

Computer Science and Applications / Computer Information Systems / Software Engineering Faculty of Prince Al-Hussein Bin Abdallah II for Information Technology The Hashemite University, Zarqa-Jordan

Online Attendance System HU Chat Subsystem

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of B.Sc. Degree in Computer science

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It is hereby certified that the project titled *Online Attendance System* and *HU Chat*

System, submitted by Abdelaziz I. Al. Tally (1739073) and Khaled Eilayan (1738441) in partial

fulfillment of the award of the Degree of Bachelor Software Engineering, Business Information

Technology embodies original work done by them under my supervision.

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Department of Software Engineering

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ABSTRACT

Student attendance system deals with the maintenance of the students' attendance details. It generates the attendance of the student on basis of presence in class. It is maintaining daily basis of attendance; the staff will be provided with the separate username and password to make student attendance.

The Students will be responsible of making the attendance by signing into the official website of their university, and the attendance will be calculated in real time the student's attendance report will be recorded as soon as the lecture ends.

Also provides an easy, formal and fully secured way for communication between all users of the system to discuss Various topics by using online chat system.

DEDICATIONS

This project is proudly dedicated to my beloved university, all of its instructors and employees, especially our fellow Dr. Abdelrahman F. Al-Ghuwairi, and a special thanks to our families and friends who helped us along the way.

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Abbreviations

- 1. Online Attendance System (OAS)
- 2. Magnetic Identification Card (MIC)
- 3. University Identification Card (UIC)
- 4. Fingerprint Identification Card (FPBI)
- 5. Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS)
- 6. Automated System Detection (ASD)

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

In this chapter we will give brief overview about the Online Attendance System (OAS), in specific; we will talk about our motive to produce this system, and the difficulties that faced the instructors and the students in various universities, also we will talk about what we would want to achieve after developing this system.

1.1 Background

Until now, most of the attendances in institutions are still recorded manually by calling out the name one by one by the lecturer. This seems to be wasting time especially when the number of students is huge. There is also another way that the lecturer passes the attendance sheet to student one by one to sign beside their name. However, this way will lead to one drawback which is the student can help to sign for the student that are absent. Therefore, the only solution to overcome this kind of problem is to manage the attendance automatically. In order to avoid this issue, wireless attendance identification system based on a specific password generated by the lecture instructor and the student personal device MAC Address. The MAC Address has a lot of pros, such as uniqueness and it lasts forever.

Also, we noticed that the communication between students and instructors has its drawbacks and given that nearly all of us are familiar with various chat systems (like WhatsApp, Messenger, etc.) why not develop a chat system that will be part of the Students' / Instructors' / Deans' respective portals.

So, we introduced a new chat platform to make the communication easier for all the members of the university.

1.2 Problem Statement

Attendance is a state of being present at a place. It represents how committed a person is in real life or working environment. Until now, the attendance is still being taken manually as we sign on the name list that lecturer prepared and submit after signing. In this circumstance, some students may help other absent students to mark their attendance. Therefore, an accurate system is needed to be invented to solve this problem. In order to have an accurate system, we have thought about installing devices to read magnetic cards in every class, an ID is necessary, it means every student will have their own University Identification Card (UIC) that can differentiate between students. Although it is already magnetic and is available in our University and ready to be used, but it is still not secure because the tools and devices that enable us to use this feature are not available at the present time. We also thought about introducing the Fingerprint Biometric Identification (FPBI) because it is unique for everyone, so it is safe to use, however, this system will need a lot of wires to connect if it is installed in every classroom in the University, and it will take a lot of time to take the (FPBI) of all the students.

Communication between students and instructors is vital, especially in these circumstances while having online classes.

Although a dedicated email has been given to each student by the university not so long ago. Yet, there's still some students who communicate with their instructors on other platforms rather than reaching out to them by email.

Like sending messages to instructors on their private Facebook profile, or at WhatsApp, and recently on Microsoft Teams.

1.3 Objective(s)

The main objective of the project is to:

- Demonstrate an (OAS) that can automatically acquire students' attendance.
- Develop an easy, formal and secure way for communication between all users.

In order to accomplish this we have to:

- a. Go with computerized system, instead of old-fashioned manual process.
- b. Develop a verification system on attendance marking.
- c. Acquire the data using MAC Address and store the attendance in the database.
- d. Display the absence of every student via their Portal.
- e. No paperwork, and no risk of errors which can be occurred while marking the attendance manually.
- f. Reports are easily generated.
- g. User Friendly: User Interface is very easy. Data storing and recovery is fast and secured.
- h. A way to communicate between users especially the student and his instructor.

1.4 Report Organization

The rest of the report is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 2** talks about a couple of solutions that serves the same purpose.
- **Chapter 3** lists the user requirements and the way they have been elicited.
- **Chapter 4** presents the design and components' architecture.
- **Chapter 5** contains an implementation, testing methodologies and cases on the system as a whole.
- **Chapter 6** presents the future work and concludes the report.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Attendance system has already been introduced to the world and put into use in two main ways: Verification Card Identification and the Fingerprint Biometric Identification. But it is difficult to implement these ways and use it in the University for reasons already stated before.

YEAR	Invention Name	AUTHOR(S)	OBJECTIVES	PROBLEMS
	Magnetic	Forrest Corry	Storing data by modifying	The student can help
	Identification Card	Parry	the magnetism of tiny	to sign for the
	(MIC)		iron-	student that are
			based magnetic particles	absent.
10500			on a band	The tools and
1950s			of magnetic material on	devices that enable
			the card.	us to use this
				feature are not
				available at the
				present time.
	Integrated	The New York	Uniquely identify a person	This system will
	Automated	Police, FBI	since that not two humans	need lots of wire to
	Fingerprint		have the same	connect if it is
	Identification System		fingerprints.	installed in every
	(IAFIS)			class in the
1920s				University.
				It will take a lot of
				time to take the
				fingerprint biometric
				identification of all
				the students.

Table 1 : Possible Solutions Review

In general, using (MIC) and (IAFIS) meets our requirements and our vision for a better future, but sadly it is not in our capabilities at the moment to use it in the University.

We have taken a look at many other systems that aimed to accomplish the same idea but none of them were executed the right way, so we used the weaknesses in their systems to make our system more complete, secure and reliable.

Our system opens new horizons in the future to use either the Iris or Facial Recognition.

CHAPTER 3: SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

The SRS document itself states those functions and capabilities in precise and explicitly a software system must provide and state any required constraints by which the system must abide to. It is important to note that an SRS contains functional and non-functional requirements only; it doesn't offer design suggestions, possible solutions to technology or business issues, or any other information.

3.1 Requirements Elicitation

As we discussed before the old method of taking attendance which is still used to this day, takes a lot of time and effort from instructors in universities, and cannot be relied on for the reasons mentioned before, so the process of gathering requirements is very important for this program because the problem is not just for one university but in most universities.

The process of eliciting requirements in this type of system takes a lot of time because you have to collect them from various instructors and students and make accurate statistics to find the satisfactory requirements that lead the program to success, and a result of its use and reliance on it in their universities ensures that the user has a comfortable and satisfying user experience.

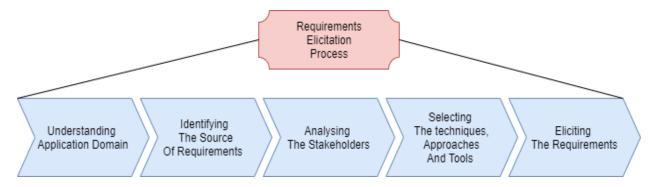


Figure 1 : Requirements Elicitation Process

3.2 Functional User Requirements

They are what the system must do and can be thought of in terms of how the system responds to inputs. In the table below; we will be stating some of the functional requirements for the OAS.

No.	Requirements	Frequency of use	Users
1.	The system notifies the dean when a	When necessary.	• System
	certain student's absence exceeds 20% of		
	the lectures in the semester.		
2.	Signing in.	Upon the request.	Faculty DeanInstructorsStudents
3.	The system should view the attendance for	Upon the request.	Faculty Dean
	all users.		InstructorsStudents
4.	The system should add new	Upon the request.	Faculty Dean
	Instructors/Students.		
5.	Add new Courses	Upon the request.	Faculty Dean
6.	The instructor should be able to remove	Upon the request.	• Instructors
	student's absence if he provides a valid		
	reason for it		
7.	The student must be able to record his	In each lecture.	• Students
	attendance for each lecture.		
8.	Student must be able to register in the	Registration period	• Students
	courses he wants.		
9.	The student must be able to view his	Always	• Students
	registration table for the current semester.		
10.	Messages between two users shouldn't be	Always	Faculty Dean
	accessible by others		InstructorsStudents

Table 2 : Functional User Requirements

The use case diagram below shows the actions that can be taken by each user.



Figure 4 : Use Case Diagram

3.3 Non-Functional User Requirements

Broadly, functional requirements define what a system should do, on the other hand non-functional requirements define how a system is supposed to be and also can be omitted because it defines the quality of the implementation of the system.

The table below shows the complementary requirements, sorted by their priorities, to enhance the quality of the system.

Non-Functional	Non-Functional Requirements	Priority Level
Requirements Classifier		
	The student can only view his personal	
	data.	
Security	The student can't submit the	HIGH
	attendance for others.	
	Passwords are encrypted.	
Reliability	The system data should be accurate.	HIGH
Portability	Application must be able to run on	HIGH
	different environments.	піоп
Performance	Queries executed without delays.	MEDIUM
Availability	The system supposed to be available	MEDILIM
	at all times.	MEDIUM
Usability	Ease of use.	MEDIUM
Maintenance	Any modification on the database or	MEDIUM
	the system will be easy to handle.	MEDIOW
DESIGN (UI/ UX)	Interactions with the systems is	LOW
	straight forward and easy.	LOVV

Table 3 : Non-Functional User Requirements

CHAPTER 4: SOFTWARE DESIGN

One of the most important factors that affect the program is the design that contains many types that work differently, some of which affect the user experience, such as the interface design, including what affects the flexibility of the system and its capabilities such as database design and the interaction between them, so the design must be good enough not to adversely affect the system.

4.1 System Architecture

System architecture is the ideal model that determines the structure and behavior of a system. This description is of a high standard that can demonstrate the relationship between the components that stimulate software and hardware and their communication. The design of the OAS and the Chat System is based on the client/server architecture. A web application serves as an interface between the users and the service provided by the system.

The first level of this architecture is the hardware component. The device here is the user device that will be connected to the system and other components. After that, the architectural level will go to the task of the process when the student tries to access the server through an inquiry or registration of attendance where it is linked with the server (which is connected to the database) via the Internet, then this data is received and processed and verified as correct as the server communicates with the database, the required tasks are executed accurately.

4.1.1 System Architecture

This figure shows the general architecture of the proposed system which includes the server, database and shows the interaction between them.

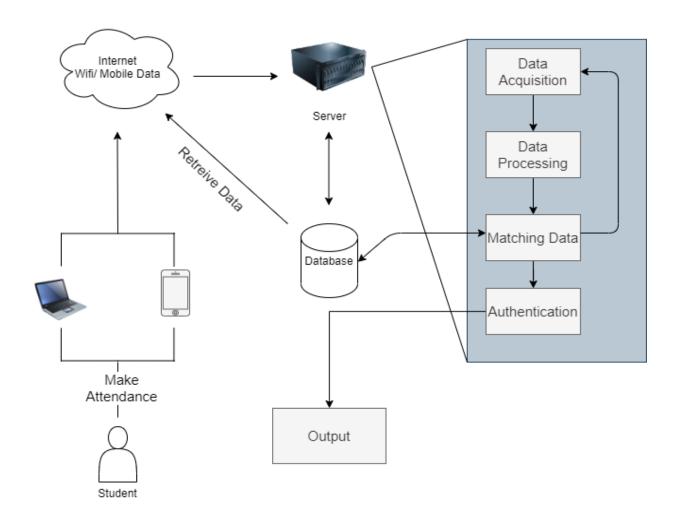


Figure 7 : OAS Architecture

4.1.2 Sequence Diagram

To get more understanding of the components of the system and the method of interaction between them and to see the details of the requests by the user and the method of completing them by the server and the database:

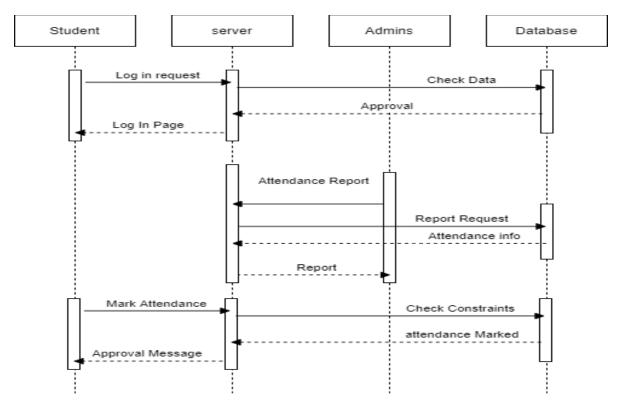


Figure 10 : Sequence Diagram

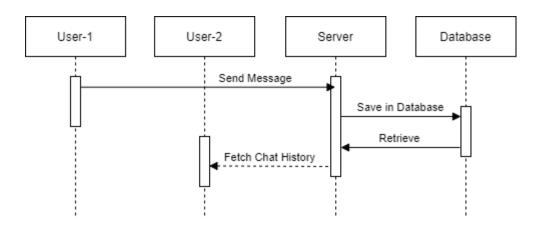


Figure 13 : Chat Sequence Diagram

4.2 Database Specification

4.2.1 ER Diagram

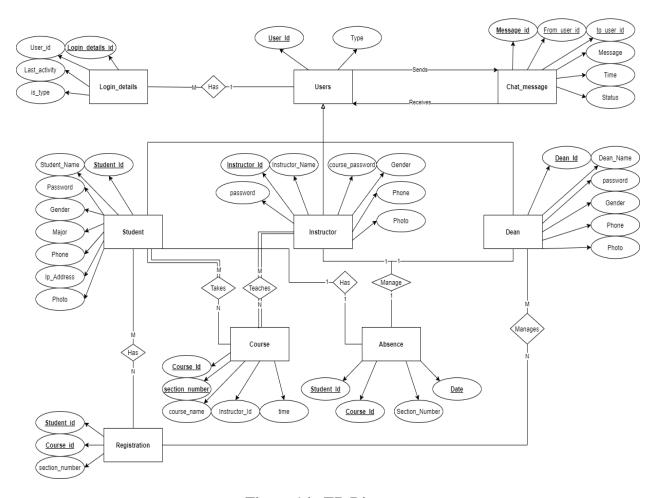


Figure 16: ER Diagram

4.2.2 Database Tables Specification.

Our system contains 9 tables as shown down below:

- 1. Users
- 2. Student Table
- 3. Instructor Table
- 4. Dean Table
- 5. Course Table
- 6. Registration Table
- 7. Absence Table
- 8. Login_details
- 9. Chat_message

#	Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
1	user_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
2	type	int(1)			No	None		

Figure 19: Users Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
student_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
password	varchar(255)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
student_name	varchar(50)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
gender	tinyint(1)			No	None		
major	varchar(3)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
phone 🔑	int(10)			No	None		
photo	longblob			Yes	NULL		
mac_address 🔊	varchar(18)	utf8mb4_general_ci		Yes	NULL		

Figure 22 : Student Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
course_id 🔑 🔑	int(12)			No	None		
course_name	varchar(50)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
section_number 🔑	int(2)			No	None		
instructor_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
time	time			No	None		

Figure 28 : Course Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
dean_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
password	varchar(255)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
dean_name	varchar(50)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
gender	tinyint(1)			No	None		
phone 🔑	int(10)			No	None		
photo	longblob			Yes	NULL		

Figure 25 : Dean Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
student_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
course_id 🔑 🔑	int(12)			No	None		
section_number 🔎	int(2)			No	None		

Figure 31 : Registration Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
instructor_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
password	varchar(255)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
instructor_name	varchar(50)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	None		
gender	tinyint(1)			No	None		
phone 🔑	int(10)			No	None		
photo	longblob			Yes	NULL		
course_password	varchar(6)	utf8mb4_general_ci		No	0		

Figure 34 : Instructor Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
student_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
course_id 🔑 🔑	int(12)			No	None		
section_number 🔎	int(2)			No	None		
date 🔑	date			No	current_timestamp()		

Figure 37 : Absence Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
message_id 🔑	int(11)			No	None		AUTO_INCREMENT
from_user_id \nearrow	int(7)			No	None		
to_user_id 🔎	int(7)			No	None		
message	text	utf8_general_ci		No	None		
time	timestamp			No	current_timestamp()		
status	int(1)			No	None		

Figure 40 : Chat Message Table

Name	Туре	Collation	Attributes	Null	Default	Comments	Extra
login_details_id 🔑	int(11)			No	None		AUTO_INCREMENT
user_id 🔑	int(7)			No	None		
last_activity	timestamp			No	current_timestamp()		
is_type	enum('no', 'yes')	utf8_general_ci		No	None		

Figure 43 : Login Details Table

4.2.3 Database Relational Schema.

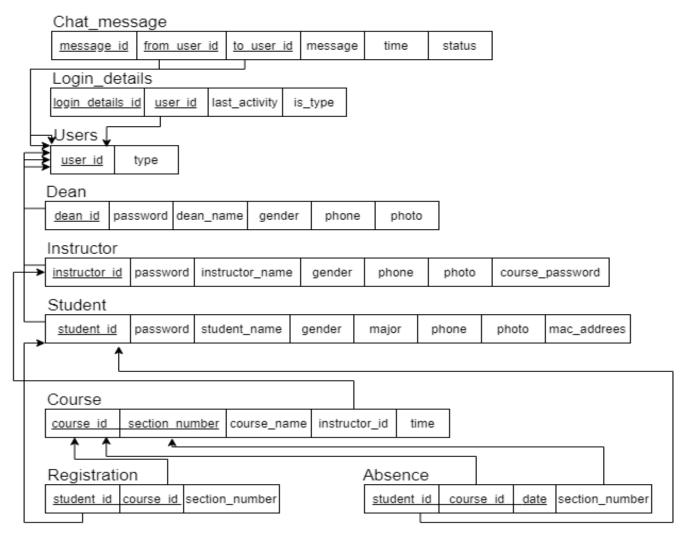


Figure 46: Database Relational Schema

4.2.4 Database Schema

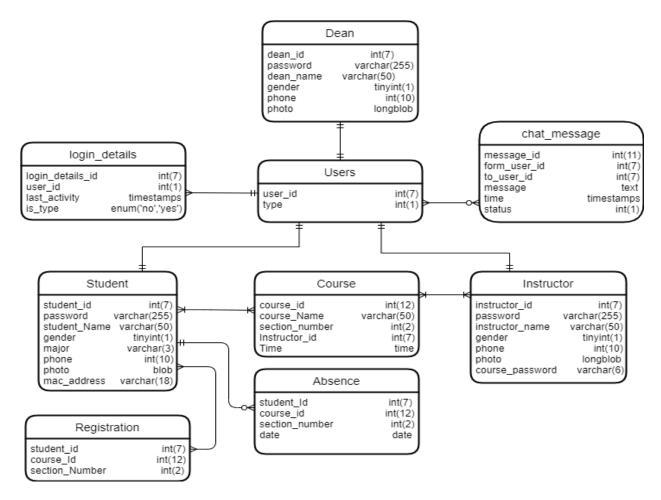


Figure 49: Database Schema

4.3 Interface Specification

The UI will be user friendly, and the user will not have any difficulty interacting with it either browsing from their phone or laptop/desktop. The system will have a joint sign-in page for all users (Deans, Instructors, and Students).

4.3.1 Common components among all users.

This section as mentioned before definitely contains a sign-in page that includes (header, footer) and it is the first page that the user will face, whether a student, instructor or dean.

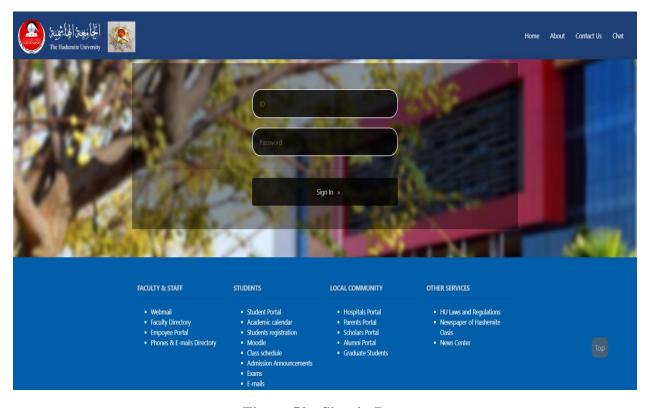


Figure 52 : Sign-in Page

- 1. As usual, the application header contains quick access buttons, In this situation...
 - Home: Navigates the user to his respective home page.
 - o About: Information about the organization.
 - o Contact US: Give the user the possible ways to communicate with organization.
 - Chat: Open the chat subsystem to communicate with other users.
- 2. The footer contains links to access various web pages of the HU Official Site.

The home pages for all users contains:

1. User Information.

It contains his name, id and his specialization if he was a student.

2. Photo Settings

The user can add or remove a personal photo from there.

3. Sign out Button



Figure 55: User Details

4.3.2 Dean Home Page.

As for the Dean's page, it contains many components that meet his needs and powers within the college like adding students, courses and instructors. Also, it has a separate section for the absence of students in any course in that semester.

1. Dean Forms.



Figure 58 : Dean Forms

2. Absence Form: There is a feature that indicates to the dean which student exceeded the permitted absence percentage.

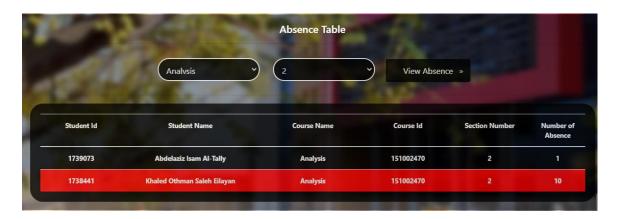


Figure 61 : Dean Absence Table

4.3.3 Instructors Home Page.

The instructors page contains three sections (Lecture Password, Registration Table, Absence Form of the students' in his lectures):

1. As we mentioned before the student will take attendance so the system will check lecture password modified by the course's instructor from this section.



Figure 64: Lecture Password

2. Registration Section: this form showing the courses that instructor teaching in that semester and start taking attendance for current time lecture.



Figure 67: Instructors Registration Table

3. Absence Table: this table show the student absence for his courses in details.



Figure 70: Instructors Absence Table

4.3.4 Students Home Page.

Students Home page also has three sections (Add courses, Registration, Absence)...

1. Add courses: from this section the student can add course to his registration table.



Figure 73 : Student Add Course

2. Registration Table: this section shows the courses he is taking in that semester and it contains mark attendance button to take attendance for current lecture.



Figure 76: Student Registration Table

After clicking on Mark Attendance this form will pop-up to enter that lecture password given by its instructor.

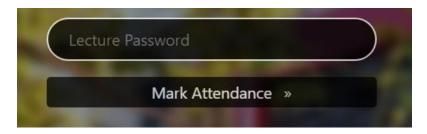


Figure 79 : Student Lecture Password

3. Absence Table: this form shows the detailed Absence for his lectures.



Figure 82 : Student Absence Table

4.3.5 Chat System.

When the user clicks on chat button from the Navigation Bar, this table appears, user can start sending messages to any other user, see if he has received any messages and know online, offline users.



Figure 85 : Available users for Chat

After clicking on Start Chat button, the conversation will pop-up so you can see the chat history with the other user.

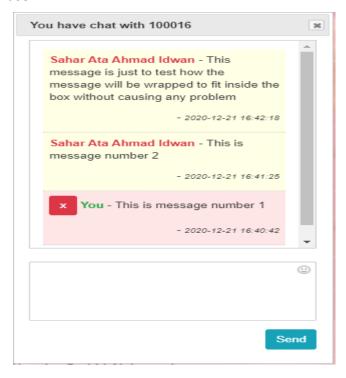


Figure 88 : User Conversation

4.4 Component Specification

Component Specification is a generic description of a component. It defines its dependencies to other components, what actions that can be performed on it and how those actions affect the dependencies. It also defines what artifacts the component can export to other components. In the component specifications diagram below, we tried to place some of the system components and to clarify the interaction between them.

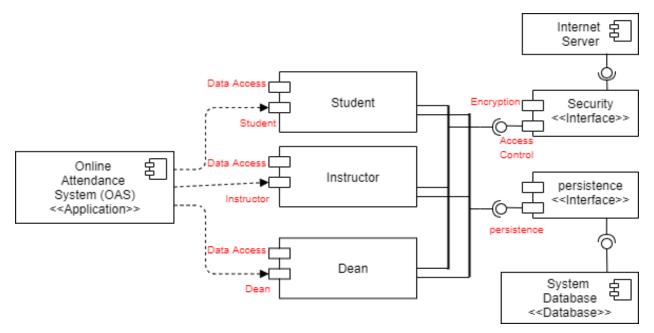


Figure 91: OAS Component Specification

CHAPTER 5: SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION AND TESTING

A strategy for software testing must include low-level tests that are necessary to verify that a small source code segment has been correctly implemented as well as high-level tests that validate major system functions against customer requirements.

The test strategy occurs at a time when deadline pressure begins to rise, progress must be measurable, and problems must surface as early as possible. Following testing techniques are well known and the same strategy is adopted during this project testing.

5.1 Software Implementation

The software implementation stage involves the transformation of the software into one or more fabricated, integrated, and tested software configuration items that are ready for software acceptance testing. It refers to the process of adopting and integrating a software application into a business workflow. Implementation of new tools and software into an enterprise can be complex, depending on the size of the organization and the software.

Prior to implementation, the software should be selected by assessing needs, budget, potential benefits, obstacles, and so on. Once the solution is chosen, implementation can begin.

To avoid mistakes, the tests will be done by several steps, including:

- Beta Software Before installing at a large scale, test the software in advance with an inhouse test kit that will be done by installing part of the system on universities for feedback.
- Install The IT department should work with the vendor to install the app across all target devices in the universities.
- 3. Preparation and Training Once installed, develop a qualification program and software training program to ensure all users to take advantage of all functions and features.
- 4. Monitoring, Maintenance, and Follow-up Monitor user feedback throughout the implementation process.

After the implementation of the program, we got some benefits for the system producer and the owner as below:

- 1. Cost-effective.
- 2. Improved reporting and planning.
- 3. Improved Efficiency.
- 4. Customer Service.
- 5. Improved Collaboration and Workflows.

5.2 Software Testing

Once the source code has been generated for a whole part of the system, it must be tested to uncover as many errors as possible in minimum amount of time and effort.

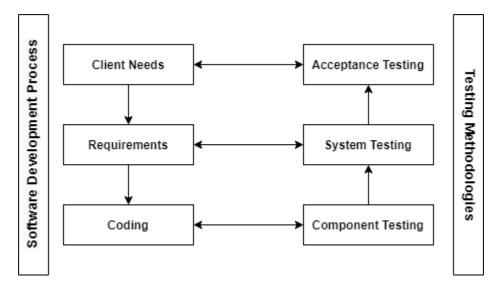


Figure 94: Process of Software Development

Before we start the testing phase; we decided to go through with the Agile Testing methodology; so that whenever we implement a part of the code it will be tested immediately.

5.2.1 Component Testing

The step of focusing verification effort on the smallest unit of the software design. The component testing is a white-box testing approach. When looking back at figure we can see that User Acceptance Testing is utilized to identify and verify client needs.

The component testing for every module of the OAS and the Chat System is implemented by giving a correct manual input to the system, the input is stored in the database, and retrieved in future tests to verify that the system works perfectly.

Some of these components that we need to focus on while developing the system will be mentioned below along with their expected output/response.

ID	In Which Web Page	What to be Tested	Actual Response
1.	Sign-In Page	The Dean, Instructor, Student should be able to sign into their respective portals	The system directs each user to his respective portal.
2.	Instructor/ Student Database Table	To verify that the data is stored in the database after appointing a new Instructor or adding a new Student	All data entered by the user was processed and stored in the database
3.	Portal	View Attendance and absence: Dean → All Students in the faculty Instructor → All students who attend his courses Students → His own attendance in all courses	The dean can view the number of absences for each student. The instructor can view each absence for each student with its respective date. The student can view his absence in each of the courses he's enrolled in.
4.	Student's Portal	The Student should be able to Mark his attendance in a course he's attending only during a specific time.	The student can mark his attendance given that he has the lecture's password provided by the instructor.
5.	Chat System	 The Instructor/Dean should be able to communicate with all members. The Student should be able to communicate with every Dean/Instructor in the faculty. 	All messages were guaranteed to reach its desired user without any conflict.

Table 4: Test Cases for Component Testing

5.2.2 System Testing

System testing is a series of different tests whose primary purpose is to fully exercise the computer-based system.

Our goal is to design a series of test cases that have a good capability of finding errors.

Below we have chosen the best that helps us in our system under the circumstances such as:

- Usability Testing: Mainly focuses on the user's ease of use of the application,
 flexibility in handling controls and ability of the system to meet its objectives
- 2. **Load Testing:** Is necessary to know that a software will perform well under real-life loads.
- 3. **Regression Testing:** Involves testing done to make sure that none of the changes made over the course of the development process have caused new bugs. It also makes sure no old bugs appear from the addition of new software modules over time.
- Recovery Testing: Done to demonstrate if a software solution is reliable, trustworthy and can successfully recoup from possible crashes.
- 5. **Migration testing:** Is done to ensure that the software can be moved from older system infrastructures to current system infrastructures without any issues.
- 6. Testing every input in the application to check desired output.
- 7. Testing of the user's experience with the system.

5.2.3 Acceptance Testing

Acceptance testing is no less important than any of the Unit or System testing, and for many reasons one might say that it is the most crucial stage of the testing phase.

The acceptance testing is a complicated stage in the software development, because it is done at an awkward time - at the end of the system development - which means that the QA team will start testing the system after the development team is done with it, that's why we will be using the agile testing approach which means that the testing will be done in the same time the development team is done working on a whole part/unit of the system and the Acceptance Testing will be done on the newly implemented part/unit.

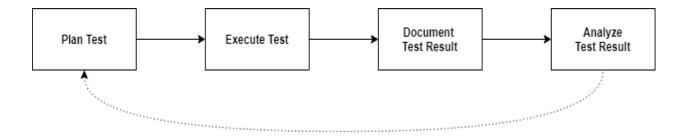


Figure 97: User Acceptance Testing

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION

Online Attendance System (OAS) and the Chat System, a two web-based applications developed with HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, jQuery, AJAX and JavaScript as Front-End languages, PHP and JSON as a Back-End management language, Apache Server as a web server, and MySQL as a Database Management System to fit perfectly with the objectives to be achieved.

The OAS is very helpful in saving valuable time in universities' lectures, it can record attendance of students in a very convenient manner using their devices to prevent impersonation and reduce level of absence. Also, it reduces most human errors and helps to update and maintain attendance records.

The system was developed with professionalism and high accuracy, and accordingly the system proved its effectiveness in helping educational institutions in the process of registering student attendance, and this is what we aspired to from the beginning.

The Chat System will save time for all members in the university which undoubtedly easier and faster than emails, and at the same time more formal and professional than using already existed chat systems (WhatsApp, Messenger) which is developed to be personal and private.

6.1 Future Work

New additions will be implemented for the chat system, for example creating a group chat for each lecture and section will come handy for instructors and students also, such as posting news about upcoming quizzes, exams, deadlines.

A group chat for instructors may help them receive new rules and regulations issued by the faculty or the university itself.

This system contains a wide range of future developments and improvements that will achieve a quantitative leap in the attendance registration process in all educational institutions. In the near future, more capabilities will be added to the instructor through which he can impose penalties on students as a result of exceeding the number of absences allowed during the semester.

Based on our future aspirations, we can make the attendance unit more dynamic by using the facial recognition feature. The iris identification technique will also be used. Through these technologies, we will be able to transform the attendance registration process into a fully automated process without human intervention at all.

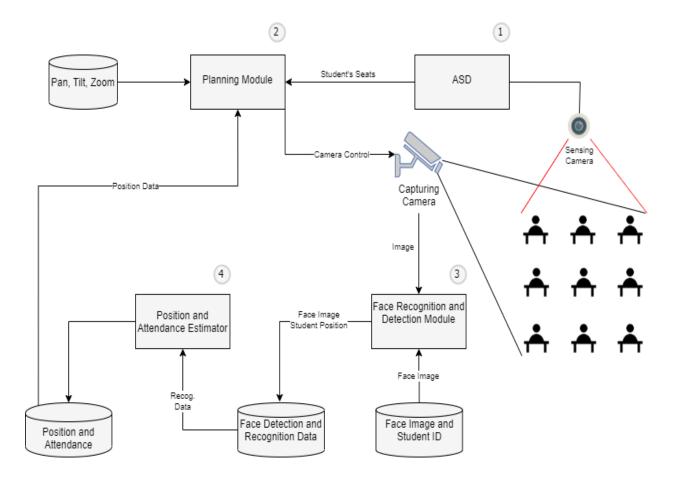


Figure 100: Future Work Architecture

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