

Prayer Slot Booking System – Service-Learning Project Report

Introduction

The Prayer Slot Booking System was created as my service-learning project to support fairness, accountability, and spiritual participation within a community prayer schedule. This project combines technical development with ethical design, reflecting my commitment to service, stewardship, and skill development.

Purpose of the Project

This system helps members reserve prayer slots in an organized, fair, and transparent way. Before its creation, bookings were made informally, often resulting in double-bookings and misunderstandings. The system now ensures clarity, order, and integrity in the scheduling process.

Technical Overview

The platform was developed using Node.js and Express, with a frontend built in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. It runs on an AWS EC2 instance, secured with NGINX reverse proxy and Let's Encrypt SSL certificates. The system uses bcrypt for password hashing and JSON Web Tokens for admin session management.

Key Features

- Secure user and admin authentication using bcrypt
- Token-based admin session verification
- Fairness logic preventing multiple same-day household bookings
- Identity masking for improved privacy ('Booked by another member')
- Responsive and mobile-friendly interface
- Administrative tools to manage slots and view attempts

Ethical Considerations

Ethical decision-making guided every update of this system. Privacy was enhanced by masking user names, fairness was strengthened through household booking rules, and accountability increased through structured logging. The project demonstrates respect, responsibility, and impartiality.

Refinements Made

- Added bcrypt password hashing for all accounts
- Implemented JWT-based admin authentication
- Introduced logout functionality for session hygiene

- Masked user identities in the booking calendar
- Added household fairness rule
- Improved admin interface and error handling

Impact and Reflection

This project allowed me to unite my spiritual principles with professional development. I strengthened technical skills in authentication, user experience, and data security while also reflecting qualities such as integrity, compassion, and stewardship. It enabled me to serve my community using my technical abilities.

Project Link

Live Application: <https://prayer.kanmali.com>