectblazorapp.shared.dll</li> </ul>	214	34.97%	398	65.03%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Shared	112	46.28%	130	53.72%
( ) EctBlazorApp.Shared.Enti	86	29.66%	204	70.34%
{ } EctBlazorApp.Shared.Gra	4	5.88%	64	94.12%
▶ ( ) EctBlazorApp.Shared.Vali	12	100.00%	0	0.00%

Figure 25. Results of code coverage analysis.

# Lint tool warnings – SonarLint

The warnings reported by the SonarLint extension (which essentially returns whatever the SonarQube server reports), are mostly for 'unnecessary' Boolean literals in conditional expressions. These are purposely put in the expressions in order to be clear with the intentions behind the code, e.g., when comparing 'methodReturningBoolean() = false' and '!methodReturningBoolean()', = false gets the point across way easier than the exclamation mark in front of the statement.

There are warnings about test cases without an assert statement, which is technically true, as these methods are using a template method where the assert statements are executed. These tests do run and produce the expected results.

Some code is intentionally left commented out as a preview of what a method would look like if a potential feature were to be implemented. Other cases involve multiple solutions to the same problem and a quick explanation as to why one would work better over the other.

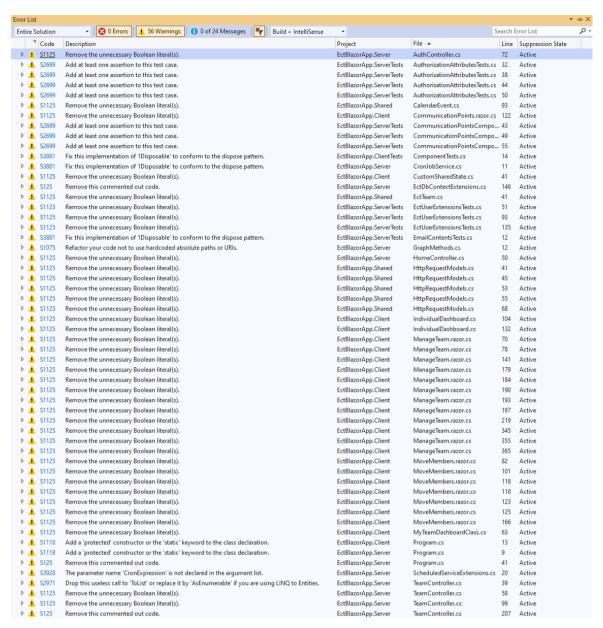


Figure 26. SonarLint warnings after local code analysis.

# Continuous integration and deployment

The application includes a build-test-release pipeline, that is triggered whenever a new change has been pushed to the code repository in GitHub (Figure 27). The Pipeline resides in an Azure DevOps project and it is using Azure's integration with GitHub to kick it off.

The steps the pipeline executes include:

- Retrieving the newest code from the GitHub repository.
- Installing .NET 5 on the virtual agents if necessary.
- Restoring all dependencies.
- Building the application.
- Running the unit tests.
- Deploying the application to an Azure App Service.

If a step fails to execute successfully the build will be stopped and the pipeline run will fail.

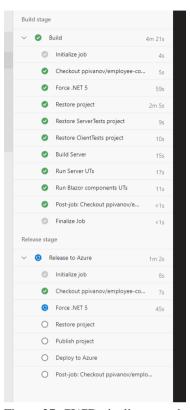


Figure 27. CI/CD pipeline steps in execution.

## Issue tracking

GitHub's integrated issue tracking system was used to keep track of all the outstanding tasks (Figures 28 and 29). Issues were labelled in a concise manner so that the tickets represent either a feature (user story), non-functional task, a bug, or a spike. Labels were also used for prioritization of the tasks, so that issues can be filtered by priority, e.g., show all tickets with a 'priority-high' label.

# Meetings with Bank of America

Meetings with the mentor from Bank of America aided feature development as the mentors provided their feedback for almost everything: features developed since last meeting, bug fixes, user experience, non-functional work, etc.

These discussions provided every participant with the necessary insight to understand how the application functions.



Figure 28. Open issues in GitHub.

Figure 29. Partial list of closed issues on GitHub.