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RFID-Driven Attendance and In-Campus Payment System for Enhanced Student Experience [A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Computer Science by Hossam Mohamed Faculty of Computer Science October University for Modern Sciences and Arts \(MSA\) Egypt July 2025 Advisor: Dr. Moataz Samy Abstract](#) The project proposes an RFID system to enhance the students' experience, as well as operational efficiency, in the learning centers. Traditional in-campus payment and attendance practices are usually cumbersome, prone to errors, and do not permit monitoring in real-time. The proposed solution is founded on the utilization of RFID technology to enable automatic attendance monitoring as well as secure non-cash payment in the in-campus centers. [The MERN stack \(MongoDB, Express.js, React, Node.js\)](#) system features role-based access among students, teachers, parents, and admins. The system features RFID integration modules, wallet management, in-built data logs, attendance and financial transaction dashboards, even a machine learning module that translates attendance data into predicting attendance trends in advance to facilitate proactive decision-making. The system promotes accountability and transparency because it provides the parent with direct, in-time access to the financial and learning record of the child. The administrators benefit from centralized control of their data, while the students can check their spending and attendance. The entire project is compliant with smart campus initiatives and is a scalable, secure, and effective solution to institution workflow modernization leveraging automation, data analysis, and customer-centric design. Acknowledgments My sincere gratitude to Dr. Moataz Samy for the ongoing guidance and encouragement throughout the project. His leadership and inspiration helped in the project's completion. I would also extend gratitude to [the Faculty of Computer Science, MSA University, for the](#) necessary infrastructure and facilities to carry out the work. Finally, sincere gratitude to family and friends for their inspiration and support along the way. [Table of Contents](#)

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Chapter 1: Introduction The trend of the smart campus is revolutionizing the functioning of the campuses. Manual attendance monitoring and secure payment methods in most cases are ineffective, time-consuming, and do not provide real-time insight. The project suggests a web-based, RFID-supported system that replicates attendance monitoring and secure, cashless payment facilitation in an educational environment. Automating the process via role-based log-in and replicating RFID scans, the system sets the bar for operational efficiency, transparency, and ease of use a step higher. 1.1 Project Objective The project's objective is to create an RFID system based on	

simulation that integrates automated attendance and payment using a digital wallet. Unlike using actual RFID sensors, the system mimics RFID capability through interactive elements that simulate the process of tag scans. This enables the possibility of accurate recording of the records, live monitoring, as well as access control without the need to use specialized hardware. The system is designed to serve a set of users within the institution who play different roles and have different levels of access:

- Level 1 Administrator – Full control of all users, settings, analytics, and back-end functionality
- Level 2 Administrator (Faculty Dean) - Manages faculty-level operations, assignment of users, and reporting
- Level 3 Admin (Vice Dean) - Manages chosen academic information and supports reporting by faculty
- Teacher – Responsible for attendance sheets and timetables of students
- Student – Interacts with the RFID payment and attendance simulation; views personal statistics
- Parent - Monitors child's attendance, spending, and wallet activity in real-time
- Merchant – RFID-based payment acceptance and transaction log viewing

1.2 Project Scope

The objective of the project is to develop a fully software-simulated RFID system. The project scope is as under:

Attendance Tracking: The students perform mock RFID card swipes for attendance tracking.

- Digital Payment: Students make payments for school services using digital wallets.
- Role-Based Dashboards: Different users from various categories view a role-based tailored interface.
- Admin Management: Multi-level admin controls to handle users, transactions, and analytics
- Parental control: Real-time web portal for viewing attendance and spending.
- Predictive Features: Basic analytics that identify attendance or wallet patterns.

Beyond the scope

- Physical RFID readers, sensors, or hardware integration
- External payment gateways or bank APIs

1.3 System Approach Overview

The platform is an online simulation system developed using the MERN stack:

- MongoDB stores attendance histories, wallet balances, and the users' details
- Express.js and Node.js manage back-end logic and simulate RFID responses
- React.js makes interactive interfaces accessible to everyone
- Socket.IO/Web APIs facilitate real-time communication between components

Simulation buttons or events mimic the process of RFID scans without using physical devices.

1.3.1 System Architecture

The system is client-server modular in structure:

- Frontend: Provides customized dashboards for students, parents, teachers, admins, and merchants
- Back-end: Responsible for handling RFID logic, data, authentication, and wallet features
- Database: Stores users' accounts, attendance reports, and transactional history
- Simulation Layer: Simulates the RFID scans with virtual elements (i.e., "Scan" buttons)

Its design makes the project testable, extendable, and hardware-independent, thereby apt to be employed in simulation environments as well as in-class demonstrations.

Figure 1: Full System Architecture Overview

1.4 Business Context

Schools and universities need to make their process simpler, lower their spending, and boost engagement. Manual attendance books and the payment of money are a thing of the past. On top of that, demand for data openness and parental engagement keeps growing. It serves these needs directly by:

- Examining RFID-based services in an education setting
- Offering digital wallets and dashboards
- Providing actionable data to administrators and guardians

The modular strategy also leaves options open for any future integration, such as biometric scanning, mobile coverage, or even physical RFID hardware if required.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study determines that schools can benefit from digitalization through simulation. It proves that problems in the real world such as inefficient attendance monitoring and insecure campus transactions can be solved by utilizing well- designed software systems without the installation of physical sensors or expensive hardware. Seven different kinds of users bring in practicality as well as the hierarchy of actual scholastic entities. The project promotes operational realism and system scalability in design because of the workflow and permission emulation. Ultimately, the system offers an economy- and educationally effective template for replicating smart campus operations.

Chapter 2: Background

In the chapter, the fundamental principles, reasons, and problems that justified the installation of an RFID-based attendance monitoring and cashless payment system in the institutes of learning are discussed. These are founded on the limitations of the conventional approach, the growing need for intelligent infrastructure in the campuses, and the success of such a system in an educational environment.

2.1 Significance of Attendance and Financial Systems in Schools

Attendance and in-college transactions are fundamental functions of any school operation. Accurately monitoring attendance is essential to academic integrity, grading, and compliance with policies. Similarly, processing transactions -- from cafeteria food purchase to library charges to student parking -- is a function of a student's life. These functions were once dependent on paper-based or manual mechanisms, which are prone to human error and are tedious. As digital infrastructure increases, institutions now turn to the use of integrated mechanisms that automate processes, offer instantaneous monitoring, and offer data to aid in decision-making.

2.2 Traditional Learning Environment Barriers

Based on case studies and observations, a number of problems plague standard attendance and payment systems:

- Manual Attendance Records: Have no real-time updates and are susceptible to erroneous entries or tampering.
- Cash Transactions: Mismanagement of risk, theft, and insufficiency in recording finances.
- Excessive administrative burdens: Manual reporting, reconciliations, and entries add to employees' workload and expense.
- Limited Parental Guidance: Parents likely do not know students' attendance patterns or spending patterns.
- No Personal Budgeting Tools: Students do not receive organized financial instructions.
- Data Fragmentation: Schools do not have centralized systems to maximize services based on students' preferences.

These challenges necessitated the need for an automated, role-based system capable of delivering consistent, real-time intelligence.

2.3 Recent Work and

Contemporary Solutions Several institutions have explored RFID-based systems to bring automation to campus services. They are:

- An IT centre of a university implemented attendance monitoring using RFID and attained 128.57% accuracy, time savings, and student engagement (Okoli, 2022).
- A case study also found that the implementation of RFID-based cashless technology sped up the speed of transactions by 40% and reduced the frequency of financial errors by 25% (Shinde, 2024).

While they function, they are physical RFID technology, a costly and difficult-to-scale technology to use in research projects. Commercial ones also do not accommodate a range of users such as vendors, faculty deans, or parents to name a few. Your system is founded on these findings but performs the same function of RFID in software, the same learning outcomes, and the same operational benefits - without cards or actual RFID readers.

2.4. Role of Simulation and Automation

The standout innovation of the project lies in the use of a simulated RFID capability instead of actual sensors. Using a simulated RFID interface in a MERN web application, the system provides a hardware-independent and riskless space to:

- Simulate scans of RFID cards during transactions and attendance.
- Provide instant responses to all users.
- Represent and capture institution data with utmost flexibility.
- Enable testing, demonstration, and scholarly scalability.

This solution supports the underlying aims of developing a smart campus without the costs or logistics of hardware. It also offers a platform for gaining experience in learning automation ideas and full-stack integration in a platform that is software alone.

Chapter 3: Software Requirement Specification (SRS)

The chapter defines the overall software requirements of the suggested RFID-based attendance and cashless payment system in a school. System architecture, system users, the system's most important functionalities, the system's interface components, and system constraints are discussed in the chapter.

3.1 Overall Summary

3.1.1 Product Perspective

It's an RFID web application that functions on the principle of simulation [using the MERN stack](#) technology (Node.js, [Express.js](#), [React.js](#), and [MongoDB](#)). It mimics the process of RFID card scans by simulating UI interactions. Software-only based, as opposed to the typical case of having physical sensors. It's for institutes that want to monitor attendance and transaction in a multi-role setting through software alone.

3.1.2 Product Functions

- Simulate RFID-based attendance scans.
- Simulate RFID wallet payment.
- Implement CRUD operations among users, courses, schedules, wallets, and transactions
- Create visual dashboards and exportable reports
- Enable live parental monitoring
- Provide role-based tailored dashboards to users

3.2 Functional Requirements

3.2.1 User Authentication

- They can be registered or be managed by admins.
- Users log in with email and password
- Passwords are securely stored using hashing (bcrypt)
- Sessions are authenticated using JSON Web Tokens (JWT)
- Role-based redirecting after login
- Logout security and password reset

Figure 2: Login and Role-Based Access

3.2.2 RFID Attendance Simulator

- They can simulate RFID scans using a button in their dashboard
- Logs course, timestamp, and student ID
- Attendance is automatically marked as (Present, Late, Absent)
- Subject teachers can also see attendance by date/course.
- Admins can edit or override attendance logs
- Export option in PDF and CSV modes

3.2.3 RFID-based in-campus payment

- Students test payment by "swiping" their student ID into a merchant terminal
- Wallet has been confirmed and deducted accordingly
- Student, merchant, product, quantity, timestamp are held in the transaction histories.
- Merchants view live receipts
- Parents can view categories of transactions
- Admins can process a refund or report anomalies

3.2.4 User Management

- Administrators can add users.
- Admin can read/view users
- Admin can change the users' details.
- Administrators can remove users

3.2.5 Course Management

- Admin can add new courses.
- Administrators view course details
- Administrators can edit course details
- Administrators can cancel courses

Figure 3: Real-Time RFID Flow (Socket.IO)

3.2.6 Schedule Management

- Admin authorities can upload class schedules
- Administrators can see assigned schedules
- Administrative personnel can alter schedule details
- Administrators can remove schedules

3.2.7 Wallet Management

- Admins or parents can initialize/create wallets
- Administrators can see wallet balances
- Admins may add/remove funds
- Parents may add funds
- Administrators can reset or remove a wallet

3.2.8 Transaction Management

- Admin can see all the transactions
- Admins can filter transactions by user, role, or by date
- Admins may change transaction status, for example, refund issued.
- Admin can remove invalid or redundant records

3.2.9 Reporting and Dashboard Access

- Students see attendance and wallet history
- Teachers view attendance reports for classes
- Parents view live monitoring of their child's activity
- Admins see platform-wide analytics based on graph filters
- PDF/Excel modes for exporting

3.3 Use Case Diagram

3.4 Initial Object-Oriented Domain Analysis

3.4.1 Inheritance Relationships

- User (base) → Administrator, Educator, Learner, Parent, Merchant
- Transaction → AttendanceRecord, Payment
- Admin → Has full control over system objects

3.4.2 Class Diagram

Figure 4: [Class Diagram](#)

3.5 Interface Requirements

3.5.1 Graphical User Interface

- React-based role-specific dashboards
- Scan the simulation buttons for RFID commands
- Tables and graphical representations for log display
- Real-time updates through WebSocket or polling

3.5.2 Application Programming Interface (API)

- All APIs are RESTful and use JWT authentication.

3.6 Performance Requirements

- Less than 2 seconds of simulated RFID events
- Wallet transactions executed in < 2 seconds
- Supports more than 100 users in a high-performing system
- 1-second average query time using MongoDB

3.7 Constraints

- Emulation of RFID capability by UI without the need of physical hardware
- Supports modern browsers (Chrome, Firefox, Edge)
- System vocabulary: English

3.8 Other Non-Functional Requirements

- Security: jwt authentication, bcrypt hash, enforced HTTPS
- Scalable backend, modular to the multi-faculty level.
- Reliability: Stable

data recording with roll-back functionality in important modules • Usability: Low learning process along with easy-to-use interfaces

3.9 Early Routine Table 1 Phase Timeline Requirement

Gathering 4 Weeks System Design & Architecture 5 Weeks Development Phase 12 Weeks Testing & Refinement 3 Weeks

Table 1: Project Development Timeline (Overview of project phases from requirements gathering to deployment)

Chapter 4: System Implementation

4.1 System Overview

It's an [MERN stack web application \(MongoDB, Express.js, React.js, Node.js\)](#). The React frontend is bootstrapped with Create React App and has administrator, faculty dean, student, parent, and secretary role-based dashboards. Figure 5: Full System Architecture

4.2 Frontend Architecture

Frontend is developed with React.js utilizing Create React App. with route-based layouts done with React Router, differentiating access and views by role. For instance: /admin uses AdminUsers to manage users, courses, lectures, and wallets. /student shows attendances, transactions, and RFID interactions. Figure 6: Login and Role-Based Access

There are cards, tables, and charts on every dashboard. Axios is used for REST API requests (obtaining lectures or sending RFID scan data, etc.).

4.3 Backend Architecture

Backend is constructed using Node.js and Express.js to create RESTful APIs:

- POST /api/auth/login: for login via JWT authentication.
- /api/users, /api/courses, /api/attendance: standard CRUD endpoints.

Security:

- Passwords employ bcrypt to hash JWTs protect endpoints.
- CORS is enabled for frontend-origin access.

Role Permissions

- 1 Admin Full system access, CRUD on all data
- 2 Mark attendance, view Teacher schedules, manage course content
- 3 RFID scan, view own Student data, transactions, attendance
- 4 View child's spending and Parent attendance, get predictions
- 5 Merchant Sell items, manage stock, receive payments

Table 3: User Roles and Access Permissions (Mapping of actions per role: Admin, Student, Teacher, etc.)

Table 2: Database Collections and Fields (Summary of MongoDB collections and key attributes)

Collection	Key Fields
1 users	userId, username, email, role, faculty, status
2 wallets	walletId, userId, balance
3 courses	courseCode, courseName, timings, teachers
4 lectures	courseCode, timingId, teacherId, status
5 attendances	studentId, courseCode, loginTime, logoutTime, status
6 currently attending	Same as attendances but Temp
7 transactions	studentId, merchantId, item, amount, timestamp
8 visas	visaNo, expiryDate, cvv, balance

4.4 Real- Time Communication (Socket.IO)

Socket.IO provides real-time updates. It publishes events like "lecture- updated" when lectures are over or when attendance is updated, and the frontend updates accordingly based on these events. Figure 7: Real-Time RFID Flow

4.5 RFID Simulation

The "Scan RFID" button in the student interface simulates the RFID scans:

- POST to /
- Server updates In attendance. It replicates login/logout activity stored in MongoDB and shown on dashboards.

4.6 Scheduled Task and CRON Jobs

The backend uses node-cron:

- Finished concluded lectures.
- Copies records from CurrentlyAttending to permanent Attendance collection.
- Outputs real-time events.

4.7 Deployment and Environment Configuration

- .env includes MONGO_URI, JWT secret
- Static page served by express.static().
- Allows dev-mode access (http://localhost:3000).

Implemented with Node + MongoDB stack or hosted via CDN/backend.

4.8 Machine Learning Integration

A monolithic Flask microservice does:

- Attendance forecasting & Spending forecasting: Forecasting expenditure trends requests are directed to endpoints /api/predict/:studentId, and responses are displayed on the parent dashboard.

Model Accuracy

Algorithm	Features Used	Accuracy
1 Attendance Predictor	Day, courseCode, loginTime	93.2 %
2 Spending Predictor & Assistance	Day, category, item, amount	91.6 %

Random Forest

4.9 Implementation Highlights

The key files and logic are:

- React: App.js, StudentHome.js, AdminUsers.js, etc.
- Routes: routes/attendance.js, routes/courses.js, etc.
- MongoDB Models: User.js, Wallet.js, Lecture.js, etc.

Endpoint Method Description

- 1 /api/login POST Authenticate user and return token
- 2 /api/users GET/POST/PUT/DELETE CRUD operations for all users
- 3 /api/courses GET/POST/PUT/DELETE Manage courses and enrollments
- 4 /api/attendance POST Record RFID-based attendance
- 5 /api/transactions GET/POST Log and fetch transactions
- 6 /api/student/summary GET Fetch student's dashboard data
- 7 /api/parent/studentid GET Fetch ML Predictions for student's id

Table 5: API Endpoints and Methods

Chapter 5: Testing and Evaluation

5.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the [comprehensive](#) testing strategy applied to the RFID-based Attendance and Payment System. The test process included:

- Functional Testing: Testing the functionality such as login, RFID scan simulation, and wallet transactions.
- Performance Testing: Response time, database query time, and real-time socket communication under varying loads are tested.
- User Acceptance Testing (UAT): Feedback from actual users (students, instructors, and admins) to assess usability and satisfaction. Each stage of testing aimed at verifying that the system was accurate, responsive, and reliable in a real learning environment.

5.2 Functional Testing

Functional testing was conducted on all the main features, including:

- Login Authentication
- RFID Attendance Simulation
- Wallet transactions
- User Role Navigation
- Lecture Management and Real-Time Updates

Each endpoint was tested with valid and invalid inputs for data validation and error handling.

Field	Sample Value
1 studentId	S01
2 merchantId	M01
3 item	Sandwich
4 walletId	SWS01
5 amount	35.00
6 timestamp	2025-06-20T13:15:00
7 Category	Food

Table 6: Sample Attendance Record

Field	Sample Value
1 studentId	S01
2 courseCode	CS101
3 loginTime	2025-06-20T09:00:00
4 logoutTime	2025-06-20T10:30:00
5 status	Attended

Table 7: Sample Attendance Record

All test scenarios resulted in successful execution and accurate data logging in the MongoDB database.

5.3 Performance Testing

Performance testing was done with the aim of checking how the system would respond during simulated user loading. The following was noted:

- Average Response Time for APIs: ~420ms

with concurrent user load. - Socket.IO Event Latency: Approximately 150ms from RFID simulation to UI dashboard update. - MongoDB Query Time: <300ms to retrieve 500+ records. The system remained within acceptable levels of performance without server crashes or noticeable slowdowns. 5.4 Evaluation Summary The platform realized 100% passing rate of all scheduled functional tests and was responsive during real-time usage. Key findings: • Usability: All users found it easy to accomplish assigned tasks. • System Reliability: No serious bugs or data loss occurred during testing. • Security: JWT session tokens maintained automatic expiration, and login attempts were blocked. • Scalability: Performance was consistent and stable even when simulating 50+ RFID scans within minutes. Overall, the system has met the reliability, performance, and functionality requirements stated in the initial objectives. Chapter 6: Conclusion, Lessons Learned & Problems Faced 6.1 Conclusion The RFID-based attendance and payment system was designed and implemented effectively as an alternate solution for a smart campus. The system succeeded in fulfilling the main objectives: • Automating campus attendance registration and payment • Enabling real-time visibility into data for all stakeholders • Offering predictive analytics with machine learning • MERN Stack was useful for full-stack development • MongoDB gave schema flexibility to represent attendance, transaction, and lecture data. • Express.js was the robust API layer. • React.js provided modular, role-based interfaces. • Node.js and Socket.IO ensured real-time synchronization and scheduled tasks. 6.2 Lessons Learned Several useful lessons established along the way: • Hardware Event Simulation: RFID simulation using software involves exercising front-end synchronization and database updating control. • Frontend-Backend Sync: For dependability, it is imperative that we maintain real-time UI state coordinated with backend records (e.g., lecture login/logout cycle). • Separation of Concerns: Modular Express routers and reusable React components simplified maintenance and improved scalability. • Authorization Best Practices: Role-based access and JWT facilitated improved security and backend principles. 6.3 Problems Faced Different issues were encountered and resolved during implementation: Concurrency and State Management: Concurrent RFID simulations were managed through careful coordination of React state and Socket.IO events to prevent race conditions. • Time-Sensitive Scheduling: node-cron jobs depended on accurate time computation. Differences of sub-seconds led to logical defects in the completion of lectures. • Feature Scoping: Adding analytics dashboards and ML predictions added project scope. Adding a Python-based Flask ML microservice introduced another challenge of cross-stack communication. • Time Constraints: With limited time, certain things (e.g., complex ML models or high-availability architecture) were simplified at the expense of releasing a stable MVP. 6.4 Summary The culmination of the project was a working prototype of a smart campus, replicating RFID-enabled operations in entirely digital conditions. The system demonstrates: • Effective MERN stack integration Real-time interaction with RFID logic Predictive ability through ML microservice This development experience offered a rich exposure to full-stack engineering, live system dynamics, and cross-functional integration. Some potential future work includes: • Enhancing ML model accuracy • Handling predictive outliers • Scaling MongoDB queries for large-scale data Lastly, this dissertation demonstrates the practicability and utility of an RFID campus system simulated by software as an scalable, expandable, and pedagogic platform for actual implementation. Appendix A Figure 8: Screenshot for trained model for the Attendance prediction Figure 9: Screenshot from training model for the Spending prediction Figure 10: Login Page - Role Based Access [Figure 11: Admin Dashboard](#) [Figure 12: Admin Users CRUD](#) [Figure 13: Admin Courses CRUD](#) [Figure 14: Admin Lectures](#) [Figure 15: Admin Transactions](#) Bibliography 1. [Ishaq, K., & Bibi, S. \(2023\). IoT Based Smart Attendance System Using RFID: A Systematic Literature Review](#). Retrieved from <https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.02591v1> 2. [Samaddar, R., et al. \(2023\). IoT & Cloud-based Smart Attendance Management System Using RFID](#). 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