Course Crafters

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Eric Uehling and Mark Fuentes

https://github.com/uehlingeric/CourseCrafters

What is Course Crafters?

- Target Users: Virginia Tech students planning course enrollments
- Purpose: Facilitating informed decision-making in course selection
- Data Access: Historical data on departments, courses, and instructors
- Time Span: Comprehensive data coverage from 2018 to 2023

- Key Features:
 - GPA Trends Analysis: Insight into academic performance over time
 - Enrollment Numbers: Understanding course popularity and availability
 - Withdrawal Rates: Gauging course difficulty and student satisfaction
- Objective: Simplifying course selection with a data-driven approach
- User Benefits: Tailored course planning aligned with academic goals

Our Tech Stack:



MongoDB:

- NoSQL Database
- Stores application data with flexibility in data structure. Allows for efficient data retrieval and management.

Express.js:

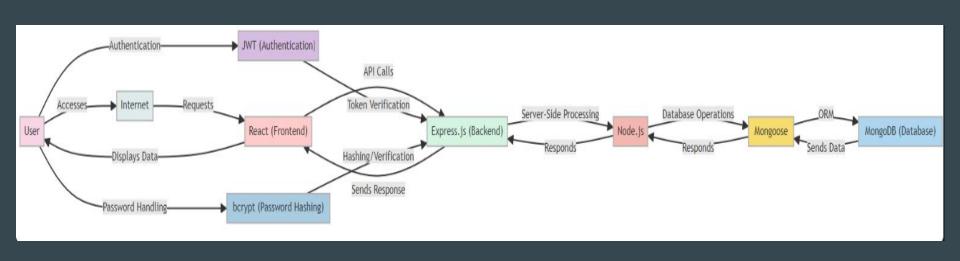
- Web Application Framework for Node.js
- Simplifies the creation of server-side logic and routes. Manages interactions between the frontend and the database.

React:

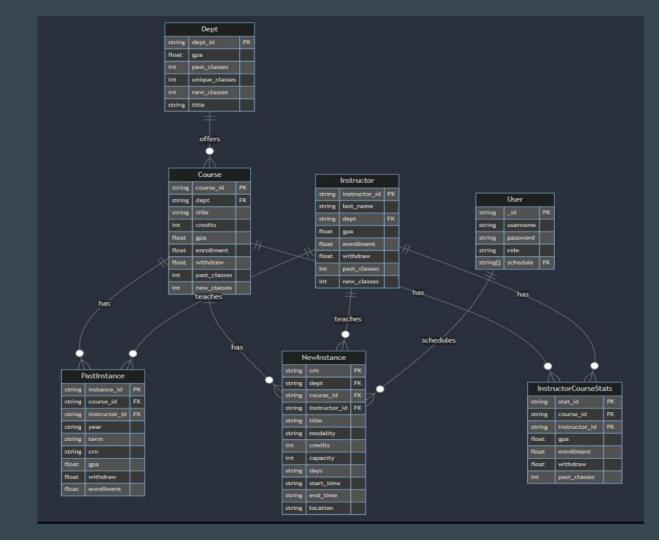
- JavaScript Library for Building User Interfaces
- Enables the creation of dynamic and responsive user interfaces. Simplifies the development of single-page applications.

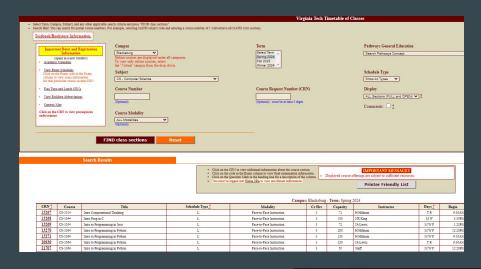
Node.js:

- JavaScript Runtime Environment
- Allows for the execution of JavaScript code on the server side. Powers the backend of the application with high performance and scalability.



Database Schema:





Web Scraping: Storing Offered Classes



```
scripts > raw data > III offered raw.csv
         crn,course,title,schedule type,modality,cr hrs,capacity,instructor,days,start time,end time,location,exam
         10058, AAD-1214, Acting Locally, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 2, 48, GW Hamming, M W, 2:30PM, 3:20PM, WLH 345, 14M
         20556, AAD-1214, Acting Locally, L. Face-to-Face Instruction, 2, 48, GW Hamming, M W, 1:25PM, 2:15PM, WLH 345, 13M
         21223, AAD-4234, Capstone Collaborations, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 10, BR Kirkland, W, 9:30AM, 12:00PM, BURCH 021, 09W
         10059, AAEC-1005, Econ Food Fiber Sys, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 70, PW Vertino de Queiroz, M W F, 1:25PM, 2:15PM, SEITZ 300, 13M
         10060, AAEC-1005, Econ Food Fiber Sys, L. Face-to-Face Instruction, 3,302, SK Stephenson, M W F, 12:20PM, 1:10PM, SOUIR COLNL, 12M
         10061,AAEC-1006,Econ Food Fiber Syst,L,Face-to-Face Instruction,3,70,N Abedin,M W F,10:10AM,11:00AM,SEITZ 300,10M
         10062, AAEC-1006, Econ Food Fiber Syst, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3,621, MJ Ellerbrock, M W F,9:05AM, 9:55AM, SQUIR COLNL, 09M
         10063, AAEC-2104, Personal Financial Planning, L. Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 621, WA White, M W F, 11:15AM, 12:05PM, SQUIR COLNL, 11M
         10064, AAEC-2434, Foundations of Agribusiness, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 129, P. Morelli Mercadante, M. W. F, 1:25PM, 2:15PM, 5MYTH 146, 13M
         10065,AAEC-2974,Independent Study,I,,1 TO 19,0,Staff,(ARR),---- (ARR) -----,TBA,00X,
         10066, AAEC-3004, Agr Prod & Cons Econ, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 48, C Wang, T R, 2:00PM, 3:15PM, FRALN 002, 14T
         10067,AAEC-3014,Analytic Methods Applied Econ,L,Face-to-Face Instruction,3,72,Z Chen,M W,4:00PM,5:15PM,WHIT 300,16M
         10068, AAEC-3024, Monetary Glob Iss Applied Econ, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 72, YE Karagulle, M W F, 1:25PM, 2:15PM, NCB 270, 13M
         10069, AAEC-3204, Intl Agri Dvlp & Trad, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 48, C Larochelle, T R, 11:00AM, 12:15PM, MCB 209, 11T
         10070, AAEC-3314, Environmental Law, L. Face-to-Face Instruction, 3,143, J Friedel, T R,11:00AM, 12:15PM, NCB 160,11T
         10071,AAEC-3324,Environment Sustain Dev Econ,L,Face-to-Face Instruction,3,152,MJ Ellerbrock,M W F,12:20PM,1:10PM,NCB 260,12M
         10072, AAEC-3424, Value-Based Mgmt in AgBusiness, L, Face-to-Face Instruction, 3, 64, PW Vertino de Queiroz, T R, 12:30PM, 1:45PM, LITRV 1860, 12T
         21227, AAEC-3424, Value-Based Mgmt in AgBusiness, L. Face-to-Face Instruction, 3,0,PW Vertino de Queiroz, M W F, 10:10AM, 11:00AM, FRALN 002,10M
         10073,AAEC-3454,Small Bus Met and Ent.L.Face-to-Face Instruction.3.64.C Wang,T R.9:30AM,10:45AM,LITRV 1860.09T
```

Data Cleaning: Standardizing our Schema



User Authentication

Registration

- Endpoint: /api/user/register
- Method: POST
- Payload: { username: String, password: String }
- Description: New users can register by providing a unique username and a password. The password is hashed before being stored in the database for security.

Create Admin (Admin only)

- Endpoint: /api/user/createAdmin
- Method: POST
- Headers: { Authorization: Bearer Token }
- Payload: { username: String, password: String }
- Description: This endpoint is restricted to admin users. It allows an admin to create a new admin account by providing a username and password.

Login

- Endpoint: /api/user/login
- Method: POST
- Payload: { username: String, password: String }
- Description: Registered users can log in using their username and password. Upon successful login, a JSON Web Token (JWT) is generated and returned to the user. This token is used for subsequent requests to authenticate the user.

Change Password

- Endpoint: /api/user/changePassword
- Method: POST
- Headers: { Authorization: Bearer Token }
- Payload: { oldPassword: String, newPassword: String }
- Description: Allows authenticated users to change their password. Users must provide their old password for verification and a new password.

Overview of JWT and bcrypt

JWT (JSON Web Tokens): JWTs are used to securely transmit information between parties as a JSON object. In this project, JWTs are used to manage user sessions after authentication. When a user logs in, they receive a token that is used to authenticate subsequent HTTP requests to the server. This token ensures that the requests are made by an authenticated user.

bcrypt: bcrypt is a password-hashing function. In this project, bcrypt is used to hash user passwords before they are stored in the database. When a user logs in, bcrypt is used again to compare the hashed version of the entered password with the hash stored in the database. This approach enhances security by ensuring that actual passwords are not stored in the database.

Bcrypt Password Hashing

"Password123"



"\$2a\$12\$9Nto7MDPJa4eurzsxgmNb.3M glJDfuKdK612nvkUvGCJMDUKZ.xHq"

```
models > JS User.is > [@] <unknown>
      const mongoose = require('mongoose');
      const bcrypt = require('bcryptis');
      const userSchema = new mongoose.Schema({
          username: { type: String, required: true, unique: true },
          password: { type: String, required: true },
          role: { type: String, default: 'user' }, // 'admin' for admin users
          schedule: [{ type: String }]
      // Hash password before saving
      userSchema.pre('save', async function(next) {
          if (!this.isModified('password')) return next();
          this.password = await bcrypt.hash(this.password, 12);
          next():
      module.exports = mongoose.model('User', userSchema, 'user');
```



```
* Middleware to protect routes by verifying the JWT token.
* This ensures that the route is accessed by an authenticated user.
const protect = async (req, res, next) => {
   let token;
   // Check if the authorization header is present and starts with 'Bearer'
   if (req.headers.authorization && req.headers.authorization.startsWith('Bearer')) {
            // Extract the token from the authorization header
           token = req.headers.authorization.split(' ')[1];
           // Verify the token using jwt.verify and the secret from environment variables
           const decoded = jwt.verify(token, process.env.JWT SECRET);
           // Find the user based on the ID in the decoded token and attach the user object to the request
           // Exclude the password when attaching th
           req.user = await User.findById(decoded.id
           // Proceed to the next middleware
           next();
         catch (error) {
           // If token verification fails, send a 40
           res.status(401).json({ message: 'Not auth
    } else {
       // If no token is provided in the headers, se
       res.status(401).json({ message: 'Not authorize
```

JWT: Middleware Authorization

```
* Middleware to check if the authenticated user is an admin.
 * This is used to protect routes that should only be accessible by admin users.
const admin = (req, res, next) => {
   // Check if the user exists and has the role 'admin'
   if (req.user && req.user.role === 'admin') {
        // Proceed to the next middleware
       next();
      else {
       // If the user is not an admin, send a 401 Unauthorized response
       res.status(401).json({ message: 'Not authorized as an admin' });
};
```

Site Functionality

Department List (Home)

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Welcome to CourseCrafters! This web app provides detailed information about courses, departments, and instructors from the past 5 years at Virginia Tech.

Departments

Search by ID or Title.

ID Ţ	Title ↑	GPA ‡	Past Classes	Unique Classes ‡	New Classes
AAD	Architecture, Arts, and Design	3.85	3	3	3
AAEC	Agricultural and Applied Economics	3.39	280	60	43
ACIS	Accounting and Information Systems	3.17	939	48	88
ADV	Advertising	3.27	4	2	6
<u>AFST</u>	Africana Studies	3.54	119	18	20
AHRM	Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management	3.64	45	4	4
AINS	American Indian Studies	3.76	61	8	6
ALCE	Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education	3.77	173	44	24
ALS	Agriculture and Life Sciences	3.40	206	41	21
AOE	Aerospace and Ocean Engineering	3.47	734	109	97
APS	Appalachian Studies	3.70	64	11	6
APSC	Animal and Poultry Sciences	3.47	376	51	59
ARBC	Arabic	3.58	102	15	12
ABCU	. 19 .	3.66	4445	72	474

Department Detail - Courses Tab

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CS - Computer Science

Courses Instructors
Search by ID or Title...

ID ↑	Title :	Credits 1	GPA ‡	Enrollment 1	Withdraw 1	Withdraw Rate	Past Classes ‡	New Classes ‡
CS 1014	Intro Computational Thinking	3	3.20	51.06	2.00	3.92%	18	1
CS 1044	Intro Prog in C	3	3.19	69.10	2.30	3.33%	10	1
<u>CS 1054</u>	Intro to Programming in Java	3	2.87	103.20	8.00	7.75%	10	1
CS 1064	Intro to Programming in Python	3	3.58	278.38	4.14	1.49%	21	4
CS 1114	Intro to Software Design	3	2.59	140.04	27.31	19.50%	26	3
CS 2064	Intermediate Prog in Python	3	3.19	67.50	2.25	3.33%	4	1
CS 2104	Intro to Problem Solving in CS	3	3.48	62.44	0.78	1.25%	36	4
CS 2114	Softw Des & Data Structures	3	3.14	150.83	6.69	4.44%	29	2
CS 2144	Competitive Problem Solving I	3	3.81	10.50	0.50	4.76%	2	0
CS 2164	Foundations Security Environ	3	3.66	20.07	0.57	2.84%	14	2
CS 2304	Special Study	1	3.59	21.79	2.07	9.50%	28	1
CS 2505	Intro Computer Organization	3	2.93	115.04	10.23	8.89%	26	3
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Department Detail - Instructors Tab

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CS - Computer Science

Courses Instructors
Search by Last Name...

Last Name ↓	GPA ↑	Enrollment 1	Withdraw 	Withdraw Rate ↓	Past Classes 	New Classes ↑
Abdelrahman	3.00	86.50	7.00	8.09%	2	0
Adhikari	3.75	10.00	0.00	0.00%	1	0
Ahmadian	3.57	72.00	3.00	4.17%	1	0
Alsafwan	3.92	85.33	0.33	0.39%	3	0
<u>Back</u>	3.57	44.18	2.05	4.64%	22	2
Balci	3.16	28.04	2.82	10.06%	28	4
Barnette	2.60	166.54	24.00	14.41%	13	0
Beattie	3.86	5.00	0.00	0.00%	1	1
Bhattacharya	3.32	16.00	1.50	9.38%	2	1
Bowman	3.68	18.40	0.00	0.00%	5	1
Brantly.	3.69	20.33	0.33	1.62%	6	2
Brown	3.91	50.50	0.00	0.00%	2	1
<u> </u>	3.51	50.50	0.00	0.0070	_	,

Course Detail - New Instances Tab

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CS 1114 - Intro to Software Design

New Instances | Instructor Course Stats | Past Instances

Search by CRN / Instructor...

CRN ‡	Title ↑	Instructor ID 1	Modality ‡	Credits 1	Capacity ‡	Days ‡	Start Time ‡	End Time ‡	Location 1
13273	Intro to Software Design	McPherson (CS)	F2F	3	270	MW	9:05AM	9:55AM	TORG 2150
13275	Intro to Software Design	Emebo (CS)	F2F	3	150	TR	2:00PM	2:50PM	SURGE 104C
20931	Intro to Software Design	McPherson (CS)	F2F	3	150	MW	4:00PM	5:15PM	TORG 3100

Course Detail - Instructor Course Stats Tab

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CS 1114 - Intro to Software Design

| New Instances | Instructor Course Stats | Past Instances | Search by Instructor...

		T.		To the second se	T- T-
Instructor ID ‡	GPA ↑	Enrollment 	Withdraw 1	Withdraw Rate ↑	Past Classes ↑
Barnette (CS)	2.51	184.67	30.00	16.25%	9
Cao (CS)	2.56	29.00	14.00	48.28%	1
Edwards (CS)	2.39	225.33	77.00	34.17%	3
Feng (CS)	2.81	104.00	14.00	13.46%	1
Hillman (CS)	2.72	100.00	15.50	15.50%	2
Irwin (CS)	2.72	116.00	20.50	17.67%	2
Kotut (CS)	2.98	83.00	4.67	5.63%	3
McPherson (CS)	2.47	240.00	30.00	12.50%	1
Senger (CS)	2.50	62.25	16.25	26.10%	4

Course Detail - Past Instances Tab

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CS 1114 - Intro to Software Design

New Instances Instructor Course Stats Past Instances
Search by Instructor...

Instructor ID 1	Year ‡	Term ↑	CRN ‡	GPA ↑	Enrollment 1	Withdraw	Withdraw Rate ↓			
Senger (CS)	2022-23	Fall	90770	1.92	22	10	45.45%			
Barnette (CS)	2021-22	Spring	22770	2.29	26	7	26.92%			
Cao (CS)	2022-23	Fall	92007	2.56	29	14	48.28%			
Senger (CS)	2022-23	Spring	13292	2.56	29	5	17.24%			
Kotut (CS)	2019-20	Spring	12932	3.08	69	0	0.00%			
Kotut (CS)	2019-20	Spring	12933	2.99	69	1	1.45%			
Barnette (CS)	2021-22	Fall	83038	1.94	69	39	56.52%			
Hillman (CS)	2022-23	Fall	90769	2.89	72	20	27.78%			
Barnette (CS)	2019-20	Spring	19676	2.97	85	0	0.00%			
Senger (CS)	2022-23	Fall	90768	2.73	89	25	28.09%			
F (CC)	2020-24	~ .	42074	2.04	101		42.4500			

Sign Up and Sign In

Sign In

Username

Password

Sign In

CourseCrafters Home Sign In Sign Up Go Back Welcome to CourseCrafters! This web app provides detailed information about courses, departments, and instructors from the past 5 years at Virginia Tech. Sign Up Password Sign Up Username © 2023 Eric Uehling and Mark Fuentes CourseCrafters Home Sign In Sign Up Go Back Welcome to CourseCrafters! This web app provides detailed information about courses, departments, and instructors from the past 5 years at Virginia Tech.

Admin Page

CourseCrafters

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User Page

Username: Eric

Role: admin

Change Password

Old Password New Password Confirm New Password Change Password

Create New Admin

New Admin Username New Admin Password Create Admin

User Page

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User Page

Username: Mark

Role: user

Change Password

Old Password New Password Confirm New Password Change Password

Course Detail - New Instances Tab - Signed In

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Welcome to CourseCrafters! This web app provides detailed information about courses, departments, and instructors from the past 5 years at Virginia Tech.

CS 1114 - Intro to Software Design

New Instances | Instructor Course Stats | Past Instances

Search by CRN / Instructor...

Action	CRN ‡	Title ‡	Instructor ID ↑	Modality ↑	Credits ‡	Capacity ‡	Days ‡	Start Time ‡	End Time ‡	Location ‡
+	13273	Intro to Software Design	McPherson (CS)	F2F	3	270	MW	9:05AM	9:55AM	TORG 2150
+	13275	Intro to Software Design	Emebo (CS)	F2F	3	150	TR	2:00PM	2:50PM	SURGE 104C
+	20931	Intro to Software Design	McPherson (CS)	F2F	3	150	M W	4:00PM	5:15PM	TORG 3100

Schedule Page - Signed In

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Eric's Schedule

CRN / Instructor / Course..

Action	CRN ‡	Title ↑	Course ID ‡	Instructor ID ‡	Modality ‡	Credits ‡	Capacity ‡	Days ‡	Start Time ↑	End Time ‡	Location ‡
-	13273	Intro to Software Design	CS 1114	McPherson (CS)	F2F	3	270	MW	9:05AM	9:55AM	TORG 2150
-	14558	Principles of Economics	ECON 2005	Owusu-Brown (ECON)	F2F	3	50	MWF	12:20PM	1:10PM	DER 3081
-	18299	Music Appreciation	MUS 1104	Lantz Crone (MUS)	OnlineAsync	3	150	(ARR)	(ARR)	(ARR)	00X

Work Distribution (This is very generalized)

Eric -

- Scripting
 - Data Scraping
 - Data Cleaning
 - Data Importing
- Database Creation
 - Collection Creation
 - o Relational Schema
- Backend
 - Express
 - Rest Apis

Mark -

- User Authentication
 - Password Hashing
 - o Token Authentication
- ullet Frontend
 - React framework
 - User interface
 - User experience
 - Site functionality

Biggest Challenges

- 1. Instructor Standardization: Offered course instructor data was structure differently than the distribution database. A lot of annoying edge cases with hyphens and two+ names.
- 2. Data Scraping: This script went through more iterations than I would like to disclose, almost made us switch topics...
- 3. Token authentication...

What did we learn?

- 1. Creating a full stack project using the extremely popular MERN stack (Mongo, Express, React, Node).
- 2. Debugging using the console. (Both backend and frontend consoles)
- 3. Updating database schemas to better fit new aspects of the overall project.
- 4. How to code for other eyes.

Real Customers: Our Roommates

Questions?