Project Brief:

Project title	Capstone Software Development Project
Module Name	CAI
Course Name	BDSE
Project Start date	Refer Schedule
Project Submission Date	Refer Schedule

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1. Purpose of this Project

The Capstone Project serves as a summative assessment for the CAI module in the BDSE programme. Its primary purpose is to evaluate learners' ability to independently research, plan, design, implement, test, and document a software-based solution within a defined timeframe.

The project allows learners to demonstrate their capability to:

- Identify and analyse a real-world problem or opportunity.
- Apply appropriate software engineering, data-driven, or intelligent system techniques to address the problem.
- Design and develop a functional application or system using suitable technologies.
- Apply testing strategies to validate functionality, performance, and quality.
- Present findings, outcomes, and reflections in a clear, structured, and academically appropriate manner.

The Capstone Project emphasizes independent learning, problem-solving, critical thinking, and professional practice. It is inclusive of all learners, allowing participants to showcase their knowledge, technical skills, and creativity, whether their solution involves traditional software development, AI/machine learning, or a combination of approaches.

2. Project Pre-requisites

A. You should have completed the following activities before –
   - Viewed and understood all the e-content related to the module.
   - Completed all the MCQ tests related to the module.
   - Completed all the Assignment / Lab Exercises of the module.

B. You should have access to the Project Brief, Project Report template and should understand how to use the templates.

C. You have access to the Project Technical Environment.

D. You should understand the number of milestones and what are the milestones to be presented for each of the Tutoring Session.

E. To implement the project, you will need access to an appropriate development environment, including programming languages, frameworks, tools, and platforms relevant to your chosen project and technology stack.

3. Project Definition

Background:

The increasing reliance on software applications and digital systems across industries has transformed how organizations manage operations, deliver services, and interact with users. Modern software solutions are expected to be efficient, scalable, secure, and aligned with user and stakeholder needs. This trend has created a growing demand for robust, well-structured software systems that can address real-world problems effectively.

In contemporary computing environments, software solutions may involve web or mobile application development, database-driven systems, cloud integration, API-based platforms, or intelligent features such as AI and machine learning. Depending on the problem domain, systems may incorporate predictive analytics, computer vision, natural language processing, or automated decision-making to enhance functionality and provide value to users. The success of a system is determined not only by the technologies employed but also by how effectively it meets requirements, supports decision-making, and delivers tangible benefits.

This Capstone Project enables learners to apply the knowledge and skills gained throughout the BDSE programme to develop a functional software solution. It mirrors real-world practice, where system requirements, constraints, and design considerations guide the selection of technologies, frameworks, and implementation strategies.

Problem Statement:

Many organizations and individuals rely on software systems to manage operations, track data, and deliver services efficiently. However, existing solutions often face challenges such as limited automation, inefficient workflows, lack of real-time analytics, or inadequate decision-support features. In some cases, traditional systems do not leverage emerging technologies such as AI, machine learning, or predictive analytics, which can provide more intelligent and adaptive functionality.

For this Capstone Project, learners are required to address a real-world problem by designing and implementing a software-based solution that overcomes these limitations. Projects may focus on optimizing operational workflows, enhancing user experience, enabling intelligent decision-making, automating repetitive tasks, or providing predictive insights. The challenge lies in creating solutions that are robust, scalable, and functional while aligning with the needs of users and stakeholders.

Project Scope and Key Challenges:

Scope:

The Capstone Project involves the design, development, and implementation of a functional software system that addresses a clearly defined real-world problem. Depending on the problem domain, projects may include web or mobile application development, database management, cloud-based deployment, API integration, data analytics, or intelligent system features such as AI and machine learning.

Key elements of the project scope include:

- Development of a software solution that meets specific functional and non-functional requirements.
- Integration of backend, frontend, and database components to ensure system reliability and scalability.
- Incorporation of intelligent features, analytics, or predictive models where relevant.
- Validation of system performance, functionality, and usability through rigorous testing.
- Documentation of the system architecture, design decisions, development process, and testing outcomes.
- Deployment of the solution in an appropriate environment, ensuring accessibility and practical usability.

Key Challenges:

Implementing such projects may involve several technical and operational challenges:

- **Requirement Analysis:** Clearly defining functional and non-functional requirements.
- **System Design and Integration:** Ensuring robust architecture and seamless module/API integration.
- **Data Management:** Handling, preprocessing, and transforming data for analytics or AI/ML components.
- **AI/ML Implementation (if applicable):** Selecting, training, and validating models for intelligent features.
- **Testing and Quality Assurance:** Verifying system functionality, performance, and usability.
- **Deployment and Scalability:** Ensuring reliable operation in the intended environment under expected load.
- **User Interface and Experience:** Designing intuitive and accessible interfaces.
- **Documentation:** Maintaining clear records of design, development, and testing processes.

Project Objectives:

The Capstone Project aims to guide learners through the end-to-end development of a functional software system addressing a real-world problem. The objectives are designed to ensure systematic planning, implementation, testing, and documentation of the solution.

1. Project Planning and Proposal

- Define project goals, scope, and deliverables.
- Develop a timeline and allocate resources efficiently.
- Identify system requirements and stakeholders.

2. System Design and Architecture

- Design overall system architecture, including backend, frontend, and database components.
- Plan integration of APIs, cloud services, and AI/ML models, where applicable.

3. Data Preparation and Processing (if applicable)

- Collect, clean, and preprocess datasets to support system functionality or AI/ML components.
- Engineer relevant features to enhance system performance and insights.

4. Application Development

- Implement functional modules using appropriate technologies (web, mobile, database, or AI frameworks).
- Integrate intelligent features, analytics, or predictive models, where applicable.

5. Testing and Validation

- Conduct unit, integration, and system testing to ensure functionality, performance, and usability.
- Evaluate AI/ML models using relevant metrics (accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, etc.), if applicable.

6. Visualization and Reporting (if applicable)

- Develop dashboards, visualizations, or reports to communicate insights and results effectively.

7. Deployment and Integration

- Deploy the system in an appropriate environment (cloud, web-hosted, or local).
- Ensure seamless operation and integration of all system components.

8. Documentation and Presentation

- Document system design, implementation steps, testing results, and evaluation metrics.
- Prepare a final report and project presentation summarizing objectives, methods, outcomes, and recommendations.

4. Project Task List

Perform the following project activities in a systematic and organized manner:

Activity 1: Project Proposal and Planning

- Develop a project plan with timeline, milestones, and resource allocation.
- Identify system requirements and stakeholders.
- Prepare a project proposal document outlining problem, objectives, scope, and approach.

Activity 2: System Design and Architecture

- Design the overall system architecture, including backend, frontend, and database components.
- Plan the integration of APIs, cloud services, or intelligent system features (AI/ML) as needed.
- Prepare system diagrams and flowcharts to guide development.

Activity 3: Data Preparation and Processing (if applicable)

- Collect, clean, and preprocess datasets to support system functionality or AI/ML components.
- Perform feature engineering or data transformation as required.
- Ensure data quality, consistency, and suitability for analytics or model development.

Activity 4: Application Development

- Implement functional modules using appropriate technologies (web, mobile, database, or AI frameworks).
- Integrate intelligent features, predictive models, or analytics components as required.
- Conduct iterative development with continuous testing of modules.

Activity 5: Testing and Validation

- Perform unit, integration, and system testing to ensure functionality, performance, and usability.
- Evaluate AI/ML models using relevant metrics (accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score) where applicable.
- Document test cases, results, and any corrective actions taken.

Activity 6: Visualization and Reporting (if applicable)

- Develop dashboards, visualizations, or reports to present system outputs and insights.
- Ensure clarity, readability, and effectiveness in communicating results.

Activity 7: Deployment and Integration

- Deploy the system in the designated environment (cloud, web-hosted, or local).
- Ensure seamless operation and integration of all modules, APIs, and services.
- Test the deployed system to confirm functionality under expected usage conditions.

Activity 8: Documentation and Presentation

- Document the complete development process, including design, implementation, testing, and evaluation.
- Prepare a comprehensive project report summarizing objectives, methods, outcomes, and recommendations.
- Deliver a final presentation demonstrating the system, features, and project results.

5. Project Evidences

You should prepare the following project evidence as part of your Project Report and Presentation:

Activity	Evidence
Activities 1–2	Project Proposal and Planning documentation (timeline, milestones, stakeholder identification, project plan)
Activities 3–4	System design artifacts (diagrams, architecture, data preparation, feature engineering, if any)
Activities 4–6	Application development evidence (screenshots, code snippets, functional modules, testing logs, AI/ML outputs if applicable)
Activities 6–7	System deployment and integration proof (working system screenshots, URL links, API calls, logs)
Activities 8	Documentation and presentation (final report, presentation slides, summary of outcomes, lessons learned)

6. Project Guidelines

You should follow the below guidelines while implementing the Project:

- Implement the project in the technical environment suitable for your project (web, mobile, database, AI/ML frameworks, cloud services).
- Follow the format specified for the Project Report and Presentation.
- Submit the final report and presentation at least 2 days before the summative assessment date.
- Present milestones and progress in mentoring sessions and incorporate feedback.
- Attach all project evidence corresponding to each milestone in the report.

7. Project Assumptions

Each major activity in the Task List is considered an individual milestone.

8. Project Technical Environment

- Learners should use the technical environment suitable for their project:
  - Web development: IDEs (VS Code, WebStorm), Node.js, Laravel, React.js, etc.
  - AI/ML: Python, Jupyter Notebook, Google Colab, PyTorch/TensorFlow, scikit-learn.
  - Database: MySQL, PostgreSQL, Firebase, Supabase, etc.
  - Cloud or deployment: Heroku, Vercel, AWS, Azure, or local servers.
- Learners are expected to **install and configure all necessary tools** before starting the project.

9. Structure of Project Report

1. **Project Overview**
   - Introduction
   - Objectives
   - Scope
   - Methodology
2. **Background and Problem Statement**
   - Context and motivation
   - Problem description
   - Assumptions
3. **Project Proposal and Planning**
   - Timeline and milestones
   - Resource allocation
   - Stakeholder identification
   - Project proposal document
4. **System Design and Architecture**
   - System diagrams, flowcharts, and data models
   - Architecture description (frontend, backend, database, APIs, AI/ML modules if any)
5. **Data Preparation and Processing (if applicable)**
   - Data sources and acquisition
   - Cleaning, preprocessing, and feature engineering
   - Any data visualizations for understanding
6. **Application Development and Testing**
   - Code implementation details
   - Testing methodology and results
   - Screenshots or evidence of functional modules

7. **Visualization and Reporting (if applicable)**
    - Dashboards, plots, or visual summaries of system outputs
    - Textual or tabular summaries for non-visual projects
8. **Deployment and Integration**
    - Deployment environment and configuration
    - System integration evidence
9. **Documentation and Presentation**
    - Summary of achievements
    - Lessons learned
    - Recommendations and future work
10. **References**
    - Data sources, APIs, frameworks, libraries, and literature
11. **Appendices**
    - Additional code snippets, configurations, screenshots