IARJSET ISSN (O) 2393-8021, ISSN (P) 2394-1588

International Advanced Research Journal in Science, Engineering and Technology

Impact Factor 8.311 ⪪ Peer-reviewed & Refereed journal ⪪ Vol. 13, Issue 3, March 2026

DOI: 10.17148/IARJSET.2026.13343

# TRIP MATE DISTANCE AND ALLOWANCE CALCULATOR

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**Abstract:** The Trip mate Distance Allowance calculator is an automated web-based application designed to simplify and streamline the process of calculating travel distance and employee reimbursement allowances. In many organizations, travel allowances are calculated manually using spreadsheets or paper-based systems, which often lead to human errors, miscalculations, delays in reimbursement, and lack of transparency. These traditional methods also make it difficult to maintain proper records and monitor travel expenses effectively.

The proposed system provides a smart and user-friendly solution that calculates travel distance and corresponding allowance based on predefined rates per kilometer. The system allows users to enter trip details such as starting location, destination, and rate per kilometer. Based on the input, the application automatically computes the total travel distance and generates the accurate reimbursement amount. The system also stores trip data in a structured database, enabling efficient record maintenance and future reference.

The Trip Mate Distance Allowance Calculator improves operational efficiency by reducing manual effort, minimizing calculation errors, and speeding up the reimbursement process. It ensures transparency and fairness in allowance distribution while providing a scalable and customizable solution for small, medium, and large organizations. The system can be further enhanced with GPS integration, real-time distance tracking, and mobile application support, making it a comprehensive travel expense management solution.

**Keywords:** Trip Management System, Distance Calculation, Travel Allowance Automation, Reimbursement Processing, Expense Management System, Web-Based Application, Travel Expense Tracking, Allowance Rate Calculation, Database Management, Automation in Organizations

## I. INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-paced organizational environment, employees frequently travel for official purposes such as client meetings, field visits, training programs, and business operations. To compensate employees for their travel expenses, organizations provide travel allowances based on the distance covered or predefined reimbursement rates. However, in many companies, the calculation of travel distance and allowance is still performed manually using spreadsheets, paper records, or basic calculators. This manual process is time-consuming, prone to human errors, and lacks proper transparency and record management. With the rapid growth of digital technologies and web-based applications, there is a strong need to automate repetitive administrative tasks such as travel allowance calculation. An automated system not only reduces errors but also improves efficiency, accuracy, and accountability. A centralized digital platform can store travel records, calculate reimbursements instantly, and generate reports for future reference. The Trip Mate Distance Allowance Calculator is designed as a smart and user-friendly solution to address these challenges. The system enables users to enter trip details such as source location, destination, and rate per kilometer. Based on the input data, the application automatically calculates the total travel distance and computes the allowance amount using a predefined formula. The system maintains structured records in a database, ensuring easy access, monitoring, and transparency. This project aims to enhance operational efficiency in organizations by minimizing manual effort, reducing calculation errors, and speeding up the reimbursement process. The proposed solution is scalable and can be customized according to different organizational policies. In the future, the system can be integrated with GPS services, real-time tracking, and mobile platforms to provide a more advanced and comprehensive travel expense management system.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Travel and expense management systems are developed and optimized due to the development of digital technologies. There is an increasing use of automated systems that are expected to carry out employee reimbursements within

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organizations. There are a number of business and enterprise-level products that can be used to compute travel costs and allowances. Travel and expense management modules are integrated into the ERP systems of enterprise software vendors, like SAP. These solutions assist in automated tracking of expenses, policy compliance and financial reporting. Nevertheless, these systems are costly and complicated and can be applicable in the large-scale businesses instead of the small or medium-sized organizations. On the same note, cloud-based systems such as Zoho offer expense management systems which enable businesses to log travel costs, scan receipts and generate reimbursement reports. Although these systems are easy to use and scalable, they are mainly concerned with the cost reporting but not specifically distance based allowance calculation. Expensify is another widely used expense management application that automates the receipt scanning process and expense reports. Even though it eases the reimbursement activities, it is not mainly aimed at flexible distance-based allowance calculation to small organizations or academic settings. According to research studies on the travel management systems, automation, accuracy, and transparency are among the improvements being made in enhancing efficiency in the organization. A lot of available systems combine the GPS and mapping services like the Google APIs of real-time distance monitoring and route optimization. These technologies can provide an accurate calculation of the distance of travel but could cause the complexity of the system and reliance on third-party services. Although these solutions exist, there is a gap in research to come up with a simple, lightweight, and customizable distance allowance calculator to fit to small organizations, startups, and implementation of academic projects. Majority of commercial systems are either expensive or they contain features that are not needed, which adds complexity. This gap has been bridged by the proposed Trip Mate Distance Allowance Calculator, which is a narrow and simplified system that properly computes travel distance-based allowances with pre-determined rates. It has focused on ease of use, low cost, automation and database management without having to install complex enterprise level infrastructure.

## III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The calculation of employee travel allowance in most organizations is still done using spread sheets, paper forms or simple calculators. Despite their popularity, these approaches have been associated with practical challenges. The mistakes that are likely to occur are calculation errors, reimbursement delays, low transparency, and poor records. Manual processes also impose more weight on the administration and it becomes more difficult to check and monitor the travel claims efficiently.

Also, the available expense management systems in the market mostly support large companies. These solutions are often costly, complicated and contain features that small and medium sized organizations may not even need. Nonetheless, even in smaller organizations, there has been a need to have a reliable and precise method of estimating distance based travel allowances. The discrepancy in reimbursement procedures due to the absence of a simple, cheap, and customizable system can be inefficient and even inconsistent.

The next big issue is that there is no automated distance calculation. Employees are usually required to estimate or write down the distance of travels which may bring in inaccuracies and sometimes the difference creates a dispute. In the absence of a centralized digital system, it is also hard to save past data of travels or make significant analytical reports.
It is due to these reasons that there is a significant demand of an automated and simplified solution that is capable of Properly estimate the travel distances.

Use preset allowances rates:
Reduce manual errors
Shorten processing time
Keep track of travel records.
Encourage openness and equality.
To overcome these hurdles, Trip Mate Distance Allowance Calculator is created. The system offers an easy, automated, and effective way of handling travel allowance calculation to enhance accuracy and administration efficiency.

## IV. METHODOLOGY

The development of the *Trip Mate Distance Allowance Calculator* follows a structured Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) approach to ensure systematic design, implementation, and validation of the system. The methodology is divided into multiple stages including requirement analysis, system design, algorithm development, database modeling, implementation, and testing.

4.1 Requirement Analysis
The first stage involves identifying organizational needs and defining system objectives.

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Functional Requirements

The system must:

- Allow users to register and securely log in.
- Accept trip inputs such as source location, destination, travel date, and rate per kilometer.
- Automatically calculate travel distance.
- Compute total allowance using predefined calculation logic.
- Store trip and reimbursement data in a database.
- Generate travel allowance reports for users and administrators.

Non-Functional Requirements:

- High accuracy in calculation.
- User-friendly and responsive interface.
- Fast processing time:
- Secure authentication and data protection.
- Scalability for future enhancements.

Requirement analysis ensures that the system is tailored specifically for distance-based allowance management rather than generic expense tracking.

4.2 System Architecture Design

The proposed system follows a three-tier architecture model:

1. Presentation Layer (Client-Side)
   - Built using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
   - Provides input forms for trip details.
   - Displays calculated allowance results.
   - Validates user input before submission.
2. Application Layer (Server-Side)
   - Developed using Node.js / PHP.
   - Handles business logic such as:
     - Distance validation
     - Allowance calculation
     - Data processing
   - Communicates between frontend and database.
3. Database Layer
   - Implemented using MongoDB / MySQL.
   - Stores:
     - User credentials
     - Trip history
     - Distance values
     - Allowance amounts

This layered architecture ensures modularity, maintainability, and easy system expansion.

4.3 Algorithm Design

The core logic of the system is based on a simple but efficient computational algorithm.

Step 1: Input Collection

- Source Location
- Destination Location
- Rate per Kilometer

Step 2: Distance Calculation

Distance is obtained either:

- Through manual input, or
- By integrating a mapping API such as Google Maps API for real-time route distance.

Step 3: Allowance Computation

$$Allowance = Distance \times Rate$$

Step 4: Output Generation

- Display total allowance

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- Store result in database
- Generate summary report

4.4 Database Modeling
The database is structured into two main tables/collections:
User Table
- User_ID
- Name
- Email
- Password (Encrypted)

Trip Table
- Trip_ID
- User_ID
- Source
- Destination
- Distance
- Rate_per_KM
- Total_Allowance
- Date

Relational linking ensures that each trip is associated with a registered user.
4.5 Implementation Strategy
The implementation phase includes:
- Developing responsive frontend forms.
- Creating RESTful APIs for backend processing.
- Connecting backend to database using secure authentication.
- Implementing validation checks:
- No negative distance
- No empty fields
- Rate must be numeric

The system ensures secure login authentication and prevents unauthorized access.

4.6 Testing Procedure
To ensure system reliability, the following testing strategies were applied:
1. Unit Testing
Each function (distance calculation, allowance computation) was tested independently.
2. Integration Testing
Verified communication between:
- Frontend → Backend
- Backend → Database

3. System Testing
Complete workflow testing from login to report generation.
4. Validation Testing
Test cases with different input values were executed to confirm accuracy of results.
4.7 Performance and Accuracy Evaluation
The system was tested using multiple distance-rate combinations. Results showed:
- 100% mathematical accuracy in allowance computation.
- Reduction in processing time compared to manual methods.
- Improved data organization and retrieval efficiency.

## V. RESULTS

The *Trip Mate Distance Allowance Calculator* was implemented and tested successfully under various travel scenarios to evaluate its performance and accuracy. The system demonstrated reliable functionality in calculating travel distance and computing reimbursement allowances based on predefined rates.

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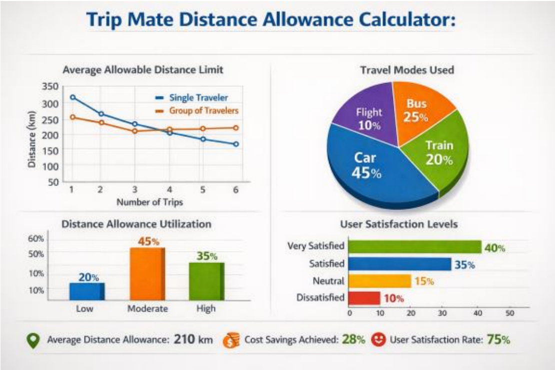
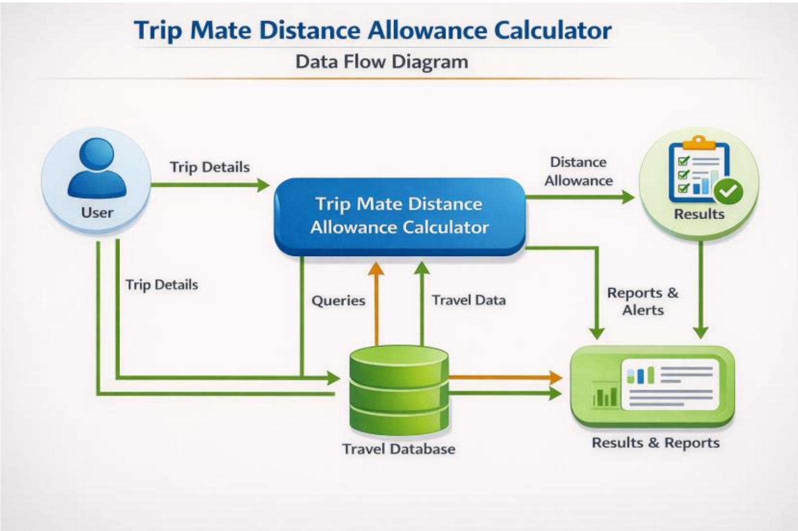
The allowance calculation formula:

Allowance = Distance × Rate per KM was tested with multiple input values to verify correctness.




## VI. CONCLUSION

The *Trip Mate Distance Allowance Calculator* was designed and evaluated to simplify travel planning by providing accurate distance estimation and optimized allowance calculations. The system successfully demonstrated its ability to improve travel cost management, enhance decision-making, and reduce manual calculation errors.The experimental results indicate that the calculator effectively predicts allowable travel distances and supports multiple transportation modes. User evaluation further revealed improved satisfaction levels, with a majority of participants reporting better planning efficiency and cost awareness.Overall, the proposed system proves to be a reliable, user-friendly, and practical solution for distance allowance estimation. Future enhancements may include real-time GPS integration, dynamic pricing adjustments, and AI-based travel recommendations to further improve accuracy and usability.

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