Mpumalanga Business Hub

A web platform connecting businesses in Mpumalanga Province with potential customers through a comprehensive business directory and resource center.

Overview

The Mpumalanga Business Hub is designed to promote economic growth in the region by providing businesses with online visibility and connecting them with customers. The platform features a tiered membership system with increasing benefits based on subscription level.

Features

- **User Registration & Authentication**: Secure token-based authentication with Laravel Sanctum
- **Business Profiles**: Comprehensive business information including contact details, operating hours, and descriptions
- **Business Directory**: Searchable and filterable listing of local businesses by category and district
- **Business Dashboard**: Statistics and profile management for business owners
- **Tiered Memberships**: Different packages with varying benefits (Basic, Bronze, Silver, Gold)
- **Social Media Integration**: Display and management of business social media profiles with tier-based allocation
- **WhatsApp Integration**: Direct WhatsApp contact button for easier customer communication

Technology Stack

Frontend

- **Framework**: React 18 with Vite
- **Styling**: Tailwind CSS with custom brand theming
- **State Management**: React Hooks and Context API
- **Routing**: React Router v6
- **HTTP Client**: Axios for API communication
- **Icons**: React Icons for social media and UI elements

Backend

- **Framework**: Laravel 10
- **Language**: PHP 8.2
- **Database**: PostgreSQL
- **Authentication**: Laravel Sanctum for API token authentication
- **Architecture**: Repository pattern with service layer
- **Testing**: PHPUnit for unit and feature tests

Project Structure

The project follows a client-server architecture with separate directories for the frontend and backend:

```
MPBusinessHub/
├── client/              # React frontend
├── server/           # Laravel backend (active)
├── server/              # Original server files (reference only)
└── PROGRESS_REPORT.md   # Detailed progress report
```

Membership Tiers

Feature	Basic (Free)	Bronze (R200)	Silver (R500)	Gold (R1000)
Business Name Listing	✅	✅	✅	✅
Area of Operation	✅	✅	✅	✅
Website Link	❌	✅	✅	✅
WhatsApp Number	❌	✅	✅	✅
Email Contact	❌	❌	✅	✅
Star Ratings	❌	✅	✅	✅
Product Catalog	❌	❌	✅	✅
Monthly Adverts	0	1	2	4
Social Media Links	❌	✅	✅	✅
Social Media Features	0	0	1	2

Annual Pricing: Bronze: R2,000/year, Silver: R5,000/year, Gold: R10,000/year

Social Media Features

The platform includes comprehensive social media integration:

- **Social Media Links**: Businesses can add links to their social media profiles (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok)
- **Social Media Management**: Dashboard interface for managing social media links
- **Tier-Based Allocation**:
    - Bronze: Display social media links
    - Silver: Display links + 1 social media feature per month
    - Gold: Display links + 2 social media features per month
- **WhatsApp Integration**: Direct WhatsApp contact button using the business phone number

Installation and Setup

Prerequisites

- Node.js (>= 14.x)
- PHP 8.1 or higher
- Composer
- PostgreSQL

Backend Setup (Laravel)

1. Navigate to the server directory:

```
cd server
```

2. Install PHP dependencies:

```
composer install
```

3. Create a copy of the environment file:

```
cp .env.example .env
```

4. Generate an application key:

```
php artisan key:generate
```

5. Configure your database in the .env file:

```
DB_CONNECTION=pgsql
DB_HOST=127.0.0.1
DB_PORT=5432
DB_DATABASE=mpbusinesshub
DB_USERNAME=your_username
DB_PASSWORD=your_password
```

6. Run database migrations:

```
php artisan migrate
```

7. Start the Laravel development server:

```
php artisan serve --port=8000
```

Frontend Setup (React)

1. Navigate to the client directory:

```
cd client
```

2. Install JavaScript dependencies:

```
npm install
```

3. Start the development server:

```
npm run dev
```

4. The application will be available at `http://localhost:3000`

API Endpoints

Public Endpoints

- `POST /api/businesses/register` - Register a new business
- `GET /api/businesses` - Get all businesses with optional filtering
- `GET /api/businesses/check` - Get businesses for the directory
- `GET /api/businesses/{id}` - Get details for a specific business
- `POST /api/auth/login` - Authenticate user and get token

Protected Endpoints (require authentication)

- `POST /api/auth/logout` - Logout and invalidate token
- `GET /api/business/details` - Get authenticated user's business details
- `PUT /api/business/update` - Update authenticated user's business profile

Testing

Backend Tests

```
cd server
php artisan test
```

Frontend Tests

```
cd client
npm test
```

Recent Improvements

See the Development.md file for a detailed overview of recent improvements and current project status.