Cloud-Based Face Recognition Attendance System

Abstract

The Cloud-Based Face Recognition Attendance System is an AI-driven solution designed to modernize and automate student attendance tracking using facial recognition technology. Built entirely on Amazon Web Services (AWS), the system ensures scalability, security, and high availability. Students can register their facial data and mark attendance via a web portal, with all image processing and identity verification handled by AWS Rekognition. Serverless AWS Lambda functions manage the backend logic, while Amazon S3, DynamoDB, and SNS are used for storage, database management, and real-time notifications, respectively. The solution eliminates manual attendance procedures, minimizes errors, and enhances data security. With a user-friendly interface and real-time processing capabilities, this system offers an efficient and reliable alternative for educational institutions aiming to implement smart attendance management.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The Cloud-Based Face Recognition Attendance System is an intelligent, AI-powered solution designed to automate and modernize the process of taking student attendance. Built entirely using scalable and secure AWS cloud services, this system enables students to register their face and mark their attendance in real time through a web portal. By leveraging advanced facial recognition technology and serverless computing, the system ensures efficient processing, high accuracy, and cost-effectiveness for educational institutions.

1.2 Objectives

- Enable students to register their faces through a user-friendly web interface.
- Allow students to mark attendance by uploading a live face image for verification.
- Ensure secure and efficient facial recognition using AWS Rekognition.
- Store student profiles and attendance logs using a scalable NoSQL database.
- Automate the backend processing using AWS Lambda functions.
- Use AWS SNS to notify admins about attendance updates and issues.
- Maintain a highly available and responsive system using AWS services.

Detailed Description of the Modules:

I. Amazon S3 (Simple Storage Service)

Purpose:

Used for storing all face images securely and reliably.

Functions:

- Stores registered student face images and attendance-time face images in separate folders.
- Acts as a trigger source for AWS Lambda functions upon image upload.
- Provides durable and highly available storage for facial image data.

Interaction:

Lambda functions automatically access images from S3 for registration and attendance comparison. S3 is also used as the storage point for EC2-hosted front-end uploads.

II. AWS Rekognition

Purpose:

Provides facial recognition capabilities for registration and attendance matching.

Functions:

- Extracts facial features and indexes them into a Rekognition collection during registration.
- Compares new face images against the collection to verify student identity.
- Returns confidence scores to determine match accuracy.

Interaction:

Triggered by Lambda during both registration and attendance processes. Directly interacts with stored Rekognition collection and returns face match results to Lambda.

III. AWS Lambda

Purpose:

Provides backend processing using a serverless compute model.

Functions:

- Handles student face registration: triggers on S3 image upload, calls Rekognition, updates DynamoDB.
- Handles attendance marking: compares new face with existing collection, logs attendance.
- Sends notification via SNS based on success/failure.

Interaction:

Triggered by S3 events, accesses Rekognition for matching, reads/writes to DynamoDB, and sends alerts via SNS.

IV. Amazon Dynamic DB

Purpose:

Stores structured student and attendance data in a scalable NoSQL format.

Functions:

- Stores student information such as registration number and image reference.
- Records each attendance event with a timestamp for future reference.
- Supports real-time updates with low latency.

Interaction:

Accessed by Lambda functions for both student registration and attendance marking. Each match result is logged here.

V. AWS SNS (Simple Notification Service)

Purpose:

Sends real-time alerts and notifications to admins.

Functions:

- Sends email/SMS to the administrator upon successful or failed attendance/registration.
- Notifies system stakeholders of anomalies or issues instantly.

Interaction:

Invoked by Lambda based on success/failure of face verification. Admin is subscribed to SNS topic for real-time updates.

VI. AWS IAM (Identity and Access Management)

Purpose:

Manages secure access and permissions across AWS services.

Functions:

- Defines roles and policies for Lambda, EC2, Rekognition, etc.
- Ensures services follow least privilege principle.
- Protects sensitive operations and controls user access.

Interaction:

IAM roles are assigned to Lambda, EC2, and other AWS services to ensure secure operations and restricted data access.

VII. Amazon EC2 (Elastic Compute Cloud)

Purpose:

Hosts the web interface used by students for system interaction.

Functions:

- Runs a lightweight web server (Apache/Nginx) to serve HTML/CSS/JS portal.
- Enables students to register and mark attendance through browser upload.
- Acts as the entry point to the entire system.

Interaction:

Uploads face images to S3, where they trigger backend Lambda functions. Can communicate with backend APIs if extended.

VIII. AWS CloudWatch

Purpose:

Monitors and logs system activity and performance.

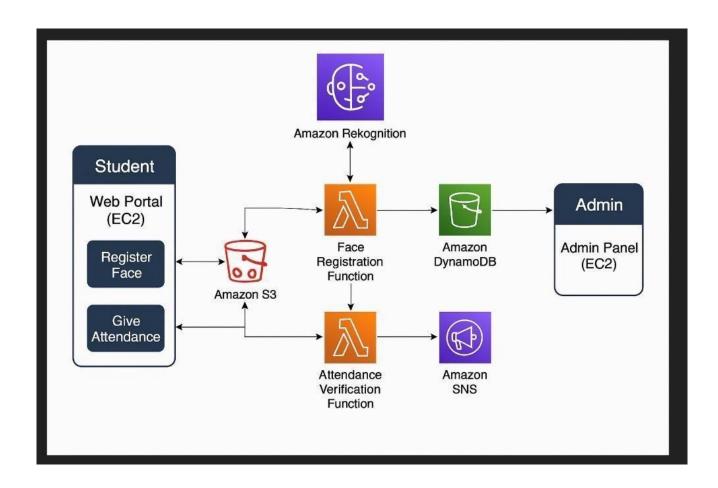
Functions:

- Logs execution details of Lambda functions.
- Tracks error rates and processing times.
- Provides alerts for unexpected behavior or failures.

Interaction:

Integrates with Lambda, EC2, and other services. Enables real-time system monitoring and debugging through logs and alarms.

2. Architecture & Workflow



2.1 Workflow Steps

1. Student Face Registration via Web Portal

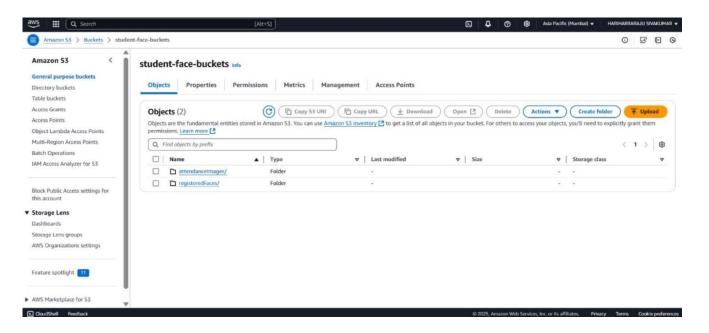
- 2. Image Upload to Amazon S3
- 3. Trigger Lambda for Face Indexing
- 4. Face Indexed in AWS Rekognition
- 5. Student Details Saved to DynamoDB
- 6. Attendance Image Upload via Web Portal
- 7. Lambda Invoked for Face Comparison
- 8. Attendance Logged and Admin Notified via SNS.

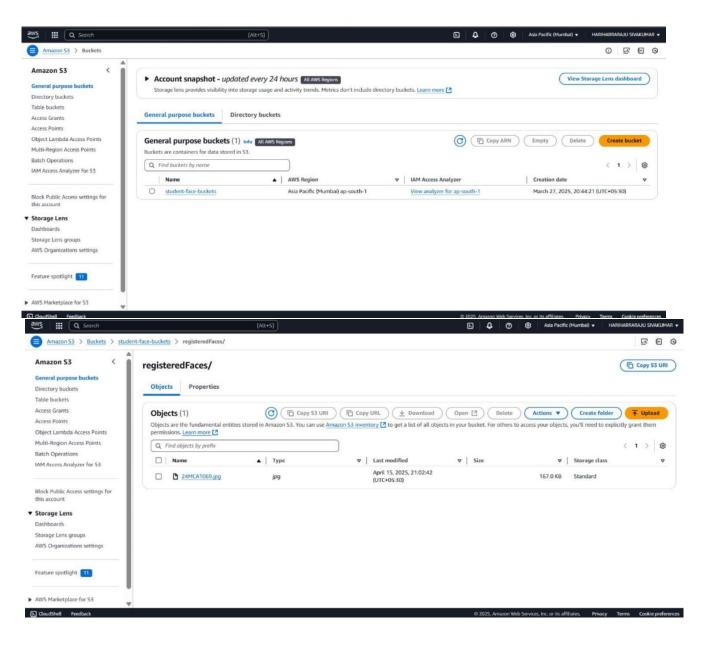
3. Implementation

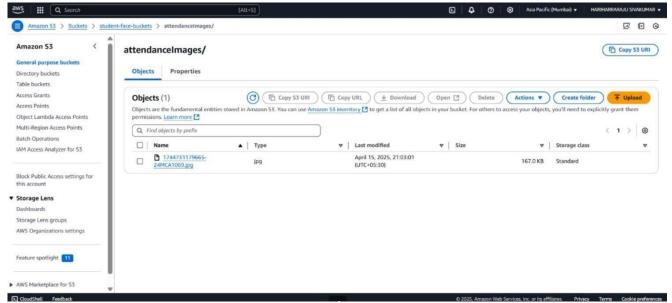
AWS Services Used

Amazon S3

- Open the AWS Console, go to S3, and click Create Bucket. O Enter a unique bucket name, choose the region, uncheck Block all public access, and create the bucket.
- o Inside the bucket, click **Create Folder** and name it **registeredFaces**/. Repeat the step to create another folder named **attendanceImages**/.







AWS Rekognition

- o Open the AWS CLI or launch CloudShell from the AWS Console.
- o Run the commands to list collections and view indexed faces

aws rekognition list-collections aws rekognition list-faces --collection-id "face-attendance" --region ap-south-1

o Confirm collection is created with a success message.

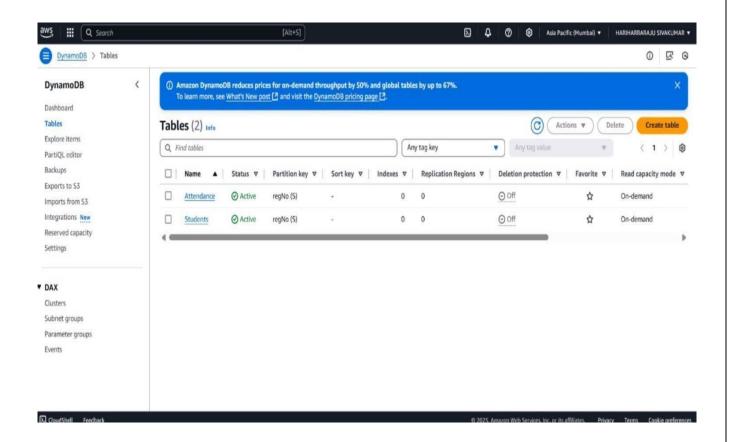
Screenshot:

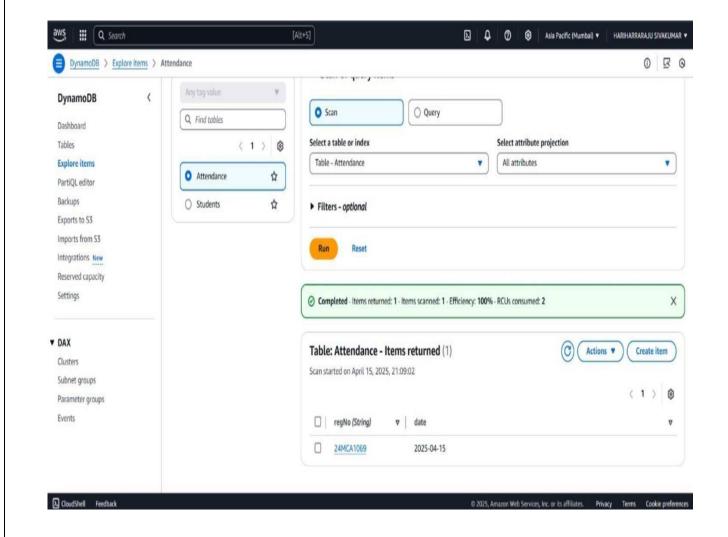
```
C:\Users\harir_4vapqty>aws rekognition list-collections
{
    "CollectionIds": [
        "face-attendance"
    ],
    "FaceModelVersions": [
        "7.0"
    ]
}
```

Dynamo DB:

o Open the AWS Console, go to DynamoDB, and click Create table.

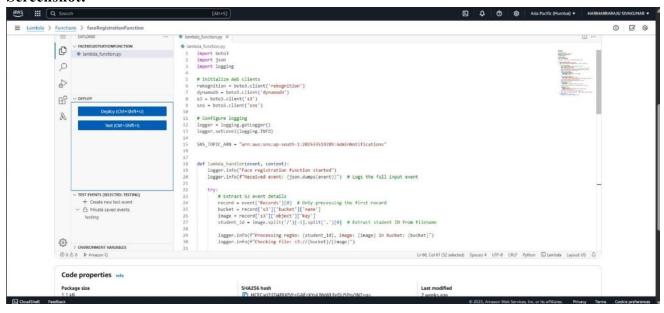
- For the Students table, set the table name to Students and use student_id (String) as the partition key. You can later add attributes like name, programme, etc., while inserting items.
- o Repeat the process to create the Attendance table with regNo (String) as the partition key. Add attributes like timestamp, status, and image_url.

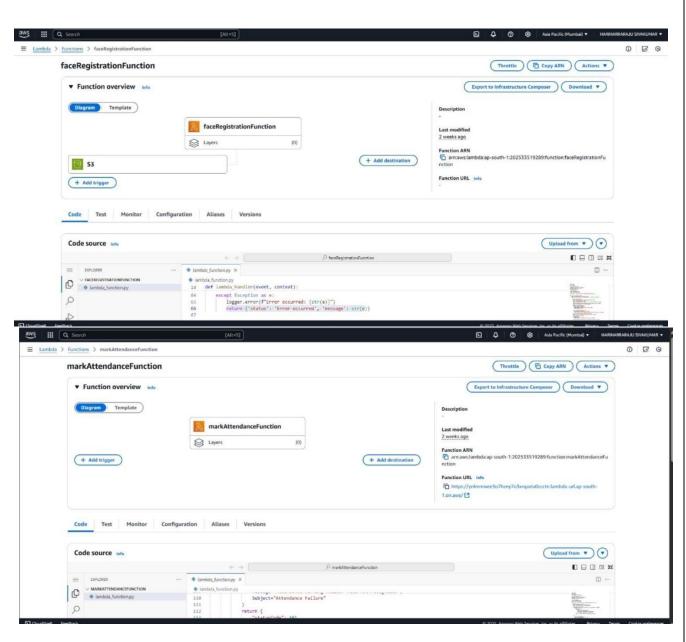


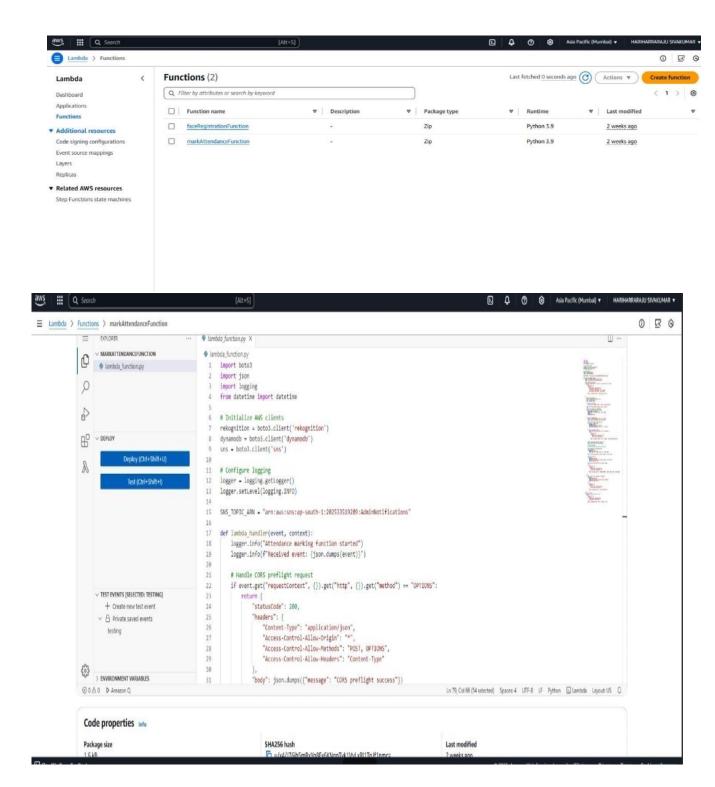


AWS Lambda

- Lambda function is triggered automatically when an image is uploaded to the registeredFaces/ folder in S3.
- o Uses AWS Rekognition's IndexFaces API to extract facial features from the uploaded image.
- o Stores metadata in DynamoDB, including student id, faceId, and image details for future reference.

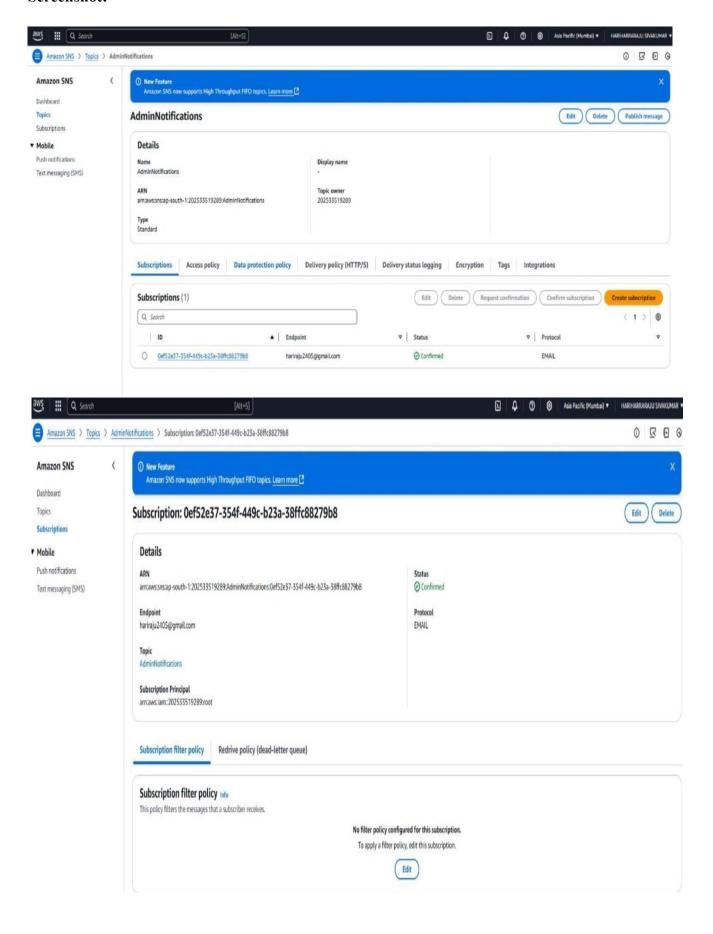






Amazon SNS

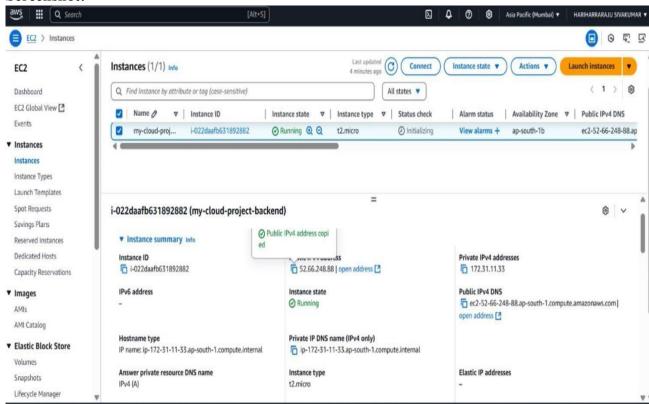
- o Go to the **AWS Console**, navigate **to SNS > Topics**, and click **Create topic**. Choose Standard as the type and name it attendanceNotifications.
- o After creating the topic, click Create subscription. Choose Email as the protocol and enter the destination.
- Confirm the subscription via the inbox or OTP. In your Lambda function, use **boto3** to publish messages to the attendanceNotifications topic when a face is registered.



Amazon EC2

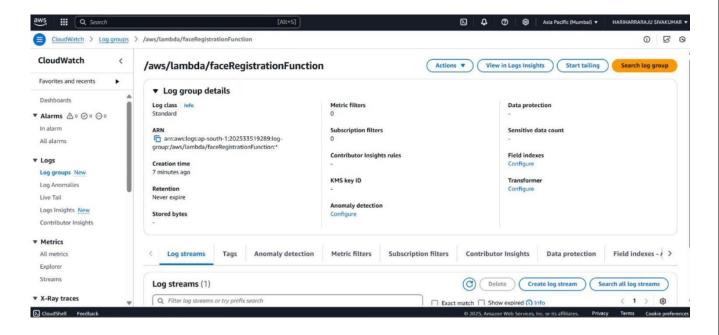
- o Go to EC2 > Launch Instance, choose your preferred instance type.
- o Design a modern UI using HTML, CSS, and JS. Create two forms:
 - O Register Face Form
 - O Mark Attendance Form
- Use **Flask** to create a lightweight server to handle image uploads and interact with AWS S3 for storage. Host the server on your EC2 instance.

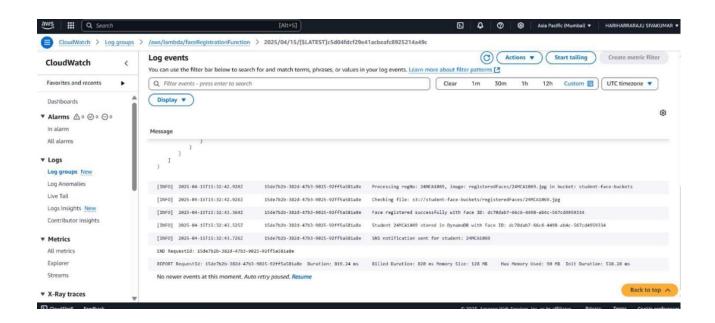
Screenshot:

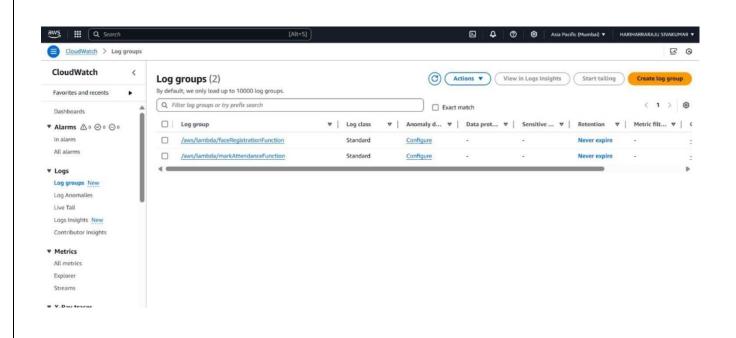


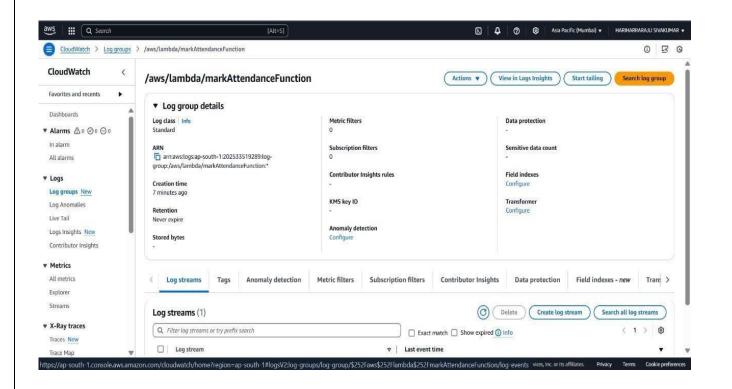
AWS Cloudwatch

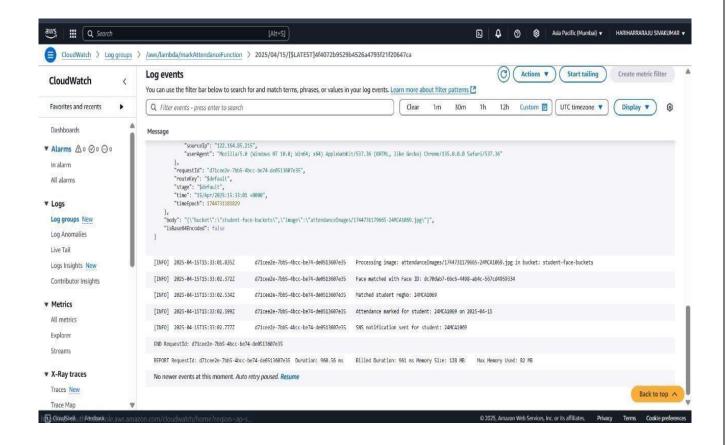
- o Go to CloudWatch > Logs to view logs for both your Lambda functions and debug any issues.
- Navigate to Alarms > Create alarm, select a relevant metric like Lambda > Errors, and set a threshold.
- o Link the alarm to your existing **SNS topic** to receive email/SMS alerts whenever the threshold is breached.











4. Coding:

Lambda mark Attendance Function:

```
Importboto3
                  importison
import logging from datetime
import datetime
# Initialize AWS clients rekognition =
boto3.client('rekognition') dynamodb =
boto3.client('dynamodb')
                            sns
boto3.client('sns')
# Configure logging logger =
logging.getLogger()
logger.setLevel(logging.INFO
SNS TOPIC ARN
                                                         "arn:aws:sns:ap-south-
1:202533519289:AdminNotifications"
def
            lambda handler(event,
                                           context):
  logger.info("Attendance marking function started")
  logger.info(f"Received
                                             event:
  {json.dumps(event)}")
```

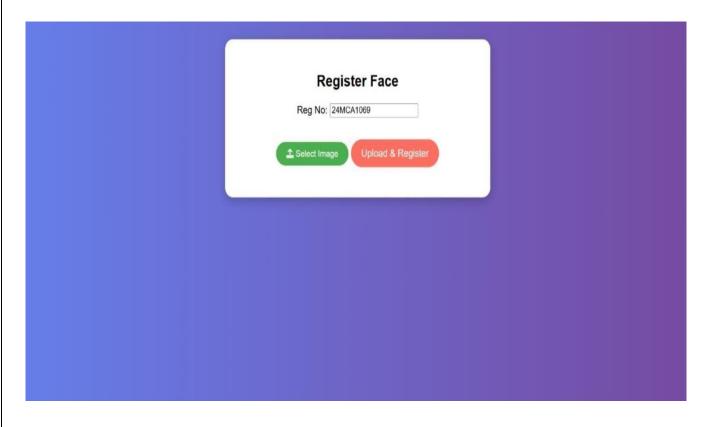
```
# Handle CORS preflight request if event.get("requestContext", {}).get("http",
     {}).get("method") == "OPTIONS":
       return {
         "statusCode":
                            200.
         "headers": {
            "Content-Type": "application/json",
           "Access-Control-Allow-Origin": "*",
           "Access-Control-Allow-Methods": "POST, OPTIONS",
           "Access-Control-Allow-Headers": "Content-Type"
         },
         "body": json.dumps({"message": "CORS preflight success"})
try:
       # Extract input parameters
       body = json.loads(event.get("body", "{}"))
       bucket = body.get("bucket") image
       = body.get("image")
       if not bucket or not image: raise ValueError("Missing 'bucket' or 'image' in
       request payload") logger.info(f"Processing image: {image} in bucket:
       {bucket}")
       # Search for a matching face in Rekognition response =
       rekognition.search faces by image(
         CollectionId='face-attendance',
         Image={'S3Object': {'Bucket': bucket, 'Name': image}},
         MaxFaces=1,
         FaceMatchThreshold=85
       if response.get('FaceMatches'):
         face id
                               response['FaceMatches'][0]['Face']['FaceId']
         logger.info(f"Face matched with Face ID: {face_id}")
         # Retrieve the student's regNo using a scan
         scan response = dynamodb.scan(
           TableName='Students',
           FilterExpression='face id = :face id',
           ExpressionAttributeValues={':face id': {'S': face id}}
         )
         if not scan response.get('Items'): logger.error("No matching
           student found in the database.") return {
              "statusCode":
                                     404,
              "headers": {
                "Content-Type": "application/json",
                "Access-Control-Allow-Origin": "*"
              "body": json.dumps({'status': 'Error', 'message': 'No matching student found'})
            }
                               scan response['Items'][0]['regNo']['S']
         regNo
         logger.info(f"Matched student regNo: {regNo}")
```

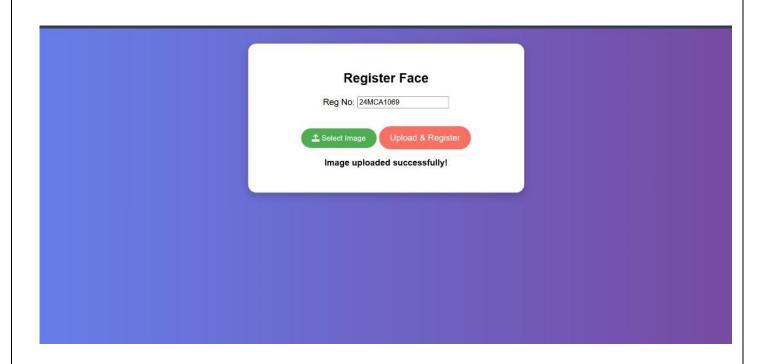
```
#
         Get
                the
                       current
                                  date
                                          current date
     datetime.utcnow().strftime('%Y-%m-%d')
          Mark attendance
                                  in
                                          the
                                                  Attendance
                                                                  table
     dynamodb.put item(
       TableName='Attendance',
       Item={'regNo': {'S': regNo}, 'date': {'S': current date}}
    logger.info(f'Attendance marked for student: {regNo} on {current date}'')
     # Send SNS notification
    sns.publish(
       TopicArn=SNS_TOPIC_ARN,
       Message=f"Attendance marked for student: {regNo} on {current date}",
       Subject="Attendance Success"
    )
     logger.info(f"SNS notification sent for student: {regNo}")
    return {
       "statusCode":
                       200,
       "headers": {
         "Content-Type": "application/json",
         "Access-Control-Allow-Origin": "*"
       },
       "body": json.dumps({'status': 'Attendance Marked', 'regNo': regNo, 'date': current date})
     }
  else:
    logger.error("Face
                                  recognized
                                                  for
                                                          attendance")
                          not
     sns.publish(
       TopicArn=SNS TOPIC ARN,
       Message="Attendance marking failed: Face not recognized",
       Subject="Attendance Failure"
    )
    return {
       "statusCode":
                       401,
       "headers": {
         "Content-Type": "application/json",
         "Access-Control-Allow-Origin": "*"
       },
       "body": json.dumps({'status': 'Face Not Recognized'})
     }
          Exception
except
                          as
  logger.error(f"Error occurred: {str(e)}")
  return {
     "statusCode":
                        500.
     "headers": {
       "Content-Type": "application/json",
       "Access-Control-Allow-Origin": "*"
     "body": json.dumps({'status': 'Error', 'message': str(e)})
```

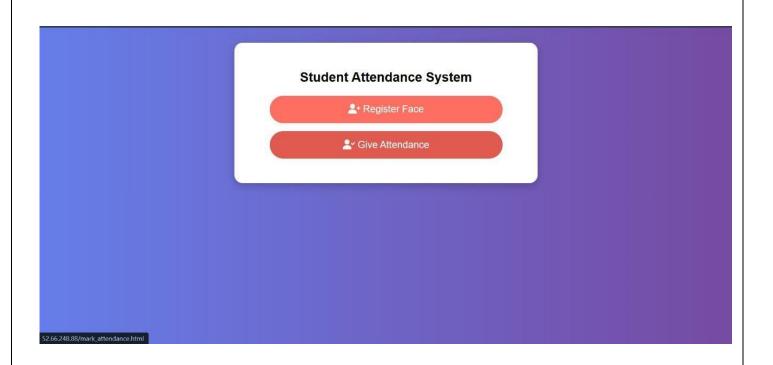
```
Face Register Function Lambda:
import boto3 import ison
import logging
# Initialize AWS clients
rekognition = boto3.client('rekognition')
dynamodb = boto3.client('dynamodb')
           boto3.client('s3')
                               sns
boto3.client('sns')
# Configure logging logger
  logging.getLogger()
logger.setLevel(logging.INFO)
SNS TOPIC ARN = "arn:aws:sns:ap-south-1:202533519289:AdminNotifications"
def
         lambda handler(event,
                                       context):
                                                     logger.info("Face
  registration function started")
   logger.info(f"Received event: {json.dumps(event)}") # Logs the full input event
  try:
    # Extract S3 event details
    record = event['Records'][0] # Only processing the first record bucket
    = record['s3']['bucket']['name'] image
     = record['s3']['object']['key']
    student id = image.split('/')[-1].split('.')[0] # Extract student ID from filename
                                                                                   bucket:
    logger.info(f"Processing regNo:
                                       {student id}, image: {image}
                                                                            in
          {bucket}") logger.info(f"Checking file: s3://{bucket}/{image}")
    # Register face in Rekognition response =
     rekognition.index faces(
       CollectionId='face-attendance',
       Image={'S3Object':
                                {'Bucket':
                                              bucket,
                                                             'Name':
                                                                            image}},
       ExternalImageId=student id
    )
    # Check if Rekognition detected a face if
     not response.get('FaceRecords'):
       logger.error("No face detected in the image.")
       return {'status': 'Error', 'message': 'No face detected. Please upload a clear image.'}
```

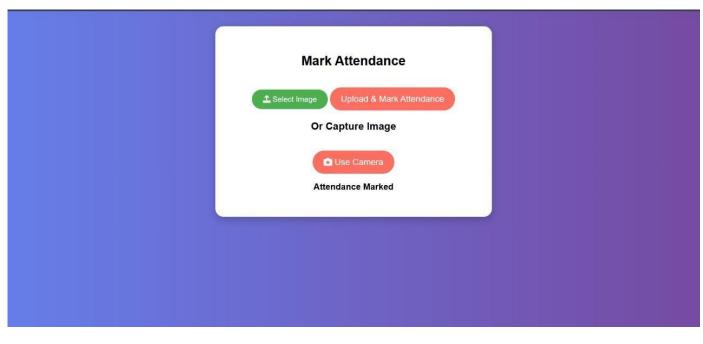
```
face id
                                 response['FaceRecords'][0]['Face']['FaceId']
         logger.info(f"Face registered successfully with Face ID: {face id}")
         # Store student data in DynamoDB dynamodb.put item(
           TableName='Students',
           Item={'regNo': {'S': student id}, 'face id': {'S': face id}}
         )
         logger.info(f"Student {student id} stored in DynamoDB with Face ID: {face id}")
           # Send SNS
                           notification
         sns.publish(
           TopicArn=SNS_TOPIC_ARN,
           Message=f"New student registered: {student id} with Face ID: {face id}", Subject="Face
           Registration Success"
         )
         logger.info(f"SNS notification sent for student: {student id}")
return {'status': 'Face Registered Successfully!', 'regNo': student id, 'face id': face id}
      except Exception
                                    e: logger.error(f"Error occurred:
         {str(e)}")
         return {'status': 'Error occurred', 'message': str(e)}
     face register function lambda
```

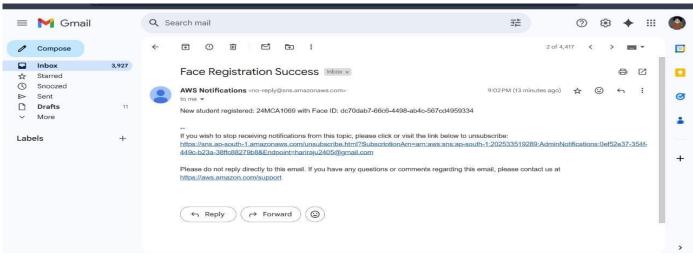
OUTPUT:

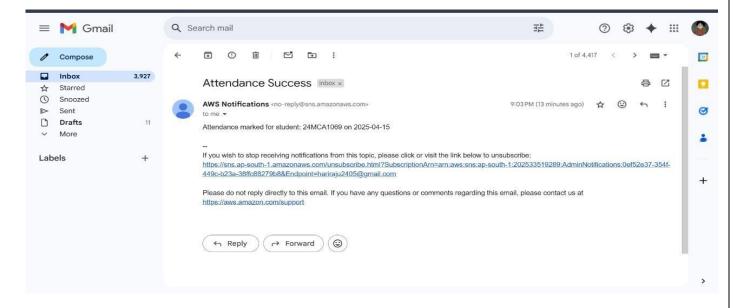












5. Conclusion

The Cloud-Based Face Recognition Attendance System presents a modern, automated, and efficient solution to traditional attendance tracking. By integrating facial recognition with robust AWS services, the system minimizes human effort, reduces errors, and ensures secure data handling. Its serverless design makes it cost-effective and easy to scale across institutions. Through real-time notifications, logs, and monitoring, the system maintains transparency and reliability in student attendance tracking.

6. Future Enhancements

- o Add multi-factor authentication (face + OTP) for enhanced security. Build an admin dashboard for monitoring attendance trends and student activity. Support offline face capture with background sync when internet becomes available. Integrate mobile app for on-the-go attendance marking. Add facial liveness detection to prevent spoofing with static images.
- o Include voice notification alerts for visually impaired students.

7. References

- Cloud Based Smart Attendance System for Educational Institutions: This paper presents a prototype
 of a cloud-based end-to-end smart attendance system designed to address the challenges of manual
 attendance tracking.
- O Cloud Enabled Attendance System": This project introduces a cloud-enabled attendance system utilizing an Arduino ESP8266 microcontroller and an RFID reader. The system features a local server within the ESP8266, eliminating the need for an external server and simplifying deployment.
- Online Classroom Attendance System Based on Cloud Computing: This study proposes an automatic attendance system where RFID readers are installed in classrooms. The system assigns unique identities to each classroom and integrates with cloud computing for data management.
- O Cloud Based Intelligent Attendance System Through Video Streaming: This paper presents an intelligent attendance system that leverages cloud computing and video streaming technologies. The architecture and algorithms used aim to enhance the efficiency of attendance tracking.
- Cloud Based Attendance Management and Information System: This dissertation discusses the
 development of a cloud-based attendance management system. It combines hardware components, such
 as RFID readers and microcontrollers, with software subsystems to process and store attendance data
 efficiently