

## Lost and Found Online Portal

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### *Abstract*

This project is based on an online web application to help students/faculty who may lose their commodity inside the institution premises, to login and search for them online, and legally claim them if they find it. The system is authentic and has the ability to record information of each user and its activity on this portal, and keeps a record of all lost and claimed items in its database. The admin panel of this software manages all the records of data which is operated by an appointed in charge.

*Keywords— lost and found, HTML, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL*

### **1. Introduction**

With everything being digitalized by the Indian government under digital India programme there comes the need for digitization of data in the institutes as well. lost and found portal is aimed at general management of lost and found in the colleges. Earlier, it required manual storing of items lost which involves time and space. With the online storage of data it becomes quite easier to manage the whole process and it reduces human efforts too.

Also, it ensures proper documentation and reliability as well. The students can get their lost item easily and can file a complaint, if any. The system also verifies the right owner of the item lost thus ensuring security of the same. This online web portal is a practice to initiate digitization of services at the institute level. This creates a room for faster manipulation and documentation of lost items and dealing with problem solving conflicts.

### **2. Objectives**

The project aims at providing general management for lost and found department. It aims to digitize the process of managing lost items in an institute, organization and governmental departments. Providing students and staff a method to look for their lost commodity and lodging complaint for it is the primary objective of this

system. Additionally, enhancing conflict solving abilities, reducing fraudulent activities and boosting process automation have also been taken into account in this project.

### 3. Methodology

First of all every web based application should have a login portal to ensure proper security of resources. A user who wants to use this portal is first redirected to the login page; if he hasn't logged in already. The login credentials pertain to the student's identification of the college.

After logging in we'll get to see the list of all the lost items tracked by the lost and found department. These details come directly from admin panel who feed the information of lost item into the lost and found database.

Table will show details of item in terms of name, category, lost date etc. If a student is unable to find his commodity he can register a complaint giving all the necessary details of his lost item. The admin will manage all the data in the tables. He addresses the complaints and orders to find the item through provided details. If student comes for claiming an item; he verifies the right owner and solves the conflicts of multiple claimers and handover the item to its actual owner provided all the claimers name must be present in the claimer's table.

HTML and CSS are used for presentation and styling the content. JavaScript and JQuery is used to make the website dynamic. PHP and My SQL is used to manage and providing database to restore all the data. AJAX is used for passing asynchronous requests and updating tables and textual data without reloading the page every time.

## 4. Developing Environment Components

### 1. XAMPP Control Panel

XAMPP is a free and open source cross-platform web server solution stack package developed by Apache Friends, consisting mainly of the Apache HTTP Server, MariaDB database, and interpreters for scripts written in the PHP and Perl programming languages. XAMPP stands for Cross-Platform (X), Apache (A), MariaDB (M), PHP (P) and Perl (P). It is a simple, lightweight Apache distribution that makes it extremely easy for developers to create a local web server for testing and deployment purposes. Everything needed to set up a web server – server application (Apache), database (MariaDB), and scripting language (PHP) – is included in an extractable file. XAMPP is also cross-platform, which means it works equally well on Linux, Mac and Windows. Since most actual web server deployments use the same components as XAMPP, it makes transitioning from a local test server to a live server extremely easy as well.

### 2. Sublime Text Editor

Sublime Text is a proprietary cross-platform source code editor with a Python application programming interface (API). It natively supports many programming languages and markup languages, and functions can be added by users with plugins, typically community-built and maintained under free-software licenses.

## Software Components

- **HTML:** It is the building block of any web development project. It is a language which provides a framework over which communication between a user and a web application takes place. It provides a basic structure to the website and a way to represent data online. HTML is a markup language that web browsers use to interpret and compose text, images, and other material into visual or audible web pages.
- **CSS:** It stands for Cascading Style Sheets. It provides styling and responsiveness to a web application through which it looks attractive, well understandable and easy to work with. It alters the properties of HTML elements to improve its appearance.
- **JavaScript and jQuery:** They are the most common scripting languages used for websites to make them interactive and reduce loading time. JQuery is an optimized JavaScript library to minimize code for easy programming. With JavaScript, we can perform certain calculations and processing on an HTML page without refreshing it, we can do some task according to the user input, change the HTML DOM structure and CSS properties dynamically.
- **AJAX:** Asynchronous JavaScript and XML is a method which is used to send and receive data from a remote server in small amounts, without reloading the whole page every time. We can send small amounts of data asynchronously to the server and get a response and display it on any HTML element, without normally submitting a form hence improving speed.
- **PHP:** PHP:Hypertext Preprocessor is a widely used server side scripting language for managing and storing user data at the server side. The website data including user inputs and requests can be processed with PHP and can be stored in the server's databases. It manages data in the database and provides support for the integration of third party modules.
- **MySQL:** It is a Database Management System language. All the data is managed in the database through the SQL queries. We can insert, delete, modify, retrieve, alter, and select entries in the tables of database through SQL. It is an open source and most widely used cross-platform tool for developing database applications. MySQL is written in C and C++

### System Flow Analysis

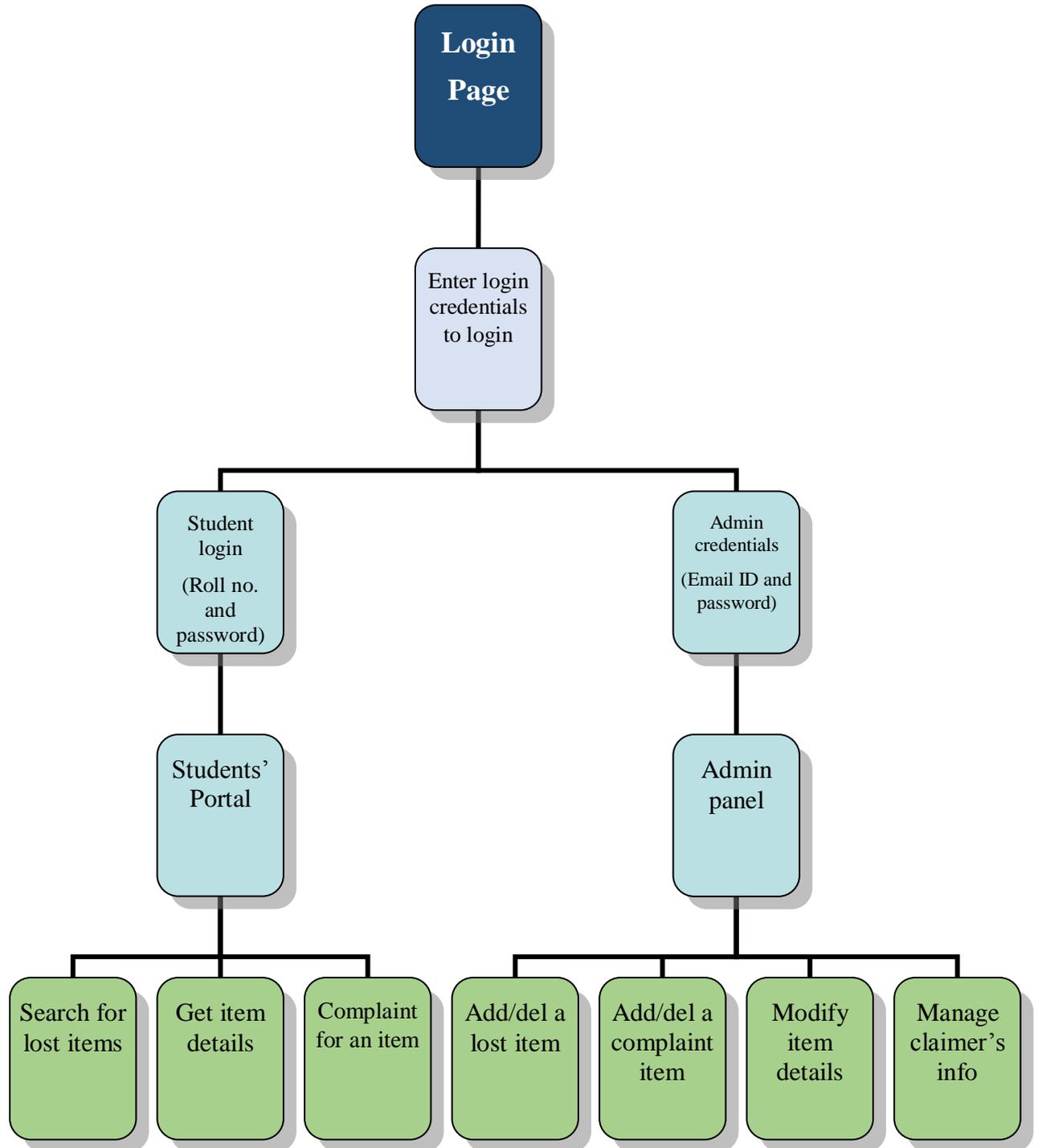
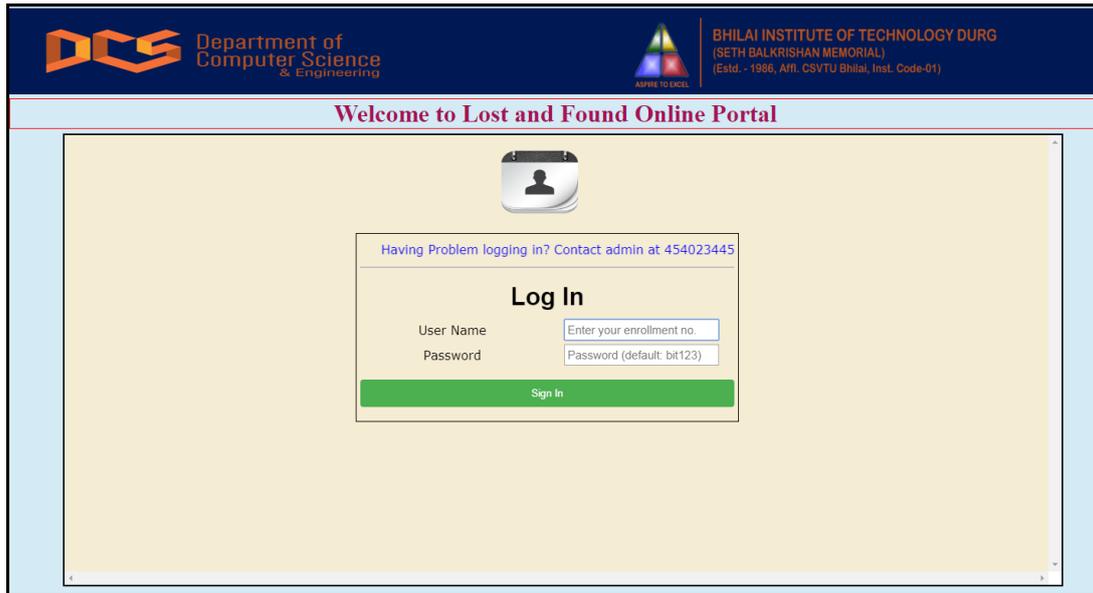


Fig.1 Flow diagram

## The login page



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(SETH BALKRISHAN MEMORIAL)  
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APPROVE TO EXCEL

Welcome to Lost and Found Online Portal

Having Problem logging in? Contact admin at 454023445

**Log In**

User Name

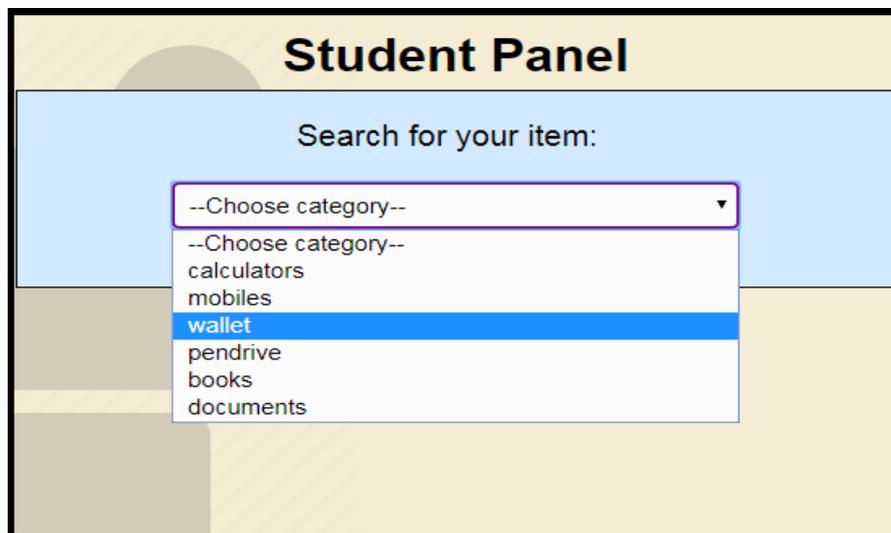
Password

Fig.2 Login page

The student and admin need to login from the same login form. This is to ensure minimum intruding practices and proper security. Login is necessary to ensure authenticity of portal to be used by entities belonging to the respective institute.

The credentials for the login will be provided as defaults to the user. They can further change them as they want as a part of our enhancement process.

## The Student's Panel



**Student Panel**

Search for your item:

--Choose category--

--Choose category--

calculators

mobiles

wallet

pendrive

books

documents

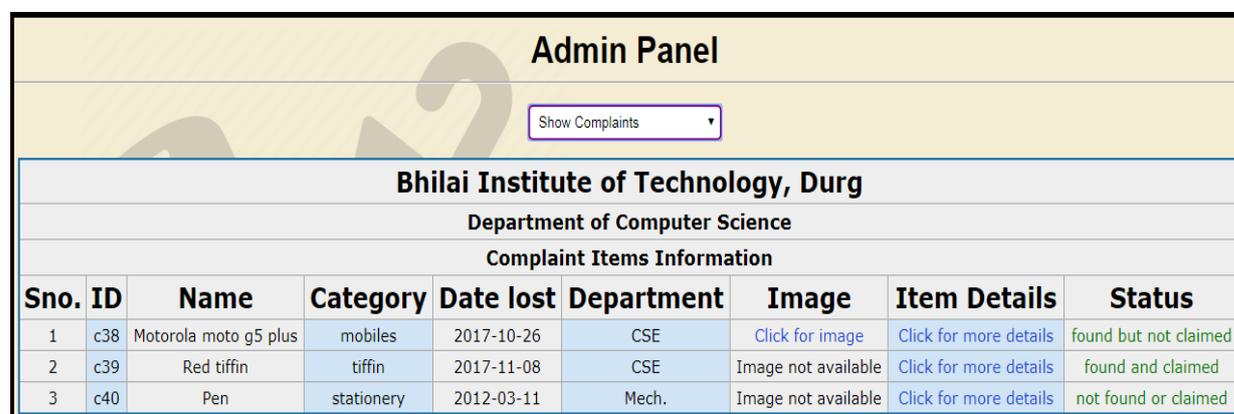
Fig.3 Student panel

This is the page/interface where users will use this portal. After logging in through the student credentials, users will be redirected to this page. This page contains relevant information of all the recorded lost items in the premises of the school, college, etc.

It contains a select drop down menu, which consists of unique item categories. When a user clicks on any category, all the lost items corresponding to that category will be shown in a table. The table has information about an item in relevant headings such as name, category, date lost, show details, etc. The users can search for their item in the table. If there are multiple items with same properties like name, category, date lost, a separate column showing details of an item can help the students differentiate between conflicting entries and find their right asset.

If they find their item in the list, they can claim it by reaching out to the department incharge. If they don't find their item, it means it hasn't been recorded/found by the department. In that case, they can lodge a complaint about their item through this interface giving all the necessary details for finding the item.

### The Admin Panel



The screenshot shows the Admin Panel interface. At the top, there is a header 'Admin Panel' and a dropdown menu labeled 'Show Complaints'. Below this, the page is titled 'Bhilai Institute of Technology, Durg' and 'Department of Computer Science'. The main content is a table titled 'Complaint Items Information' with the following data:

Sno.	ID	Name	Category	Date lost	Department	Image	Item Details	Status
1	c38	Motorola moto g5 plus	mobiles	2017-10-26	CSE	<a href="#">Click for image</a>	<a href="#">Click for more details</a>	found but not claimed
2	c39	Red tiffin	tiffin	2017-11-08	CSE	Image not available	<a href="#">Click for more details</a>	found and claimed
3	c40	Pen	stationery	2012-03-11	Mech.	Image not available	<a href="#">Click for more details</a>	not found or claimed

**Fig.4 Admin panel**

After admin login, an admin panel will open which contains the complaint items lodged by the students. The admin will manage all the data in the student panel. He addresses the complaints and orders to find the item through provided details. If he finds the item, he will update the student panel.

It is clear that there is a matching involved in the process of pairing the lost item with the found one. Admin will perform the matching process. If a student comes for claiming an item; he verifies the right owner and solves the conflicts of multiple claimers and handover the item to its actual owner provided all the claimers name must be present in the claimer's table.

## 5. Applications

This lost and found portal will allow students to get acquainted with the idea of digitization and how digitization helps to process any query in best possible and easier way. It aids in emergency services so that there is no time delay in delivering the item to the respective student, once the right owner is found.. Also it promotes advancement in the working methodology regarding lost and found problems. Moreover, it can be used in all educational institutes and governmental departments for documenting and automating the lost and found department.

## **6. Societal Impacts**

It saves time of students by providing ease of lodging complaints online instead of struggling for their commodity and visiting the lost and found dept. It helps in avoiding misuse and theft of lost items by frauds. It reduces human efforts both for the students and the administration. It facilitates in spreading awareness of digitization among people. It facilitates claiming rights and information regarding their commodity.

## **7. Enhancements**

The user can get the facility to change his default password to anything he wants, avoiding misuse and theft of lost items by frauds The complaint logged by any user will also contain the Id of the user which will allow admin to know who has logged specific item complaint The categories of lost item can be expanded so that any type of commodity can be easily found.

Portal can be made mobile friendly for the ease of the students. Also, the domain of users can be expanded by making portal available for all the branches. This portal can be made accessible for all the stakeholders of the Institution by their unique identification. Further interface enhancement can be made by implementing more features of JavaScript and CSS can improve user's experience on any type of device.

## **8. Limitations**

Although, the project is completed with utmost care and dedication yet every project has certain limitations involved. The system cannot verify the authenticity of a complaint lodged by any user for a commodity. There may be multiple claims for the same item. In that case, the portal fails to choose the rightful owner. The software has a limited bandwidth. The software has no facility for changing a student's password from defaults.

## **9. Conclusion**

This lost and found portal will allow systematic documentation of lost items and ensure delivery to the right owner. Moreover, it will reduce human efforts and provide proper management of data. The system can be used in all educational

institutes and governmental departments for documenting and automating the lost and found department. There is always a possibility of future enhancement in this project with daily advancements in technology and requirements of the institute.

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