

1 AN RFID-INTEGRATED ATTENDANCE SYSTEM WITH
2 PHOTO VERIFICATION FOR CLASSROOM EFFICIENCY

3 A Special Problem Proposal
4 Presented to
5 the Faculty of the Division of Physical Sciences and Mathematics
6 College of Arts and Sciences
7 University of the Philippines Visayas
8 Miag-ao, Iloilo

9 In Partial Fulfillment
10 of the Requirements for the Degree of
11 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science by

12 GALLEGO, Chester Ken
13 KARIM, John Hamir
14 MAGTOTO, John Luis

15 Francis DIMZON
16 Adviser

17 January 31, 2025

Abstract

19 The UP System started deployment of RFID/NFC-enabled UP ID in 2019. After
20 several years since deployment, we have yet to see a system that fully utilizes
21 the technology embedded in the UP ID. In particular, we see a great potential in
22 using it as an access key for tracking the attendance of students in their classes.
23 Professors currently either use the traditional pen and paper or a spreadsheet
24 in their laptops to check for attendance. The mentioned practices are prone to
25 forgery and takes precious time away from the class period.

26 Our paper proposes a fully digital attendance tracking system that can be
27 used by professors to record the attendance of their students in real time. The
28 system uses UP ID and facial recognition for a two-layer validation process ensur-
29 ing accuracy of the records. Facial recognition uses a pretrained YoloV8 model
30 for face detection running on the Raspberry Pi AI camera and FaceNet on the
31 Raspberry Pi CPU. The proposed system allows the students to check in by
32 tapping their ID to the RFID/NFC reader, and aligning their face in the camera.
33 The current prototype takes only about 2-3 seconds per student to complete the
34 whole validation and recording process, with more room for optimizations down
35 the line.

36 **Keywords:** UP System, RFID, attendance, machine learning, facial
recognition, YoloV8 model.

Contents

38	1 Introduction	1
39	1.1 Overview	1
40	1.2 Problem Statement	2
41	1.3 Research Objectives	3
42	1.3.1 General Objective	3
43	1.3.2 Specific Objectives	3
44	1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research	4
45	1.5 Significance of the Research	4
46	2 Review of Related Literature	6
47	2.1 Importance of Attendance Tracking	6
48	2.2 Attendance Tracking Methods	6
49	2.2.1 Traditional Attendance Tracking Methods	7
50	2.2.2 Biometric-Based Attendance Systems	7
51	2.3 Chapter Summary	9
52	3 Research Methodology	10
53	3.1 Research Activities	10

54	3.2	RFID and Face Recognition	11
55	3.2.1	RFID as a Token	11
56	3.2.2	Face Recognition as a Verifier	11
57	3.3	Face Recognition	12
58	3.3.1	Face recognition model fine tuning	12
59	3.4	Hardware Development Tools	12
60	3.5	Software Development Tools	13
61	4	Preliminary Results/System Prototype	15
62	4.1	System Architecture	15
63	4.2	Process Diagrams	16
64	4.2.1	Faculty CSV Import Process	16
65	4.2.2	Student Registration Process	16
66	4.2.3	Time In Process	16
67	4.2.4	Time Out Process	17
68	4.2.5	Attendance Record Export Process	17
69	4.2.6	Reports Module	17
70	4.3	Django Backend	17
71	4.3.1	Models	17
72	4.3.2	Database Tables	18
73	4.3.3	REST API by Django Ninja	18
74	4.3.4	Admin panel by Django	19
75	4.4	Nuxt Frontend	19
76		References	24

⁷⁷	A Appendix Title	26
⁷⁸	B Resource Persons	27

79 List of Figures

80	3.1 Training the model	12
81	4.1 System Architecture	15
82	4.2 Time in	16
83	4.3 Time Out	17
84	4.4 Student model	18
85	4.5 Database Tables	19
86	4.6 API Documentation	20
87	4.7 Django Administration	21
88	4.8 Time in and Time out Page	21
89	4.9 Successful Time In	22
90	4.10 Django saving the attendance time instance in 24-hr format . . .	22
91	4.11 Fake Delay	23

⁹² List of Tables

⁹³	2.1 Comparison of Attendance Tracking Methods Using the CIA Triad	9
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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview

Attendance plays an important role in improving the academic performance of students. There is evidence that students with lower attendance often have lower grades (Ancheta, Daniel, & Ahmad, 2021). Therefore, attendance is usually enforced and recorded at most higher education institutions. However, the systems in place for recording attendance are typically manual and time-consuming.

The traditional pen and paper attendance system has existed since the invention of paper itself. It is used for time keeping by manually writing or checking the “present” status in a paper log book. Manually writing names takes an average of 17 seconds per student (Shoewu, Makanjuola, & Olatinwo, 2014), and for class size of 30 students that leads to approximately 8 minutes of class time wasted. While it is recognized that such system is time-consuming and wastes resources, it persisted because of its familiarity. Going to class means bringing pen and paper for most students and teachers alike, so using the same material for recording attendance seemed the most practical.

In recent years, as laptops and portable computers became more accessible, some faculty of UP started transitioning to digital spreadsheets provided by services like Microsoft Excel. While it seemed to have moved the traditional pen and paper towards digitalization, another problem arises as this required manually roll calling students to say “present”. It had the same problem of being a manual process. It is easily disrupted by a noisy class. Some time that was supposed to be utilized for immediate teaching was used for roll call.

Both systems mentioned are prone to errors and unnecessarily increases administrative burden for the faculty. Reduction in teaching time means frequently moving the lesson discussions by the faculty, with some topics being rushed or skip entirely by the end of semester. This reduces overall the quality of education students received and may negatively impact their readiness for subsequent courses they may take.

It is also useful to analyze the traditional attendance methods from the lens of CIA triad since we are dealing with information security. It is a guiding model comprised of 3 key principles: Confidentiality - the protection of data from unauthorized access. Integrity - prevent that data from tampering. Availability - data is present whenever you need them (Cawthra et al., 2020). The traditional pen and paper violates confidentiality as there no strict restrictions on who accesses the paper for keeping the attendance data. As a consequence, integrity is also violated as anyone with a pen can easily modify attendance records. Availability also cannot be ensured since paper as a storage medium is easily destructible via wear or tear. Replacing paper with digital counterparts such as Microsoft Excel might address these violations, although indirectly. Teachers put passwords on their laptops, but no authentication is done for the Excel file itself unless it is explicitly encrypted. The file is also prone to accidental deletion.

Therefore, we propose a fully automatic, digital attendance system that addresses these concerns. We utilize the already distributed UP ID and pretrained face recognition models that ensures an easy, accurate, attendance keeping. It aims to ease the burden of faculty and students from manual methods of attendance system, allowing them to focus on class discussions instead.

1.2 Problem Statement

The current methods of taking attendance today such as the manual call roll, biometrics, and online or remote attendance provides challenges in terms of efficiency, security, and authenticity. Manual roll calls are time consuming, according to (Mahato & Suman, 2013, p. 5875), it consumes an average of 5 to 15 minutes in order to complete an attendance using manual roll call attendance. It also provides a burden to some of the teachers through the disruptive behaviors of the students which lower the efficiency of manual roll call ("How Teachers Can Meet the Challenges," 2015). Biometrics attendance systems like fingerprint and facial scanning provide efficiency in taking an attendance but it is more costly and widely not accessible. The online or remote attendance system is only advisable in virtual class and not in face to face class as it is prone to attendance fraud.

154 Failure to resolve efficiency and a secured attendance system may lead to
155 inaccurate attendance records and high risks of attendance fraud. These gaps
156 may also affect the integrity in terms of attendance of the university. To fill
157 those gaps, the solution should be the integration of RFID and facial recognition
158 technology but there are uncertainties which are the efficient ways to integrate
159 the real-time face capture while managing the privacy concerns and also finding
160 an optimal way to gather sensitive information which are the student's biometric
161 and their RFID serial number.

162 Given the gaps of the current attendance system method, there is a need to
163 design an attendance system with the integration of RFID and facial recognition
164 technology which are:

- 165 1. Efficiently captures the real-time data using the RFID and facial recognition
166 technology.
- 167 2. Ensure and maintain security and privacy of the student's sensitive data
168 such as their facial biometrics and unique serial number of their RFID.
- 169 3. Ensure compatibility with the university infrastructure which is the avail-
170 ability of RFID and the hardware for facial scanning.
- 171 4. Determine the effectiveness of the combination of the RFID and facial tech-
172 nology in the attendance system.

173 **1.3 Research Objectives**

174 **1.3.1 General Objective**

175 This project aims to develop a web application that effectively uses the current UP
176 RFID and face recognition for attendance checking and recording in the University
177 of the Philippines Visayas. Additionally, it also aims to assess the performance of
178 the application in terms of accuracy and efficiency.

179 **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- 180 1. To develop a full stack web application that uses an RFID scanner and
181 facial recognition models for an accurate and efficient tracking of student
182 attendance.

- 183 2. To enhance application security by implementing the principles of Confiden-
184 tiality, Integrity, and Availability.
- 185 3. To analyze the application's performance based on metrics such as accuracy,
186 efficiency and security.

187 1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Research

188 The focus of this project is to create an attendance system that uses RFID together
189 with facial technology. This project will take real time attendance by scanning
190 the student's RFID and verify the student's identity using facial technology. The
191 project will also focus on the User Experience part where students can take their
192 attendance as quickly as possible by aligning their faces while they scan their
193 RFIDs. In that way it will enhance the overall efficiency and accuracy of taking
194 attendance in the university.

195 This project will not involve the training of face recognition models, as there
196 are high-performance, pretrained models readily available. The focus will be on
197 utilizing these existing face recognition models for the development of an effective
198 attendance tracking system. This project will only limit face to face classes, it
199 will not cover the virtual or online classes, it will also not cover the other forms
200 of biometric authentication such as fingerprint and eyes (iris scanning) because of
201 its expensive hardware and the privacy concerns of the students.

202 1.5 Significance of the Research

203 Facial recognition has been in use mobile applications for validation of identity
204 and the performance has significantly improved over the years. This allowed us to
205 explore the possibility of using it in attendance tracking of students in UP Visayas
206 as there are currently no system like it in place. We also intend for this project to
207 be open-source. Some of the people that will benefit from our developed app are:

- 208 • Students - will benefit from the increased class time. This allow better
209 retention of topics and lesson discussions. This complements the goal of
210 recording attendance itself, which is to increase the quality of education the
211 students receive.

212 • Faculty - will also benefit from the increased class time. An automated
213 system will allow them to focus entirely on delivering the topics that need
214 to be covered. It will lessen the possibility of skipping modules or topics
215 needed by students to learn before taking their subsequent courses.

216 • UP System - Since the UP RFID are used across all constituent units of the
217 UP System, our project can be used by any faculty under the UP System.
218 They may also choose to create their own version as long as they also make
219 it open source, as stipulated in GNU GPLv3 license.

220 • Society benefits - this project is significant in our society. The project is
221 scalable and when it is improve more in the future, there is a high possibil-
222 ity that it can be applicable not only to tertiary, higher or in any education
223 but also it will be applicable to large organizations or corporations as it can
224 improve taking attendance plus it can reduce the fraud in taking attendance
225 because one of the gaps to be filled by this project is the integrity, the com-
226 bination of RFID and the real-time face capture can help the organizations
227 to have integrity in terms attendance.

228 We also hope that this project will bring focus on the growing accessibility
229 of facial recognition technologies and inspire the community to explore on how it
230 can be incorporated their own projects.

Chapter 2

Review of Related Literature

2.1 Importance of Attendance Tracking

Attendance has become increasingly important in every organization, institution, and workplace to ensure accountability, productivity, and engagement. For example, in schools, it ensures that students are present, participating, and fulfilling their responsibilities. Taking students' attendance is important for monitoring their performance in class. Good attendance is usually linked to good class performance, and vice versa (Zhi, Ibrahim, & Aris, 2014). Additionally, (Romero & Lee, 2007) suggest that attendance is important to reduce the cases of absenteeism in terms of academic performance as mostly, attendance is now part of the grades, motivating the students to attend classes.

2.2 Attendance Tracking Methods

There are various methods to track classroom attendance, from traditional manual approaches, such as roll call or pen-and-paper methods, to modern technology-based systems, including biometric like fingerprint or facial recognition. The advantages and disadvantages of these systems will be discussed in the following subsections using the Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability (CIA) Triad.

The CIA Triad is a commonly used information security model that helps organizations develop secure systems (Fruhlinger, 2024). Confidentiality refers to the protection of information from unauthorized access to ensure that only authorized users can access or modify data. Integrity ensures that data remains

complete, trustworthy, and unaltered by unauthorized users, whether accidentally or maliciously. Availability ensures that authorized users can access the data when needed. These three principles are often used to identify vulnerabilities in a system.

2.2.1 Traditional Attendance Tracking Methods

The traditional method of taking attendance is through a manual roll call. According to Uniyal (2022), using manual attendance is cost-effective, simple to use, and remains functional during power interruptions. However, despite these advantages, manual attendance has several flaws. For instance, the roll call method is time-consuming as it can waste 5 to 15 minutes of class time which could otherwise be spent on actual learning (Mahato & Suman, 2013, p. 5875). Additionally, there is a problem in integrity when ledger sheets are used as it is easy for students to fake another student's attendance by forging their name and signature or erasing an already marked attendance. Furthermore, according to (Dewa & Nyanga, 2020), traditional attendance tracking method which is the ledger sheets are not friendly to our environment as there are some cases where excessive use of paper occurs but mostly their study highlighted that switching to another attendance system, especially to digital can reduce paper consumption while achieving more efficient way of taking attendance.

CIA Triad Analysis:

- Confidentiality: Traditional attendance tracking methods may offer low confidentiality as attendance can easily be accessed by unauthorized individuals, especially with the pen-and-paper method.
- Integrity: Traditional attendance tracking methods have low integrity as it is easy for students to forge another student's attendance or alter existing records.
- Availability: Traditional attendance tracking methods have high availability as attendance can always be taken during class, regardless of technological failures.

2.2.2 Biometric-Based Attendance Systems

Biometric systems such as fingerprint recognition have addressed some of the shortcomings of manual attendance methods. According to Walia & Jain (2016),

replacing traditional attendance methods with biometric fingerprint systems improves confidentiality and integrity. However, while biometric fingerprint attendance systems have high reliability, they still come with some limitations (Truein, 2024). For example, if a person's finger is injured or dirty, the system may fail to recognize the fingerprint which can affect the system's effectiveness. Moreover, the cost of deployment can be high due to the need for specialized hardware and maintenance.

CIA Triad Analysis:

- Confidentiality: Biometric systems provide better confidentiality compared to manual methods as biometric data is unique to each individual and stored securely. However, if the data is compromised, the consequences can be severe because biometric data cannot be changed, unlike passwords.
- Integrity: Biometric systems provide high integrity as it is almost impossible to forge or alter fingerprint data.
- Availability: While biometric systems are generally available, they may face limitations if the finger is injured or dirty or in areas with an unreliable power supply.

Facial recognition technology has emerged as an even more accurate and convenient alternative to fingerprint systems (Truein, 2024). According to Yang & Han (2020), real-time video processing in facial recognition systems has an accuracy rate of about 82%, which is higher than other attendance tracking methods. Facial recognition can also help reduce truancy rates by identifying students in real time in order to prevent them from skipping classes.

CIA Triad Analysis:

- Confidentiality: Facial recognition systems, like fingerprint systems, have high confidentiality as biometric data is unique to each individual and stored securely.
- Integrity: The integrity of facial recognition systems is typically high as it is difficult for students to falsify their identity without being detected.
- Availability: Facial recognition systems are generally highly available, particularly in environments with stable lighting conditions.

2.3 Chapter Summary

This chapter discussed various classroom attendance tracking methods and analyzed their advantages and disadvantages using the CIA Triad. Traditional manual systems, while cost-effective, lack both confidentiality and integrity. Fingerprint systems offer better security but may suffer from availability issues when the finger is dirty or injured. Facial recognition systems, with higher accuracy and efficiency, provide significant improvements in terms of data confidentiality and integrity.

A table comparing these systems, based on the CIA Triad, is provided below:

Attendance Tracking Method	Confidentiality	Integrity	Availability
Traditional	Low	Low	High
Fingerprint Systems	High	High	Medium
Facial Recognition Systems	High	High	High

Table 2.1: Comparison of Attendance Tracking Methods Using the CIA Triad

Our proposed system aims to leverage the security advantages of Facial Recognition Systems by adding an extra layer of user authentication that requires students to use their UP RFID which is personal and unique to each student.

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

This chapter lists and discusses the specific steps and activities that will be performed to accomplish the project. The discussion covers the activities from pre-proposal to Final SP Writing.

3.1 Research Activities

This project aimed to create an automated attendance system with the help of RFID together with facial recognition technology. This attendance system will replace and reduce the usage of manual attendance such as the written and oral and enhance its lacking optimized features such as security, reliability, authenticity, and integrity using the student's RFID and facial biometric.

The proposed system is expected to function by tapping the RFID of the students with real time facial capture through face recognition technology. The identity of the students will be verified through the unique serial number of their RFID that will match from the system database while the face recognition will serve as the two-factor authentication. The face recognition is expected to work by capturing the students face then will be matched also through the system database. The attendance will only be valid once both student's unique serial number in their RFID and their face has been verified.

To make the system functional, several data from the students need to be collected. Those are the student's name, student number, student's unique serial number of their RFID, and their facial biometrics. Those data will be gathered either online or face to face. Students are encouraged to download any of the RFID

350 card readers to know their RFID's serial number but in case they are incapable of
351 doing that. Face to face to face will be an option where we can provide a physical
352 RFID card reader. The facial recognition data will be gathered through capturing
353 their image or video to be more accurate.

354 The hardware components will be using in this system are: RFID scanner:
355 Which will be used to read the RFID given to the students. This will also be
356 responsible for taking the students unique serial number on their RFID ensuring
357 the integrity of the students. USB connector: This will be used to connect the
358 RFID scanner to the Laptop or Raspberry Pi. Flex cable: This will be used to
359 connect the Raspberry Pi Vision Camera to Raspberry Pi. Laptop / Raspberry
360 Pi: This will serve as the main processing unit. The laptop or raspberry pi will be
361 used for running the required algorithm to make the face recognition and read the
362 RFID correctly. Overall, the laptop / raspberry pi will be in charge of handling
363 the data. Raspberry Pi Vision Camera: In charge of capturing the student's facial
364 image while scanning the RFID to the RFID scanner.

365 **3.2 RFID and Face Recognition**

366 We use the UP RFID for our system. This approach enhances security by com-
367 bining something you have (the RFID token) with something you are (your face).

368 **3.2.1 RFID as a Token**

369 The RFID token (the UP RFID) provides a unique identifier (ID) for the user.
370 The RFID reader scans the token and extracts the unique ID. This ID is used to
371 retrieve the corresponding user profile from a database.

372 **3.2.2 Face Recognition as a Verifier**

373 Face recognition ensures that the person presenting the RFID token is the autho-
374 rized user associated with that token.

3.3 Face Recognition

Face recognition pipeline can be simplified into 2 steps:

1. Face Detection: The process of finding the faces in a viewfinder and draw bounding boxes around the detected face. We will use a pretrained YOLOv8n model as the base model for face detection. We will feed the resulting cropped image into the face recognition model. It will run on the IMX500 chip in the Raspberry Pi AI Camera for inference, freeing the CPU for other task (Sony, 2023). For this to work seamlessly, it is recommended to avoid low-light conditions. According to Zhou (2025), images captured in low-light conditions tend to be of poor quality, are easily disrupted by background noise, and suffer loss of detail, which lowers the accuracy of facial verification in the next step.
2. Face verification: The task of comparing 2 faces and checking if they are of the same identity. The model we chose for this is MobileFaceNet which a face recognition model optimized for mobile and embedded devices like the Raspberry Pi (Chen, Liu, Gao, & Han, 2018).

3.3.1 Face recognition model fine tuning

```
# download model
model_path = hf_hub_download(repo_id="arnabdhara95/YOLOv8-Face-Detection", filename="model.pt")

# load model
model = YOLO(model_path)

# train model
model.train(data="data.yaml", epochs=100, imgsz=640)
```

Figure 3.1: Training the model

3.4 Hardware Development Tools

Our current prototype uses hardware components that are commonly used in the industry to build an integrated system. All of the tools are readily available. These include but are not limited to:

- 396 • RFID Scanner - Used as a reader for the RFID. The RFID scanner allows us
397 to have secured and efficient way of identifying the student's unique serial
398 number.
- 399 • Raspberry Pi AI Camera - The newly released camera module for Rasp-
400 berry Pi hardware that allows us to capture the student's facial image while
401 scanning the RFID with the use of RFID scanner. It uses an embedded AI
402 accelerator for efficient processing of face data.
- 403 • Raspberry Pi - Serves as the main processing unit which allows us to inte-
404 grate the other hardware together with the necessary software.
- 405 • USB Connector - Serves as connector for the RFID scanner and Raspberry
406 Pi.
- 407 • Flex Cable - Serves as connector for the Raspberry Pi Vision Camera and
408 Raspberry Pi.

409 3.5 Software Development Tools

410 Our current prototype include these frameworks and tools that are heavily used
411 in the industry for rapid development and deployment of web applications. All of
412 the tools used are open source. These include but are not limited to:

- 413 • Django - The web framework for perfectionists with deadlines. Django,
414 which serves as the backend server, allows us to interface with the database
415 server to do queries in the Python using Django's Object Relational Mapping
416 tool(ORM). We can easily integrate popular pretrained facial recognition
417 models as they are typically written in Python.
- 418 • Django Ninja - Creates the REST API on top of our Django backend to
419 allow the frontend to consume the backend content.
- 420 • NuxtJS - The frontend JavaScript framework used to build our web interface.
421 Includes all the tools for routing, quering, and security. By default, it renders
422 our web interface in Server Side Rendering(SSR) mode. Most of the work

423 happens in the server and no authentication tokens are stored in the client
424 browser. This increases security since authentication tokens are only added
425 in the server side per request.

Chapter 4

Preliminary Results/System Prototype

4.1 System Architecture

Using the tools mentioned in Section 3.5, our system can be visualized as shown in Figure 4.1:

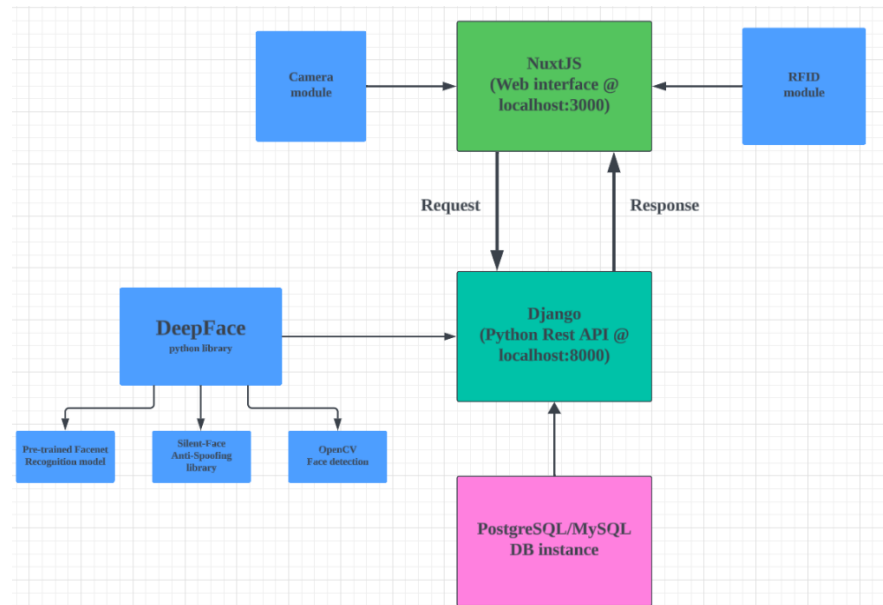


Figure 4.1: System Architecture

4.2 Process Diagrams

4.2.1 Faculty CSV Import Process

To make the registration of the students much easier for the faculty, the faculty members can upload a CSV file containing the students' required details. The system parses the CSV file and stores the extracted data in the database. The data uploaded is validated to avoid any duplicate or wrong entries.

4.2.2 Student Registration Process

Students must register their facial ID to enable attendance verification. This registration process only captures one facial image, which will be used to identify the student during attendance tracking.

4.2.3 Time In Process

Time in process includes a check if the student already has time in records. First step in this is the student tapping the ID to the RFID sensor and trigger the photo capture to check the face.

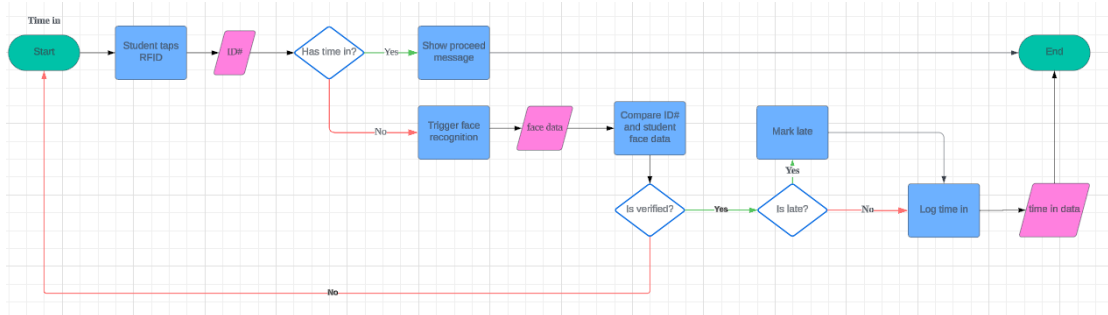


Figure 4.2: Time in

4.2.4 Time Out Process

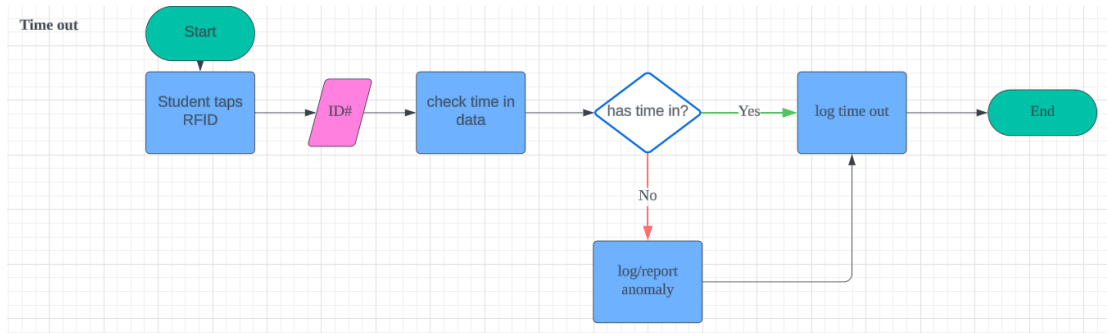


Figure 4.3: Time Out

4.2.5 Attendance Record Export Process

The faculty members are allowed to export their attendance records into a CSV file in order to have better access and record keeping. In addition to that, this feature can be useful for further analysis, for data backup purposes, or if they want to integrate it into another academic system.

4.2.6 Reports Module

The system includes a Reports Module that allows faculty to generate attendance reports in PDF or CSV file.

4.3 Django Backend

4.3.1 Models

Django Model class maps to SQL tables. For example, a Student table will have the following columns which maps to Student Model class' attributes like in Figure 4.4:

SQL equivalent would be:


```

class Student(models.Model):
    student_id = models.IntegerField(primary_key=True)
    first_name = models.CharField(max_length=100, default='')
    last_name = models.CharField(max_length=100, default='')
    email = models.EmailField(null=True)
    face_data = models.TextField(null=True)

    Codeium: Refactor | Explain | Generate Docstring | ✕
    def full_name(self):
        | return f'{self.first_name} {self.last_name}'
    Codeium: Refactor | Explain | Generate Docstring | ✕
    def __str__(self):
        | return self.full_name()

```

Figure 4.4: Student model

```

461 CREATE TABLE Student (
462     student_id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
463     first_name VARCHAR(100) NOT NULL DEFAULT '',
464     last_name VARCHAR(100) NOT NULL DEFAULT '',
465     email VARCHAR(254),
466     face_data TEXT,
467     CONSTRAINT unique_email UNIQUE (email)
468 );
469

```

4.3.2 Database Tables

Our database tables that can be accessed by Django's ORM. This includes the tables for Teachers, Subjects and tables for relationships. See Figure 4.5

4.3.3 REST API by Django Ninja

Figure 4.6 is the automatic OpenAPI compliant documentation provided by Django Ninja. It contains all endpoints we can use to query data from the database. All endpoints are protected using HTTP Bearer token authentication.

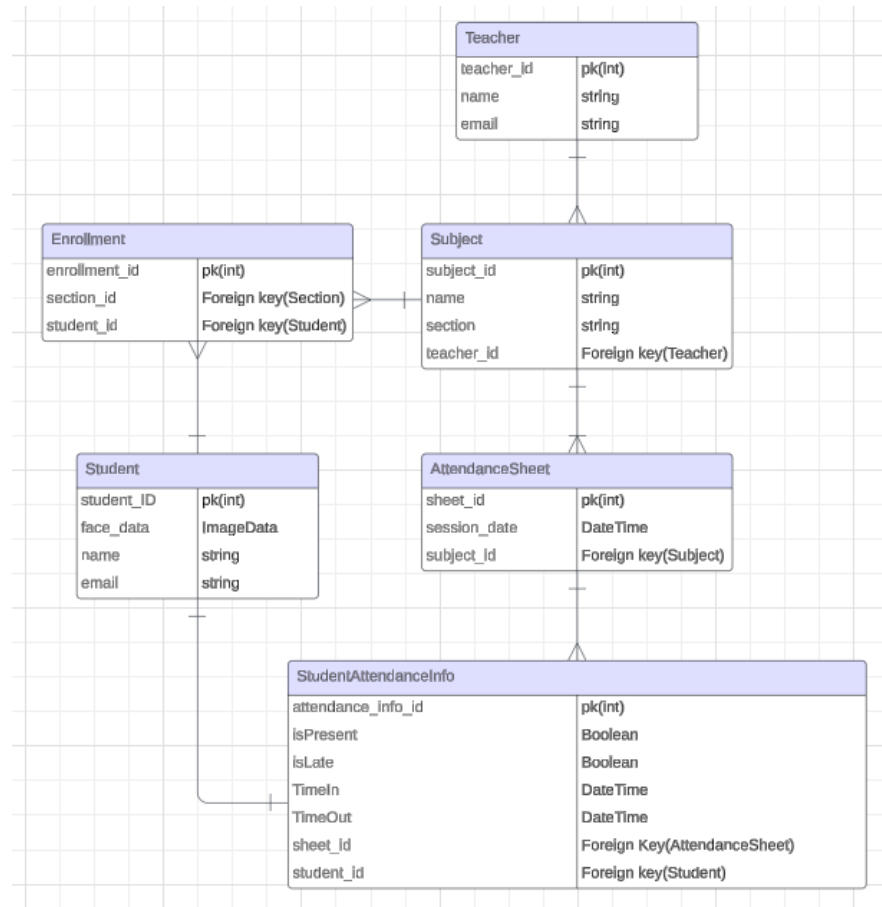


Figure 4.5: Database Tables

4.3.4 Admin panel by Django

Figure 4.7 is the Django administration page only accessible to a superuser account. This is where most of the backend maintenance work happens. It contains all the data inside the database allow full control over them. It also contains every authentication tokens used by each teacher account.

4.4 Nuxt Frontend

With the backend handling most of the heavy work, the frontend only needs to capture images from the camera and sending them to the backend to verify student identity. The localhost:3000/dashboard/time-in-out page handles the time in and time out process. The RFID input is automatically highlighted upon opening

Authorize

Teachers API ^		
GET	/api/teachers/subjects	Get Subjects
Attendance API ^		
POST	/api/attendance/time-in	Save Time In
POST	/api/attendance/time-out	Save Time Out
GET	/api/attendance/recent	Get Recent Attendance
Student API ^		
POST	/api/student/register	Register Student
GET	/api/student/all	Get All Students
DELETE	/api/student/{student_id}	Delete Student

Figure 4.6: API Documentation

487 the page so it will be immediately ready to take in input from the RFID scanner.
 488 When the proper number length is inputted, it will immediately start to verify the
 489 identity. It will then notify the student for the time in/time out time and status.
 490 It will also notify for any errors like spoof image or no face detected. From our
 491 testing, the response time is currently at most 2.3 seconds, most of the delay
 492 comes from the fake delay we used to allow the student to read the notification
 493 after verification.

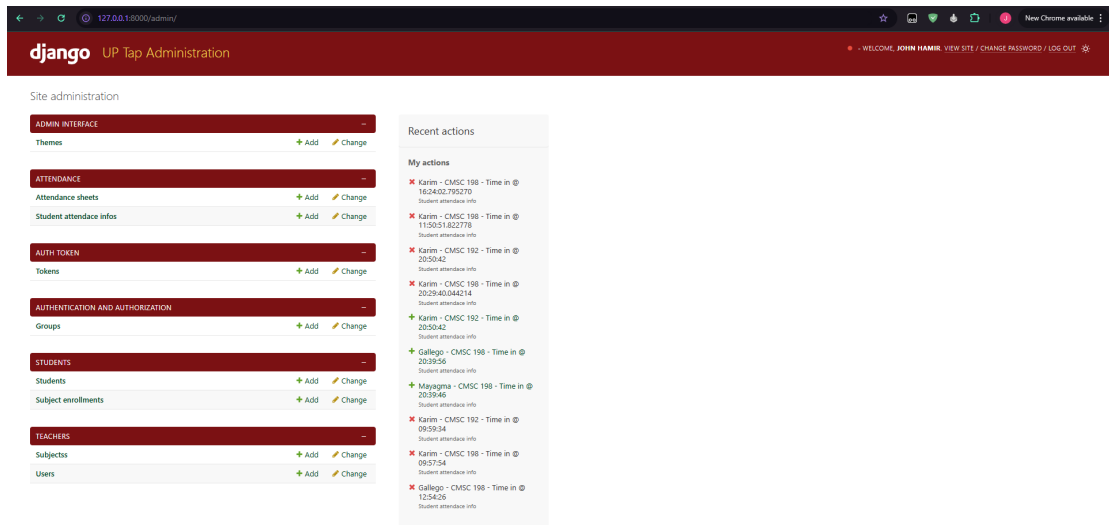


Figure 4.7: Django Administration

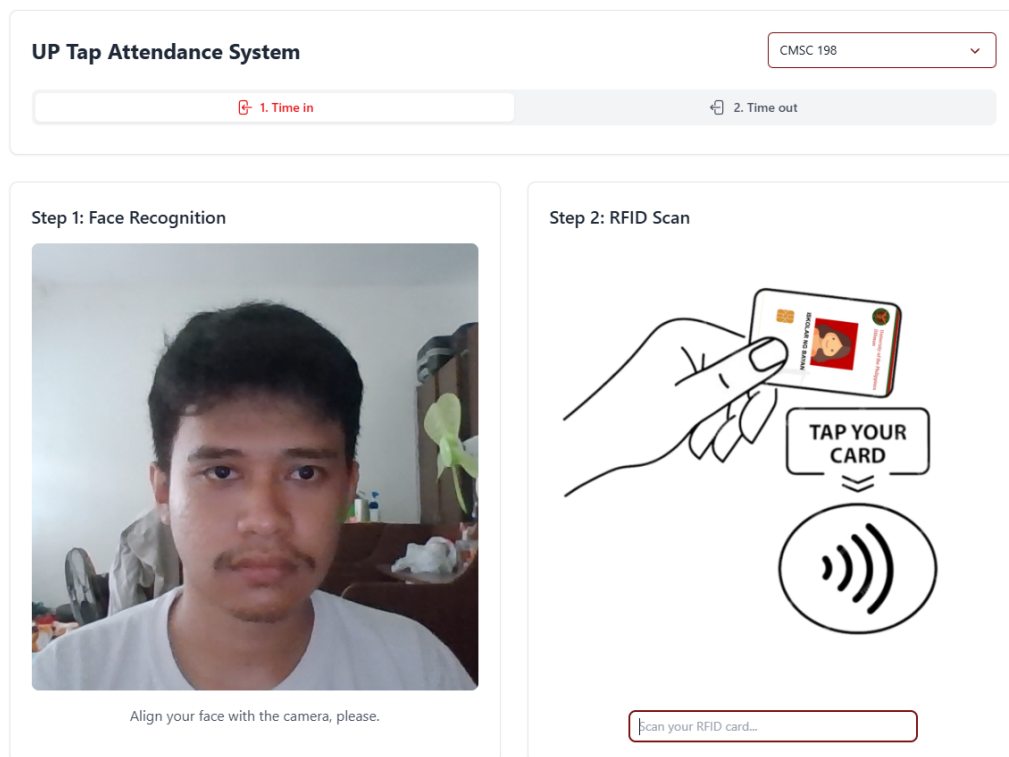


Figure 4.8: Time in and Time out Page

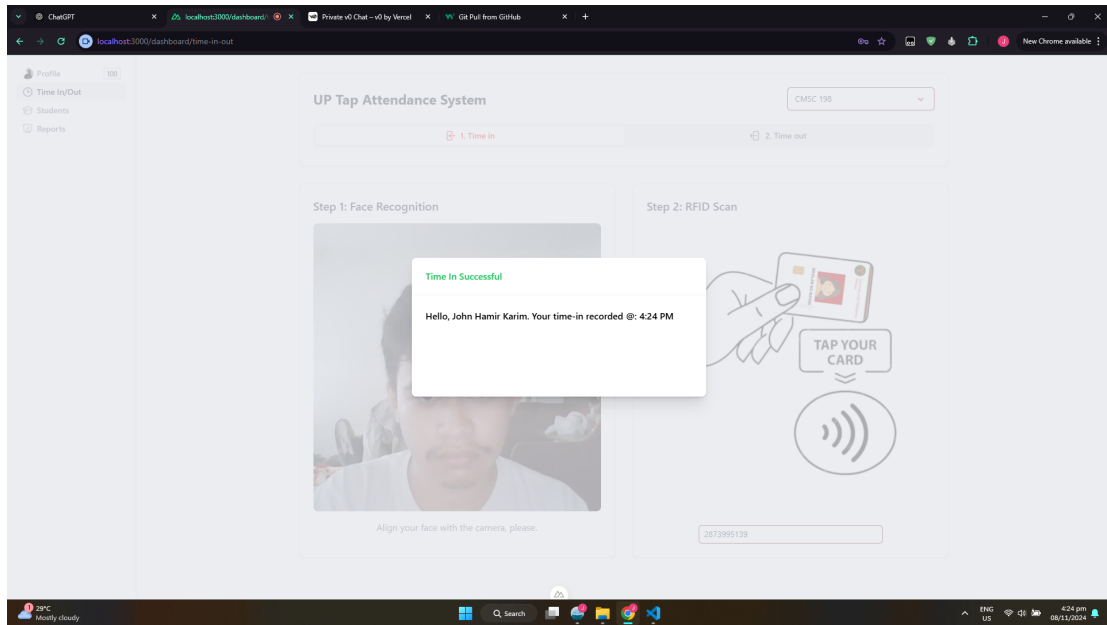


Figure 4.9: Successful Time In

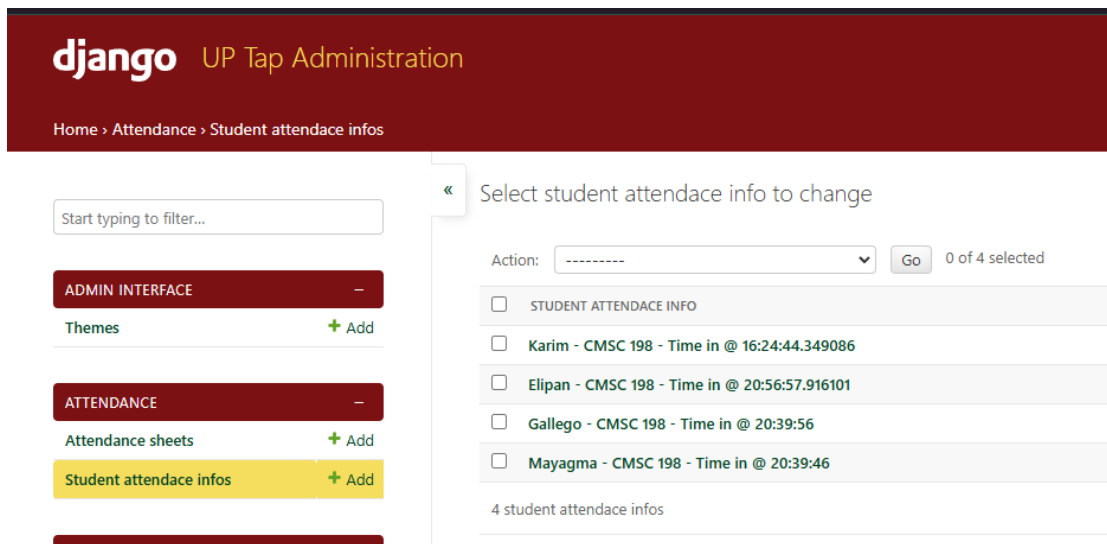


Figure 4.10: Django saving the attendance time instance in 24-hr format

```
if(time_in){  
  openModal(time_in)  
  // 2 second countdown  
  setTimeout(() => {  
    closeModal()  
  }, 2000);  
  setTimeout(() => {  
    rfidRef.value.$refs.input.focus()  
  }, 2300)  
}
```

Figure 4.11: Fake Delay

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529 **Appendix A**

530 **Appendix Title**

⁵³¹ Appendix B

⁵³² Resource Persons