LearnHub – Your Center for Skill Enhancement (MERN)

Project Details

Project Title:

LearnHub - Your Center for Skill Enhancement

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Project Overview:

LearnHub – Your Center for Skill Enhancement

LearnHub is a comprehensive full-stack **Online Learning Platform (OLP)** built to make quality education more **accessible**, **engaging**, and **adaptable** for learners across all backgrounds. Whether you're a student seeking new skills, a teacher aiming to share knowledge, or an administrator managing learning infrastructure, LearnHub provides a unified and intuitive digital environment to support all aspects of modern education.

The platform empowers students to browse and enroll in a diverse range of courses, learn at their own pace, track their progress, and earn industry-recognized certificates. It also enables educators to effortlessly create and manage course content.

Technically, LearnHub is developed using a robust **client-server architecture**. The **frontend** is built with **React.js**, offering a dynamic and responsive user interface enhanced with libraries like **Material UI** and **Bootstrap**. The **backend** leverages **Node.js** with the **Express.js** framework, while **MongoDB** serves as the primary NoSQL database, ensuring scalability, performance, and seamless data management.

The platform supports three distinct user roles:

- **Students:** Enroll in and complete courses, join live sessions, and receive certifications.
- **Teachers:** Create, update, and manage course content and monitor student engagement.
- Admins: Oversee the platform's operations, handle user management, and ensure policy enforcement.

≪ Key Features:

- Secure authentication and role-based access control
- Course creation, enrollment, and real-time progress tracking
- Interactive tools like discussion forums, comments, and live webinars
- Digital certification upon course completion
- Mobile-friendly and desktop-responsive design
- Payment integration for premium course access
- Scalable backend for handling high traffic and data volumes

LearnHub delivers a **scalable**, **modular**, and **feature-rich** solution tailored to the evolving demands of online education. It not only supports academic institutions and private educators but also aligns with the growing trend of self-paced and remote learning in today's digital era.

Architecture:

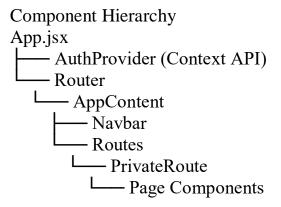
Frontend Architecture – LearnHub Technology Stack:

The frontend of LearnHub is developed using a modern and modular tech stack to ensure performance, scalability, and a smooth user experience:

- React. is 18 For building dynamic and responsive user interfaces
- Vite Fast build tool and development server
- React Router v6 For seamless client-side routing
- Tailwind CSS Utility-first CSS framework for efficient styling
- Lucide React Lightweight icon library for consistent UI elements
- Context API For managing global application state (authentication, courses, etc.)

Architecture Pattern:

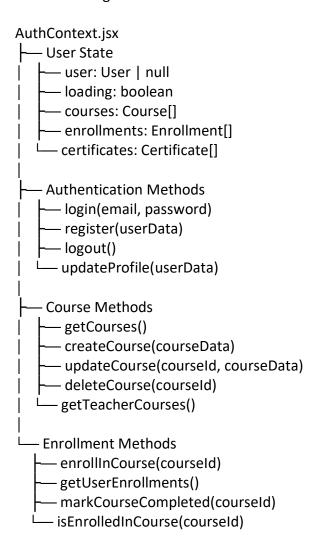
The frontend follows a component-based and context-driven architecture. This promotes clean separation of concerns, reusability, and ease of testing.



- App.jsx is the entry point of the application.
- AuthProvider wraps the application and provides authentication and user data via React Context.
- Router handles the application's navigation structure.
- PrivateRoute restricts access to authenticated pages based on roles.

State Management – AuthContext

The AuthContext.jsx file manages global application state and provides all necessary methods to interact with backend APIs. It covers user authentication, course handling, and enrollment logic.



Frontend Highlights

- Single Source of Truth: All user/course/enrollment states are centralized in AuthContext
- Reusable Components: Navbar, Layouts, Forms, and Cards follow modular structure
- Secure Routing: Authenticated and role-based access using PrivateRoute
- Responsive Design: Tailwind CSS ensures mobile and desktop compatibility
- Seamless Integration: Axios used for RESTful API calls with backend services

This architecture supports a maintainable, scalable, and interactive user experience across different devices and user roles.

Backend Architecture – LearnHub Technology Stack:

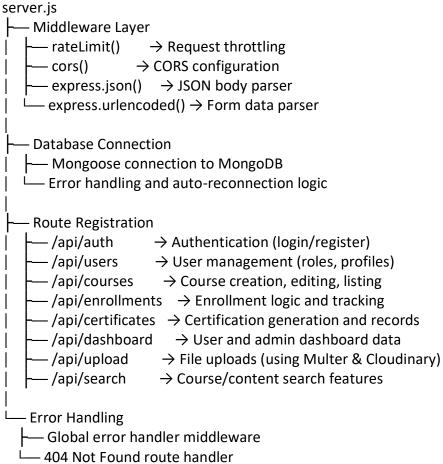
The backend of LearnHub is built using modern, scalable technologies to ensure fast, secure, and maintainable development:

Node.js – Runtime environment for executing JavaScript server-side
Express.js – Minimal and flexible web application framework
MongoDB – NoSQL database for scalable data storage
Mongoose – ODM (Object Data Modeling) library for MongoDB
JWT (JSON Web Token) – Stateless user authentication
bcryptjs – Password hashing for secure credential storage
multer – Middleware for handling file uploads (images, videos, documents)
cors – Enables cross-origin requests for frontend-backend communication

Architecture Pattern

The backend follows a layered architecture pattern with clearly separated concerns for middleware, routing, database operations, and error handling. This improves modularity, scalability, and maintainability.

Server Structure



This backend architecture ensures:

- Secure and stateless authentication using JWT
- Modular API design for easy extension and maintenance
- Robust error handling for improved reliability
- Scalable database interactions through Mongoose models
- Efficient media/file management via Multer

Together with the frontend, this server-side structure powers LearnHub's dynamic e-learning ecosystem and ensures a seamless experience for all users.

Let me know if you want to include database schema diagrams or API endpoint documentation next.

LearnHub – Project Setup Instructions

LearnHub - Quick Setup Guide

Prerequisites

Install the following before starting:

- Node.js $(v16+) \rightarrow node --version$
- MongoDB (Local) or MongoDB Atlas (Cloud)
- $Git \rightarrow git --version$
- VS Code (Recommended)

Installation Steps

```
Clone the Repository
```

bash

git clone <repository-url> cd learnhub-project

Backend Setup

bash

cd backend npm install

Create .env file and add

MONGODB_URI=your-mongo-uri
PORT=5000
JWT_SECRET=your-secret
FRONTEND_URL=http://localhost:5173
CLOUDINARY_CLOUD_NAME=...
CLOUDINARY_API_KEY=...
CLOUDINARY_API_SECRET=...

Start server:

```
bash
npm run dev

Frontend Setup
bash
cd frontend
npm install
npm run dev
```

- **Verification**
 - Backend: $\underline{\text{http://localhost:5000/api/health}} \rightarrow \{ \text{ status: "OK" } \}$
 - Frontend: http://localhost:5173
 - MongoDB: Check terminal for "♥ Connected to MongoDB"

Common Issues

Problem Fix

Port in use Change PORT in .env

CORS errors Ensure FRONTEND_URL is set correctly

MongoDB not connecting Check URI or IP whitelist in MongoDB Atlas

JWT errors Set JWT SECRET in . env and restart server

Build for Production

bash

cd frontend
npm run build
cd backend
npm start

You're all set! LearnHub now ready on:is

- Backend → http://localhost:5000
- Frontend \rightarrow http://localhost:5173

LearnHub-Running Guide

Prerequisites

Ensure the following are completed before running the app:

• Node.js is installed

- MongoDB is running (local or Atlas)
- All dependencies are installed
- Environment variables are correctly configured in .env

Start the Application

Step 1: Start Backend

bash

cd backend
npm run dev

Verify:

- Console should show arphi Connected to MongoDB
- Also: # Server running on port 5000

Step 2: Start Frontend

bash

cd frontend
npm run dev

Verify:

• App should open at: http://localhost:5173

Step 3: Access the App

Open your browser and visit:

http://localhost:5173

Register or log in to begin using LearnHub.

Useful Commands

Backend

```
bash
```

```
cd backend
npm run dev  # Start dev server
npm start  # Start production server
npm run seed  # Seed database (optional)
```

Frontend

bash

```
cd frontend
npm run dev  # Start dev server
npm run build  # Build for production
```



Press Ctrl + C in the terminal running

LearnHub API - Quick Reference

Base URL: http://localhost:5000/api
Authentication: Bearer Token (JWT)
Roles: user (student), teacher, admin

Authentication Endpoints

- POST /auth/register-Register user
- POST /auth/login Login and get JWT
- POST /auth/logout Logout (client-side token removal)
- POST /auth/refresh Refresh JWT token

User Management

- GET /users/profile Get current user profile
- PUT /users/profile Update user profile
- GET /users Admin: Get all users (with filters/pagination)

Course Management

- GET /courses List all courses (filters supported)
- GET /courses/:id-Get course by ID
- POST /courses Create course (teacher/admin)
- PUT /courses/:id-Update course
- DELETE /courses/:id-Delete course
- GET /courses/teacher/my-courses Teacher's course list

Enrollments

- POST /enrollments Enroll in a course
- GET /enrollments/user Get enrolled courses
- PUT /enrollments/:id/complete Mark as completed
- PUT /enrollments/:id/progress Update progress

Certificates

- GET /certificates/user List user's certificates
- POST /certificates/generate Generate certificate

• GET /certificates/verify/:code – Verify certificate

Dashboards

- GET /dashboard/user User stats (learning progress)
- GET /dashboard/teacher Teacher stats (revenue, courses)
- GET /dashboard/admin Platform stats (users, growth)

Search

• GET /search/courses - Search courses with filters

Required Environment Variables

- MONGODB URI, JWT SECRET, JWT EXPIRE
- FRONTEND URL, CLOUDINARY *

LEARNHUB AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM

OVERVIEW

LearnHub uses a secure, token-based authentication system built with **JWT** (**JSON Web Tokens**).

No sessions or cookies are used — authentication is fully stateless and handled via tokens.

All protected requests must include a valid JWT in the **Authorization** header.

AUTHENTICATION FLOW SUMMARY

USER REGISTRATION

- User fills and submits the registration form
- Backend validates all input fields
- Password is hashed using **bcrypt** (12 salt rounds)
- A **JWT token** is generated on successful registration
- Token is returned and stored in localStorage as 'learnhub token'

USER LOGIN

- User submits email and password
- Backend checks if email exists and password matches (using bcrypt)
- On success, a JWT token is generated and returned
- Token is stored in localStorage as 'learnhub token'

TOKEN VERIFICATION

- Frontend sends token in each protected request using the Authorization header
- Backend middleware validates the token's signature and expiration
- If valid, request proceeds and user data is attached to req.user

JWT TOKEN STRUCTURE & CONFIGURATION

```
{
  "id": "user_id_here",
  "iat": <issued_at_timestamp>,
  "exp": <expiration_timestamp>
}
```

ROLE-BASED AUTHORIZATION

USER ROLES:

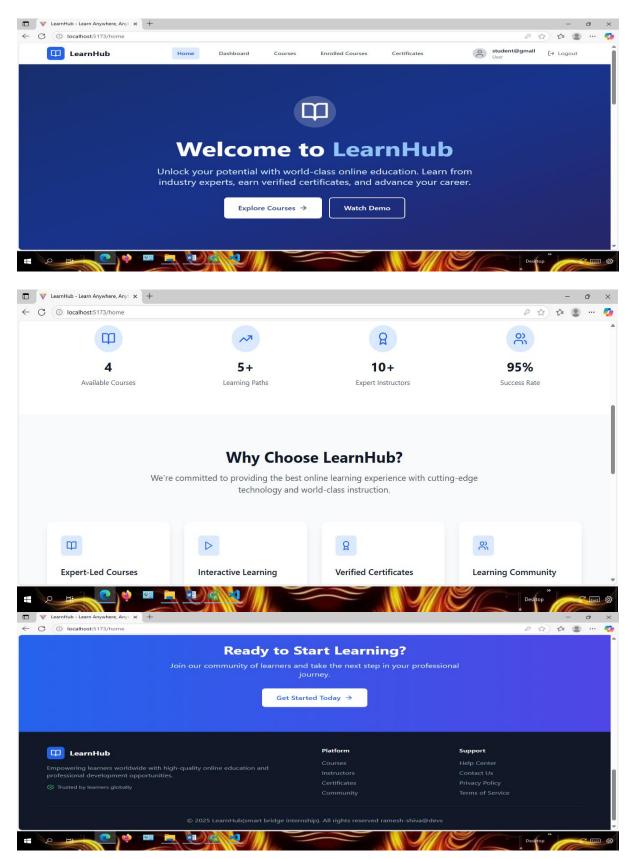
- user (Student): Can enroll in courses, access lessons, view certificates
- teacher: Can create/edit/delete courses, manage enrolled students
- admin: Full access to all data and user management

MIDDLEWARE FUNCTIONS:

- auth: Verifies JWT and attaches user info to request
- authorize (...roles): Ensures the user has at least one allowed role

USER INTERFACE

Home Page Overview:



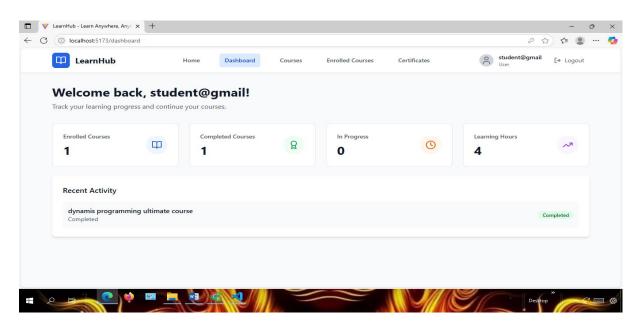
REGISTER PAGE: (common for Students and Teachers)



LOGIN PAGE:

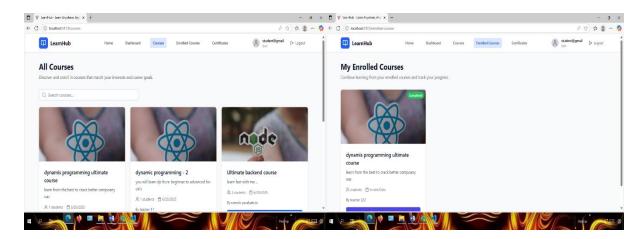


Student Dashboard Overview:



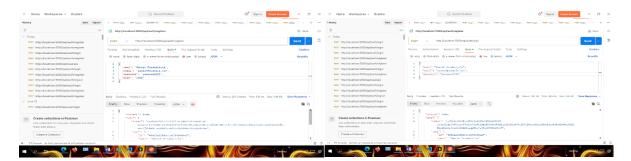
Courses Tab Overview:

Enrolled courses Tab Overview:

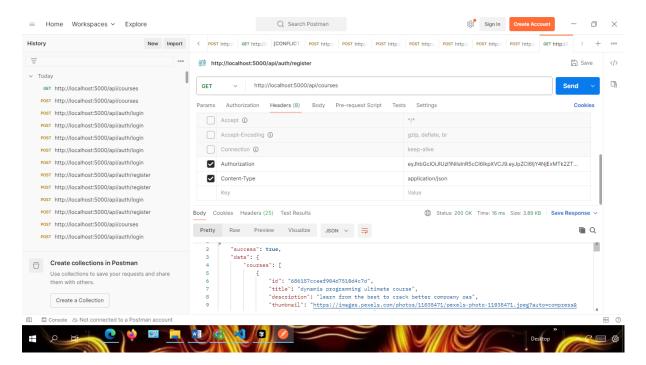


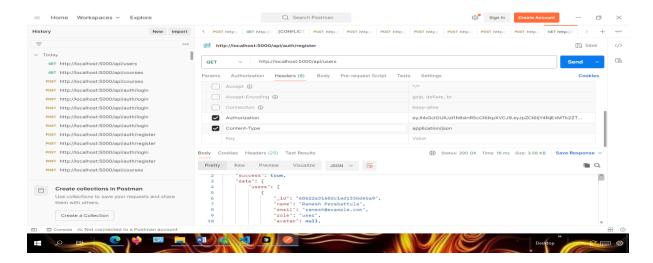
API TESTING — POSTMAN TOOL

Register & Login API Test (http://localhost:5000/api/auth/register or /login):



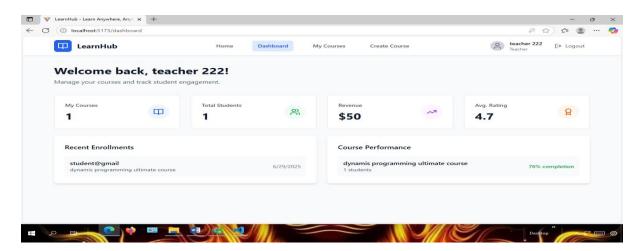
Admin getAllCourses & getAllUsers API Test(http://localhost:5000/api/)



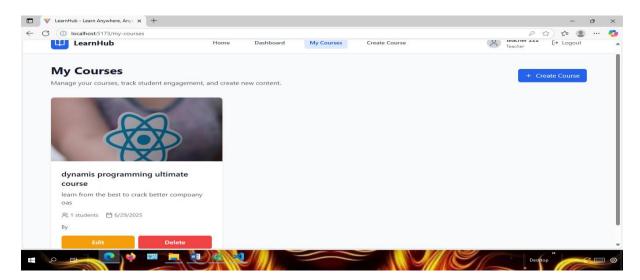


SCREENSHOTS / DEMO SECTION

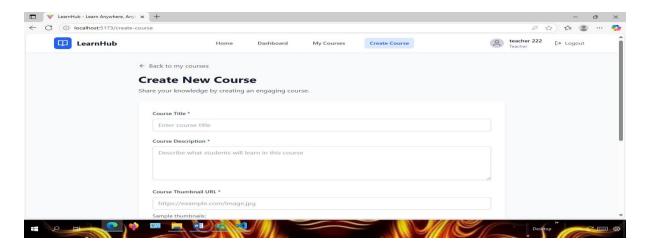
Teacher Dashboard Overview:



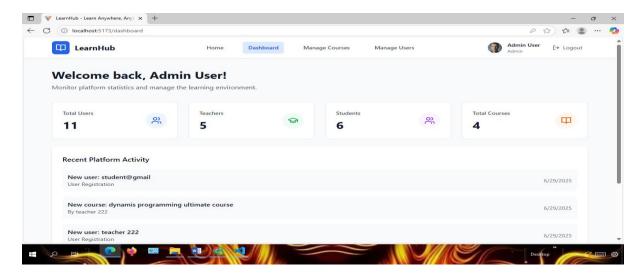
Teacher My Couses Tab Overview:



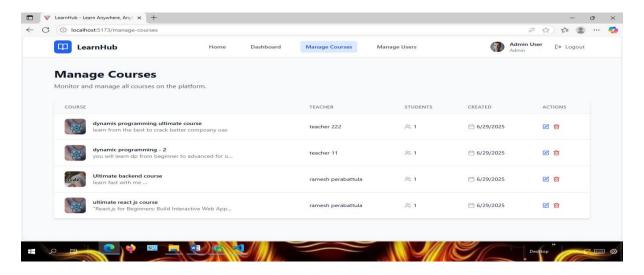
Create Course Tab Overview:



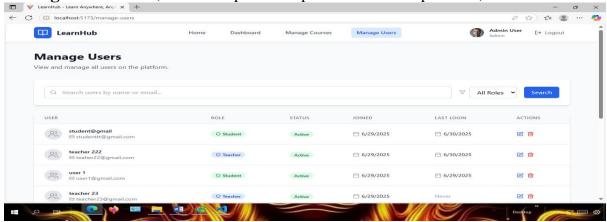
Admin Dashboard Overview:



Manage Courses Tab Overview (Admin can perform Update and Delete operations):



Manage Users Tab(Admin can perform Update and delete Operations)



LearnHub - Known Issues

Frontend Issues

1. Token Expiration

JWT expires after 7 days; no auto-refresh.

Workaround: Re-login manually.

2. File Upload Limit

Max 10MB upload size; large videos fail.

Workaround: Compress files or use external links.

3. Mobile Responsiveness

Some pages not mobile-friendly.

Workaround: Use desktop for full features.

Backend Issues

4. Rate Limiting

100 requests/15 mins may block active users.

Workaround: Add caching or increase limits.

5. DB Connection Drops

MongoDB may timeout when idle.

Workaround: Restart backend if needed.

6. File Storage Dependency

Fails if Cloudinary is down.

Workaround: Ensure config or add fallback.

7. Slow Data Loading

No pagination; large datasets lag.

Workaround: Add pagination or lazy loading.

8. Unoptimized Images

Big images slow down pages. *Workaround:* Compress before upload.

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

LearnHub – Future Enhancements

1. Authentication & Security

- Add OAuth, SSO, and MFA
- Granular role-based access
- Session timeout & audit logging
- Strong password rules

2. Course Management

- Multimedia content editor
- Course templates & version control
- Quizzes, prerequisites, and progress tracking
- Support for live webinars

3. User Experience

- AI-based course recommendations
- Personalized dashboards & adaptive learning
- Gamification and social features

4. Mobile Support

- Native iOS/Android apps
- Offline access & push notifications
- Progressive Web App (PWA) support

5. Analytics & Reporting

- Dashboards for all roles
- Custom reports and exports
- Predictive analytics for at-risk learners

6. Live Learning

- Virtual classroom with chat, polls, and recording
- Integration with Zoom, Teams, etc.