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| **Step 1: Install XAMPP** |
| * Download and install: xampp-windows-x64-8.0.30-0-VS16-installer.exe (Make sure to install it in a directory like *C:\xampp* and allow Apache/MySQL permissions if prompted.) |
| **Step 2: Clone the Project from GitHub**   * Clone the repository from: https://github.com/shenzlule/real-time-voting-system.git * Place the **cloned folder** inside the htdocs directory, located in the XAMPP installation directory (e.g., C:\xampp\htdocs\). |
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| Step 3: Import the Database   * Open your browser and go to: http://localhost/phpmyadmin * Click Import, and select the SQL file inside the project's database folder. * Database name must be: real\_time\_voting\_system\_db *(Make sure the database you create has exactly this name.)* |
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| Step 4: Make sure to import this database using phpMyAdmin the database name is real\_time\_voting\_system\_db the created database should have the same name. |
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| Step 5: Start XAMPP Services   * Launch the XAMPP Control Panel. * Start Apache and MySQL. |
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| Step 6: Run the Application   * Open your browser and navigate to: http://localhost/real-time-voting-system *(Assumes the folder name in htdocs is real-time-voting-system.)* |
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| Step 7:Authentication |
| Login Credentials   * Admin Login:   + Username: jeremie   + Password: jeremie * Student Login:   + Student ID: evliCGW3k4fQpmP   + Password: jeremie |
| Step 7: Explore the System   * You can now tour the real-time voting system features as either an admin or student. |
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