Full Stack Development with MERN

1. Introduction

- **Project Title**: ShopEZ: E-commerce Application
- **Team Members**:
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2. Project Overview

Purpose: Shop E COMMERCE provides an intuitive and user-friendly platform for seamless e-commerce experiences, benefiting both buyers and sellers. Customers can browse and purchase products effortlessly, while sellers have access to a powerful dashboard for inventory and order management.

- **Features**:

  User Dashboard:
  Secure login, personalized shopping experience, product browsing, and streamlined checkout.

  Seller Dashboard:
  Tools for product management, order tracking, customer engagement insights, and analytics.

  ER Diagram Overview:
  Highlights relationships among users, products, carts, and orders for efficient database management.

3. Architecture

- **Frontend**: Built with React for a dynamic, responsive user interface. Users can easily navigate through products, access detailed product information, and make purchases with minimal effort.

- **Backend**: Utilizes Node.js with Express.js to handle server-side requests, manage API endpoints, and connect with the database. Routes and controllers manage user interactions and ensure efficient data handling.

- **Database**: MongoDB stores all essential data including user information, products, orders, and cart details. The database schema comprises collections like User, Product, Order, Cart, and Admin, each supporting CRUD operations.

4. Setup Instructions

- **Prerequisites**:
  - o Node.js
  - o MongoDB
  - o Git: Version control

- **Installation**:
1. Clone the repository from GitHub.
2. Run npm install in both frontend and backend directories to install dependencies.
3. Set up environment variables for database and port configuration.

5. Folder Structure

- **Client (Frontend):**
  - o **Components**: For reusable UI elements.
  - o **Pages:** Contains views for products, cart, order details, etc. o
    Styles: Includes CSS and styling files.

- **Server (Backend):**
  - o **Models:** Defines Mongoose schemas for User, Product, Order, Cart, and Admin.
  - o **Routes:** Manages endpoints for users, orders, authentication, and admin operations.
    - o **Controllers:** Contains logic for handling requests and responses.

6. Running the Application

- **Frontend**: Run npm start in the client directory to start the React frontend.

- **Backend**: Run npm start in the server directory to start the Node.js backend server.

7. API Documentation

The API endpoints in ShopEZ facilitate seamless interaction between the frontend and backend, supporting a wide array of functionalities for both users and sellers.

User APIs

- **User Registration**: POST /api/users/register

  - **Description**: Registers a new user.

  - **Parameters**: {username, email, password}

  - **Response**: Returns a confirmation message and user details upon successful registration.

- **User Login**: POST /api/users/login

  - **Description**: Authenticates a user and issues a JWT token.

  - **Parameters**: {email, password}

  - **Response**: JWT token for session management.

- **View Products**: GET /api/products

  - **Description**: Retrieves the catalog of products available for purchase.

  - **Parameters**: None

  - **Response**: A list of products with details like name, price, description, and available discounts.

- **Add to Cart**: POST /api/cart/add

  - **Description**: Adds a product to the user's cart.

  - **Parameters**: {productId, quantity}

  - **Response**: Updated cart details.

- **Place Order**: POST /api/orders/place

o **Description**: Completes the checkout process and places an order. o

Parameters: {cartId, shippingAddress, paymentDetails}

o **Response**: Order confirmation with order ID and details.

Seller APIs

- **Add Product**: POST /api/seller/products/add

    o **Description**: Allows sellers to add a new product to their inventory.

      o **Parameters**: {name, description, price, category, stock}

    o **Response**: Success message and product ID.

- **View Order History**: GET /api/seller/orders

    o **Description**: Provides a history of orders received by the seller. o

    Parameters: {sellerId}

    o **Response**: List of all orders including product details and customer information.

- **Manage Inventory**: PUT /api/seller/products/update

    o **Description**: Enables sellers to update product information. o

    Parameters: {productId, updatedFields}

    o **Response**: Updated product details.

## 8. Authentication

Authentication & Authorization:

- **JWT Tokens**: ShopEZ uses JSON Web Tokens (JWT) to manage user and seller sessions securely. Tokens are generated upon login and included in the headers for protected routes.
- **Middleware for Authorization**: Role-based middleware is implemented to differentiate between user and admin functionalities. Routes that modify seller information, manage inventory, or access sensitive customer data are restricted to authorized sellers and admins.

- **Password Security**: Passwords are hashed using bcrypt to ensure secure storage and prevent unauthorized access.

9. User Interface

Screenshots & Feature Highlights:
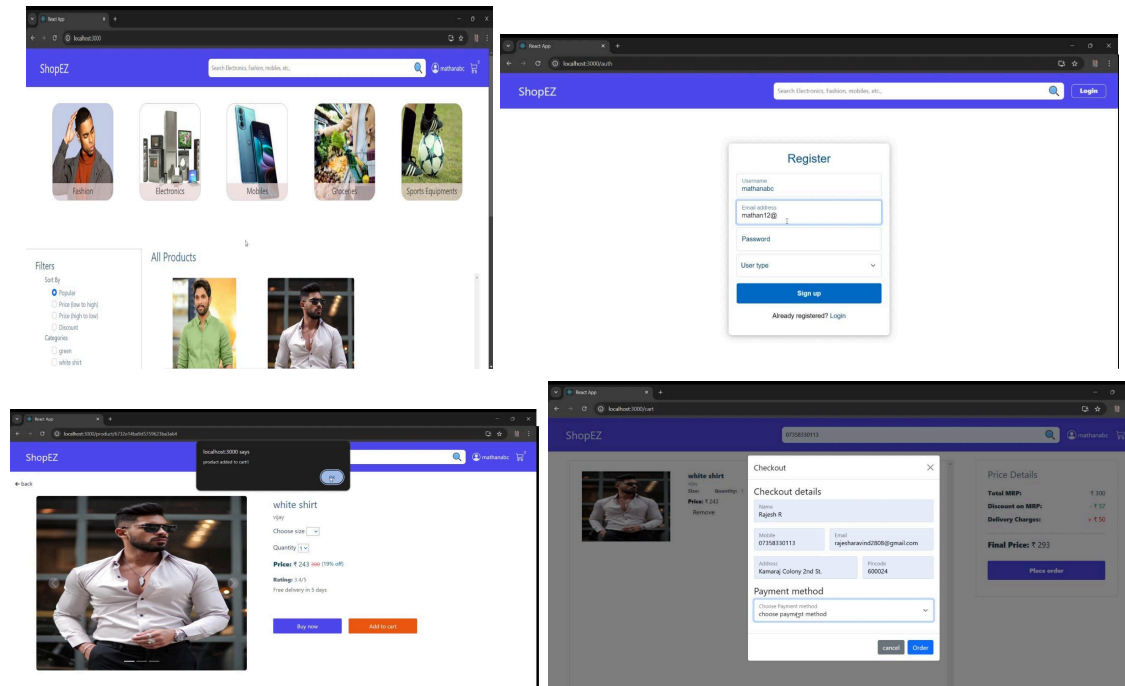
1. **Product Catalog**: Displays a grid of available products with filters for categories, price range, and search functionality.

2. **Product Details Page**: Showcases selected product information, including images, description, price, reviews, and an "Add to Cart" button.

3. **Shopping Cart**: Users can view selected items, adjust quantities, and proceed to checkout.

4. **Checkout Process**: A multi-step form for entering shipping details, selecting a payment method, and reviewing order details before purchase.

5. **Seller Dashboard**: Displays seller-specific information, including order history, sales analytics, and inventory management.

10. Testing

Testing Strategy:

- **Unit Testing**: Conducted on isolated components and functions using Jest for frontend elements (React components) and Mocha for backend modules.

- **Integration Testing**: Tests the interaction between frontend and backend through API endpoints. Postman collections are used for verifying request-response flows.

- **End-to-End Testing**: Simulates the full user journey from account creation, product browsing, and checkout to order confirmation, utilizing Cypress to ensure a bug-free experience across multiple user roles.

- **Tools**:

  o **Frontend**: Jest, Enzyme

  o **Backend**: Mocha, Chai, Supertest

  o **End-to-End**: Cypress

11. Screenshots or Demo

- **Screenshots**:
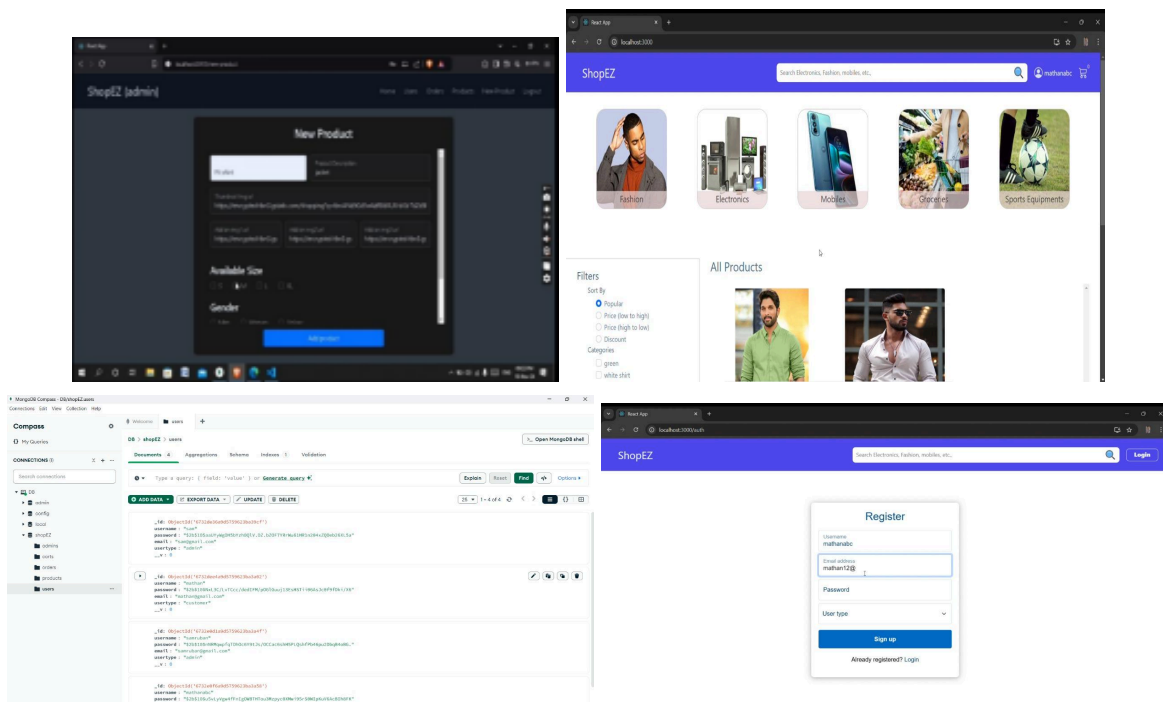
  o **Homepage**: Highlights the product catalog with categories and featured items.

    o **Login Detail**: Its an authentication process to verify the user.

  o **Creating new Product**: Showcases the streamlined new product process.

  o **Seller Dashboard**: Demonstrates the seller's inventory and analytics.

  o **Admin Panel**: Overview of user management, order tracking, and system settings.

- **Demo Link**:
  https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19P06N8Ez_tHqJamTPDb
  bkdUNXXGIKUJV?usp=sharing

12. Known Issues

Current Issues:

- **Loading Time on High Traffic**: Slight delays in rendering product catalog under heavy traffic. Optimization is planned with caching and content delivery network (CDN) integration.

- **Seller Dashboard Analytics**: Occasional lag in generating reports; a refactor for improved data handling is in progress.

- **Browser Compatibility**: Minor layout discrepancies observed in older versions of Internet Explorer.

Resolved Issues:

- **Checkout Process**: Improved speed and security after a recent API optimization.

- **Product Search Function**: Enhanced search algorithm accuracy to refine results for user queries.

13. Future Enhancements

Planned Features and Improvements:

1. **AI-Powered Product Recommendations**: Leveraging machine learning to provide personalized product recommendations based on user preferences and browsing history.
2. **Multi-language and Currency Support**: To cater to a global user base, localization options for language and currency adjustments will be implemented.
3. **Mobile App Integration**: Expanding ShopEZ to a mobile application for iOS and Android, offering users a versatile and accessible shopping experience.
4. **Enhanced Analytics for Sellers**: Introducing more in-depth reporting tools and visualizations for sellers to monitor sales trends, stock levels, and customer engagement.
5. **Loyalty Program**: Implementing a reward system to incentivize frequent shoppers and increase user retention.