



TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
LALITPUR ENGINEERING COLLEGE

LABXPLOER: INTERACTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

BY
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A MIDTERM REPORT
SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATION
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR
THE DEGREE OF BACHELORS IN COMPUTER APPLICATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATION
LALITPUR, NEPAL

JUNE, 2024



Tribhuvan University
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Submitted to
Department of Computer Application
Lalitpur Engineering College

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelors in Computer
Application

Submitted by
Sushant Bramhacharya (LEC077BCA08)
JUNE, 2024

Under the Supervision of
Er. Bibat Thokar

DECLARATION

I declare that the work hereby submitted for Bachelors in Computer Application at the Department of Computer Application , Lalitpur Engineering College entitled ”**LabXplorer: Interactive Learning Environment**” is my own work and has not been previously submitted by me at any university for any academic award. I authorize the Department of Computer Application , Lalitpur Engineering College to lend this project work to other institutions or individuals for the purpose of scholarly research.

Sushant Bramhacharya (LEC077BCA08)

June, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

The undersigned certify that they have read and recommend to the Department of Computer Application for acceptance, a project work entitled “**LabXplorer: Interactive Learning Environment**”, submitted by **Sushant Bramhacharya (LEC077BCA08)** in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of “**Bachelors in Computer Application**”.

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DEPARTMENTAL ACCEPTANCE

The project work entitled “**LabXplorer: Interactive Learning Environment**”, submitted by **Sushant Bramhacharya (LEC077BCA08)** in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of “**Bachelors of Computer Application**” has been accepted as a genuine record of work independently carried out by the student in the department.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This project work would not have been possible without the guidance and the help of several individuals who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this study.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Project Supervisor and BCA Program Coordinator, **Er. Bibat Thokar**, of **Lalitpur Engineering College** for providing invaluable guidance, insightful comments, meticulous suggestions, and encouragement throughout the duration of this project work.

Furthermore, we would like to extend our gratitude to the entire faculty of the Department of Computer Application . Their dedication to fostering creativity, critical thinking, and technical proficiency has been useful in our project's development. The support and guidance received from our teachers have empowered us to transform our vision into a reality.

I am also grateful to my classmates and friends for offering me advice and moral support. To my family, thank you for encouraging me in all of my pursuits and inspiring me to follow my dreams. I am especially grateful to my parents, who supported me emotionally, believed in me and wanted the best for me.

Sushant Bramhacharya (LEC077BCA08)

June, 2024

ABSTRACT

LabXplorer is an innovative web application that will be developed using React, Express, and Postgres, designed to provide interactive learning community . This platform offers a user-friendly interface where students can conduct various simulation, read science related content, perform quizzes, track their progress. By leveraging real-time, visually engaging simulations powered by Phaser.js and Unity 3D, LabXplorer enhances students' understanding of scientific concepts through hands-on learning. The platform also supports collaboration and knowledge sharing via integrated discussions and quizzes, fostering a community of inquisitive learners. Comprehensive feasibility studies, addressing technical, operational, and economic aspects, along with detailed system design diagrams, ensure the platform's robustness and scalability. Utilizing the latest web-platform development technologies, LabXplorer delivers a responsive and efficient user experience. Rigorous unit testing, particularly on the authentication module, ensures security and reliability, making LabXplorer a dynamic, effective, and engaging tool for modern science education.

Keywords: *Interactive, Collaboration, Simulation*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACID	Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, Durability
DFD	Data Flow Diagram
ER	Entity-Relationship
IT	Information Technology
JS	JavaScript
OS	Operating System
SQL	Structured Query Language
UI	User Interface
UX	User Experience

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

LabXplorer revolutionizes science education by providing an innovative interactive learning platform designed to transcend traditional learning methods. Tailored specifically for students and educators in STEM fields, LabXplorer aims to bridge gaps in practical science education by offering interactive simulations across diverse disciplines. This cutting-edge platform serves as a dedicated arena where learners can engage deeply with scientific concepts, conduct virtual experiments, visualize data, and collaborate seamlessly within their academic community.

1.2 Problem Statement

LabXplorer addresses critical gaps in science education by providing a dedicated platform specifically designed for virtual laboratory simulations for students of grades 7, 8, and 9. Unlike general educational platforms that lack interactive simulation components, LabXplorer offers tailored modules such as Basic Electronics Simulations, Basic Chemistry Simulations, Basic Astronomy Simulations, and a Basic Online Coding Environment with animations. This specialized approach enables students to gain hands-on experience and apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, enhancing their understanding and retention of scientific concepts.

For educators, LabXplorer provides tools to perform simulations, create studying capsules, assign quizzes to capsules, and facilitate collaborative learning through a discussion.

1.3 Objectives

- Create an interactive learning platform that enhances STEM education through interactive simulations across various disciplines.

1.4 Scope

- The platform should provide a virtual space for students and educators to conduct interactive simulations and promote simulating learning.
- LabXplorer should facilitate collaborative learning through discussion forums enabling students to share insights and ask questions.
- The platform should be user-friendly and accessible, making it easy for students to

engage in.

1.5 Limitation

- Creation of simulations cannot be done by users or super users, making the creation of simulations limited to developers.

1.6 Development methodology

For the development of LabXplorer, we are using the Rapid Application Development (RAD) methodology, which emphasizes iterative development and continuous user feedback over strict planning. This approach allows us to gather valuable insights from a diverse range of stakeholders, including friends, family, and esteemed faculty members from the Department of Computer Application. By engaging these groups, we obtain practical feedback on usability and functionality from potential end-users, as well as expert advice on educational and technological standards. This iterative process ensures that LabXplorer evolves in response to real user needs and academic requirements, resulting in a more effective and user-centric platform for science education.

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1.7 Report Organisation

The material in this project report is organised into seven chapters. After this introductory chapter introduces the problem topic this project tries to address, chapter 2 contains the literature review of vital and relevant publications, pointing toward a notable research gap. Chapter 3 describes the methodology for the implementation of this project. Chapter 4 provides an overview of what implementation tools are used. Chapter 5 contains Conclusion and Expected Outcomes of the project.

2 BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Background Study

Traditional science education, reliant on textbooks, lectures, and physical labs, often struggles to provide comprehensive hands-on experiences due to limited resources, high costs, and safety concerns. These challenges are especially pronounced in under-resourced schools, where students lack opportunities to engage with scientific materials practically. Our design focuses on developing LabXplorer, an innovative platform designed to revolutionize science education by offering interactive simulations in chemistry, physics, electronics, and astronomy. By providing a virtual environment for conducting experiments, visualizing data, and collaborating within an academic community, LabXplorer aims to transcend traditional learning methods. This platform also features a profile system for showcasing user portfolios and resumes, emphasizing functionality and visual appeal. We are researching best practices in code collaboration, tools for code sharing, and messaging functions to create a robust, user-friendly platform that bridges gaps in practical science education and sets a new standard for STEM learning.

2.2 Literature Review

Teacher perception of Olabs pedagogy

OLabs, as name says, offers a robust web-based platform encompassing simulations, animations, tutorials, and assessments, designed to enhance interactive and accessible learning experiences outside traditional laboratory settings. Emphasizing student-centered learning, inquiry-based approaches foster essential skills such as scientific thinking, evidence-based reasoning, and creative problem-solving, which are fundamental for knowledge creation and retention.[1]

How Khan Academy is changing the rules of education

This paper briefly describes how can an online learning platfrom change the way our education system worka and improve on it.

- Khan Academy offers free, online instructional videos covering various subjects, allowing students to learn at their own pace and revisit concepts.

- The platform uses analytics to provide real-time feedback, enhancing personalized learning experiences for both teachers and students.
- Khan Academy promotes a flipped classroom model where students watch videos at home and engage in problem-solving and discussions in class, fostering deeper understanding and collaboration.
- It democratizes education by providing high-quality instruction globally, irrespective of geographic location or socioeconomic status.
- The platform challenges traditional educational paradigms and suggests new possibilities for delivering effective education in the digital era.

Khan Academy being one of the main motivation for online learning and educating. [2]

PhET: Interactive simulations for teaching and learning physics

Perkins et al. (2006) introduce PhET, a collection of interactive simulations designed to enhance the teaching and learning of physics. These simulations aim to make abstract concepts more accessible and understandable through dynamic visualizations and interactive models. The authors emphasize the effectiveness of PhET in promoting conceptual understanding by allowing students to manipulate variables and observe real-time outcomes, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and practical application. They discuss the development process, which involves collaboration between physicists, educators, and software developers to ensure accuracy and educational efficacy. The article highlights PhET's versatility in catering to diverse learning styles and educational settings, promoting active learning and engagement. [3]

An Introduction to HTML5 Game Development with Phaser.js

It provides a comprehensive guide to creating 2D games using the Phaser.js framework. It covers setting up a development environment, understanding fundamental game concepts, and managing game states and assets. The book teaches how to implement physics and collision detection, create animations and visual effects, design user interfaces, and integrate audio. It emphasizes practical, project-based learning, guiding readers through real game

development scenarios. Additionally, it offers debugging, optimization techniques, and deployment strategies for various platforms, making it an essential resource for both beginners and experienced developers looking to master HTML5 game development with Phaser.js.[4]

3 SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND DESIGN

3.1 System Analysis

We are following a structured approach that employs Rapid Application Development (RAD) methodology. This method breaks down the larger project into smaller, manageable steps, allowing for incremental progress through a series of iterations. We develop individual modules and integrate them, focusing on delivering and refining smaller portions of work. This approach ensures continuous improvement and alignment with our overall goals while effectively managing the project and incorporating ongoing feedback and adjustments.

3.1.1 Requirement Analysis

Requirement analysis is a critical phase in the software development lifecycle that focuses on understanding and documenting the needs and expectations of stakeholders. This process involves gathering detailed information about what users require from a system, which includes identifying functional requirements (what the system should do), non-functional requirements (how the system should perform), and constraints (limitations or restrictions). The goal is to create a comprehensive and clear specification that guides the development team in designing and implementing the system. Effective requirement analysis ensures that the final product aligns with user needs and business objectives, reduces the risk of project failure, and facilitates efficient communication among stakeholders. By thoroughly analyzing requirements, teams can address potential issues early, prioritize features, and ensure a smoother development process.

3.1.1.1 Functional Requirements

The functional requirements of LabXplorer are mentioned below:

- **User Profiles and Progress Tracking:** LabXplorer enables children and teachers to create personalized profiles for tracking their learning progress and achievements. Users can log in with unique credentials, update their profiles with educational interests and avatars, and monitor their completion of simulations and quizzes. The progress tracking feature records tasks completed, concepts learned, and achieve-

ments unlocked, offering a comprehensive view of individual learning journeys and performance over time.

- **Interactive Virtual Simulations:** LabXplorer offers a range of interactive virtual simulations, including Basic Electronics, Basic Chemistry, Basic Astronomy, and an Online Coding Environment. These simulations provide immersive experiences where users can engage in hands-on activities, such as manipulating virtual equipment and conducting experiments. By integrating interactive animations and real-world scenarios, LabXplorer facilitates experiential learning, allowing users to explore scientific principles and phenomena in a dynamic digital environment.
- **Teacher Tools and Student Assignments:** Teachers are equipped with specialized tools to create and manage educational workflows and assign tasks to students. They can design experiment workflows with sequential steps, interactive quizzes, and checkpoints to assess student progress. Teachers review completed assignments, provide feedback, and evaluate learning outcomes, ensuring that learning experiences are tailored to individual needs. Learning capsules, similar to workflows or blog entries, provide focused content and insights on specific topics, allowing for an organized and structured approach to content delivery and knowledge reinforcement.
- **Discussion Forum for Learning Community:** LabXplorer includes a discussion forum that promotes collaborative learning and knowledge sharing. Both students and teachers can start discussions, ask questions, share insights, and respond to others' posts. The forum supports threaded discussions, tagging, and search functionalities, fostering meaningful interactions and peer engagement within the learning community.
- **Quizzes and Learning Capsules:** LabXplorer integrates quizzes and learning capsules to reinforce knowledge and assess comprehension. Quizzes are designed to evaluate understanding of concepts covered in simulations, while learning capsules provide bite-sized, focused content on specific topics. These features help consolidate learning and provide instant feedback.
- **Admin Dashboard:** The admin dashboard in LabXplorer offers a centralized interface for managing user accounts, monitoring platform usage, and overseeing system performance. Administrators can access detailed analytics, configure system settings,

and manage content to ensure smooth operation and address any issues that arise.

3.1.1.2 Nonfunctional Requirements

The nonfunctional requirements of LabXplorer are mentioned below:

- **Performance Enhancement:** The focus on performance involves optimizing the platform to handle high user loads and complex simulations efficiently. This includes minimizing reliance on external frameworks and ensuring smooth and responsive interactions.
- **Authentication Security:** Security is a paramount concern. To enhance the platform's security, advanced authentication algorithms, particularly focusing on hashing techniques within the backend environment, have been implemented. This ensures that user authentication data is stored and managed in a highly secure manner.
- **Better UX Design:** User experience is central to the project's success. The emphasis on better UX design means that every aspect of the platform's interface, from navigation to interaction, will be meticulously crafted to ensure a seamless and intuitive experience. This design approach caters not only to experienced users but also to newcomers, ensuring that all users can effortlessly navigate and engage with the platform.
- **Responsive Design:** Recognizing the diverse range of devices and browsers that users utilize, the creation of a responsive design is important for this project. This means that the platform's design and functionality will adapt flawlessly to various screen sizes, ensuring that users can access and interact with the platform effectively, whether they are using a desktop computer, tablet, or smartphone. This responsiveness guarantees a consistent and satisfying experience across different devices and platforms, promoting accessibility and usability.

3.2 Feasibility Analysis

A feasibility study is a systematic and structured analysis conducted to determine the viability and practicality of a proposed project plan. It serves as an evaluation tool to assess whether

the project can be successfully implemented and if it aligns with the organization's goals and objectives. It involves gathering and analyzing relevant information to determine if the project is technically feasible, operationally feasible, economically feasible, and scheduling feasible.

3.2.1 Economical Feasibility

Since the proposed system involves developing a web application, we will utilize a range of free and open-source software development tools. For the frontend, we will use **React**, a popular JavaScript library for building dynamic and interactive user interfaces. On the backend, **Express**, a minimal and flexible Node.js web application framework, will be employed to handle server-side logic and HTTP requests. For database management, we will utilize **PostgreSQL**, an open-source relational database management system known for its reliability and performance. To create interactive simulations, we will use **Phaser**, a robust HTML5 game framework, and **Unity**, a powerful cross-platform game engine, for more complex simulations and 3D elements. Additionally, we will need to allocate funds for economical server hosting to ensure the application is accessible to users while managing costs effectively.

3.2.2 Operational Feasibility

LabXplorer prioritizes operational feasibility by adopting a user-centric design approach, emphasizing simplicity and ease of use. The system is designed to be highly interactive, enabling both students and educators to navigate effortlessly without needing extensive technical knowledge. The user interface (UI) features a clean layout and intuitive controls, providing a seamless experience when accessing virtual environment and educational resources. By minimizing the need for extensive training and reducing potential barriers to adoption, LabXplorer enhances user acceptance and engagement. Overall, its straightforward design promotes effective use of the app's features, supporting educational activities and fostering a positive user experience.

3.2.3 Technical Feasibility

Combining Express.js with React and PostgreSQL offers a robust and scalable solution for developing modern applications. Express.js, built on Node.js, provides an efficient backend framework for creating RESTful APIs and managing server-side logic. PostgreSQL, renowned for its reliability and advanced data management features, serves as a solid foundation for secure and efficient data storage and querying. On the frontend, React enables the creation of responsive and visually appealing applications across multiple platforms using a single codebase. This stack leverages the strengths of each technology: Express.js for backend scalability and API development, PostgreSQL for comprehensive data handling, and React for seamless and dynamic UI development. Supported by active communities and extensive documentation, this combination ensures ample technical support, resources, and flexibility for both deployment and maintenance, making it an ideal choice for delivering modern, interactive applications.

3.3 Structured System Modelling

Structured system modeling is a methodical approach for designing complex systems by breaking them into manageable components and using formal diagrams and tools. It helps in clearly defining system requirements, workflows, and interactions.

3.3.1 Processing Modling: DFD

DFD or Data Flow Diagram is mainly used to show how data are being flowed in and out of our system. There are 3 levels of DFD i.e Context Level(Level 0),Level 1 and Level 2

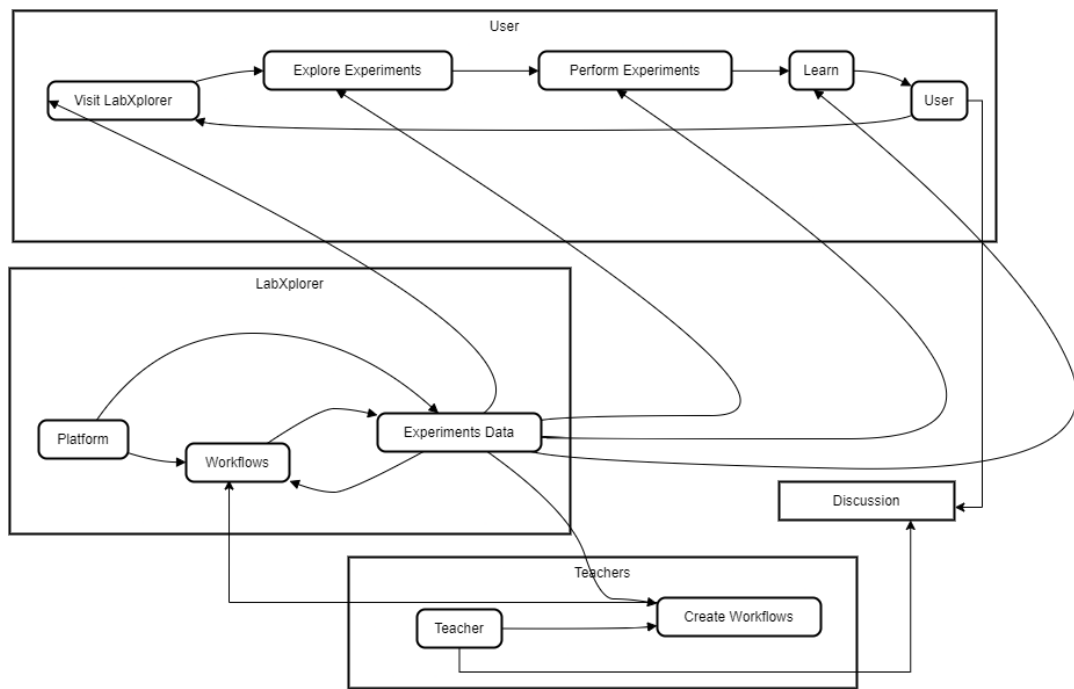


Figure 3.1: Data Flow Diagram (Context Level)

3.3.2 Data Modelling(ER-Diagram)

ER Diagram is mainly used to design database schema. With the help of below er diagram we can easily design database in SQL.

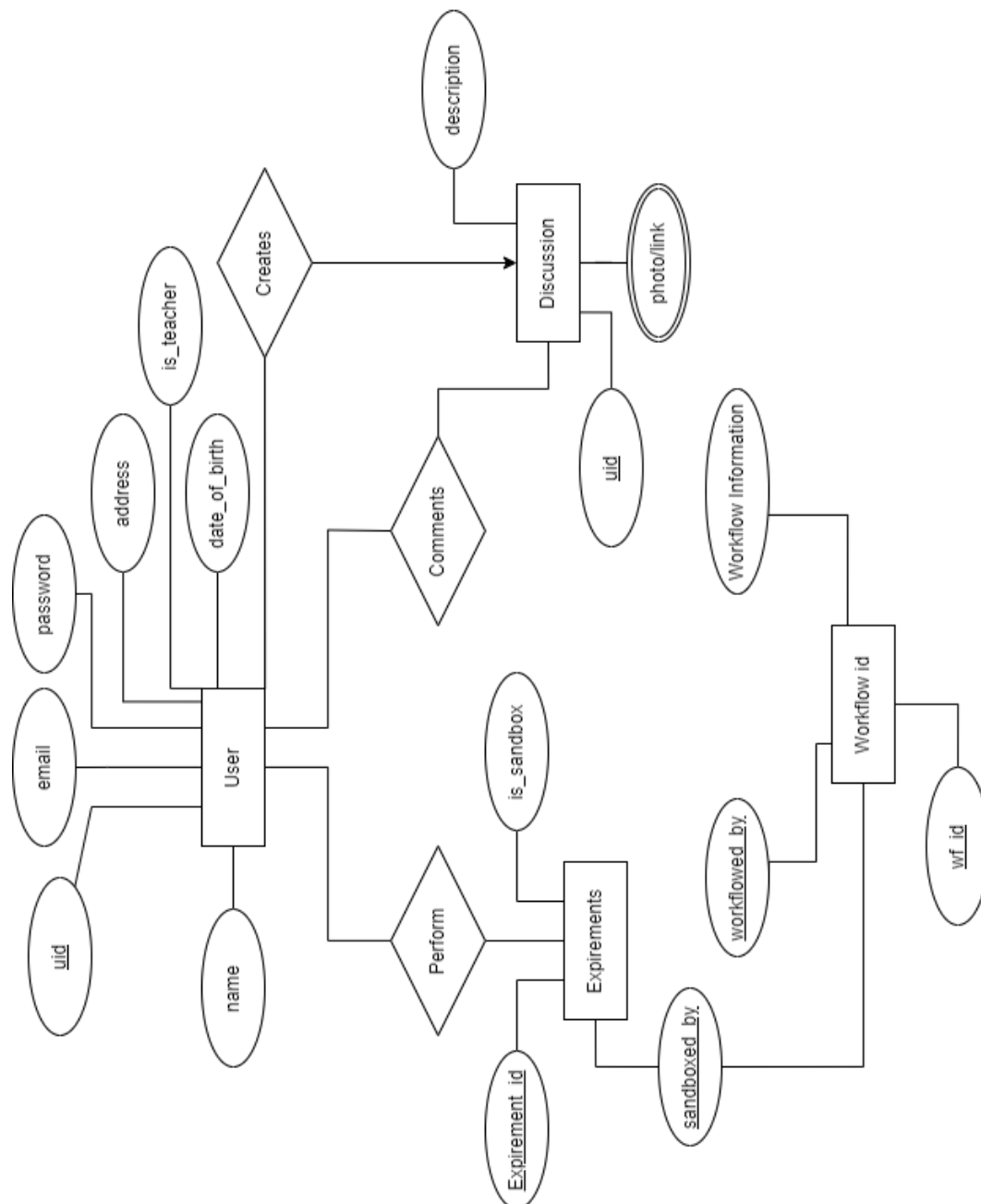


Figure 3.2: ER Diagram of System Data

3.4 Structured System Design

3.4.1 Architecture Design

The following diagram shows diagram of our Architecture. Mainly shows what are the functions can be accessed after starting our application.

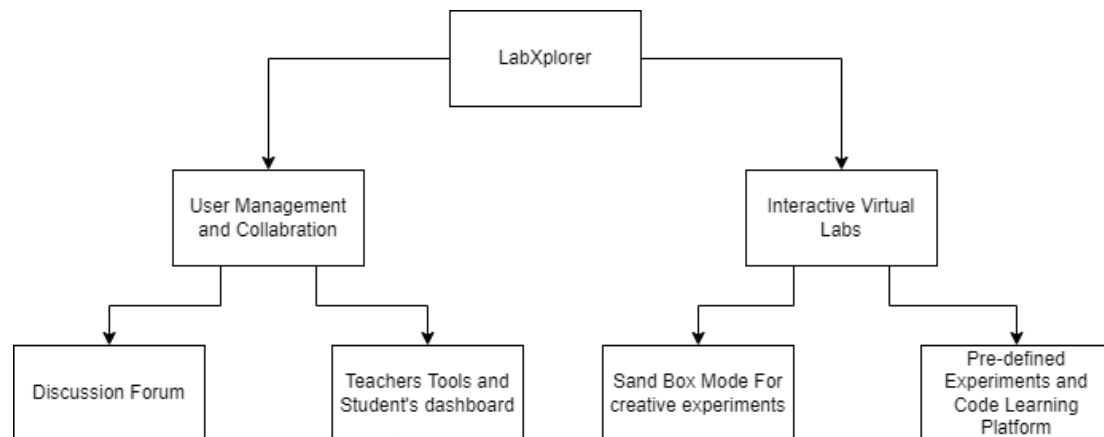


Figure 3.3: Main Architecture of System

3.4.2 Database Schema Design

An activity diagram visually presents a series of actions or flow of control in a system similar to a flowchart or a data flow diagram. This diagram showed how our program flow goes on.

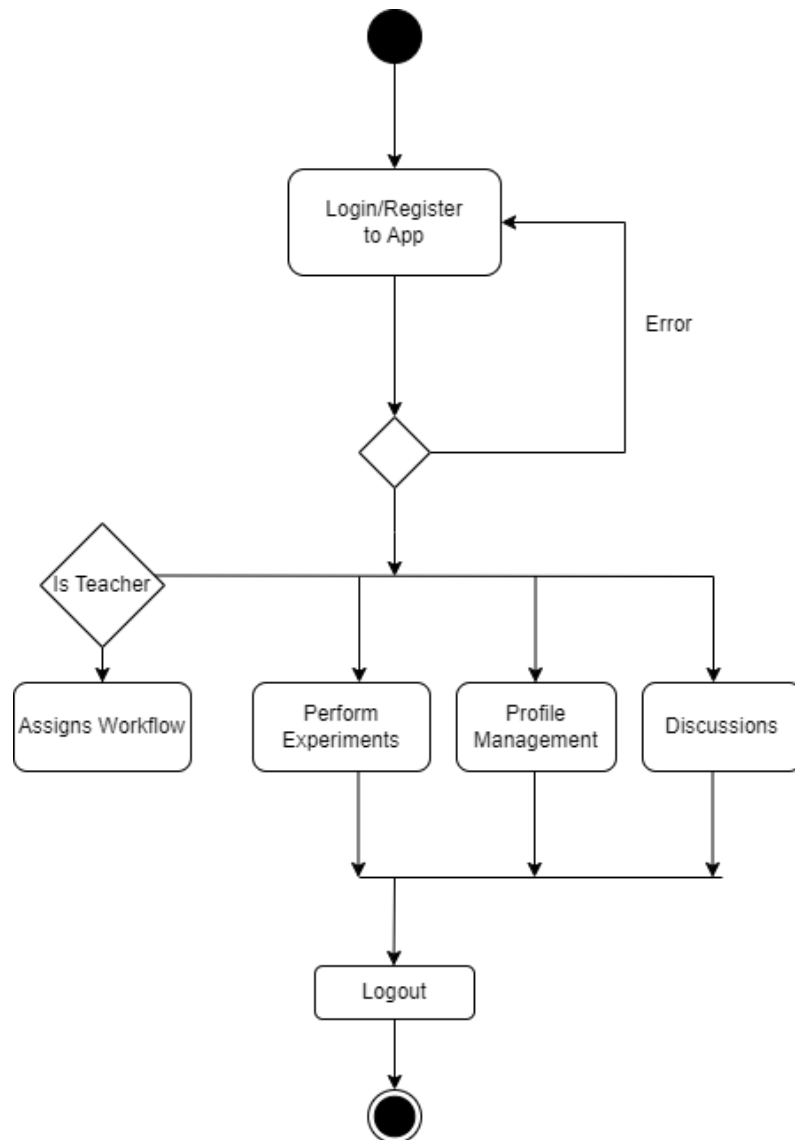


Figure 3.4: Activity Diagram

3.4.3 Interface Design

An activity diagram visually presents a series of actions or flow of control in a system similar to a flowchart or a data flow diagram. This diagram showed how our program flow goes on.

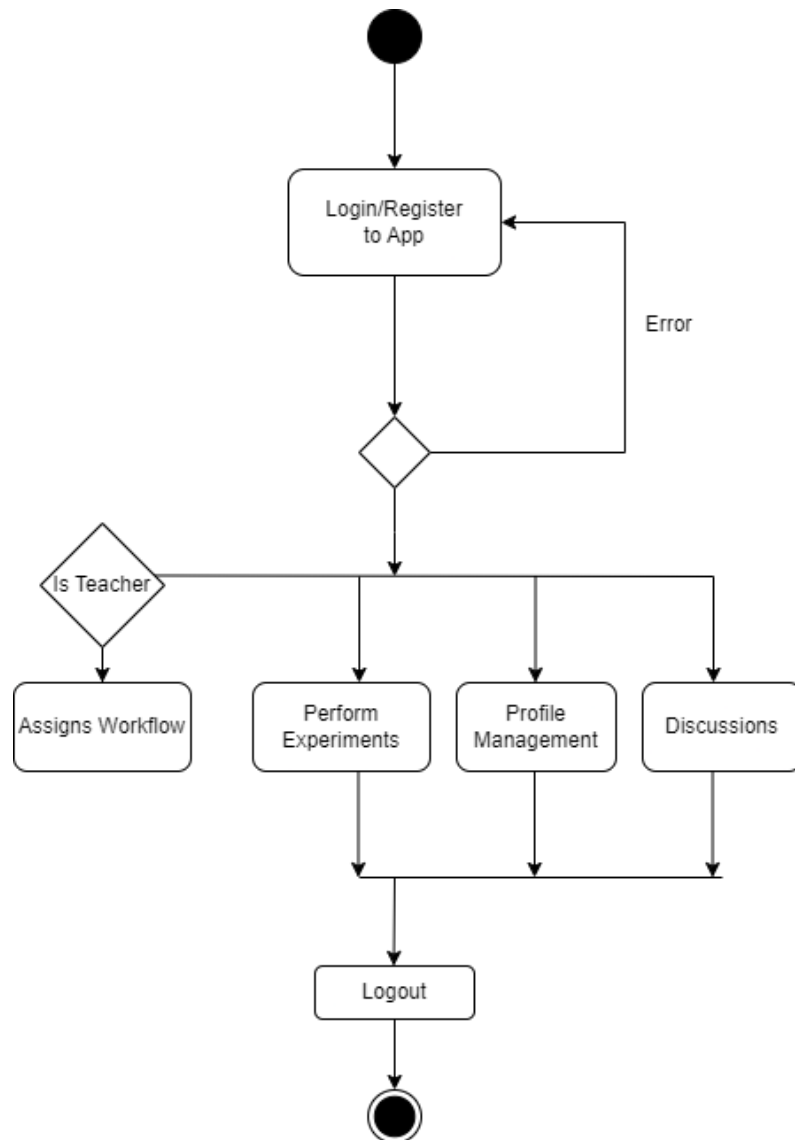


Figure 3.5: Activity Diagram

3.4.4 Physical DFD

DFD or Data Flow Diagram is mainly used to show how data are being flowed in and out of our system. There are 3 levels of DFD i.e Context Level(Level 0),Level 1 and Level 2

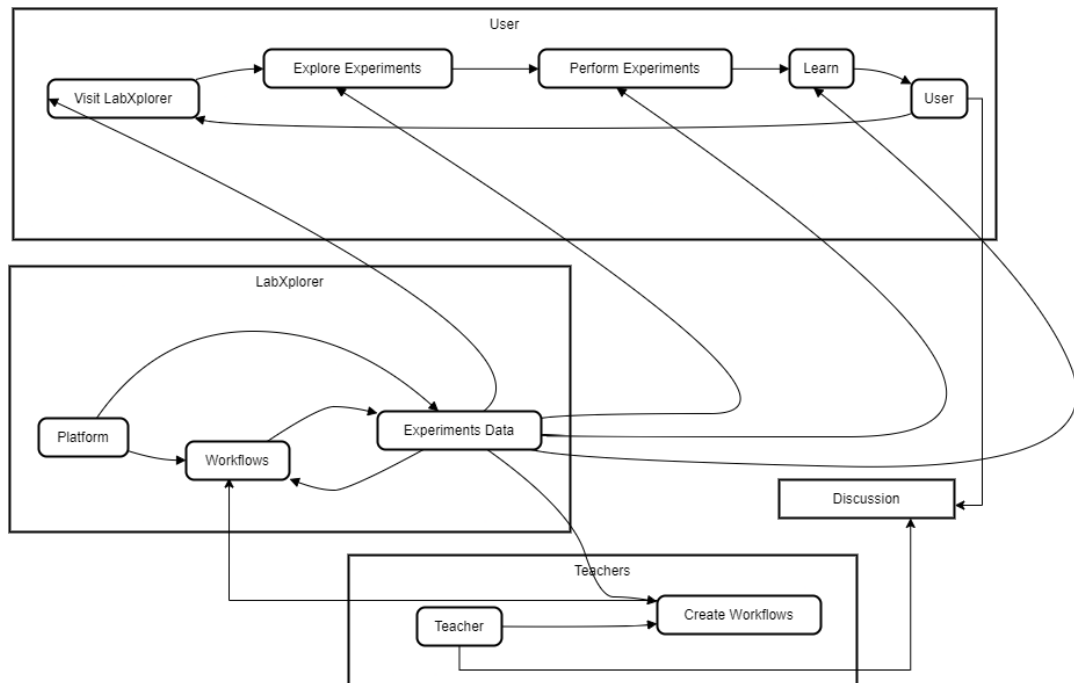


Figure 3.6: Data Flow Diagram (Context Level)

3.5 Algorithm Details

4 IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Tools Used

Figma

Figma is a cloud-based design and prototyping tool that empowers teams to collaborate on UI/UX design projects in real-time. It offers a user-friendly interface and powerful features that make it a popular choice among designers. With Figma, designers can create and share interactive prototypes, design components, and design systems. Its cloud-based nature allows for seamless collaboration, enabling multiple team members to work on the same design simultaneously. Figma supports version control, ensuring that design iterations can be easily tracked and managed.

React

React is a widely-used open-source JavaScript library developed by Facebook for building user interfaces, particularly single-page applications where data changes frequently. It emphasizes a component-based architecture, allowing developers to create reusable UI components that encapsulate their own structure, logic, and styling. React's use of a virtual DOM enhances performance by minimizing direct updates to the real DOM, ensuring efficient rendering. With its declarative approach, developers specify what the UI should look like based on different states, making the code more predictable and easier to debug. Additionally, React introduces JSX, a syntax extension that combines JavaScript and HTML, making it straightforward to write and understand UI components.

Postgres

PostgreSQL, often referred to simply as Postgres, is a powerful open-source relational database management system known for its reliability, robustness, and extensibility. Developed over decades and maintained by a global community of contributors, PostgreSQL offers a comprehensive set of features for managing structured data. It supports complex queries, transactions with ACID (Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, Durability) properties, and a wide range of data types including JSON, XML, and spatial data. PostgreSQL's commitment to standards compliance and continuous improvement ensures compatibility with various programming languages and frameworks. With capabilities for scalability, data integrity, and advanced indexing, PostgreSQL is a preferred choice for applications requiring robust data management and high availability, contributing to its widespread adoption across industries from small startups to large enterprises.

Git/Github

Git is a distributed version control system that is both free and open-source, designed to handle projects of all sizes efficiently and swiftly. It simplifies collaboration by enabling multiple individuals to contribute changes that can be seamlessly merged into a single source. When using Git, the software runs locally on your computer, storing your files and their complete history. Alternatively, you can utilize online hosts like GitHub to store a copy of your files and their revision history. This central repository allows you to easily upload your changes and download updates from other developers, promoting seamless collaboration. Git facilitates automatic merging of changes, allowing multiple individuals to work on different sections of the same file and later merge their modifications without losing any work.

Node Js with Express

Node.js with Express.js is a powerful combination for building scalable and efficient web applications. Node.js provides a runtime environment that allows JavaScript to be executed server-side, leveraging its event-driven, non-blocking I/O model to handle multiple concurrent connections efficiently. Express.js, as a minimalist web framework for Node.js, simplifies the creation of APIs and routes, offering robust features such as middleware support, routing, and template engines. Together, Node.js and Express.js enable rapid development of RESTful APIs and web servers, making them well-suited for creating real-time applications, microservices, and backend systems. With a vibrant ecosystem of libraries and active community support, Node.js with Express.js remains a popular choice for developers seeking flexibility, performance, and scalability in web application development.

JavaScript

JavaScript is a programming language that is used to create interactive web pages and backend server. It is a powerful and versatile language that can be used to do a wide variety of things, including adding animation and interactivity to web pages, validating form data, processing user input, making Ajax requests to the server, and creating games and other interactive applications.

Phaser

Phaser is a powerful and popular open-source HTML5 game framework designed for creating 2D games that can run in both web browsers and mobile environments. Developed by Photon Storm, Phaser is known for its versatility and ease of use, making it a favorite among both beginner and experienced game developers. The framework supports Canvas and

WebGL rendering, automatically selecting the best option based on the device's capabilities. Phaser offers a robust set of features including physics engines (Arcade Physics, P2 Physics, and Matter.js), input handling, asset management, animations, and audio integration. Its component-based architecture allows developers to build complex games by combining reusable pieces of code, enhancing modularity and maintainability. With an active community, extensive documentation, and numerous tutorials, Phaser provides ample resources for learning and development, empowering creators to bring their game ideas to life efficiently.

4.1.1 Implementation Details of Modules

4.2 Testing

4.2.1 Test Cases for Unit Testing

4.2.2 Test Cases for System Testing

5 CONCLUSION AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

5.1 Conclusion

LabXplorer is an innovative virtual laboratory platform tailored for enhancing science education through interactive simulations and experiments. It aims to revolutionize how students and educators engage with scientific concepts by offering a diverse range of features. LabXplorer facilitates seamless exploration, collaboration, and learning across various scientific disciplines. This platform empowers users to conduct experiments, share insights, and leverage sophisticated algorithms to deepen their understanding. Additionally, LabXplorer integrates advanced reporting capabilities and decision-making tools, enriching the educational experience beyond traditional classroom settings.

5.2 Lesson Learnt/ Outcome

LabXplorer aims to provide a transformative experience for students and educators in the realm of science education, addressing the challenges faced by newcomers and enthusiasts in navigating complex scientific concepts. By leveraging interactive simulations and experiments, LabXplorer offers an immersive platform where users can engage deeply with various scientific disciplines. It empowers students to conduct virtual experiments, explore theoretical concepts, and apply sophisticated algorithms, thereby enhancing their understanding and practical skills. LabXplorer also fosters collaborative learning environments where users can share insights, discuss findings, and collaborate on projects. Through this platform, newcomers gain valuable exposure to real-world applications of scientific principles and methodologies, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical implementation. By facilitating hands-on learning and access to comprehensive resources, LabXplorer endeavors to inspire curiosity, foster innovation, and prepare the next generation of scientists and researchers.

5.3 Work Remaining

APPENDIX A

A.1 Project Schedule

Below is the Gantt chart of our project Schedule. We have planned to perform these specific tasks between these time frames.







PROCESS	2024					
	June	July	August	September	October	November
Requirement Gathering						
Designing						
Coding						
Testing						
Documentation						
Maintenance						

Figure A.1: Gantt Chart of Schedule

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