

Patient Tracker System

Midpoint Deliverable

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GitHub Repository Link: <https://github.com/riyaa74/PatientTrackerSystem>

Video Presentation Link:

<https://github.com/riyaa74/PatientTrackerSystem/blob/main/Deliverables/VideoPresentation.mp4>

1. Requirements

1.1. Overview

The system's purpose is to revolutionize the healthcare ecosystem by providing a digitalized solution that overcomes its current inefficiencies and challenges. It ensures real-time updates for medical records, eliminating the burdens of manual paperwork, and optimizing patient management. The goal is to enhance healthcare service quality, leading to improved operational efficiency, superior patient care, and heightened patient satisfaction.

Importance of Patient Tracking:

Patient tracking is essential in healthcare because it guarantees precise patient information for informed care decisions. Accurate records help reduce errors and mitigate risks to patients' well-being. In emergencies, quick access to patient data is crucial. It streamlines administrative tasks, allowing healthcare providers to dedicate more time to patient care. Coordination among healthcare providers is improved, encouraging teamwork. Patient engagement is promoted as individuals take an active role in managing their health. Data analysis supports medical research and advances medical knowledge. Compliance with legal data protection requirements is facilitated, ensuring secure handling of patient data. Furthermore, it optimizes resource allocation and enhances operational efficiency in healthcare facilities. Efficient patient care and data management foster patient confidence and satisfaction.

Business Significance:

Users, including doctors and patients, necessitate an efficient and user-friendly platform for managing and accessing medical records, appointments, and other healthcare data. They require a system that simplifies tasks such as adding, editing, or removing patients and appointments, viewing health records, and ensuring the security and privacy of sensitive patient data.

High-Level Application Tasks:

The application serves as a comprehensive patient information management system. It has 3 interfaces. It encompasses user authentication to ensure secure access for doctors, patients, and administrators. For doctors, it facilitates patient data input and updates medical history viewing, and data visualization. Patients can access their personal information and medical records. Real-time notifications and

appointment management are provided for doctors and patients. Administrators have the authority to configure user permissions and system settings. Collectively, these tasks enable the efficient management of patient information and enhance healthcare delivery.

Stakeholders:

Doctors: The primary beneficiaries who experience streamlined patient management and real-time patient information access.

Patients: Users who can conveniently manage their appointments and access their healthcare data.

Administrators: Responsible for system configuration and user permission management.

One of the main reasons to switch to digitalized patient tracker is to eliminate the risks posed by manual record keeping. Manual paperwork poses significant challenges, including data inaccuracy, inefficiency, limited accessibility, and security risks. Illegible handwriting, data entry errors, and the potential for misplaced records can lead to medical errors and compromised patient safety. Additionally, healthcare professionals spend valuable time on administrative tasks that could be better utilized for patient care. Physical records stored in different locations limit quick access and coordination among healthcare providers, especially during emergencies. The vulnerability of paper records to theft, unauthorized access, and damage poses security and privacy risks.

A digitalized patient tracking system addresses these challenges by providing real-time updates, ensuring the accuracy and accessibility of medical records, and enhancing patient management. It streamlines administrative tasks, supports coordinated care, and empowers patients to engage in their health management. The system also facilitates data analysis, compliance with legal requirements, and resource optimization, ultimately improving healthcare quality, patient happiness, and overall efficiency in the healthcare ecosystem.

1.2. Features

- **User Management:** User management is a crucial feature that allows administrators to control and manage user accounts. It involves creating, modifying, and deactivating user profiles. In the context of the Patient Tracker system, it empowers administrators to assign roles and permissions to doctors, patients, and other healthcare staff. Efficient user management ensures that the right individuals have access to the appropriate data and functions within the system.
- **User Authentication:** User authentication is a fundamental security feature. It ensures that only authorized users gain access to the system. In the Patient Tracker system, robust authentication methods, such as usernames and passwords, guarantee the security and privacy of patient information. This authentication layer is essential for maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of medical records.
- **Data Visualization:** Data visualization is a powerful tool for healthcare professionals in the Patient Tracker system. It provides doctors with graphical representations of patient health data, including trends, historical information, and key metrics. Through charts, graphs, and

dashboards, healthcare providers can quickly assess a patient's health status, identify patterns, and make informed decisions about treatments and interventions.

- **Notifications/Alerts:** Notifications and alerts play a critical role in ensuring timely communication within the healthcare system. In the Patient Tracker system, this feature sends real-time notifications to doctors and patients about upcoming appointments, test results, medication reminders, and important health updates. This capability enhances patient engagement and adherence to healthcare plans and helps doctors stay informed about their patients' needs.
- **Appointment Management:** Appointment management is a central component of the Patient Tracker system. It allows healthcare providers to efficiently schedule, reschedule, or cancel patient appointments. Doctors can view their appointment calendars, check patient availability, and allocate time for consultations or treatments. Patients can also use this feature to request appointments, view their scheduled visits, and receive notifications about upcoming medical visits. Effective appointment management ensures that patients receive timely and coordinated care.

1.2. Functional Requirements (Use cases)

- As a doctor, I want to add a new patient to the system.
- As a doctor, I want to edit patient information to ensure it's up-to-date.
- As a patient, I want to view my upcoming appointments.
- As a patient, I want to add or edit my scheduled appointments.
- As an admin, I want to configure user permissions for doctors and patients.
- As an admin, I want to add, edit, or remove doctors from the system.
- As a doctor, I want to view patient health records and graphs for better diagnosis.

1.4. Non-Functional Requirements

Non-functional requirements encompass aspects related to the user experience, system performance, security, and other considerations:

- **Security:** The system should ensure data encryption for all patient records and communications.
- **Reliability:** It should be highly reliable, with minimal downtime.
- **Performance:** The system should provide real-time data updates to ensure the accuracy of medical records.

- Usability: Users should experience a responsive and intuitive interface for ease of use
- Security & Privacy: The system should support multiple user access levels, providing security and privacy for patient data.
- Scalability: It should be scalable to accommodate future growth in the number of patients and doctors.

2. Design

2.1. Architecture Diagram

The language used for the implementation is Python. The high-level architecture diagram of the proposed patient tracker system is as below.

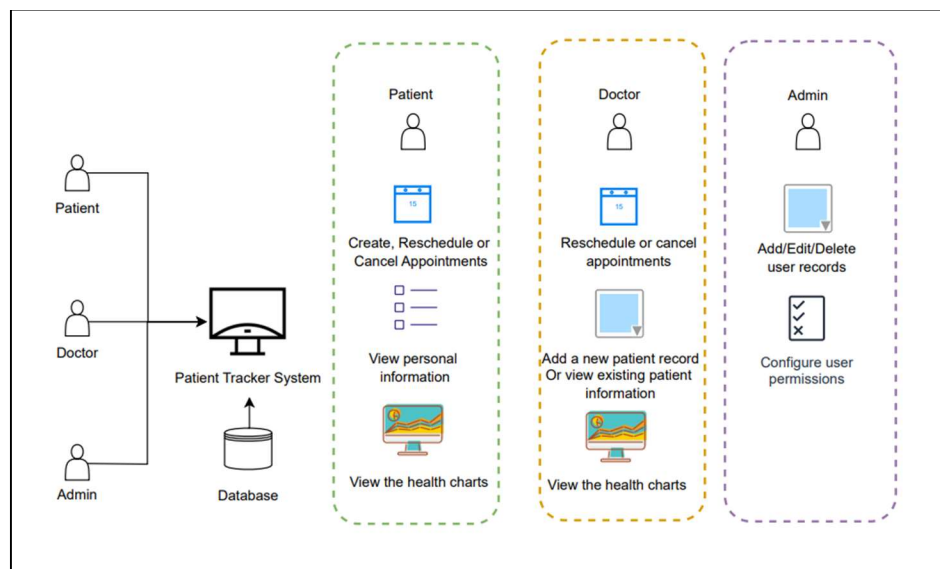


Figure 1: Patient Tracker System Architecture Diagram

2.2. Technology Stack with Justification

We will be implementing our application using the following technology stack:

a. Python

Python is a popular and versatile programming language that is easy to learn and has a large and active community. It offers a wide range of libraries and frameworks, making it suitable for various tasks in application development.

b. Flask

Flask is a lightweight web framework for Python, which is well-suited for building web applications. It is easy to set up and get started with, making it a good choice for a small to medium-sized application like ours.

c. SQLAlchemy

SQLAlchemy is an open-source Python library that provides a set of high-level and low-level APIs for working with relational databases. Flask has an official extension called "Flask-SQLAlchemy," which simplifies the integration of SQLAlchemy with Flask.

d. Matplotlib

Matplotlib is a popular Python library for creating static, animated, or interactive visualizations in your application. It can be used to generate various types of plots and graphs, helping us visualize patient data and medical statistics which we will display on the patient's dashboard.

e. Git

Git is a distributed version control system that will allow us to track changes in your codebase and collaborate with other developers efficiently. It ensures that we can manage the codebase of our patient information application effectively, keep track of changes, and work with the team efficiently.

f. Sqlite

SQLite is a self-contained, small relational database system that is extensively utilized in various applications. Because it doesn't require a separate server, it can save and retrieve data quickly and effectively across a variety of software programs, including desktop and mobile apps.

g. HTML

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is the backbone of web pages. It's a markup language that structures content on the internet. HTML uses tags to define elements such as headings, paragraphs, links, images, and more, enabling web browsers to render and display web content as intended by developers.

h. CSS

CSS is a stylesheet language that's used to manage how HTML web documents are presented and laid out. By establishing styles for components like fonts, colors, spacing, and positioning, it improves the visual design of websites. Because CSS keeps content and design apart, it's easier to update and preserve a website's look on a variety of screens and devices. It is essential to the development of responsive and aesthetically pleasing web interfaces

i. Bootstrap

Bootstrap is a well-known open-source web framework that includes pre-made styles, templates, and JavaScript elements. By offering a base for visually appealing, mobile-friendly, and responsive websites and web applications, it lessens the complexity of web development by eliminating the need for substantial custom coding and design work.

2.3. UI Mockup

The UI mockups designed for our application can be found in our git repository, the link to which is given below:

<https://github.com/riyaa74/PatientTrackerSystem/blob/main/Deliverables/Midpoint%20Report.docx>

2.4. Data Model:

The following diagram below illustrates the data model of the project by showing the entities, their attributes and their interdependence.

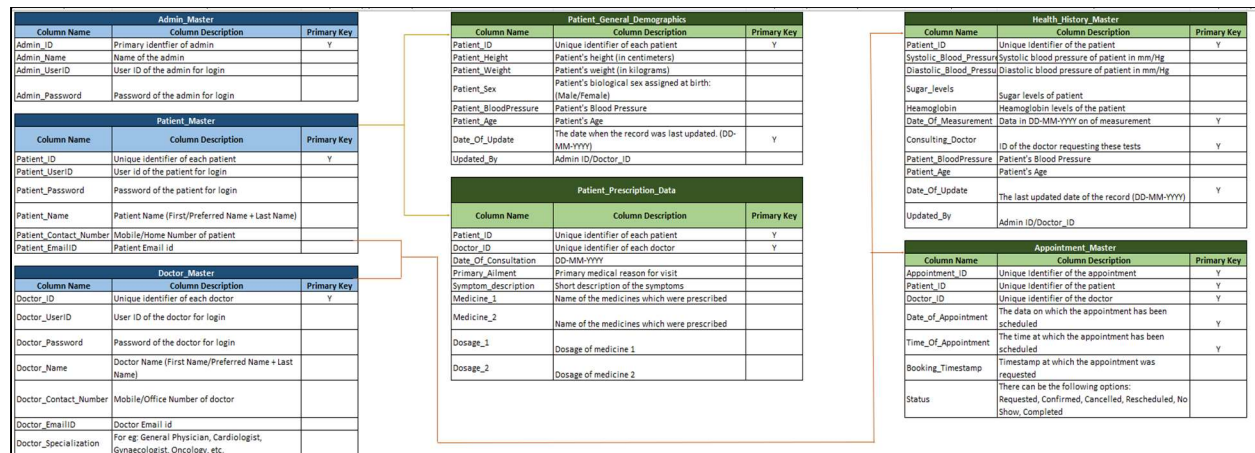


Figure 1: Data Model of the proposed Patient Tracker System

3. Implementation

Process:

- **Understanding Requirements and Planning:** Our first step is to thoroughly understand the project requirements and create a detailed plan. This includes defining the user roles (admin, doctor, patient), their functionalities, and the data they need to interact with. We should also clarify the data schema for our SQL database.
- **Setting up the Development Environment:** To begin coding, we need to set up our development environment. This includes installing Flask, a SQLite database, and any other necessary libraries. We'll choose a code editor or integrated development environment (IDE) and create a version control repository for our project (e.g., using Git).
- **User Authentication and Login Page:** Implementing user authentication is a crucial first step. We'll use Flask-Login or a similar extension to manage user sessions and create a login page. It's important to ensure that only authorized users can access their respective interfaces.

- **Building the Admin Interface:** The admin interface should be capable of adding, editing, and removing doctors, patients, and appointments. We will also need a configuration system to manage user permissions. Flask-WTF can be used to create forms for data input.
- **Creating the Doctor Interface:** The doctor interface should allow doctors to add, edit, and remove patients and appointments. We should also provide functionality for doctors to add/edit patient records and view health records and graphs. Data visualization libraries such as Matplotlib or Plotly can help with graph generation.
- **Developing the Patient Interface:** For patients, we'll build a user interface that allows them to add/edit/remove appointments and view their information and graphs. Data visualization will play a key role in presenting their health records.
- **User Management:** Implement a user management system to handle user profiles, roles, and permissions. Flask-Principal or Flask-User can help manage user roles and access control.
- **Database Setup and Interaction:** Set up the SQL database and define the tables for doctors, patients, appointments, and health records. Use an Object-Relational Mapping (ORM) library like SQLAlchemy to interact with the database from your Flask application.
- **Data Visualization:** Implement data visualization using appropriate libraries to generate health graphs and records. Matplotlib or Plotly can be integrated into the Flask application to create these visualizations.
- **Notifications/Alerts:** Integrate a notification system for appointment reminders and alerts. This could be done using email notifications or SMS services.

Methodologies:

- **Agile Development:** We'll follow an agile development methodology, breaking the project into sprints with specific goals and features for each sprint. Regular meetings and feedback loops will be essential. We will follow a weekly meeting schedule where the current developments and further goal setting will be done.
- **Version Control:** We'll use Git and platforms like GitHub to manage and collaborate on the codebase, allowing multiple team members to work on different parts of the project simultaneously.
- **Testing:** Comprehensive unit and integration testing will be a priority to ensure the application works as expected. We'll consider using testing frameworks like PyTest.
- **Documentation:** We'll maintain documentation for code, README files, database schemas, and user guides. This will aid in project management and future maintenance.

Potential Challenges:

- **Security:** Ensuring the system is secure and protecting sensitive patient data from unauthorized access.
- **Scalability:** As the number of users and data grows, the application should remain performant.
- **User Experience:** Designing a user-friendly interface for doctors and patients to efficiently manage appointments and health records.
- **Data Integrity:** Ensuring the accuracy and integrity of patient health records and appointment data.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Adhering to healthcare regulations and data privacy laws, such as HIPAA if applicable.
- **Notifications:** Implementing a reliable notification system that delivers alerts and reminders to users on time.
- **Data Visualization:** Creating informative and visually appealing health graphs and records.
- **Database Management:** Managing database migrations and backups as the application evolves.

3.1. Security and Risks

1. **User Authentication and Authorization:**

- **Threat:** Unauthorized access to the system by someone impersonating a legitimate user.
- **Prevention:** Implement strong password policies, encourage users to use unique and complex passwords and password encryption.

2. **Data Storage and Access Control:**

- **Threat:** Unauthorized users gaining access to sensitive patient data.
- **Vulnerability:** Insufficient access controls and improper database configurations.
- **Prevention:** Use proper role-based access control (RBAC) to limit what each user type (admin, doctor, patient) can access and ensure the database is properly configured with appropriate permissions.

4. **SQL Injection:**

- **Threat:** Malicious users exploiting vulnerabilities in SQL queries to access or modify the database.
- **Vulnerability:** Insufficient input validation and lack of prepared statements.

- Prevention: Sanitize user inputs, use prepared statements, and employ ORM (Object-Relational Mapping) tools to prevent SQL injection attacks.

5. **Data Backups:**

- Threat: Data loss due to system failures, accidental deletion, or other unforeseen events.
- Vulnerability: Inadequate or non-existent data backup procedures.
- Prevention: Regularly backup the database and implement backup and recovery procedures to ensure data availability.

6. **Notification and Alert Security:**

- Threat: Unauthorized users receiving sensitive notifications or alerts.
- Vulnerability: Lack of access control for notifications.
- Prevention: Ensure that notifications and alerts are only sent to authorized users based on their roles and permissions.

7. **Data Visualization Security:**

- Threat: Unauthorized access to patient health records and graphs.
- Vulnerability: Inadequate access controls for data visualization.
- Prevention: Apply access controls to patient health records and graphs, ensuring only authorized users can access this information.

To prevent these potential threats and vulnerabilities in our patient tracking system, we will follow best practices for security, including proper authentication, access control, encryption, and data validation. Regularly updating and patching the software and conducting security testing will also be essential for maintaining the security of our system.

3.2 HIPAA Compliance (in case of Patient Tracker)

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a crucial federal law in the United States that was enacted to protect patients' sensitive health information. HIPAA sets standards and regulations for the security and privacy of protected health information (PHI). Our project, the patient tracking system, is closely related to healthcare and involves the storage and management of patient data, making HIPAA compliance extremely relevant. The key aspects of HIPAA that pertain to our project are:

1. **Privacy Rule:** HIPAA's Privacy Rule mandates the protection of patients' PHI by restricting access to authorized personnel only. It is vital for ensuring that patients' personal information, medical history, and health records remain confidential and secure.
2. **Security Rule:** HIPAA's Security Rule outlines the requirements for safeguarding electronic PHI (ePHI). Since our system will involve storing patient records in a database, we must adhere to these security standards to prevent data breaches or unauthorized access.

Steps and protocols to ensure HIPAA compliance in our project:

1. **Access Control:** Implement robust access control mechanisms to ensure that only authorized users, such as healthcare professionals and administrators, can access the system. Role-based access control (RBAC) can be employed to restrict access to specific functions and data.
2. **Encryption:** Encrypt data both in transit and at rest. Use secure protocols (e.g., HTTPS) to protect data during transmission and encryption mechanisms to secure data stored in the database.
3. **User Authentication and Authorization:** Implement strong user authentication methods, to verify the identity of users. Authorize users to access only the data and functions necessary for their roles.
4. **Incident Response Plan:** Develop a comprehensive incident response plan to address potential data breaches. This plan will include protocols for reporting and mitigating breaches while complying with HIPAA breach notification requirements.
5. **Regular Audits and Assessments:** Periodically conduct security risk assessments and audits to identify vulnerabilities and ensure ongoing compliance. Address any issues promptly.
6. **Documentation:** Maintain thorough records of policies, procedures, and security measures to demonstrate compliance in case of audits or investigations.

4. Work Plan

Phase	Task	Owner	Proposed Start date	Proposed End date	Status
Project Initiation	Define project scope and objectives.	Team	3-Oct-23	13-Oct-23	Completed
	Identify stakeholders and their requirements.	Team	3-Oct-23	13-Oct-23	
	Set up project team roles and responsibilities.	Team	3-Oct-23	13-Oct-23	
	Conduct initial research on healthcare systems.	Team	3-Oct-23	13-Oct-23	
Planning and Design	Data modelling and schema design.	Riya Deshpande	14-Oct-23	24-Oct-23	Completed
	Create user stories and use cases for the application.	Mitali Juvekar	14-Oct-23	24-Oct-23	
	Design the user interface and UI mockups.	Riya Danve	14-Oct-23	24-Oct-23	
	Choose the technology stack and tools for development.	Riya Adsul	14-Oct-23	24-Oct-23	
Development	Work on user authentication and user management.	Riya Deshpande	25-Oct-23	20-Nov-23	In progress

	Implement patient data management features.	Riya Danve	25-Oct-23	20-Nov-23	
	Integrate data visualization and notifications/alerts	Mitali Juvekar	25-Oct-23	20-Nov-23	
	Work on creating the interfaces and notifications/alerts	Riya Adsul	25-Oct-23	20-Nov-23	
	Collaborate on core functionality development and discuss applicable testing methods	Team	27-Oct-23	20-Nov-23	
Testing and Quality Assurance	Conduct unit testing to ensure individual components work correctly.	Riya Deshpande & Riya Adsul	21-Nov-23	23-Dec-23	Open
	Perform integration testing to verify interactions between system modules.	Riya Danve & Mitali Juvekar	23-Nov-23	28-Dec-23	
	Collaborate on bug identification and resolution.	Team	28-Nov-23	30-Nov-23	
	Assist in user acceptance testing and bug tracking.	Team	21-Nov-23	30-Dec-23	
Deployment, training and documentation	Prepare the system for production use.	Riya Deshpande	1-Dec-23	2-Dec-23	Open
	Deploy the Patient Tracker System in a controlled environment.	Riya Adsul	3-Dec-23	4-Dec-23	
	Organize user training sessions and and gather user feedback	Riya Danve	4-Dec-23	6-Dec-23	
	Assist in system deployment and user training.	Mitali Juvekar	1-Dec-23	6-Dec-23	
	Documentation	Team	1-Dec-23	5-Dec-23	