Project Statement: Python CLI Expense Tracker

Objective

The primary goal of this project is to provide a simple, robust, and platform-independent command-line interface (CLI) solution for personal financial tracking. It allows users to easily log, view, and analyze their daily or monthly expenditures.

Core Technology

The application is developed entirely in **Python** and leverages the standard library modules, including csv and datetime, ensuring high portability and minimal dependencies.

Key Features

1. **Data Persistence:** Expenses are stored locally in a machine-readable **CSV file (expenses.csv)**, providing a persistent record that can also be easily imported into spreadsheet software for deeper analysis.

2. **Transaction Management:** Users can quickly **add** new expenses by providing the date, category, amount, and an optional description.

3. **Reporting and Analysis:** The application generates a comprehensive **summary report** that displays the total expenditure and provides a categorized financial breakdown, showing the percentage contribution of each spending category to the total.

4. **Interface:** The application features a clean, menu-driven CLI for easy navigation and interaction.

Target Audience

This tool is ideal for individuals seeking a straightforward, non-web-based method to maintain an accurate ledger of their expenses without relying on complex external software or cloud services.