

Figure 12: Wireframe

The above prototype is a blueprint representation of the application. It demonstrates the ideal navigation, of keeping all the main features only one level deep in the navigation stack.

These main screens (and their features) are:

- Home Screen
- Search Screen
- Profile Screen

- Borrow Screen
- · Single Book Screen

The second level screens, containing secondary features, are:

- User's active borrowed book list
- User's borrowing history

2.4.3 UI Design

Following the wireframe and prototype, the next step was to design the User Interface of the application.

One of the key principles driving the UI design was user-centeredness. I continuously referred back to the user personas, to ensure that the design aligned with their goals and preferences. The UI was carefully crafted to be clean, intuitive, and easy to use, meeting the unique needs of the target audience. Elements like font sizes, color schemes, and button placements were chosen with the intention of enhancing accessibility for individuals of all ages.

Establishing a clear visual hierarchy was crucial for guiding users through the app effortlessly. I employed various design elements, such as contrasting colors, typography, and layout, to emphasize important features and content. This not only enhances the app's aesthetics but also aids in making it easy to navigate, as suggested by the user personas. The design ensures that users can quickly identify and access key functionalities like book searches, profile settings, and borrowing history.

The UI design incorporated interactive elements that mimic real-world interactions, making the app more engaging and user-friendly. Features like swipe gestures for book browsing, interactive buttons for borrowing, and smooth transitions between screens create an enjoyable user experience. These interactive elements were designed with convenience in mind, aiming to provide an efficient and enjoyable experience for all users.

Selecting the right color scheme is an important aspect of UI design, as it has a profound impact on user perception and experience. In the library app, the light color scheme with orange as the dominant color plays a pivotal role in setting the tone and creating a visually appealing interface. The choice of colors goes beyond aesthetics; it influences user emotions, usability, and brand identity. Orange, often associated with enthusiasm, warmth, and creativity, aligns with the app's goal of fostering a welcoming and engaging environment for the users.



Figure 13: Color Scheme

The light color scheme with its use of orange is carefully selected to invoke specific emotions and interactions. Orange, known for its energetic and uplifting qualities, encourages users to feel positive and motivated. It enhances the readability of text, making it easy for users to engage with content, which is crucial for an app primarily focused on reading and learning. Additionally, the contrast between light backgrounds and orange accents aids in guiding users through the app's functionalities and creating a visually coherent and user-friendly experience. The color scheme ensures that the app aligns with the goals of inclusivity, simplicity, and convenience, catering to the needs and preferences of your target audience, and reinforcing a memorable and engaging user experience.

After defining the color scheme, I've started to design the UI elements of the application.

The UI design of the app is the embodiment of a user-centered approach, carefully crafted to cater to the specific needs and expectations of the target audience. The design exudes simplicity and intuitiveness, with a clean, uncluttered interface that encourages effortless navigation. As users like Aino, Seppo, and Sanna engage with the app, they'll find that every element and interaction is thoughtfully designed to align with their goals, whether it's convenient book browsing, easy-to-use search features, or accessible profile settings.

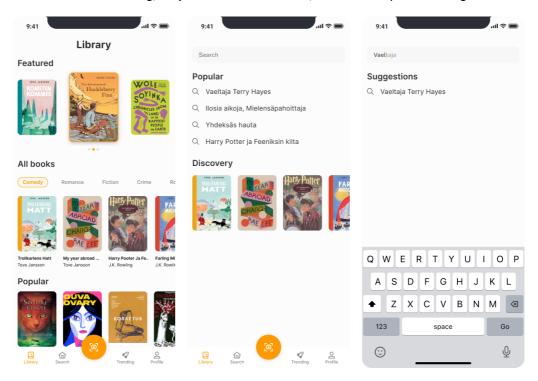


Figure 14: UI Design

Establishing a clear visual hierarchy is fundamental to guiding users seamlessly through the app. Typography is chosen with legibility in mind, ensuring that content is easily readable for users of all ages. Essential features are highlighted with contrasting colors, emphasizing their importance and aiding users in quickly identifying and accessing them. The result is a visually coherent design that supports efficient navigation and readability, contributing to an enjoyable and frustration-free experience.

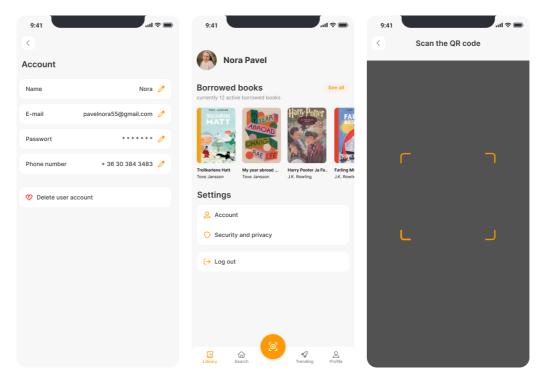


Figure 15: UI Design

Throughout the UI design process, an iterative approach was embraced, with continuous feedback loops from user testing and evaluations. This methodology helped to refine the design iteratively, ensuring that any usability issues were addressed proactively. The UI design reflects a commitment to aligning with user goals and preferences, providing a seamless transition from frustration to fulfillment.

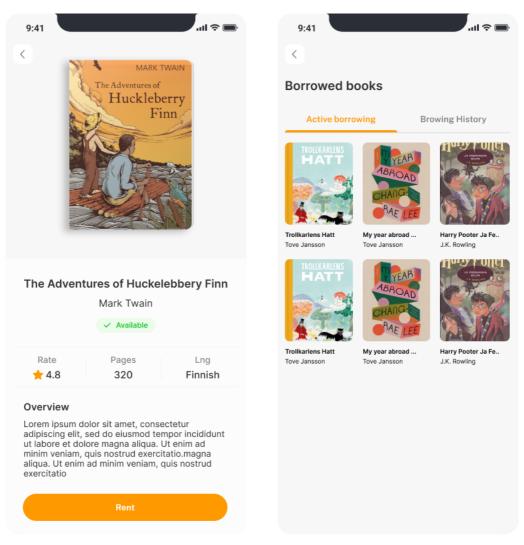


Figure 16: UI Design

In summary, the UI design for app is a testament to a user-centered, visually appealing, and accessible approach. The design's visual hierarchy, interactive elements, mobile responsiveness, and iterative refinement are all part of a strategy that ensures the app's usability and user experience exceed the expectations of the users.

¹excalidraw.com

 $^{^2} en. wikipedia.org/wiki/Qualitative_research$

3 Development

In this section I am going to describe in detail the end-to-end development environment, for both the server side and the mobile application, including the chosen technologies, architectural decisions deployment processes, and the related services I used during the engineering work.

3.1 Development Environment

The development environment is a crucial part of the development process. It is the place where the application is built, tested, and deployed.

In my thesis work, I have utilized a monorepo³, using pnpm⁴, and nx⁵.

3.1.1 Project Structure

The project and the repository structure follows the monorepository approach.

There are two main folders in the repository, apps and packages. The apps folder contains standalone applications, and the packages folder contains the shared modules and pluggable configs (such as ESLint), and other utils, like common types, and interfaces.

```
apps monorepo entry point for every application

mobile-client the React Native application

src source code of the React Native application

test test files of the React Native application

server the NestJJ application

documentation NestJS documentation

src source code of the NestJS application

test test files of the NestJS application

packages monorepo entry point for packages

eslint-config pluggable ESLint configs

pikkukirjasto-types Shared types for the application
```

3.1.2 Monorepo

A monorepo is a single repository that contains multiple projects. In my thesis work, I have used a monorepo to contain the mobile application, the backend, the documentation, and other modules which are shared between components and modules of the entire application stack. This approach has several advantages, such as:

The entire application stack can be

- · developed together.
- · documented together.
- · tested together.
- · linted together.

- · built together.
- · deployed together.
- · versioned together
- · maintained together.

The repository where the entire application stack and source code is located is available at https://github.com/pikkukirjasto/halkeinkiven-pikkukirjasto.

3.1.3 nx

 \mathtt{Nx} is a set of extensible dev tools for monorepos, which help with the development, testing, and building of the applications within the monorepo. Using \mathtt{nx} makes it possible to create hierarchies of applications and libraries, which can be used to create a modular application stack. To decrease cost of having to rebuild and retest the entire application stack, \mathtt{nx} uses a computation cache, which caches the results of the computations.

3.1.4 Workspaces

pnpm is a package manager for JavaScript. It is a drop-in replacement for npm⁶, and yarn. pnpm is a fast, disk space efficient package manager, which uses a single folder for all the projects in the monorepo. This means that the node_modules folder is not duplicated for each project, which saves a lot of disk space. pnpm has a very fast install time, since it uses hard links to link the dependencies to the node modules folder. Besides the fast install time, update time is also fast since it uses a single node modules folder for all the projects in the monorepo.

pnpm comes with both cold and hot cache, which means that the dependencies are cached between installations. It also uses way less disk space, because the package are reused if they are already installed in the monorepo, for any other package.

The other important feature of pnpm is that it supports workspaces. Workspaces are a way to setup a monorepo, which this repository is using.

3.1.5 Git Repository

The entire monorepo is hosted on <code>GitHub</code>, under the pikkukirjasto organization. The repository is available at <code>github.com/pikkukirjasto/halkeinkiven-pikkukirjasto</code>. The repository has a main branch named <code>master</code>, which is the main branch of the repository. The <code>master</code> branch is protected, and it is not possible to push directly to it.

I've utilized GitHubś built-in issue tracking system to break down the entire engineering work into smaller tasks, which can be tracked easily. When using the issue tracker system in GitHub, it is possible to link the issues to the commits, and pull requests, which makes it easier to track down the changes in the repository. It also comes with a labeling feature, which I connected to my committlint setup, to make sure that the commit messages are following the conventional commit specification, and it gives additional sorting feature when listing tickets for releases.

In the repository I've used the following labels:

For the development workflow, I have chosen GitHub Flow⁸ as the branching strategy. The GitHub Flow is a lightweight branching strategy. The main purpose of this workflow is to keep the main branch deployable at all times, therefore to keep the mainline clean. To do that, every development work is done in a separate branch, which is branched off from the main branch. When the work is done, a pull request is created, and the changes are reviewed. In this repository, I have decided to use rebase⁹ merge strategy. This means that the pull request is rebased on top of the main branch, and then merged into the main branch.

git merge and git rebase do the same thing, they bring the contents of two branches together. However, both of these commands execute this change, in entirely different ways. The main benefit of using rebase is to keep the commit history clean, and linear. This makes it easier to track down bugs, and to revert changes if necessary. By using rebase strategy it will be much easier to follow the tip of feature all the way to the beginning of the project without any forks. This makes it easier to navigate the git history of the project.

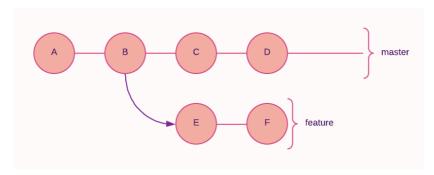


Figure 17: Before Git Rebase

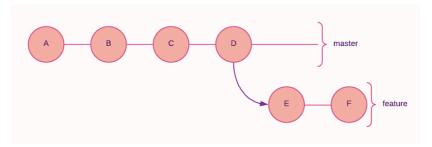


Figure 18: After Git Rebase

The commit messages that are being pushed into the git repository has to follow a specific set of rules, in order for the semantic release to be able to determine the next version of the application. The commit messages have to follow the conventional commits¹⁰ specification. In this repository, I have used commitlint¹¹ to enforce the commit message format. Whenever a new commit is created, to prepare commit message git hook is being called, which prompts the user a CLI tool, to help format the commit message.

```
? Select the type of change that you're committing: Use arrow keys or type to search
) feat: A new feature
fix: A bug fix
doos: Documentation only changes
style: Changes that do not affect the meaning of the code
refactor: A code change that neither fixes a bug nor adds a feature
perf: A code change that improves performance
test: Adding missing tests or correcting existing tests
(Move up and down to reveal more choices)
```

Figure 19: Committizen CLI in action

Committent is a command line interface tool, which provides an interactive was of crafting commit messages, and it makes sure the result satisfies the conventional commit specification.

A good commit message is made up of four parts, the type, the scope, a subject (or a very short description) and a longer description. The type describes the kind of change that the commit is providing. The scope describes the part of the application that is being affected by the change. The subject describes the change itself, and it should be written in the imperative mood. The commit message should also be written in the present tense, and it should not end with a period.

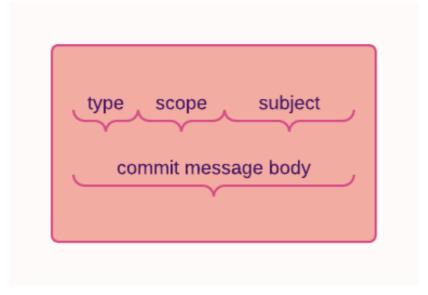


Figure 20: Commit message tempalte

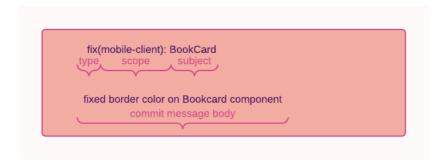


Figure 21: Commit message example

I have created an own set of scopes which suites the nature of this application, containing all the scopes which can determine a specific set of changes in the repository.

```
module.exports = {
  prompt: {
    scopes: [
        "repository",
        "mobile-client",
        "typescript",
        "server",
        "chore",
        "thesis",
    ],
  },
};
```

Listing 1: Commit Message Format

3.1.6 ESLint

ESLint is a static code analysis tool for JavaScript and TypeScript. It is a tool that helps developers to find problems in their code, and to enforce a specific coding style. This repository, both the frontend and the backend applications are using a custom ESLint configuration, which is placed under the packages/eslint-config folder. This configuration is behaved as an npm package, it has exported files defined in it package.json file.

```
"files:": [
    "plugins",
    "rules",
    "react.js",
    "nestjs.js"
```

Listing 2: Files exported from eslint-config package.json file

These are te files, which can be later on used to extend the ESLint configuration.

```
{
    "extends": "pikkukirjasto/react",
}
```

Listing 3: Configuring ESLint for the frontend application

Similarly, for the backend application:

```
{
    "extends": "pikkukirjasto/nestjs",
}
```

Listing 4: Configuring ESLint for the backend application

While both the frontend and the backend applications are written in TypeScript, they are running on different runtimes, therefore they require different ESLint configurations.

As the frontend application is written in React, the ESLint configuration is defined ${\tt eslintconfig/react}. \ \ The \ backend \ application \ is \ using \ the \ {\tt NestJS} \ framework, \ so \ it \ requires \ a$ slightly different ESLint configuration, which is defined in eslint-config/nestjs.

These are pluggable ESLint configurations, so they can share some specific set of rules and plugins, which can be applied on both applications. The shared configurations are placed under the ${\tt eslint-config/rules/base.js}$ file, while the plugins which are shared between the configurations are placed under the eslint-config/plugins/common.ts file.

³en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monorepo

⁴pnpm.io

⁵nx.dev

 $^{^6}$ github.com/npm 7 docs.github.com/en/get-started/quickstart/github-flow

⁸git-scm.com/docs/git-rebase

⁹conventionalcommits.org

¹⁰commitlint.js.org/

3.2 Deployment

The application deployment is a crucial part of delivering every software to it's end users. In modern application development, the deployment process is automated, and it is part of the development process.

In this section I will introduce the deployment strategies I applied to release and deliver the application to the users.

3.2.1 Github Actions

The entire application, and it's related stacks and services are deployed using Github actions.

Github actions are workflows that are triggered by events, and they are defined in a YAML file within the repository. The main purpose of the Github actions is to automate the deployment process, and to make sure that the application is always in a deployable state.

In the Pikkukirjasto repository there are multiple features of Github actions utilized. It also runs tests, deploys static websites (documentation, codecov, etc.), and it also deploys the application to the production and staging environments.

The main workflow implemented in Github action is the deployment workflow. The deployment workflow is a reusable workflow, which has two different triggers, based on the environment being deployed.

- Pull request merge to the staging branch
- Pull request merge to the release branch

Reusable workflow is a strategy that is used to create a workflow that can be reused in multiple workflows. Utilizing reusable workflows helps to avoid code duplication in the workflow declaration, and it also makes it easier to maintain the workflows, and create new workflows.

The diagram below demonstrates the in-progress workflow that uses a reusable workflow in Pikkukirjasto repository.

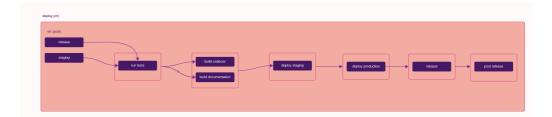


Figure 22: Github Actions

- After each of two build jobs on the left of the diagram completes successfully, a dependent job called run tests is run.
- The deploy job calls a reusable workflow that contains two jobs:

- building codecov static site
- building documentation static site
- The deploy staging job only runs after the previous static site deployment jobs has completed successfully, and it contains a reusable workflow.
- The deploy production job only runs after the previous deploy staging job has completed successfully, and the release target is production.
- The last two jobs are handling releases, and release related actions, for example creating a new version using semantic release, and creating a new release in Github, writing into the changelog, etc.
- Using a reusable workflow to run deployment jobs allows you to run those jobs for each build without duplicating code in workflows.

In this repository, there are dependent jobs utilized in the deployment pipeline, to make sure the subprocesses of the jobs are only running, if their parent job has completed successfully. One job can have multiple jobs which it depends on.

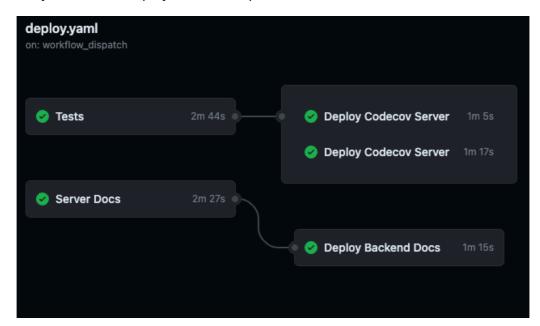


Figure 23: Github Deployment Workflow

The deployment pipeline is made up of multiple jobs, which are running in parallel, and they are dependent on each other. To make it more robust and easy to maintain, they are implemented by different GitHub Actions. Every action is responsible for a small part of the pipeline, which can be reused across workflows and jobs. I have utilized an action alongside the workflows, which handles every necessary steps a workflow needs to have, for example checking out the repository, setting up the environment, installing the pnpm dependencies, etc.

The Github Workflows are located in the .github/workflows, while the reusable actions are located in the .github/actions directory.

3.2.2 Release strategy

The release strategy of the application is connected to the nature of the monorepo, and the chosen branching strategy, therefore the chosen release strategy for this application is semantic release¹².

Semantic release is a tool that automates the versioning and publishing of the application. It uses the commit messages to determine the next version of the application. It also generates a changelog based on the commit messages. Semantic release also creates a git tag for the release, so the versions are easy to follow, and the releases are easy to revert if necessary. The changelog of a specific release contains the commit messages of the commits that are included in the release.

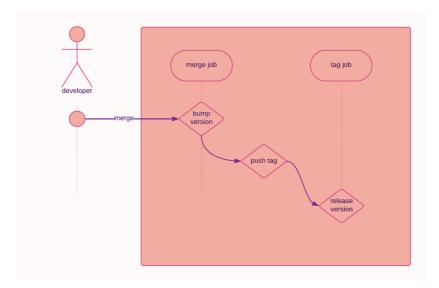


Figure 24: Semantic Release

In this application there are two different dedicated release channels. One for production release, and for staging release. Ultimately, the staging release is also a production candidate, so the semantic release job will tag the release accordingly. The release channels have their own branches.

Release branch for production releases, and staging branch for staging releases. The semantic release job is configured to run only on these branches. Whenever a new commit (merge or rebase commit) is pushed to the staging branch, semantic release will attempt to create a new staging release. The release branch is configured in a way, that it only accepts merge commits from the staging branch. This means that the staging branch is always ahead of the release branch, and the release branch is always behind of the master branch. This is the reason why the staging branch is always a production candidate.

Both the production, and the staging release creates different versions, where the release channel is visible on the release tag. For the production release, the release tag will be the new version number, for example 1.0.0. For the staging release, the release tag will be the new version number, with the release channel, for example 1.0.0-staging.0.

Whenever a commit is pushed to any of the release branches (on either channels), the dedicated GitHub action will create a new release, and it will deploy the application to the production environment, and as well creates a new changelog, which contains the changes the release contains, and the commit messages of the commits that are included in the release.

Semantic Release besides creating a CHANGELOG file, it also creates a release within the repository of the application. This release also contains the changelog, and the release tag.

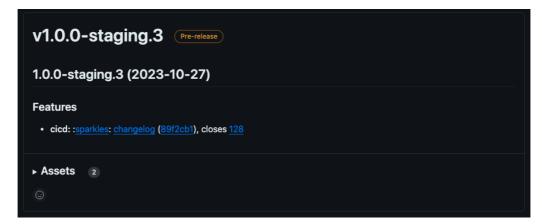


Figure 25: Release in Github

 $^{^{11}} github.com/semantic-release/semantic-release\\$

4 Technologies

This application utilizes the most cutting-edge technologies available at the time of writing this thesis. Both the frontend and backend application is written in TypeScript, following the ECMAScript 2020 standard. Both of codebase is strictly typed using TypeScript, which means that the code is checked for type errors during the build process, making sure to avoid runtime errors as much as possible.

4.1 TypeScript

TypeScript¹³ is a statically typed superset of JavaScript, designed to enhance the development experience by providing strong typing and additional features for large-scale applications. By introducing static types, TypeScript enables developers to catch type-related errors during compile-time, reducing the risk of runtime errors and enhancing code reliability.

One of the main features of TypeScript is its support for static type checking. With type annotations and inference, developers can explicitly define the types of variables, function parameters, and return values. This not only improves code clarity but also provides intelligent auto-completion and type-aware refactorings in modern IDEs.

TypeScript also facilitates the use of modern ECMAScript features by allowing developers to target specific ECMAScript versions, ensuring compatibility across different environments. This feature is particularly useful when dealing with legacy codebases or targeting specific browser versions.

Furthermore, TypeScript offers powerful object-oriented programming capabilities, such as classes, interfaces, and inheritance, enabling developers to build scalable and maintainable codebases. The support for generics allows the creation of reusable and type-safe data structures and algorithms.

To ensure seamless integration with popular JavaScript libraries and frameworks, TypeScript supports declaration files (.d.ts), which provide type information for existing JavaScript code. This feature enables developers to leverage the rich ecosystem of JavaScript libraries while still enjoying the benefits of static typing.

In summary, TypeScript empowers developers to write more reliable and maintainable code by bringing static typing and advanced language features to the JavaScript ecosystem. Its ability to catch errors early, support modern ECMAScript, and foster robust object-oriented programming makes it a valuable tool for building large-scale applications and enhancing overall development productivity.

4.2 React Native

React Native¹⁴ is a cutting-edge framework for building cross-platform mobile applications using JavaScript and React. At the core of React Native's architecture lies the concept of the UI thread and the JS thread, which play vital roles in rendering and handling the user interface.

In React Native, the UI thread is the main execution thread responsible for rendering the user interface components and responding to user interactions. This thread is separate from the

JavaScript thread to ensure that the app's UI remains responsive and doesn't freeze during intensive JavaScript computations. By offloading UI rendering to a separate thread, React Native achieves smooth performance and a delightful user experience.

The JavaScript thread, on the other hand, is responsible for executing the application's JavaScript code. This thread runs the React Native application logic, processes state changes, and handles data manipulation.

It communicates with the UI thread through a bridge, passing instructions and updates to be rendered on the screen. As JavaScript execution can sometimes be computationally intensive, React Native allows developers to optimize the performance by moving certain tasks to native modules written in Java (or Kotlin) for Android and Objective-C (or Swift) for iOS.

The renderer is a crucial part of React Native's architecture. It acts as a bridge between the JavaScript thread and the native components. The renderer interprets the React components and translates them into native views for iOS and Android platforms. This process enables React Native to provide a truly native user interface experience while allowing developers to write code in JavaScript.

One of the key advantages of React Native is its ability to use a single codebase to target both iOS and Android platforms, thanks to its cross-platform nature. Developers can write the UI components and business logic once in JavaScript and then rely on the React Native renderer to handle the translation into native UI elements. This drastically reduces development time and effort, allowing for rapid iteration and code sharing across platforms.

Additionally, React Native embraces the concept of native modules, enabling developers to access native APIs and functionalities that may not be available out of the box in React Native's core components. By creating native modules, developers can bridge the gap between the JavaScript and native environments, making it possible to leverage platform-specific features and third-party libraries seamlessly.

In conclusion, React Native is a groundbreaking framework that leverages the power of the UI thread and the JavaScript thread to deliver high-performance cross-platform mobile applications. The separation of concerns between these threads, along with the renderer and native modules, empowers developers to create engaging and responsive user interfaces while maximizing code reuse and productivity.

With its ever-growing community and continuous updates, React Native remains a top choice for mobile app development, enabling developers to build innovative, feature-rich, and performant applications on both iOS and Android platforms.

4.2.1 Expo

 ${
m Expo}^{15}$ can be considered as a superset of React Native. It provides an SDK of many useful tools and libraries, which are not available in the bare React Native framework. Using Expo simplifies a lot of the development process, and makes it easier to build and deploy cross-platform mobile applications.

The Expo EAS (Expo Application Services) is a comprehensive set of tools and services

designed to streamline the development and deployment of mobile applications. It offers a unified platform for creating cross-platform apps using JavaScript, React Native, and other popular web technologies. EAS extends Expo's capabilities by providing advanced features for building, testing, and publishing apps, making the development process more efficient and accessible. With EAS, developers can seamlessly manage the entire app lifecycle, from coding and testing to building and distribution, while also benefiting from enhanced performance optimizations, real-time updates, and simplified maintenance. This integrated approach simplifies the complexities of mobile app development, allowing developers to focus on creating exceptional user experiences without getting bogged down by intricate technical details.

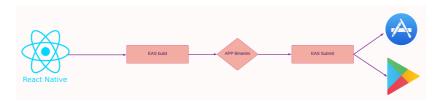


Figure 26: Expo EAS

4.3 NestJS

NestJS¹⁶ is a powerful and modern Node.js¹⁷ framework that has gained significant traction in the development community due to its robustness and support for building scalable, maintainable, and performant server-side applications. At the core of NestJS lies its extensive use of decorators, which play a crucial role in defining and structuring the application.

Decorators in NestJS are used to mark classes, methods, and properties, enabling the framework to identify and treat them as special entities. One of the fundamental decorators in NestJS is the @Module, which defines a module and serves as the building block of the application's architecture. Modules encapsulate related functionalities, allowing for a highly modular and organized codebase. Through the @Module, developers can import and export other modules, facilitate dependency injection, and manage the overall application flow.

In addition to modules, NestJS leverages the power of decorators to define controllers, the heart of handling incoming requests and generating responses. Controllers are adorned with the @Controller decorator, and individual routes within a controller are defined using the @Get, @Post, @Put, and other HTTP method decorators. By leveraging these decorators, developers can easily create API endpoints and manage different data interactions.

Moreover, NestJS promotes the use of @Injectable decorators to define services, the backbone of business logic and data manipulation within the application. Services are singleton instances that can be injected into controllers, allowing for efficient separation of concerns and facilitating code reusability. These decorators, along with the dependency injection system provided by NestJS, create a smooth workflow for handling complex data operations and maintaining a clean and testable codebase. NestJS also introduces custom decorators, which empower developers to create their own reusable and specific annotations. For instance, @AuthGuard, a custom decorator, can be implemented to enforce authentication and authorization on specific routes or controllers. By leveraging custom decorators, developers can tailor the application to their specific business needs and improve code

readability, and maintainability.

Beyond decorators, NestJS embraces the concept of models, also known as entities or DTOs (Data Transfer Objects). These models define the structure of data being transferred between various components of the application. By using models, developers can ensure strong typing and validation of incoming and outgoing data, minimizing runtime errors and enhancing the overall application's reliability.

In conclusion, NestJS stands out as a modern and technically advanced Node.js framework, primarily due to its clever use of decorators, which provide a structured and intuitive approach to building server-side applications. With its focus on modularity, dependency injection, and powerful custom decorators, NestJS empowers developers to create scalable and maintainable codebases, making it an excellent choice for building complex applications in the ever-evolving world of JavaScript and TypeScript development.

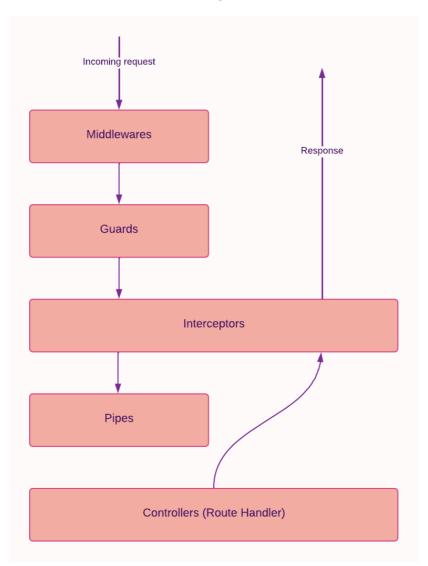


Figure 27: NestJS Routing

In NestJS, the handling of requests and responses follows a structured and modular approach, utilizing various key components such as middlewares, guards, interceptors, pipes, and controllers.

Middlewares are utilized to intercept and process incoming requests before they reach the controller, enabling tasks like logging, authentication, and data transformation.

Guards focus on route protection, allowing or denying access based on specific conditions.

Interceptors operate on both incoming requests and outgoing responses, enabling global transformations and validations.

Pipes are responsible for data validation, transformation, and sanitization, ensuring that the data received and sent is accurate and safe.

Lastly, controllers define the endpoints and route handlers, where the actual request processing takes place. They receive input from the incoming request, which has been pre-processed by the aforementioned components, and formulate the appropriate response. By strategically combining these components, NestJS offers a highly organized and extensible framework for managing the flow of data through an application, promoting code reusability, maintainability, and overall system robustness.

4.4 Database

The heart of this application lies in its robust database architecture, leveraging the power of MongoDB as the database engine and Mongoose as the Object Document Mapper (ODM). This combination provides a flexible and scalable solution to handle data storage and retrieval. MongoDB, being a document-oriented database, offers a schema-less data model, where information is stored in documents composed of flexible and dynamic JSON-like structures. Unlike traditional relational databases, MongoDB make it possible to store varying and evolving data structures without the constraints of fixed schemas, which can be especially advantageous for applications dealing with constantly changing data.

With Mongoose as the ODM, creates the ability to define schemas for the application data, providing a structured and organized way to model the documents. These schemas help maintain consistency, data integrity, and validation rules for the data stored in the database. By leveraging TypeScript support, Mongoose empowers it with strong typing and code completion, enhancing code quality and reducing the likelihood of runtime errors.

To ensure optimal performance and data access, the schema and indexes of MongoDB collections designed carefully, based on the queries and use cases. By utilizing the aggregation framework and other powerful features of MongoDB, makes it possible to efficiently retrieve, process, and analyze large datasets, enabling complex data operations to be performed with ease.

As the application scales, MongoDB provides built-in horizontal scaling through sharding, distributing data across multiple nodes to handle increased traffic and data volume. This sharding capability allows maintaining high availability, fault tolerance, and performance while handling the demands of a growing user base. Data security is of paramount importance, and to safeguard our database, authentication and access control mechanisms are also

implemented. By enforcing role-based access control (RBAC), to ensure that only authorized users can access specific data resources, protecting sensitive information and mitigating security risks.

4.5 AWS & CDK

The backend application, and a couple of other miscellaneous services and applications are deployed on AWS using CDK.

AWS CDK¹⁸ (Cloud Development Kit) is a powerful infrastructure-as-code framework that allows developers to define and provision AWS resources using familiar programming languages, such as TypeScript, which this application stack also uses. With CDK, developers can model their cloud infrastructure as code, leveraging the full power of their chosen programming language to create, manage, and update AWS resources programmatically.

One of the key features of AWS CDK is its rich library of constructs, which represent AWS resources and services as objects in code. These constructs provide a high-level, typed abstraction over AWS CloudFormation, allowing developers to express their infrastructure in a concise and intuitive manner. CDK constructs are organized in a hierarchical structure, promoting modularity, reusability, and best practices for resource composition. CDK leverages the strength of modern programming languages, enabling developers to use loops, conditionals, and other control structures to define complex cloud environments programmatically. This declarative approach allows developers to express their infrastructure requirements in a familiar coding paradigm, making it easier to reason about, test, and maintain the codebase.

Another notable feature of AWS CDK is its support for multi-account and multi-region deployments. Developers can define cross-account and cross-region resource references and policies directly in code, simplifying the process of setting up secure and scalable distributed architectures.

Additionally, CDK provides a comprehensive set of AWS constructs for commonly used patterns, such as VPCs, load balancers, Lambda functions, and more. This rich set of abstractions reduces the boilerplate code and accelerates the development of cloud-native applications.

In summary, AWS CDK is a game-changer for cloud infrastructure development, as it enables developers to utilize their existing programming skills to define, deploy, and manage AWS resources efficiently. With its powerful constructs, multi-account support, and extensive library, CDK streamlines the process of building scalable and resilient cloud architectures while promoting code reusability and maintainability. As a result, CDK empowers developers to adopt infrastructure-as-code best practices and optimize their AWS deployments for greater productivity and faster development.

Defining underlying infrastructure using AWS CDK (or other tools, such us Terraform) is now the industrial standard method. It is a lot more reliable, and easier to maintain than manually creating resources on the AWS console. The engineering community is moving towards this direction, and it is important to keep up with the latest trends and best practices. The era of

manual deployment, and $\mathtt{VPS}\xspace$ servers are over, and it is time to move on.

¹² typescriptlang.org 13 reactnative.dev 14 expo.io 15 nestjs.com 16 nodejs.org/en 17 aws.amazon.com/cdk

5 Implementation

In this section I am going to throughly describe the implementation of the application. The section is divided into two parts, the mobile application, and the backend implementation.

5.1 AWS Stack

As mentioned in the previous section, the entire application stack is deployed on AWS. The stack definition is written in code, using AWS CDK. There are two different CDK stacks implemented:

- BackendStack contains all the backend resources, including the DynamoDB tables, Lambda functions, API Gateway endpoints, and MongoDB, to store application data.
- StatickStack contains the S3 bucket for hosting static sites, and the CloudFront distribution for serving the application.

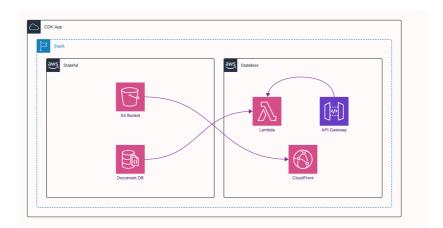


Figure 28: AWS CDK Stack

The semantics above describes the basic way the Pikkukirjasto application's stack.

In an AWS Cloud Development Kit (CDK) stack, stateful and stateless services play distinct roles in the architecture, offering different characteristics to cater to various application requirements. Stateful services, such as Amazon RDS (Relational Database Service) and Amazon ElastiCache, maintain persistent data across requests and maintain their internal state. These services are suitable for applications that require data durability, consistency, and complex querying capabilities.

On the other hand, stateless services, like Amazon EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud) instances and Amazon API Gateway, do not store session-specific data and treat each request independently. They are ideal for horizontally scalable architectures, enabling seamless deployment, auto-scaling, and high availability. By strategically combining stateful and stateless services within a CDK stack, developers can design robust and flexible systems that meet specific application demands, while leveraging the benefits of both state persistence and agility.

5.1.1 Backend Stack

The backend stack is the main stack of the application, and it contains all the resources needed to run the server side application. The application runs on AWS Lambda, and it is exposed through AWS API Gateway. The Lambda function has a direct access to the MongoDB database. The CDK stack is orchestrated by AWS CodePipeline, which is triggered by a GitHub webhook, whenever a new commit is pushed to the main branch. There are multiple staged introduce in the stack, to make it possible to have different stages for different environments, like staging, and production, which is the corresponds to the release channels of the application.

```
type PikkuKirjastoEnvironment = "dev" | "prod";
```

Listing 5: CDK Stack Environment

```
const appConfig: PikkurKirjastoAppConfig = {
  dev: {
    name: `${PIKKURKIRJASTO}-Dev`,
  },
  prod: {
    name: `${PIKKURKIRJASTO}-Prod`,
  },
};
```

Listing 6: CDK App Config

Using the PikkuKirjastoEnvironment type, it is now possible to define the different environments, and the CDK stack will create the resources accordingly.

Both the $\tt dev$ and the $\tt production$ stacks can be initialized from the main stack configuration, using the CDK context.

```
new PikkuKirjastoStack(pikkurKirjastoApp, appConfig["dev"].name, "dev", {
    stackName: appConfig["dev"].name,
    env: {
        region: "eu-west-1",
    },
});
```

Listing 7: Stack initialization

The following semantics shows the different AWS resources being created in the CDK stack definitions for the server application, and also showcases the relation between them.

When a user uses the mobile application, HTTP requests are made to the API Gateway endpoint, which is connected to the Lambda function. If a request is required to fetch data from the application's database, the Lambda function will query the MongoDB database, and return the result to the user.

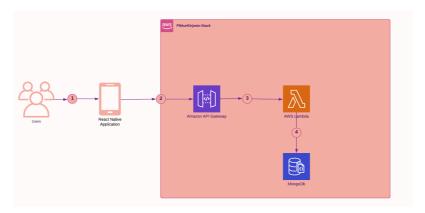


Figure 29: Backend Stack

The semantics above represents an AWS CDK stack for the serverless application "Pikkukirjasto" which includes Lambda functions and API Gateway.

The PikkuKirjastoStack class extends the Stack class, which is a fundamental construct in AWS CDK representing an CDK CloudFormation stack. This class will be responsible for creating and managing the AWS resources needed for the serverless application.

In the constructor of the PikkuKirjastoStack class, there are four parameters: scope, id, env, and props. The scope defines the scope of the stack, and here it's set to the entire stack. The id is a unique identifier for the stack. The env parameter is of type PikkuKirjastoEnvironment, which represents the environment (either "dev" or "prod") for the application. The props parameter contains optional properties for the stack, which are passed down from the parent class.

The code then creates a backend Lambda function named BackendLambda using the LambdaFunction class. The function is written in Nodejs 18½ and has a handler named main.handler. The code for the Lambda function is sourced from an asset in the appsserverbuild/dist directory, excluding the node_modules folder. The function has a timeout of 15 seconds.

Next, an API Gateway is created using the LambdaRestApi class. The API Gateway serves as the front-end for the serverless application, forwarding requests to the backend Lambda function. The API Gateway is configured with CORS (Cross-Origin Resource Sharing) options to allow requests from all origins with specific headers. The endpoint configuration is set to REGIONAL type. The API Gateway is configured to not use a proxy and not create a CloudWatch role.

The code then defines an integration between the API Gateway and the backend "proxy+" function using the LambdaIntegration class. The content handling is set to CONVERT_TO_BINARY.

A resource is added to the API Gateway, mapped to the "proxy+" path, and configured to use the backend Lambda integration for handling requests. The authorization type is set to NONE, meaning no authentication is required for accessing the API Gateway.

Finally, the stack defines a CloudFormation output named backendLambdaArn, which provides the ARN (Amazon Resource Name) of the backend Lambda function. The output is exported with the name props?.stackName ?? id:backendLambdaArn.

In summary, this AWS CDK stack sets up the infrastructure for the "Pikkukirjasto" serverless application, including a backend Lambda function and an API Gateway to handle and route requests. The application is designed to be deployed in either a "dev" or "prod" environment, as specified by the env parameter.

5.1.2 Static stack

The Static stack is used to host the static sites of the application. The stack contains an S3 bucket, which is used to store the static files, and a CloudFront distribution, which is used to serve these static files. This stack is used to host different miscellaneous applications, such us codecov reports, documentations, etc.

The static stack is rather different from the backend stack. It does not contain Lambda functions, nor API Gateway endpoints, because it does not need to serve any HTTP requests.

The most important part of the static stack is the root and the subdomains where the static sites are going to be deployed.

```
export class StaticStack extends Stack {
  constructor(
    scope: Construct,
    id: string,
    domains: string[],
    props: StackProps
) {
    super(scope, id, props);
```

Listing 8: Stack initialization

As the constructor shows, the domain parameter is an array of strings, which will be used to build up the final domain name.

For example, if the array passed to the StaticStack is ["codecov", "app"], the final domain name will be backendcov.app.thesis.richardzilahi.hu.

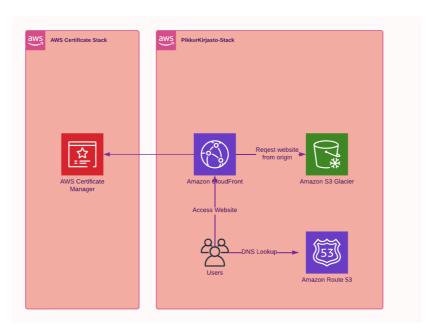


Figure 30: Static Stack

The semantics above represents an AWS CDK stack for creating static sites. It leverages various AWS services to set up the necessary infrastructure.

The StaticStack class extends the Stack class, which is a fundamental construct in AWS CDK representing an AWS CloudFormation stack. This class will be responsible for creating and managing the AWS resources needed for the static site.

In the constructor of the StaticStack class, there are four parameters: scope, id, domains, and props. The scope defines the scope of the stack, and here it's set to the entire stack. The id is a unique identifier for the stack. The domains parameter is an array of domain names for the static site, and multiple domain names can be provided and joined with dots. The props parameter contains optional properties for the stack, which are passed down from the parent class.

The code first creates an S3 bucket to store the static site content. The bucket is configured with S3.BlockPublicAccess.BLOCK_ALL, which ensures that the bucket is not publicly accessible. Additionally, versioned:false is set to disable versioning for the bucket. Next, the code sets up a CloudFront distribution, which serves as the front-end for the static site. CloudFront is a content delivery network (CDN) that helps improve the performance and speed of delivering content to end-users. The distribution is associated with a SSL certificate obtained from AWS Certificate Manager (ACM) using the provided ARN, enabling HTTPS support for the site.

The CloudFront distribution is configured with a default behavior, forwarding all requests to the S3 bucket created earlier. The viewer protocol policy is set to REDIRECT_TO_HTTPS, ensuring that all requests are redirected to the HTTPS version of the site for improved security.

To handle errors gracefully, the code sets up error responses for the CloudFront distribution. If a user encounters a 403 or 404 error (forbidden or not found), the distribution will return

the index.html page instead of the default error page.

For secure access to the S3 bucket from the CloudFront distribution, a CloudFront Origin Access Identity (OAI) is created. This identity helps control access and prevents unauthorized direct access to the bucket.

An IAM policy is also defined, specifying the permissions allowed for the CloudFront OAI. It allows the OAI to list objects and get objects from the S3 bucket.

The code performs a lookup for the Route53 hosted zone associated with the domain name thesis.richardzilahi.hu.

Finally, the code creates a Route53 A record in the hosted zone, mapping the provided domain names to the CloudFront distribution. This enables users to access the static site using the custom domain.

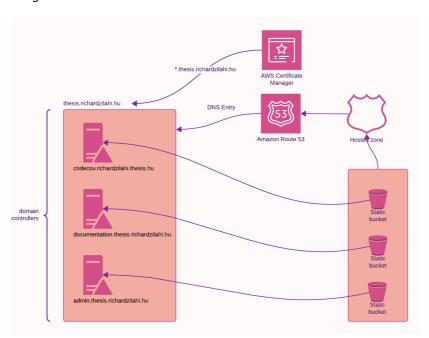


Figure 31: AWS Route 53

The stack defines two CloudFormation outputs: static-url-id and static-bucket-id. The former provides the CloudFront domain name that users can use to access the static site, while the latter provides the ARN of the S3 bucket where the static site content is stored.

In summary, this AWS CDK stack sets up the infrastructure for hosting a static site, utilizing S3 for storage, CloudFront for content delivery, Route53 for custom domain mapping, and IAM for secure access control.

5.2 Mobile Application

The mobile application is written in React Native, and it is using Expo to build and deploy the application. Both technologies had been introduced and discussed in the previous section. In this section I am going to introduce the implementation details of the mobile application.

5.2.1 Application structure

There are multiple different ways to structure a React Native (or React) application. This is generally a subjective topic among developers, but there are certainly good and bad practices when it comes to deciding how to structure the source code of an application.

Choosing, and maintaining a good structure for the source code is crucial for the success of the application. A good structure can help developers to understand the codebase better, and it can also help to maintain the application in the long run. The better the structure is, the easier it for it's developers to have an overall understanding of the application, and it has a significant impact on the productivity.

My approach can be best described as both modular and component based structure.

In this mobile application, the structure of the source code looks as the follows:

```
_assets folder containing assets
_dist the folder where the application artifacts are created
src
 __LocalizationProvider
 api API related functions
  _components
   __ApiClientProvider
     _ [...]
   __ common | shared React components
 hooks custom React hooks
    _useBook
   _i18n | localization related functions
  _layouts application layouts
   ___ MainLayout
   navigation navigation and type interfaces
   Lutils helper functions for navigation
  queries React-Query functions
   __ book
  screens folder for different screens the application implements
     BookScreen
  theme theme declaration using restyle 19
 utils App level helper functions
```

5.2.2 Design & UI

While React Native provides a powerful framework for building cross-platform mobile applications, it does not include any built-in UI components. Developers must either create their own components or use third-party libraries to implement the UI of their apps.

When building mobile applications, the consistency and quality of the UI are crucial for delivering a great user experience. However, designing and implementing UI components from scratch can be a time-consuming and challenging task, especially for complex applications

with multiple screens and navigation flows.

In the Pikkukirjasto application I have decided to implement my own UI system, using the restyle library.

The Restyle library is maintained by Shopify, which provides a powerful, type-enforced system for building UI system in React Native with Typescript.

Restyle needs a theme as a base, which will then be propagated into reusable components, derived from Restyle itself.

The theme Restyle implements the fundamental building blocks of the application's UI, such as colors, spacing, typography, and layout. It also provides a set of reusable components that can be used to build screens and layouts.

```
const theme = createTheme({
  colors: {},
  spacing: {},
  breakpoints: {},
  textVariants: {},
  cardVariants: {},
  ...
})
```

Listing 9: Theme declaration

Besides the theme declaration, Restyle also provides a set of primitives, which can be used on top of the theme, to define the basic components of the application.

```
import {createBox} from '@shopify/restyle';
import {Theme} from './theme';

const Box = createBox<Theme>();

export default Box;
```

Listing 10: Restyle primitives

Every component which is declared by Restyle is type safe, and it can be extended with additional props, which are also type safe.

Using Restyle and the theme makes it possible to create variants of components.

```
import {createText, createTheme, createVariant} from '@shopify/restyle';

const theme = createTheme({
   textVariants: {
     bookTitle: { fontSize: 20 }
   }
})

const Text = createText<Theme>();

export default Text;
```

Listing 11: Text component

Then the variants of the Text component can be used as follows:

Listing 12: Text variant

5.2.3 Navigation

React Native Navigation provides a powerful solution for creating complex and efficient navigation structures in React Native apps through the use of nested navigators. The nested navigators system allows developers to compose different types of navigators (such as Stack, Tab, Drawer) within one another, enabling more granular control over the navigation flow and user experience.

At the core of React Native Navigation, there is a "NavigationContainer" component, serving as the root of the navigation hierarchy. Inside this container, developers can nest various navigators, creating a tree-like structure where each navigator manages its own set of screens. This design allows for easy organization and separation of concerns in large-scale applications.

One of the key advantages of nested navigators is the ability to customize navigation for different sections of the app independently. For instance, a StackNavigator can be used to manage a linear flow of screens, while a TabNavigator can handle a set of screens with tabs. By combining these within a DrawerNavigator, you can implement a fully featured app with multiple navigation paradigms.

Furthermore, nested navigators allow for better performance and memory management. When a screen is not in the active stack, it gets unmounted, freeing up resources. This makes React Native Navigation more efficient for handling complex navigation structures compared to a single, monolithic navigator.

To achieve this seamless nested navigation experience, React Native Navigation utilizes native navigation components provided by the platform (e.g., UINavigationController for iOS and Fragment for Android). This enables developers to leverage the native capabilities and gestures, resulting in a smoother user experience and faster transitions between screens.

Another significant advantage of React Native Navigation is its support for deep linking and universal links, making it easier to handle deep navigation directly from external sources like URLs or push notifications.

React Native Navigation's nested navigators system empowers developers to build sophisticated navigation flows with optimal performance and a native-like experience. The ability to nest different types of navigators enables flexibility in handling various UI paradigms and helps maintain a clean and modular codebase, making it an excellent choice for complex React Native applications.

In addition to its navigational power, React Native Navigation also offers strong type safety and support for generics, enhancing the developer experience and reducing potential runtime errors. With TypeScript integration, developers can define strict types for their navigation props, ensuring that only valid routes and parameters can be accessed within the app. This helps catch errors during development and provides better autocompletion and documentation for navigation-related code.

React Native Navigation also introduces the concept of composite screen types, which allows developers to define screens that accept different sets of navigation props based on their position within the navigator hierarchy. For example, a screen nested within a TabNavigator may receive different navigation props compared to a screen within a StackNavigator. This dynamic typing ensures that screens receive the appropriate props, making the codebase more robust and easier to maintain.

Moreover, React Native Navigation supports generics, enabling developers to create reusable navigation components and hooks that work with different types of navigators and route configurations. This encourages code consistency and abstraction, reducing duplication and improving overall code quality.

By embracing type safety, generics, and composite screen types, React Native Navigation promotes better coding practices and streamlines the development process. Developers can have confidence in their navigation-related code, reduce the chances of bugs, and enjoy the benefits of improved productivity and maintainability in their React Native projects.

In the Pikkukirjasto application, the navigation uses this React Native Navigation library, and it implements three different navigators.

- BottomTabNavigator the tab navigator, which is presented at the bottom of the screen, and it contains the screens related to the application's main functionality.
- ProfileNavigator a stack navigator which implements the screens related to the user, and the user profile.
- RootNavigator the main navigator which contains both the BottomTabNavigator and the ProfileNavigator.

Stack navigator is a type of navigator that provides a way for your app to transition between screens where each new screen is placed on top of a stack.

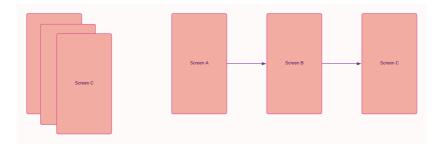


Figure 32: React Navigation - Navigate Forward

Navigating to a screen will push it onto the stack, the topmost screen on the stack is visible to the user.

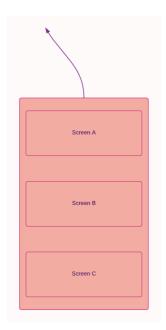


Figure 33: React Navigation - Navigate Back

Navigating back will pop the topmost screen off the stack and navigate to the screen below it.

In the Pikkukirjasto application the RootNavigator implements 3 different screens, where every screen implements another navigator. This is a common pattern in React Native applications, and it's called nested navigators.

```
const Stack = createStackNavigator();

<Stack.Screen
    name="Root"
    component={BottomTabNavigator} // this is a tab navigator

/>

<Stack.Screen
    name="Profile"
    component={ProfileNavigator} // this is another stack navigator
/>
```

Listing 13: React Native Root Stacknavigator

This structure of the navigators make sure that the navigation is consistent throughout the application, only certain screens are available in certain navigators.

To exploit the biggest advantage of React Native Navigation, the type safety, it's important to properly define the types for each navigator, and the screens they implement.

To make a navigator type safe, the only thing required is to pass an Type when creating a navigator, with the screens.

```
const BottomTab = createBottomTabNavigator<BottomTabParamList>();
```

Listing 14: Type safe navigator

where BottomTabParamList is a type, which defines the screens the navigator implements:

```
type BottomTabParamList = {
```

```
Search: undefined;
Library: undefined;
Profile: undefined;
Trending: undefined;
};
```

Listing 15: BottomTabParamList type

As the Type defines above, the BottomTabNavigator implements four screens:

- Search
- Library
- Profile
- Trending

Since the BottomTabNavigator is technically a screen on the RootNavigator, it also needs to be defined in the RootStackParamList:

```
type RootStackParamList = {
  Root: undefined;
  Book: { book: Book };
  BorrowBook: { book: Book };
};
```

Listing 16: RootStackParamList type

To make the entire navigation type safe, a <code>CombinedStackParamList</code> type is needed, which merges the two types into a single type:

```
type CombinedStackParamList = RootStackParamList & BottomTabParamList;
```

Listing 17: CombinedStackParamList type

In React Native, every screen receives a navigation prop, which contains the navigation functions, and the route prop, which contains the params passed to the screen. It's crucia to make these type safe also, so the navigation prop knows exactly which screens exists on that specific navigator.

To achieve this, the following Type needed to be defined:

```
type RootTabScreenProps<Screen extends keyof CombinedStackParamList> =
   CompositeScreenProps <
    BottomTabScreenProps < CombinedStackParamList, Screen>,
    NativeStackScreenProps < RootStackParamList>
   >;
```

Listing 18: CombinedStackParamList type

The snipped above utilizes a few Typescript features.

- keyof returns the keys of an object as a union type.
- CompositeScreenProps merges the props of two different screens.

- BottomTabScreenProps the props of the BottomTabNavigator.
- NativeStackScreenProps the props of the RootStackParamList.

Then, in the implementation of a screen, the function's arguments can be typed with this \mathtt{Type} :

```
function Book({ route, navigation }: RootTabScreenProps<"Book">): ReactElement {
    // ...
}
```

Listing 19: Typing arguments on a Screen

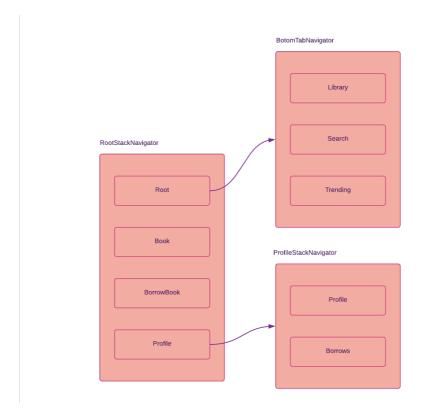


Figure 34: Pikkukirjasto navigation

The books of the library is cached in react-query, therefore to avoid unnecessary network requests, the Book object for the target screen, can be passed as a param in the navigation state.

While the screen is being transitioned to the target screen, the Book object is passed as a param in the navigation state, and the target screen can access this param from the route prop.

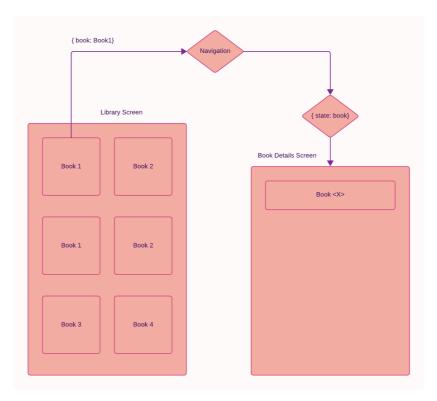


Figure 35: Navigation State

5.2.4 Data Fetching Abstraction

The Pikkukirjasto application uses React-Query to interact with the Server, and retrieve data from the database.

React Query²⁰ is a powerful and flexible data-fetching library for React applications. It is designed to simplify the management of remote data by providing a declarative and hook-based API, seamlessly handling caching, background data refetching, and pagination.

React Query utilizes the "queryKey" as a unique identifier for each data query, allowing for efficient cache management and data invalidation.

The core feature of React Query is its caching mechanism. When a query is executed, the library automatically stores the fetched data in an internal cache. Subsequent requests with the same queryKey will utilize the cached data, reducing unnecessary network requests and improving application performance. Developers can also configure cache expiration policies to ensure data stays up to date.

Queries in React Query can have dependencies, and the library automatically takes care of updating dependent queries when their underlying data changes. This feature is especially useful when dealing with derived data or complex relationships between different data queries.

For mutations, React Query provides a "useMutation" hook that handles asynchronous data mutations and their optimistic updates. Developers can perform data mutations while the library optimistically updates the UI to provide a smoother user experience. In case of failure,

the optimistic update is rolled back.

React Query plays nicely with TypeScript, offering full type safety and intelligent autocompletion for queries and mutations. Developers can define specific types for query response data and mutation variables, ensuring type correctness throughout the application.

The library also supports pagination, making it easy to fetch and manage large sets of data. By using the built-in pagination features, developers can fetch data in batches, efficiently handling large datasets without compromising performance.

React Query embraces a flexible and extensible plugin system that enables developers to add custom logic and modify default behavior. This allows for tailored data-fetching solutions based on specific project requirements.

Overall, React Query's combination of caching, query keys, mutations, TypeScript support, and pagination make it an invaluable tool for handling remote data in React applications. It simplifies data management, improves performance, and reduces the complexity associated with handling asynchronous data-fetching tasks.

In the application, React Query is mostly abstracted into separate custom hooks, to be able to reuse the same queries in different parts of the application. These custom hooks are, for example:

- useBook
- useBookData
- useUser
- useDeviceId
- useBorrowedBooks

The implementation of a reusable custom React Hook which implements a React Query instance:

```
function useBook() {
  const query = useQuery<Book[]>(
    queryKey: [bookQueryKeys.getAllBooks],
    queryFn: async () => {
     const { data } = await Api.get(apiEndpoints.getAllBooks);
     return data;
    },
    {
        refetchOnWindowFocus: false,
    }
    );
    return query
}
```

Listing 20: CombinedStackParamList type

In the example above, there are multiple abstractions.

The queryKey is a unique identifier for the query, and it's used to identify the query in the cache. The queryKey is an array of strings, and it identifies the data in the cache.

Listing 21: CombinedStackParamList type

The above example shows an implementation of a QueryKeyFactory. This factory is used to create QueryKeys for the React Query instance. The cache invalidation in React Query also works by the QueryKey, so having such implementation in place makes it easy to interact with the React Query cache.

These keys play a vital role in ensuring accurate internal data caching by the library. When a query's dependencies change, these keys enable automatic refetching, maintaining data integrity. Moreover, they provide the capability to manually engage with the Query Cache when specific situations arise. For instance, after performing a mutation, or when deliberate invalidation of certain queries becomes necessary. Before delving into how I optimize the organization of Query Keys for enhanced efficiency in achieving these objectives.

The flowchart below represents how React Query works under the hood. The staleTime and cacheTime play a crucial role in deciding the state of the query.

- staleTime: the duration until a query transitions from fresh to stale.
- cacheTime: the duration until inactive queries will be removed from the cache.

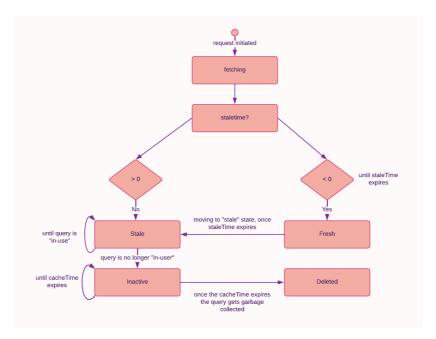


Figure 36: React Query

5.2.5 User & Auhtentication

To use the library, customer's do not need to create any type of subscriptions, nor provide any personal information. Therefore, the application is not collecting any personal data, user's do not need to create any account and go through any login, or authentication flow when using the Pikkukirjasto application.

However, it's important to have a way to identify users, and to be able to store user specific data, like the books they borrowed. Apart from that, it's also important to protect the backend, and the database from unauthorized access.

In an ordinary application, where there is an actual user, and the users are stored in a database, a basic authentication flow would work for example with JWT tokens, where the token is issued by the server after a successful login. The idea is similar here as well, but instead of having an account, the identifier of a user is the mobile device they are using.

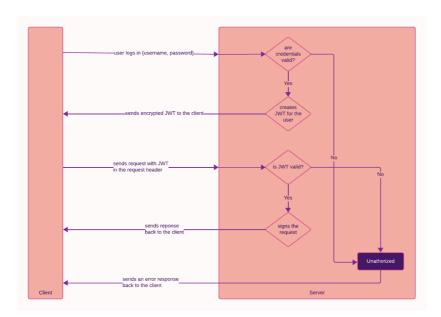


Figure 37: JWT Token Based Authentication

In the diagram above, a most generic authentication flow is shown. The user sends a request to the server, with the credentials, and the server responds with a JWT token. Then the JWT token will be sent in the header of every request the client initiated towards the server, and the server will attempt to validate the token, if it's valid, responds with the requested data.

In the Pikkukirjasto application the authentication flow is similar, but instead of having an account, the user's device will be identified by a unique identifier, which is generated by the application, and stored in the AsyncStorage.

There is an extra layer of authentication in addition to the Token exchange. The authentication with the API Gateway on the server happens through the biometric authentication of the user's device. This is a very secure way of authentication, because the user's device is the only device which can access the API Gateway.

Therefore, the update semantics of the authentication model is the following:

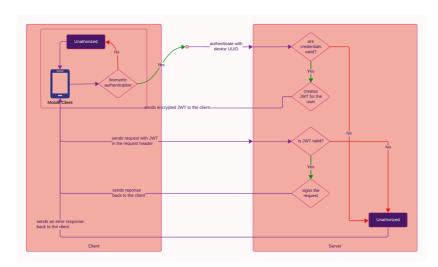


Figure 38: PikkuKirjasto Authentication Flow

Whenever there's a request towards the API the app will ask the user to authenticate with their biometric data, and if the authentication is successful, the request will be sent to the server.

5.3 Backend

5.3.1 Localization

Considering the fact, that the initial release of the application is only focusing to a single group of users, and considering the outcome of the UX research, especially the personas, it became clear that the application's User Interface will require localization, so the users are given the option to choose their preferred language, and to switch between English and Finnish.

In React, (and therefore React Native) the language change happens during runtime, which also means that the localized elements (such as text, CTA Buttons, helper text, and so on) holds translation for every language that the application offers.

In this application I've utilized i18n, which is the industrial standard localization provider for React applications.

In order to use i18n in a React application, the root entry point of the app needs to be wrapped with I18nextProvider, which is part of the i18n library. To keep the entry point as clean and possible, I tend to handle the local props of different third-party wrappers in self-managed Higher Order Functions. The same applies for the I18nextProvider as well, which is implemented inside a custom wrapper component named LocalizationProvider

```
const LocalizationProvider = ({
    children,
}: ILocalizationProvider): ReactElement => (
    <I18nextProvider i18n={i18n}>{children}</I18nextProvider>
);
```

Listing 22: LocalizationProvider

In the code snippet above also shows, how the config for the i18n handled.

```
import i18n from "../i18n";
use(initReactI18next).init({
   resources,
   lng: "en",
   compatibilityJSON: "v3",
   debug: true,
});
```

Listing 23: i18n configuration

The use function is provided by the i18n library, and it takes a config object as a parameter, which sets the languages, and the actual translations, on an object key called resources.

```
export type Language = "en" | "fi";
const resources: Racord < Language, Object > = {
  en: {
    login: "Login",
  },
  fi: {
    login: "Kirjaudu"
  },
}
```

Listing 24: i18n translations

The language config object above demonstrates, how the i18n works. For every language the application offers, needs to have the same key: string: string value combination available for every text the application should localize.

Then, on the component level, it's fairly simple to use the localized texts:

Listing 25: Localization Example

The t() function takes a string as an argument, which represents the path the function will make to a specified text in the object being passed to the resourced config of the il8n.

¹⁸github.com/Shopify/restyle

¹⁹github.com/tanstack/react-query

6 Database

The database is a MongoDB database, and it's deployment via AWS, using the AWS DocumentDB service.

The cluster used by <code>DocumentDB</code> is also created in the <code>Pikkukirjasto</code> CDK stack definition, just like the other parts of the infrastructure.

The schemas of the database are defined in the implementation of the backend, and the database is seeded with the initial data in the CDK stack definition.

6.1 Database Schemas

There are three different schemas used in this application.

- Book
- User
- Borrow

The schemas are defined using Mongoose, which is a MongoDB object modeling tool designed to work in an asynchronous environment. It also utilizes the Typescript type system, so the schemas can be defined using Typescript types, together with NestJS decorators.

6.2 Book Schema

The following schema definition illustrates the structure and attributes of a Book entity within a MongoDB database, defined using the Mongoose library in a TypeScript environment. The @Schema decorator specifies that this schema is associated with a collection named books in the database.

The Book class represents the blueprint for the documents in the Books collection. Each document will have several properties defined using the @Prop decorator.

```
@Schema({ collection: 'books' })
export class Book {
  @Prop({ required: true })
  isbn: string;

@Prop({ required: true, index: true })
  title: string;

@Prop({ required: true })
  author: string;

@Prop({ required: true })
  cover: string;

@Prop({
  required: false,
    default: [],
    type: [MongooseSchema.Types.ObjectId],
    ref: 'Borrow',
```

```
unique: true,
})
borrows: Types.ObjectId[];
}
```

Listing 26: Book Schema definition

- The ISBN property represents the ISBN code of the book and is marked as required.
- The title property holds the title of the book and is both required and indexed for efficient querying.
- The author property specifies the author's name of the book and is marked as required.
- The cover property contains a URL or path to the cover image of the book and is required.
- The borrows property represents an array of references to Borrow documents. It is not required and has a default empty array. It is of type Types.ObjectId[] (imported from Mongoose) and is linked to the Borrow schema using the ref field. This establishes a relationship between books and their associated borrow records. Additionally, the unique attribute ensures that each book's borrows array contains unique references.

Overall, this schema definition outlines the essential attributes of a Book document, along with its relationships to the Borrow documents, within the context of a MongoDB database using Mongoose.

6.3 User Schema

The following schema definition delineates the structure and characteristics of a User entity in a MongoDB database, constructed using the Mongoose library in a TypeScript setting. The UserDocument type is a hydrated version of the document of type User, enhancing its functionality.

The User class defines the blueprint for documents within the users collection. The @Schema decorator signifies that this schema corresponds to the users collection in the database. The timestamps: true option indicates that MongoDB should automatically generate createdAt and updatedAt timestamps for each document.

The User class features a single property:

The userId property signifies a unique identifier for each user and is marked as required and unique. This ensures that each user has a distinct identifier and prevents duplication. The UserSchema constant, generated using SchemaFactory.createForClass(User), encapsulates the schema and provides a means to interact with it. This arrangement delineates the structure of User documents within the MongoDB database and employs Mongoose's functionalities for improved data management.

```
@Schema({ collection: 'users', timestamps: true })
export class User {
    @Prop({ required: true, unique: true })
    userId: string;
}
```

Listing 27: Book Schema definition

6.4 Borrow Schema

The following schema definition delineates the structure and characteristics of a Borrow entity in a MongoDB database, constructed using the Mongoose library in a TypeScript setting. The BorrowDocument type is a hydrated version of the document of type Borrow, enhancing its functionality.

The Borrow class defines the blueprint for documents within the borrows collection. The @Schema decorator signifies that this schema corresponds to the borrows collection in the database. The timestamps: true option indicates that MongoDB should automatically generate createdAt and updatedAt timestamps for each document.

```
@Schema({ collection: 'borrows', timestamps: true })
export class Borrow {
  @Prop({
    required: true,
    unique: false,
    type: MongooseSchema.Types.ObjectId,
    ref: 'User',
  })
  user: MongooseSchema.Types.ObjectId;

@Prop({ type: MongooseSchema.Types.ObjectId, ref: 'Book', required: true })
book: Types.ObjectId;

@Prop({ required: true, unique: false })
isbn: string;

@Prop({ required: true, unique: false, default: false })
isBorrowed: boolean;
}
```

Listing 28: Book Schema definition

The Borrow schema connects the borrowed Book with it's own ObjectId, and the User who borrowed it. By making this, it's possible to query the database for all the books borrowed by a specific user, and all the users who borrowed a specific book. Having the MongooseSchema.Types.ObjectId as type of specific property, makes it possible to populate the data of that property, when querying the database.

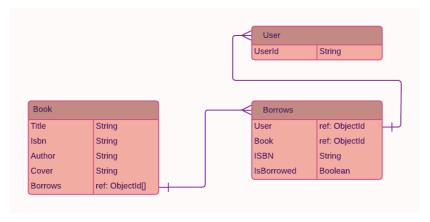


Figure 39: Pikkukirjasto DB Schema

7 Testing

Both of the application are heavily tested. The test results, and the coverage reports are available in a hosted standalone application.

7.1 Test-Driven Development

Test-Driven Development²¹ (TDD) is a software development methodology that emphasizes writing tests before writing the actual code. It follows a cyclic process consisting of three main steps: writing a failing test, writing the minimum code required to make the test pass, and then refactoring the code while ensuring that the test still passes.

TDD starts with writing a test case that describes the desired behavior of the code. This test initially fails since there is no implementation yet. Then, developers proceed to write the simplest code that fulfills the requirements of the test. This approach ensures that the code is written to satisfy specific functional expectations.

TDD promotes a strong feedback loop as tests are run frequently during development. This not only helps to catch bugs early but also aids in designing modular and loosely coupled code, leading to better maintainability and extensibility. Additionally, TDD encourages developers to focus on writing code that is tightly aligned with the requirements, which can lead to more reliable and predictable software.

By writing tests before the code, TDD also acts as a form of documentation, providing clear examples of how the code is intended to be used. This can be especially helpful for other developers who might work on the codebase in the future.

While TDD can lead to improved code quality and faster bug detection, it can also demand a mindset shift for some developers. Writing tests before writing code requires careful planning and consideration of the software's architecture. However, this initial investment often pays off in terms of reduced debugging time and increased confidence in the correctness of the codebase.

Since both the Backend and the Mobile Application are written in TypeScript, I have used a JavaScript testing framework called Jest.

While both application in written in TypeScript, due to their different nature, their testing approach is also rather different.

7.2 Backend testing

The backend is a Node.js application, therefore it is tested with Jest. There are two different types of tests in the backend. Unit tests, and integration tests. The unit tests are testing the individual functions, and the integration tests are testing the endpoints of the application, along with the database abstraction.

In the context of a REST API developed using NestJS, effective unit testing involves the comprehensive validation of individual components and functions within the application. Utilizing NestJS's built-in testing utilities and libraries like Jest, unit tests should cover various aspects of the API, such as endpoints, services, controllers, and data manipulation.

For instance, when testing a controller method, the unit test would ideally mock dependencies and simulate HTTP requests, ensuring that the controller's response and behavior align with expectations. Similarly, unit tests for services would assess business logic, database interactions, and error handling, all while isolating the service from external factors. By meticulously crafting unit tests in this manner, developers can swiftly identify regressions and bugs within the API, leading to a robust and reliable RESTful service that adheres to the principles of maintainability and testability.

The test files are placed close to the actual implementation, and it follows the .spec.ts naming convention.

In unit testing, the goal is to isolate each part of the program and show that the individual parts are correct. By isolating the parts of the program, unexpected interactions are avoided, so unit tests make it easier to test the program's correctness. When writing unit tests in Jest, the describe and it methods are used to define the test suite and test cases, respectively. The expect method is then used to define the expected output of the test case. The expect method takes a value called the actual and compares it against the expected value. If the actual value matches the expected value, then the test case is passed. Otherwise, it is failed.

Mocking in Jest is a powerful technique used to simulate the behavior of external dependencies, functions, or modules during unit testing. By creating mock implementations, developers can control the responses and interactions of these dependencies, allowing for isolated testing of specific code components. This is particularly valuable when testing interactions with databases, APIs, or other complex systems that should be decoupled from the unit under test. Jest provides built-in mocking utilities that enable the creation of mock functions and objects, making it easier to simulate real-world scenarios without actually invoking external resources. Overall, mocking in Jest enhances the precision and efficiency of unit tests by providing a controlled environment to assess the behavior of individual code units in isolation.

```
getAllBooks: jest.fn().mockResolvedValue([...demoBook]),
```

Listing 29: Example mocking in Jest

The example above mocks a simple function in the book.constroller.spec.ts, which is the getAllBooks function. The jest.fn() creates a mock function, and the mockResolvedValue sets the return value of the mock function. This way, the function can be tested without the need of a database connection.

When a specific implementation needs chained mocking, that can be achieved also, utilizing the mockImplementation method.

```
jest.spyOn(model, 'findOne').mockReturnValue(
    createMock<Query<BookDocument, BookDocument>>({
        populate: jest.fn().mockImplementationOnce(() => ({
            exec: jest.fn().mockResolvedValueOnce(thisBook),
            })),
        }),
    }),
})
```

Listing 30: Chained mocking example in Jest

The tests can be executed using the CLI provided by Jest.

pnpm run text

```
> server@0.0.1 test /Users/richardzilahir/lalkeinkiven-pikkukirjasto/apps/server
> jest

PASS src/app.controller.spec.ts (5.315 s)
PASS src/services/book/book.service.spec.ts (9.183 s)
PASS src/controllers/book/book.controller.spec.ts (9.184 s)

Test Suites: 3 passed, 3 total
Tests: 13 passed, 13 total
Snapshots: 0 total
Time: 9.901 s, estimated 12 s
Ran all test suites.
```

Figure 40: Backend Jest output

The test cases are executed in a CI environment as well, and the test results are available in the CI pipeline.

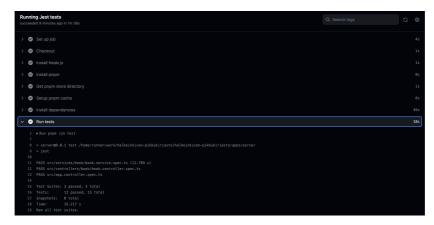


Figure 41: Backend Jest output Github CLI

7.2.1 Test coverage

Test coverage is a metric that measures the percentage of code that is covered by automated tests. It is an indicator of the quality of the tests, and it can be used to assess the risk of undetected bugs in the codebase. A higher test coverage indicates that there is a lower risk of bugs in the codebase, while a lower test coverage indicates that there is a higher risk of bugs in the codebase. The test coverage of the backend is measured by Jest, and the results are generated in the CI pipeline, during either staging or production release.



Figure 42: Generating Test Coverage Report

File	% Stmts	% Branch	% Funcs	% Lines	Uncovered Line #s
All files	28.93	0	40.54	28.48	!
src	25.45	0	30	21.27	!
app.controller.ts	100	100	100	100	!
app.module.ts	0	100	0	0	1-35
app.service.ts	100	100	100	100	l
main.express.ts		0		0	1-36
main.ts		0		0	1-29
src/controllers/book	100	100	100	100	
book.controller.ts	100	100	100	100	İ
src/controllers/borrow		0		0	İ
borrow.controller.ts		0		0	1-53
<pre>src/controllers/user</pre>		100		0	İ
user.controller.ts		100		0	1-23
src/modules/book	0	100	100	0	i
book.module.ts	0	100	100	0	1-23
src/modules/borrow	0	100	100	0	i
borrow.module.ts	0	100	100	0	1-25
src/modules/user		100	100	0	i
user.module.ts		100	100	0	1-24
src/schemas/book	100	100	100	100	i
book.schema.ts	100	100	100	100	i
src/schemas/borrow	0	100	100	0	i
borrow.schema.ts	0	100	100	0	1-26
src/schemas/user	0	100	100	0	i
user.schema.ts	0	100	100	0	1-12
src/services/book	94.11	100	85.71	93.33	
book.service.ts	94.11	100	85.71	93.33	55
src/services/borrow		100		0	i
borrow.service.ts	0	100	0	0	1-35
src/services/user	Ō	100	Ō	Ō	i
user.service.ts	0	100	0	0	1-27

Figure 43: Backend Codecov report

The report generated by ${\tt Jest}$ is public avaliable at ${\tt backendcov.thesis.richardzilahi.hu}$.



Figure 44: Public Codecov Report for Backend

7.3 App testing

The testing of the React Native mobile application also uses Jest as its test runner, however the testing approaches and methods are differs from the server side.

When writing unit tests for a React application, usually there are three main aspects that every test case should consider:

- · ensure the component renders without any errors
- · ensure their props are handled correctly

When it comes to writing good unit tests, there are a several best practices to follow:

- Always test components in isolation: React components should be tested in isolation
 from the rest of the application, to avoid unexpected side-effects from other parts of the
 application affecting the test results.
- Test the render output: You should test the output of a component to make sure that it is rendering correctly.
- Test edge cases: Make sure to test the component with a variety of different props and state values, including edge cases like empty or invalid data, to make sure that it works correctly in all scenarios.

import React from "react"; import render, fireEvent from "@testing-library/react"; import DummyComponent from "./DummyComponent";

```
describe("DummyComponent", () => {
  it("renders correctly", () => {
    const { container } = render(<DummyComponent />);
    expect(container).toMatchSnapshot();
});

it("updates its state when a button is clicked", () => {
    const { getByText } = render(<DummyComponent />);
    const button = getByText("Click me");
    fireEvent.click(button);
    expect(button).toHaveTextContent("Clicked 1 times");
});
});
```

Listing 31: Jest React Test Example

In this example, the render method from @testing-library/react is used to render the DummyComponent component into a test environment. The getByText method is then used to find a specific element within the component, and the fireEvent.click method is used to simulate a user interaction with the button. Finally, the expect function is used to assert that the component's text content has been updated correctly.

When it comes to unit-testing custom react-hooks there are a few aspects to keep in mind to ensure that the tests are effective enough:

• Testing the hook behavior: It's important to test the behavior of the hook to ensure that it works as expected. This may include testing the initial state, updating the state, and any side effects that the hook might produce.

- Testing different use cases: The hook may be used in different ways throughout the frontend application, so it's important to test it in a variety of use cases to ensure that it works correctly in all situations.
- Testing edge cases: It's important to test edge cases and error conditions to ensure that the hook behaves as expected in these scenarios. This may include testing with invalid input, empty values, or null values.
- Mocking dependencies: If the hook relies on external dependencies, such as APIs or other hooks, it may be necessary to mock these dependencies in the tests to ensure that the hook behaves consistently and predictably.
- Ensuring proper cleanup: If the hook performs any cleanup operations, such as unsubscribing from event listeners, it's important to ensure that these operations are performed correctly and that any resources are properly released.

7.3.1 Test coverage

The test coverage of the mobile application is measured by Jest, and the results are generated in the CI pipeline, during either staging or production release.

Similar to the Backend testing, the test coverage is almost 109% for the React Native application as well.

```
Statements : 99.15% ( 469/473 )
Branches : 92.3% ( 72/78 )
Functions : 97.34% ( 110/113 )
Lines : 99.14% ( 463/467 )

Snapshot Summary

> 1 snapshot updated from 1 test suite.
Test Suites: 35 passed, 35 total
Tests: 74 passed, 74 total
Snapshots: 1 updated, 4 passed, 5 total
Time: 15.791 s
Ran all test suites.

> NX Successfully ran target test for project mobile-client (17s)
```

Figure 45: Public Codecov Report for Mobile Application

Complete, 100% coverage unfortunately was not possible to reach here, because the Application implements a feature on the native camera, to scan the bard codes of the books, and the native camera can not be mocked any meaningful way which would help Jest to discover the coverage of that specific code.

The code coverage report of the React Native application is available publicly behind the following URL: appcov.thesis.richardzilahi.hu

 $^{^{20}} en. wikipedia.org/wiki/Test-driven_development$

8 Documentation

Documentation is a fundamental aspect of software development, playing a critical role in ensuring the clarity, maintainability, and longevity of a codebase. In this chapter I will be discussing the importance of documentation, its best practices, and its integral role in software projects.

Documentation is the written record of every software project's design, functionality, and usage. It serves as a critical source of information for developers, maintainers, and stakeholders. Comprehensive documentation is essential for various reasons, including onboarding new team members, troubleshooting issues, enhancing code maintainability, and ensuring project durability. It offers a structured way to communicate vital details about the software, reducing dependencies on individual knowledge and promoting collaboration.

8.1 Types of Documentation

Effective documentation encompasses various types, including code documentation, architectural documentation, user documentation, and API documentation. Code documentation, often in the form of comments, provides insights into the codebase's structure and function, helping developers understand how different parts of the code work. Architectural documentation outlines the system's overall design, the relationships between its components, and its dependencies. User documentation is vital for guiding end-users through an application, ensuring they can utilize it efficiently. API documentation defines how external components or services interact with the software, fostering integration and interoperability.

8.2 Documentation Best Practices

To create valuable documentation, it should be clear, concise, up to date, and easily accessible. It's important to use descriptive names for classes, functions, and variables. Employing meaningful comments to explain the purpose of code segments and any associated constraints or edge cases. Documentation should be consistent and follow a structured format to enhance readability. It's essential to keep documentation up to date as code evolves, ensuring that it remains relevant. Include examples, usage scenarios, and practical information to facilitate understanding. Keeping the documentation in version control systems (like Git) can also be used to maintain documentation alongside the codebase, ensuring alignment with code changes. Therefore, documentations should be considered an integral part of the codebase. Embedding it within the code repository makes it easily accessible to developers, fostering a seamless transition when different team members collaborate or when new contributors join the project. Developers can maintain documentation files alongside code files, ensuring they stay in sync with code changes. This practice reinforces the concept that documentation is not a separate task but an ongoing and parallel process within software development.

8.3 Utilized Documentation Tools

In this project, I've utilized multiple tools to create and maintain documentation across the codebase, keeping in mind the nature of the React Native application, and the server side Node.js application.

8.3.1 Server Side

As mentioned in the previous sections, the server side application uses NestJS framework, which implements a RestAPI interface. Documenting APIs are the most crucial part of every server side application, as it contains the methods and endpoints that are used to communicate with the application.

The NestJS framework provides a built-in tool to generate API documentation, based on the API endpoints, and the DTOs used in the application. This specific tool is called ²²Swagger, and it is a tool that can be used to generate API documentation, and it also provides a user interface to interact with the API endpoints.



Figure 46: Swagger API Documentation

Similar to the Codecoverage reports for both the backend and app applications, the Swagger documentation is also deployed to a dedicated StaticStack on AWS, and it's publicly accessible, at apidoc.richardzilahi.thesis.hu

8.3.2 Mobile Application

To document the mobile application, I've utilized the JSDoc tool, which is a markup language used to annotate JavaScript source code files. While JavaScript is primarily used to document JavaScript application, it can also be used to document TypeScript files, using TypeScript specific annotations.

When using properly configured JSDoc setup for a TypeScript project, the JSDoc tool can generate documentation for the entire codebase.

The example blow is a generic JSDoc comment, in a JavaScript file:

```
* ActionRequest
* @memberof Action
* @alias ActionRequest
*/
export type ActionRequest = {
  * parameters passed in an URL
 params: {
   * Id of current resource
   resourceId: string;
   * Id of current record
   recordId?: string;
   * Name of an action
   */
   action: string;
   [key: string]: any;
 };
```

Listing 32: Javascript Documentation Command

Using a specific configuration for \mathtt{JSDoc} will turn the example above into the following documentation:

```
/**
  * ActionRequest'
  * @memberof Action'
  * @alias ActionRequest'
  * @typedef {object} ActionRequest'
  * @property {object} params parameters passed in an URL'
  * @property {string} params.resourceId Id of current resource'
  * @property {string} [params.recordId] Id of current record'
  * @property {string} params.action Name of an action'
  * @property {any} params.{...}'
  */
```

Listing 33: TypeScript Documentation Comment

The JSDoc documentation is also deployed to a dedicated StaticStack on AWS, and it's publicly available at jsdocs.thesis.richardzilahi.hu.

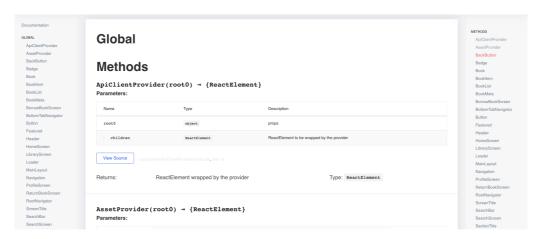


Figure 47: JSDoc on Mobile Application

Similarly to all the other documentation, the JSDoc documentation is also deployed automatically, using the Deployment GitHub Action.

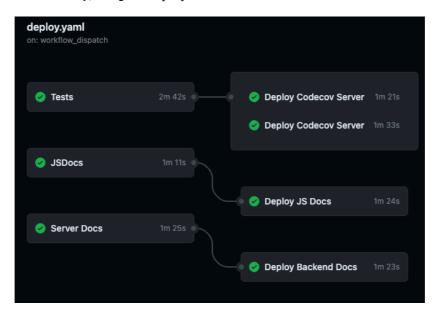


Figure 48: JSDoc Deployment

²¹swagger.io