SETA - User Manual

Smart Expense Tracker Application (SETA)

Document Version:
Version 2.0
Revision: Initial Release

Printing Date:
May 5, 2025

Group Information:
Group ID: D2

Members:
Tang Bok Hei (1155193297)
Siu Wing Yiu (1155192075)
Leung Ho Chun (1155193014)
So Kin Pui (1155193506)

Department:
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Contents

1 What is SETA?

SETA (Smart Expense Tracker Application) is a desktop application designed to help users manage personal finances by tracking income and expenses. Key features include:

- Tracking spending by category.

- Monitoring income sources.

- Managing financial accounts (checking, savings, cash, etc.).

- Defining recurring transactions (bills, subscriptions).

- Setting financial plans (budgets and savings goals).

- Visualizing financial data via a customizable dashboard.

- Importing and exporting data.

SETA aims to provide a clear overview of financial situations to support informed decision-making.

2 Getting SETA on Your Computer

Users can install SETA using pre-built releases or build it from the source code.

This is the simplest method for most users.

1. Navigate to the SETA GitHub Releases page: https://github.com/sokinpui/3100_project/releases

2. Locate the latest release version.

3. Download the appropriate file for your operating system:

   - **Windows:** Download the `.exe` file (e.g., `SETA-Setup-1.2.3.exe`). Double-click the installer and follow the on-screen instructions.

   - **macOS:** Download the `.dmg` file (e.g., `SETA-1.2.3.dmg`). ***Only perform this action for applications you trust.***
     - Double-click the `.dmg` file to open it.
     - Drag the `SETA.app` icon into your `Applications` folder.
     - **Important Note on Unsigned Apps:** As this application is not signed through the Apple Developer Program, macOS may initially block it. If you see a warning about an "unidentified developer" or that the app is "damaged", you may need to manually approve it **at your own risk**. Open the Terminal application and run the following command (replace `SETA.app` if you renamed it):
       ```
       xattr -cr /Applications/SETA.app
       ```

   - **Linux:** Download the `.AppImage` file (e.g., `SETA-1.2.3.AppImage`).
     - Make the file executable (e.g., via file properties or using `chmod +x SETA-1.2.3.AppImage` in the terminal).
     - Double-click the `.AppImage` file to run SETA.

3 First Steps: Logging In & The Interface

Upon launching SETA, users are presented with the **Login** screen. New users must select **Sign Up**, complete the registration form, and verify their email address via a link sent to their inbox before logging in.

4 Core Concepts: Managing Your Finances

SETA organizes financial data into distinct categories:

4.1 Expenses

Track money spent (e.g., groceries, rent).

1. Navigate to **Expenses** via the sidebar.

2. Use the **Add New Expense** form to input Amount, Date, Category (select from predefined list or choose "Others" and specify), and optional Description.

3. Click **Add Expense**.

4. View, sort, and delete entries in the **Expense History** table.

4.2 Income

Track money received (e.g., salary, gifts).

1. Navigate to **Income** via the sidebar.

2. Use the **Add New Income** form to input Amount, Date, Source, optional Description, and optionally link to an Account.

3. Click **Add Income**.

4. View history in the table.

4.3 Accounts

Define financial holding locations (e.g., Checking, Savings, Cash).

1. Navigate to **Accounts** via the sidebar.

2. Use the **Add New Account** form to input Name, Type, Starting Balance, and the corresponding "Balance As Of Date".

3. Click **Add Account**.

4. View defined accounts. Income and Recurring Items can optionally be linked to these accounts.

4.4 Recurring Items (Bills & Subscriptions)

Define regular transactions (e.g., rent, salary).

1. Navigate to **Recurring Items** via the sidebar.

2. Use the **Add New Recurring Item** form to input Name, Amount, Category, Frequency (Daily, Weekly, Monthly, etc.), Start Date, optional End Date, Description, and linked Account.

3. Click **Add Recurring Item**.

4. View defined rules. This data feeds the "Upcoming Bills" widget on the dashboard.

4.5 Planning (Budgets & Goals)

Set financial targets.

1. Navigate to **Planning** via the sidebar.

2. Use the **Budgets** tab to define spending limits per category/period.

3. Use the **Goals** tab to define savings targets (target amount, current amount, optional target date).

4. Monitor progress via relevant dashboard widgets ("Budget Overview," "Goal Progress").

5 Using the Dynamic Dashboard

The **Dashboard** provides a customizable overview of financial data through widgets. Refer to the *Dashboard Widget Documentation* for details on each widget.

- **Adding/Removing Widgets:** Use the **Manage Widgets** button to select which widgets are displayed.

- **Moving & Resizing:** Click and drag widget title bars to move. Drag the bottom-right corner to resize.

- **Time Period Selector:** Use the controls (typically top-left) to set the date range for data displayed in most widgets (e.g., "Last 30 Days", "Current Month", "Custom Range").

- **Filtering Data:** Use the **Data Filters** widget (if added) to refine data shown in other widgets by Category/Source and/or Amount range. Clear selections in the filter widget to reset the view to the full time period.

6 Importing & Exporting Data

6.1 Importing Expenses/Income from CSV

Import data from external sources.

1. Navigate to **Import Data** (or similar) via the sidebar.

2. Separate sections are provided for Expense and Income CSV import.

3. Prepare a CSV file with required columns (e.g., `date`, `amount`, `category_name` for expenses; `date`, `amount`, `source` for income). Date format: `YYYY-MM-DD`. Optional columns like `description` can be included.

4. Click **Select CSV File** in the appropriate section.

5. Click **Upload and Process**.

6. Review the import summary indicating success count and any skipped rows/errors.

6.2 Exporting Full Data Backup (JSON)

Create a backup of all your SETA data.

1. Navigate to **Settings** via the sidebar.

2. Locate the **Data Management** section.

3. Under **Export Data**, click **Export All Data**.

4. A `.json` file containing all data (expenses, income, accounts, budgets, goals, recurring items) will be downloaded. Store this file securely.

6.3 Importing Full Data Backup (JSON)

Restore data from a `.json` backup.

1. Navigate to **Settings** -> **Data Management**.

2. Under **Import Data**, carefully read the **WARNING**. **Importing will DELETE all current data in the application and REPLACE it with the file's content. This action cannot be undone.**

3. Click **Select Backup File (.json)** and choose your backup file.

4. Click **Import Data**.

5. Confirm the data replacement in the subsequent dialog **only if you are certain**.

6. SETA will process the file. A restart might be necessary to reflect changes fully.

7 Managing Your Licence Key

Advanced features like Custom Reports require an active licence key.

1. Navigate to **Settings** -> **Licence Management**.

2. View your current status ("Active", "Inactive", "Not Set").

3. To update, enter your full licence key (format: XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX) into the **Enter Licence Key** field.

4. Click **Update Licence**. The key will be validated.

5. Review the success or error message. A restart may be required for changes to take full effect.

8 Generating Custom Reports (Licence Required)

Generate tailored reports with an active licence.

1. Navigate to **Custom Reports** via the sidebar (may show a lock icon if licence is inactive).

2. Select desired **Data Types** (Expenses, Income, etc.) using checkboxes.

3. Configure Options:

   - Set the **Time Period** using the selector.
   - Choose the **Output Format** (CSV, Excel, PDF).

4. Click **Generate Report**.

5. The report file will be generated and downloaded.

AI Tools Usage

Gen AI tools(aistudio.google.com) is used to generate clean and readable latex code for better representation