

Design and Implementation of A Daily Expense Tracking System For Personal Financial Management

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Abstract: This project introduces the Daily Expense Tracking System, a web application designed to simplify financial management for individuals. Users can log daily expenses, income, and savings, and view financial insights through graphical representations. The system uses a client-server architecture, with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for the frontend, Node.js for the backend, and SQL for data storage. Features include expense categorization, special expense tracking, and income-expense curve visualization. This system aims to encourage better financial habits by providing users with actionable insights into their spending patterns.

I. INTRODUCTION

The “Daily Expense Tracker” project is a user-friendly web application built with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. This application allows users to effectively track and manage their daily expenses in a digital format. By providing a simple and intuitive interface, users can easily input their expenses, categorize them, and view detailed summaries of their spending habits. The project incorporates features such as expense categorization, total spending calculations, and date-based filtering to offer a comprehensive overview of financial expenditures. The goal of this project is to empower individuals to make informed financial decisions by providing a reliable and efficient tool for expense tracking.

This system simplifies budgeting by allowing users to:

- Track daily expenses and income
- Manage monthly savings
- Visualize income-expense trends
- Set and track special expenses

The project aims to deliver a user-friendly, accessible tool that supports users in establishing better financial habits.

II. SOFTWARE ANALYSIS

- Frontend Development
 - HTML, CSS, JavaScript: Used to create an interactive and responsive user interface.
 - Frameworks/Libraries: Bootstrap for layout and Chart.js for generating graphs.
- Backend Development
 - Node.js: Handles server-side logic and API requests.
 - Express.js: Simplifies routing and middleware operations.
- Database
 - SQL: Stores data, including user accounts, income, expenses, and savings.
 - Relationships: Designed as a relational database with linked tables for efficient data retrieval.
- Visualization Tools
 - Chart.js: Generates income-expense graphs for trend analysis.

III. EXISTING SYSTEM

Traditional expense tracking methods, like manual bookkeeping or spreadsheet-based systems, are time-consuming and prone to errors. Existing digital tools often lack personalized features such as automated savings allocation or special expense tracking, limiting their effectiveness.

PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system overcomes the limitations of traditional methods by providing:

1. Expense and Income Tracking: Categorized logging of income and expenses.
2. Special Expense Management: Tracking refundable or reimbursable expenses.
3. Savings Allocation: Automatic rollover of savings to the next month's income.
4. Visualization: Income-expense curves for detailed trend analysis.

IV. MODULES

The system is modular, with each module handling specific aspects of financial management:

User Registration and Login:

Implements secure user authentication and authorization, allowing users to create accounts and access personalized data.

Add Expense:

Users can input daily expenses with relevant details such as date, amount, and category (e.g., food, utilities, travel).

Add Income:

Users can add income records, which are updated as part of their monthly balance.

View Income-Expense Curve:

Provides a graphical representation of income and expenses over a specified period, allowing users to view financial trends.

Savings Management:

Users can allocate a portion of their income as savings and set aside funds for future use. The system allows savings to be added to the income of the next month automatically.

Special Expenses:

Tracks expenses that are likely to be refunded, helping users distinguish between regular and refundable expenses.

ARCHITECTURE DIAGRAM



Fig.1. System Architecture Flow for Daily Expense Tracker

V. RESULT

Testing results demonstrate the system's effectiveness in streamlining financial management.

1. Income-Expense Curve:

Users are provided with a clear visual representation of their spending habits and income trends over time. This feature helps users understand high-expense areas, allowing them to make adjustments to stay within budget.

2. Monthly Summary Reports:

Summaries provide an overview of total income, total expenses, and savings for the month. Users can track if they are on target with their financial goals, allowing for proactive adjustments in subsequent months.

3. Savings and Special Expenses Tracking:

The system efficiently differentiates regular expenses from special (refundable) expenses. This clarity aids users in understanding temporary vs. ongoing financial commitments.

Overall, the results validate that the system meets the project's objectives by providing an accessible and useful tool for financial tracking and planning.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Daily Expense Tracker System provides a streamlined way for users to manage daily financial transactions and build better financial habits. By providing essential budgeting tools and visual financial insights, the system empowers users to make informed financial decisions, promoting personal economic stability. With potential future enhancements, the system could become an even more comprehensive solution for everyday financial management.

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3. Web Resources:

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 - Node.js Documentation: Detailed explanations of building APIs and backend logic. <https://nodejs.org>
 - W3Schools SQL Tutorial: SQL syntax and query optimization. <https://www.w3schools.com/sql/>
 - Chart.js Documentation: For visualization and graph creation. <https://www.chartjs.org>
4. **Technical Blogs and Tutorials:**
- GeeksforGeeks: “Building a Simple Expense Tracker Application.” <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org>
 - Medium: “Developing an Expense Tracker Using Node.js and Express.” <https://medium.com>
5. **Tools and Frameworks Used in the Project:**
- Node.js and Express.js Official Documentation.
- SQLite/MySQL for database management.