# Project Documentation: Implementation of Shipping Module in Laravel

## **Project Title:**

Shipping Module Implementation for E-commerce Application Using Laravel and Shiprocket API

## **Objective:**

To design and implement a scalable and efficient shipping module for an e-commerce application using Laravel, integrating shipping methods, dynamic cost calculation, and tracking functionality with the Shiprocket API.

## **Scope:**

The shipping module will handle:

1. **Shipping Types:**
   * **Self-shipped:** Flat rate calculation.
   * **Auto-shipped:** Service provider-based calculation using APIs:
     + Service Timings
     + Hyper-local deliveries
     + Courier services
2. **Cost Calculation:**
   * Flat rate for self-shipped orders.
   * API-based dynamic calculation for auto-shipped orders.
3. **Tracking:**
   * Allow customers to track shipments in real-time.

## **Features:**

### ****1. User Interface:****

* Dropdowns and radio buttons for selecting shipping types.
* Input fields for entering package details (e.g., weight, pickup, and delivery postcode).

### ****2. Backend Integration:****

* Integration with Shiprocket API for dynamic shipping cost calculation and tracking.
* CRUD operations for managing shipping types and rates.

### ****3. API Endpoints:****

* /calculate-shipping for shipping cost estimation.
* /track-shipment for shipment tracking.

### ****4. Scalability:****

* The module can handle multiple shipping providers if required in the future.

## **Tools and Technologies:**

1. **Backend Framework:** Laravel 10
2. **Frontend Framework:** Blade Templating Engine
3. **Database:** MySQL
4. **HTTP Client:** Guzzle (for API requests)
5. **API Service Provider:** Shiprocket
6. **Testing Framework:** PHPUnit

## **Implementation Plan:**

### ****1. Requirement Analysis:****

* Identify key functionalities required for the shipping module.
* Register and retrieve API credentials from Shiprocket.
* Understand Shiprocket API endpoints for:
  + Authentication
  + Serviceability
  + Tracking

### ****2. Project Setup:****

* Install Laravel framework using Composer.
* Configure the .env file for database and API credentials.
* Set up authentication middleware for secured API requests.

### ****3. Database Design:****

* Define tables for:
  + **Shipping Types:** (id, type, method, flat\_rate, created\_at, updated\_at)
  + **Orders:** (id, shipping\_type\_id, weight, cost, tracking\_id, created\_at, updated\_at)
  + **Tracking Details:** (id, tracking\_id, status, eta, created\_at, updated\_at)

### ****4. API Integration:****

* Authenticate with Shiprocket and store the token for reuse.
* Implement API calls for:
  + Cost calculation based on pickup and delivery postcodes and weight.
  + Real-time tracking of shipments.

### ****5. Backend Logic:****

* Create a ShippingService class to encapsulate API logic:
  + **Methods:**
    - authenticate(): Obtain API token.
    - calculateShippingCost(): Fetch cost details.
    - trackShipment(): Retrieve tracking information.
* Develop controllers for handling user requests and returning responses.

### ****6. Frontend Development:****

* Design a responsive user interface using Blade templates.
* Create forms for:
  + Selecting shipping type.
  + Entering package details.
  + Tracking shipments.
* Implement JavaScript to handle dynamic interactions (e.g., fetching cost via AJAX).

### ****7. Testing:****

* **Unit Testing:**
  + Write test cases for database models and API integration.
* **Functional Testing:**
  + Simulate user interactions with the UI and validate responses.

### ****8. Deployment:****

* Push the code to a version control system (e.g., GitHub).
* Deploy the application to a server (e.g., AWS, Heroku, Laravel Forge).
* Configure .env for production environment credentials.

### ****9. Monitoring and Maintenance:****

* Enable logging for API requests and responses.
* Monitor API token expiration and refresh tokens when required.
* Use Laravel Telescope to debug and monitor the application.

## **Timeline:**

| **Task** | **Duration** |
| --- | --- |
| Requirement Analysis | 2 days |
| Project Setup | 1 day |
| Database Design | 2 days |
| API Integration | 3 days |
| Backend Logic | 3 days |
| Frontend Development | 4 days |
| Testing | 2 days |
| Deployment | 1 day |
| **Total Time** | **18 days** |

## **Expected Outcomes:**

1. A fully functional shipping module integrated with Shiprocket API.
2. Accurate cost calculation for self-shipped and auto-shipped orders.
3. Real-time tracking functionality accessible to customers.
4. Scalable architecture to accommodate future shipping providers or features.

## **Future Enhancements:**

1. Add support for multiple shipping providers.
2. Enable bulk order shipping.
3. Integrate email/SMS notifications for tracking updates.
4. Implement a dashboard for admin to manage shipping providers and rates.

## **Conclusion:**

The shipping module implementation in Laravel will significantly enhance the e-commerce application by providing dynamic cost calculation, multiple shipping options, and real-time tracking, improving the overall user experience.