

Meditrak

Installation Guide

Florida International University — Senior Design Capstone II — Spring 2026

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System Requirements

Before installing Meditrak, ensure your system meets the following requirements.

Requirement	Specification
Operating System	Windows 10 or Windows 11
Python Version	3.10 or higher (3.14 recommended)
Web Browser	Any modern browser — Google Chrome recommended
Disk Space	Less than 50 MB for application and database
Network	Internet connection required for first run (installs Flask)
Port	Port 5000 must be available (not in use by another application)

Step 1 — Install Python

Meditrak requires Python 3.10 or higher. If you already have Python installed, skip to Step 2.

1.1 Download Python

1. Open your web browser and go to: <https://www.python.org/downloads/>
2. Click the yellow Download Python button at the top of the page.
3. The installer file will download to your Downloads folder (e.g., python-3.14.x-amd64.exe).

1.2 Run the Installer

Note: This step is critical. You must check "Add python.exe to PATH" before clicking Install Now. If you skip this, Python commands will not work in the terminal.

4. Locate the downloaded installer in your Downloads folder and double-click it.
5. At the bottom of the first installer screen, check the box labeled "Add python.exe to PATH".
6. Click Install Now.
7. Wait for the installation to complete (approximately 2–3 minutes).
8. Click Close when the installer finishes.

1.3 Verify the Installation

9. Press the Windows key and search for Command Prompt.
10. Right-click Command Prompt and select Run as administrator.

11. Type the following command and press Enter:

```
python --version
```

12. You should see output similar to: Python 3.14.x

 **Note:** If you see "python is not recognized as an internal or external command," the PATH was not set correctly. Uninstall Python and repeat Step 1, making sure to check the PATH checkbox.

Step 2 — Extract the Project Files

13. Locate the file HIMS_Flask_Final.zip in your Downloads folder (or wherever it was submitted).
14. Right-click the ZIP file and select Extract All.
15. In the dialog that appears, choose a destination folder. Recommended: Documents or Desktop.
16. Click Extract and wait for the process to complete.
17. Open the extracted folder. You should see a folder named hims_flask inside it.

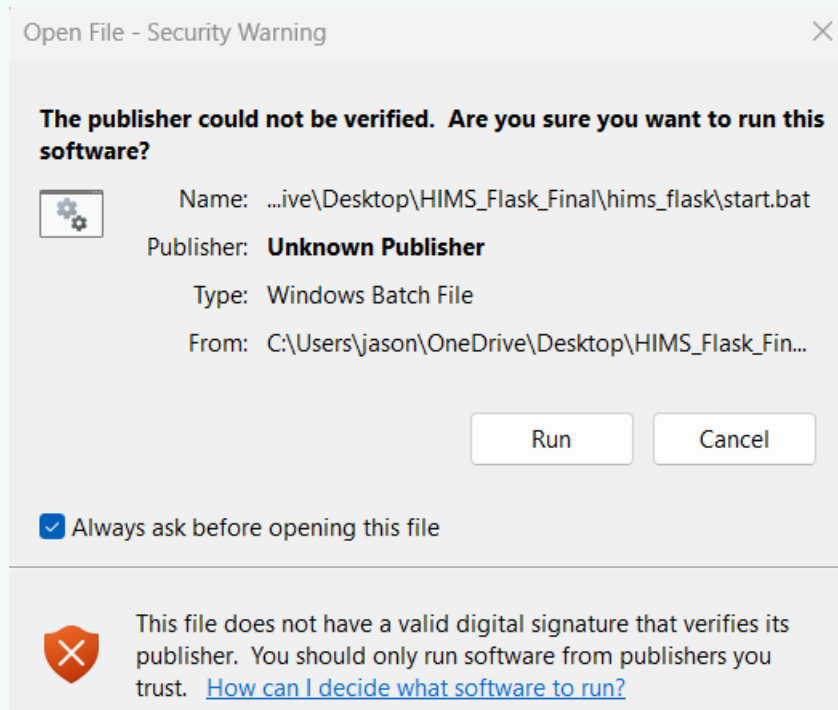
 **Note:** Make sure the folder path does not contain special characters or spaces in parent folder names, as this can sometimes cause issues with Python scripts.

Step 3 — Launch the Application

Meditrak includes a one-click launcher called start.bat that handles all setup and startup automatically.

3.1 Run start.bat

18. Open the hims_flask folder in File Explorer.
19. Double-click the file named start.bat.
20. A Command Prompt window will open automatically.



3.2 Watch the Setup Process

The Command Prompt window will run through three stages automatically:

Stage	What You Will See
Installing Flask	"Installing dependencies" appears in the output
Provisioning Database	"Database created successfully: ..." appears
Starting Server	"Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000" appears at the bottom

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd. x + v

=====
HIMS - Health Info Mgmt System
=====

Step 1: Installing dependencies...

[notice] A new release of pip is available: 25.3 -> 26.0.1
[notice] To update, run: C:\Users\jason\AppData\Local\Python\pythoncore-3.14-64\python.exe -m pip install --upgrade pip
Done.

Step 2: Setting up database...
✓ Database created successfully at: C:\Users\jason\OneDrive\Desktop\HIMS_Flask_Final\hims_flask\database\hims.db
  All demo accounts use password: password123

Step 3: Starting server...

App running at: http://localhost:5000
Press CTRL+C to stop

* Serving Flask app 'app'
* Debug mode: on
```

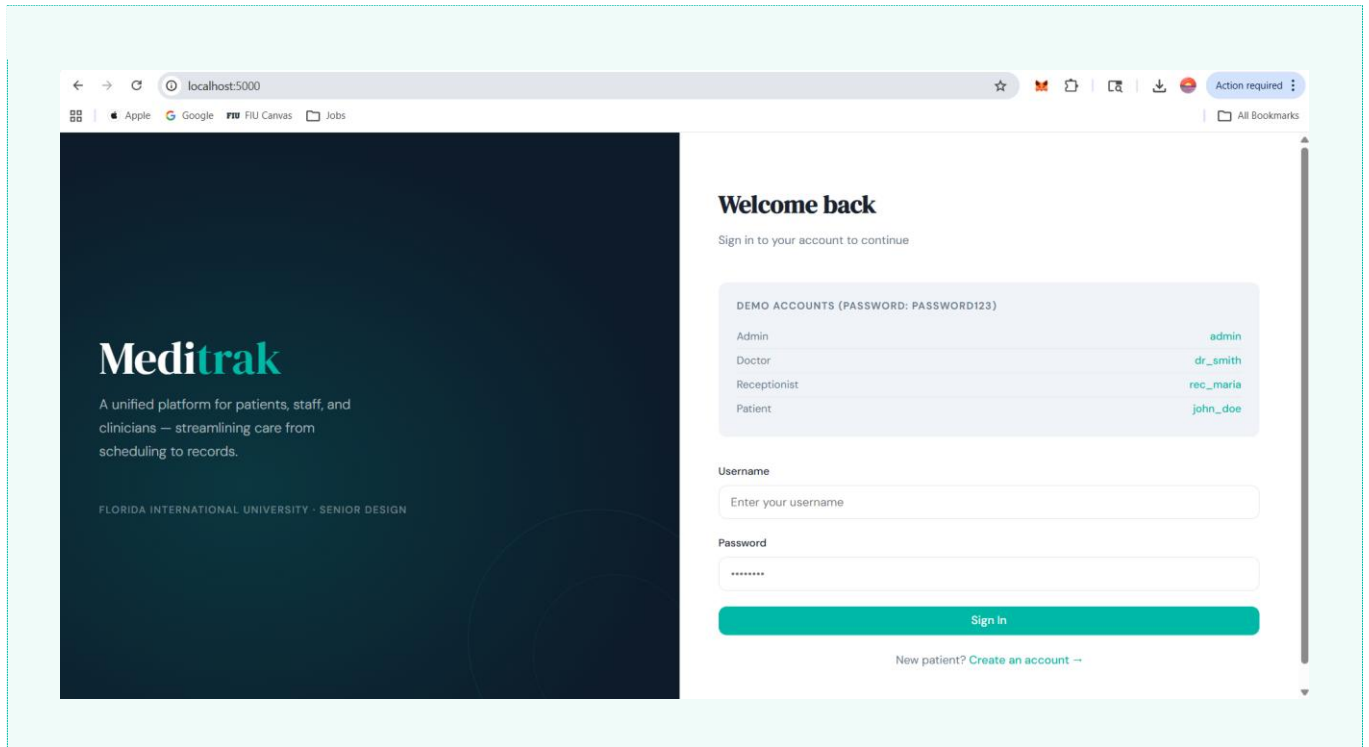
⚠ Note: Do not close this Command Prompt window. The server runs inside it. Closing the window will stop the application.

Step 4 — Open the Application in Your Browser

21. Open Google Chrome or any modern web browser.
22. In the address bar, type the following URL and press Enter:

```
http://localhost:5000
```

23. The Meditrak login page should appear.



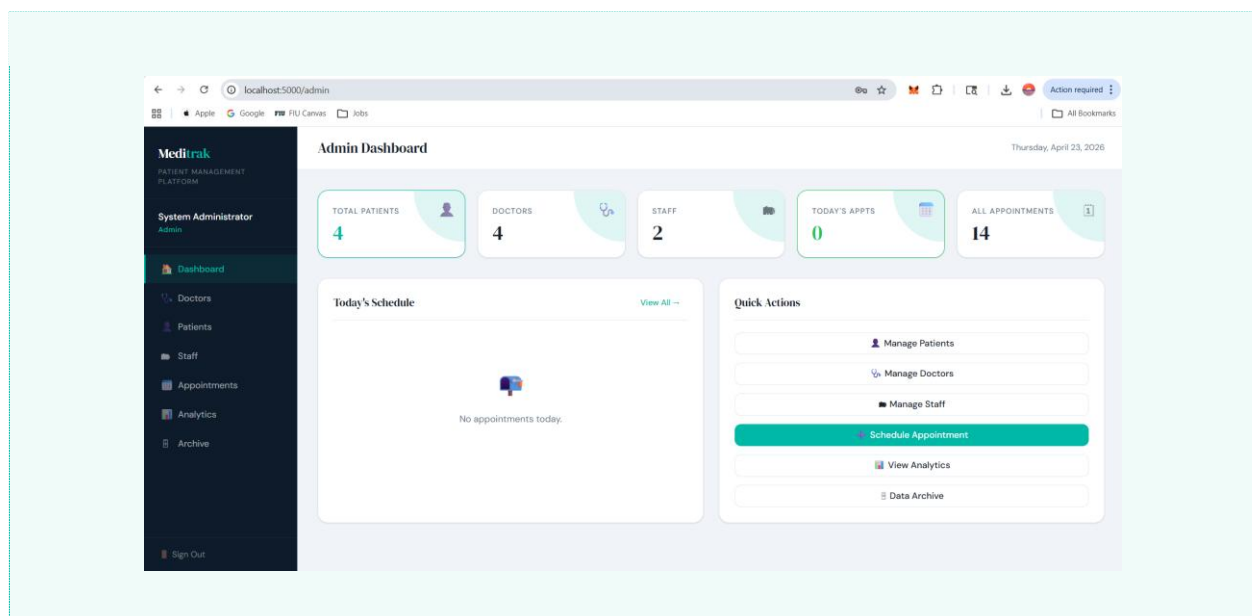
✓ **Tip:** Bookmark <http://localhost:5000> in your browser for quick access while the server is running.

Step 5 — Log In with a Demo Account

Meditrak includes ten pre-loaded demo accounts for testing all roles. All demo accounts use the password: password123

Role	Username
Admin	admin
Doctor	dr_smith
Doctor	dr_jones
Doctor	dr_patel
Receptionist	rec_maria
Receptionist	rec_james
Patient	john_doe
Patient	jane_smith
Patient	bob_miller
Patient	lisa_wong

24. Enter a username from the table above into the Username field.
25. Enter password123 into the Password field.
26. Click Sign In.
27. You will be redirected automatically to the dashboard for that role.



Environment Configuration

For most users, no configuration is needed. The default settings work out of the box. The following details are provided for advanced users or instructors who need to modify the setup.

Configuration File

Location: hims_flask\app.py (top of file)

Setting	Default Value / Description
app.secret_key	"hims-secret-key-2026" — Change this for any real deployment
DB_PATH	Auto-resolved to hims_flask\database\hims.db
Port	5000 — Change in the last line of app.py: app.run(port=5000)
Debug mode	True — Set to False for production use

Resetting to a Clean State

To reset the database and start fresh (removes all data including accounts you created):

28. Stop the server by pressing CTRL + C in the Command Prompt window.
29. Delete the file at hims_flask\database\hims.db
30. Double-click start.bat again — it will recreate the database automatically.

Stopping the Server

Press CTRL + C in the Command Prompt window that opened when you ran start.bat. The window can then be closed.

Restarting the Server

Double-click start.bat again at any time. It will skip database setup if hims.db already exists and go directly to starting the server.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
"python is not recognized"	Reinstall Python and check "Add python.exe to PATH" during setup.
"pip is not recognized"	Use python -m pip install flask instead of pip install flask.
Port 5000 already in use	Open Task Manager, find the process using port 5000 and end it. Or change the port in app.py.

Login page does not load	Make sure the Command Prompt window is still open and shows "Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000".
"Unable to open database file"	Run python init_db.py in the terminal from inside the hims_flask folder to create the database manually.
Services appear doubled	Run fix_services.py from the hims_flask folder to remove duplicates.
Page shows an error after login	Log out, log back in, and try again. If the issue persists, reset the database.