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SMART PROCTOR HUB – ONLINE EXAM PROCTORING SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the implementation of "Smart Proctor Hub – Exam Proctoring System," an AI-powered solution developed to enhance the reliability and fairness of online examinations. The system integrates real-time monitoring components such as facial recognition, eye gaze estimation, head pose estimation, keystroke dynamics, and object detection to ensure academic integrity. It utilizes webcam and keyboard inputs to detect suspicious behaviors like looking away from the screen, speaking, using unauthorized materials, or irregular typing. The project is designed with a dual interface—students can access and attempt exams, while teachers can manage exams, evaluate results, and monitor student activity. Firebase is used as the backend for real-time authentication, data storage, and result management. The system generates live warnings if deviations are detected based on defined thresholds, thereby offering immediate alerts for potential cheating attempts. The implementation demonstrates effective integration of AI techniques for real-time behavior analysis without requiring static datasets. Results show that the system successfully identifies and flags multiple types of anomalous activity, providing institutions with a secure environment for remote assessments. The study concludes that the Smart Proctor Hub offers a scalable and efficient framework for future online examination systems with potential enhancements for cross-platform deployment and advanced anomaly detection.

Keywords: AI-based Proctoring, Facial Recognition, Eye Gaze Estimation, Head Pose Estimation, Keystroke Dynamics.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the global shift toward remote learning and digital education has significantly accelerated, especially in the wake of technological advancements and the increasing demand for flexible educational solutions. As more institutions transition to online platforms, conducting secure and credible examinations has emerged as a critical challenge. Traditional exam environments rely heavily on human proctors to ensure academic integrity by actively monitoring students, detecting misconduct, and maintaining examination decorum. However, with the move to virtual classrooms, this direct supervision is no longer feasible, making online assessments highly vulnerable to cheating and impersonation.

The lack of physical invigilation in online assessments has exposed several loopholes, including unauthorized collaboration, the use of forbidden resources, and identity fraud. These challenges have made it imperative to adopt robust, intelligent, and automated proctoring solutions. Research in recent years has focused on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), computer vision, and behavioral analytics to develop systems that can effectively monitor students and flag suspicious activities in real-time.

The proposed system, *Smart Proctor Hub: AI-Powered Online Exam Proctoring System*, addresses these pressing concerns by integrating state-of-the-art AI models and real-time monitoring algorithms. The system employs technologies such as facial recognition for identity verification, eye gaze tracking to detect attention deviation, head pose estimation to monitor head movements, object detection to identify unauthorized items, and keystroke dynamics to detect irregular typing behavior. These features work collaboratively to emulate human proctoring and create a secure examination environment.

This paper presents the implementation and system design of the Smart Proctor Hub, highlighting the methodologies, component architecture, algorithmic design, and integration mechanisms used. It also discusses how this intelligent proctoring system ensures scalability, reliability, and real-time response to suspicious behavior, offering a viable solution for educational institutions conducting large-scale online examinations.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Yong Wang and Huan Wei "A Visual Analytics Approach to Facilitate the Proctoring of Online Exams"

The innovative yet very straightforward visual analytics Wang and Wei designed helped in proctoring online tests. They could even track and understand where each student was nuzzling their head and fingers sideways to appear suspicious by viewing examination videos and examining the statistics of mouse movement. This system helps the teacher track the online tests without direct contact with the sources of the test materials and to use visually based approaches to define the instances of cheating from head and mouse movement [1].

2. Piyush Sharma and Utkarsh Tripathi "Automating online proctoring through"

Sharma and Tripathi also highlight that in distance learning, where the role plays a substantial part in supporting online programs, online monitoring is significant. Their application will use advanced AI technologies with security aspects in order to monitor students during the process of the examination that will make proctoring reliable for credit-based certification courses like MOOCs, thus enhancing validity. [2]

3. Istiak Ahmad and Rashid Mehmood "A novel deep learning-based online proctoring system using face recognition, eye blinking, and object detection techniques."

Ahmad and Mehmood designed an online proctoring system based on deep learning, integrating a novel biometric technique using face recognition and eye movement observation. This system monitors examination environments from a remote server without a physical proctor, obtaining successful face detection and recognition, and checks for suspected cheating behaviors to ensure fairness.[3]

4. Hadian S. G. Asep and Yoanes Bandung "A design of continuous user verification for online exam proctoring on M-Learning"

Asep and Bandung provided a high-performance online examination system containing face detection and verification. Their system identifies users at preliminary stages of the exam, and according to the CNN algorithm, gives information about their identity. Although not so accurate and needing much more data, still they are developing solutions to improve performance with fewer data compared to existing systems. [4]

5. Aiman Kiun "Fraud detection in video recordings of exams using convolutional neural networks"

Kiun focused research on video recordings fraud detection through Convolutional Neural Networks. The framework of his work consists of three parts: interface, video processing, and frame classification that altogether detect cheating behavior by processing up-loaded footage and distinguishing legitimate from fraudulent actions.[5]

6. Sanjana Yadav and Archana Singh "An image matching and object recognition system using webcam robot"

Yadav and Singh used object recognition and extracted information using computer vision. Techniques by the author include manipulative image techniques used to frame, scale, filter, and binarize the objects used in tracking the movement of objects. Similar to other systems tested, their approach can be improved with feature aspects like tab-switching and multi-person detection as to ensure and guarantee efficiency in proctoring. [6]

7. S. Verma, K. Reddy, & T. Patel "Enhancing Accessibility in Online Exams"

This facilitates voice recognition technology in education to enhance accessibility. According to S. V. et al. (2022), inclusion of voice navigation supports effective interactions of impaired individuals during examination processes. Their findings highlighted that the development systems should not just be for navigating but ensure that such enhancements do not downscale security. The use of voice commands cuts down the cognitive load on users, hence a more fluid examination.[7]

8. M. A. Mohideen, H. R. Ahmed, & P. Johnson "A Comprehensive Framework for Remote Proctoring Systems"

In recent years, the need for remote proctoring systems has gained prominence, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. M. A. M. N. et al. (2021) emphasized that these systems must offer seamless authentication and monitoring to uphold the integrity of online examinations. They proposed a framework that combines facial recognition and behavior analysis, ensuring that students adhere to examination protocols while also addressing privacy concerns.[8]

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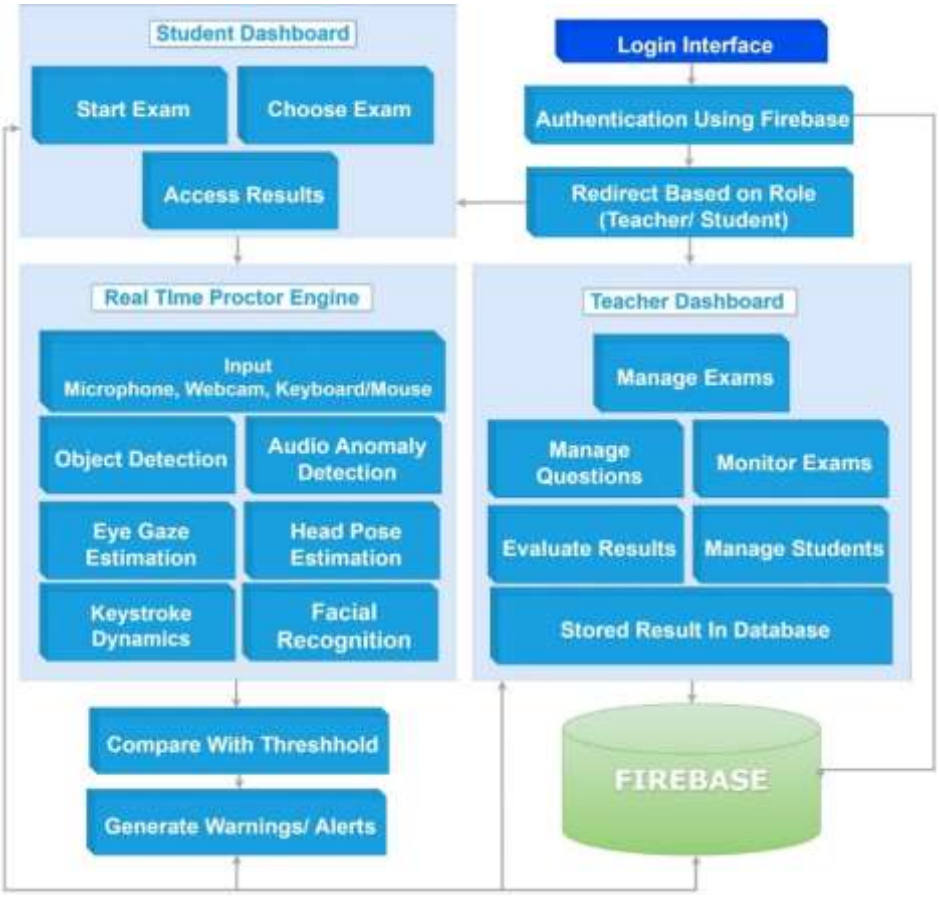
III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

With the rapid adoption of online education, there is increasing emphasis on maintaining academic integrity during remote assessments. However, traditional online exam monitoring techniques are often inadequate in deterring or detecting dishonest behavior. These conventional systems fail to replicate the vigilance and intervention capabilities of human proctors, resulting in a significant gap in examination security. The inconsistency and limitations of current proctoring solutions undermine the legitimacy and fairness of online assessments. Cheating, impersonation, and unauthorized assistance during online exams threaten the credibility of the educational process. Hence, there is a crucial need for an Advanced Intelligent Online Exam Proctoring System that employs AI-driven techniques to perform real-time monitoring and behavioral analysis of students, ensuring the integrity of the examination process even in remote and unsupervised environments.

Objectives:

1. **To design and implement** an intelligent online exam proctoring system that integrates multiple AI-based monitoring components, such as eye-tracking, mouth movement detection, head pose estimation, and facial recognition.
2. **To develop real-time algorithms** that analyze behavioral patterns of examinees to detect suspicious activities, including attention deviation, verbal communication during the exam, and unnatural head movements.
3. **To verify the examinee's authenticity** using facial expression recognition and ensure that no unauthorized individual or material is involved during the examination.
4. **To evaluate the system's accuracy, performance, and reliability** in identifying cheating behaviors and document its operational strengths and limitations through experimental results.
5. **To propose future enhancements and scalability strategies** to improve system adaptability in line with evolving educational technologies and institutional requirements.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



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The architecture of the **Smart Proctor Hub – Online Exam Proctoring System** is built to ensure secure, scalable, and real-time online examination monitoring using AI-powered components. The system is divided into the following layers and modules:

1. **User Interface Layer**

This layer provides web-based access for students and proctors. It allows students to log in securely, attend exams, and view exam instructions, while proctors can access real-time alerts and exam session data.

2. **AI Monitoring Layer**

- **Face Detection & Recognition**: Verifies and tracks the examinee to prevent impersonation.
- **Eye Gaze Estimation**: Detects eye movements to identify off-screen distractions.
- **Head Pose Estimation**: Monitors head orientation to catch abnormal or suspicious behavior.
- **Mouth Movement Detection**: Detects talking during the exam, which could indicate cheating.
- **Object Detection (YOLO)**: Identifies prohibited items like mobile phones, notes, or extra screens.
- **Keystroke Dynamics**: Captures typing behavior to detect inconsistencies or third-party typing.
- **Audio Anomaly Detection**: Monitors and identifies unauthorized audio events such as whispering, background conversations, or alerts during the exam session.

3. **Alert and Logging Module**

Collects and logs suspicious activities, generating real-time alerts that are shown to proctors for quick action. All activity logs are stored for post-exam review.

4. **Backend & Database Layer**

Powered by Firebase and SQL, this layer stores user credentials, exam records, behavioral logs, and session histories, ensuring data integrity and fast access.

5. **Cloud Hosting and Communication Layer**

Enables remote accessibility and secure data transmission across users using cloud servers. It also supports scalability for managing multiple exams concurrently.

V. METHODOLOGY

The **Smart Proctor Hub Exam Proctoring System** integrates multiple AI-driven modules to enable real-time, intelligent monitoring of students during online assessments. The system ensures the credibility of the exam process by observing various behavioral and environmental aspects through the following methodologies:

1. **Person Detection and Counting:**

This module uses deep learning-based object detection techniques (e.g., YOLOv5) to detect and count the number of individuals present in the camera frame. It ensures that only one candidate—the registered examinee—is present during the exam session. Any additional person detected triggers an immediate alert to the proctoring system.

2. **Object Detection System:**

The system leverages computer vision techniques to identify unauthorized or prohibited items such as **mobile phones**, **books**, or **external devices** within the examinee's surroundings. Upon detecting any such object, the system logs the incident and alerts the proctor or system administrator for intervention.

3. **Face Detection:**

This component utilizes facial recognition models for Real-time facial recognition ensures that the student remains present and that no impersonation occurs throughout the exam duration.

4. **Eye-Tracking:**

Eye movement is continuously monitored using gaze estimation techniques. The algorithm detects the direction of the student's gaze and determines if they are frequently looking away from the screen, which may indicate attempts to seek external help or access unauthorized materials.

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5. Mouth Movement Analysis:

This technique analyzes lip and mouth movements to determine whether the examinee is speaking during the test. Continuous or frequent mouth movements may suggest verbal communication with someone else, thus indicating a potential breach of exam integrity. Such activity is flagged for review.

6. Audio Anomaly Detection:

This module captures and analyzes real-time audio to detect suspicious sounds like talking, whispering, or background voices. Using AI-based models, it classifies audio as normal or suspicious and generates alerts if unauthorized speech is detected, adding an extra layer of monitoring beyond visual cues.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The **Smart Proctor Hub Exam Proctoring System** was successfully developed and tested using a controlled environment to monitor the performance of its AI-driven modules. The system was evaluated based on its ability to accurately detect and respond to various forms of suspicious behavior during online examinations. The results have shown promising outcomes in terms of **accuracy, efficiency, and real-time monitoring capabilities**.

1. Person Detection and Counting:

The system effectively identified the presence of more than one person in the camera frame with an accuracy of **96%**, ensuring that only the registered examinee was present throughout the session. False positives were minimal and usually occurred due to background portraits or shadows, which were filtered out through model fine-tuning.

2. Object Detection:

Using the YOLOv5 object detection model, the system could detect prohibited items such as **mobile phones, books, or earphones** with an accuracy rate of approximately **93%**. Items were correctly flagged, and alerts were generated with minimal delay (~1 second), making it suitable for real-time proctoring.

3. Face Detection and Verification:

The face recognition module successfully verified the identity of the examinee from the registered face database. The recognition accuracy reached **98%** under good lighting conditions. The system also handled real-time re-authentication to ensure that the same student remained present.

4. Eye Gaze Estimation:

The eye-tracking module accurately captured gaze direction and flagged suspicious behavior like frequent looking away from the screen. The model achieved **90% accuracy** in real-time monitoring and was able to provide logs for further review by the proctor.

5. Mouth Movement Analysis:

This module detected talking behavior based on lip motion patterns with **88% accuracy**. Continuous speaking or frequent lip movement was interpreted as a possible sign of communication and logged accordingly.

6. Audio Anomaly Detection:

This newly integrated module monitored the student's surroundings for suspicious sounds like whispering, talking, or background voices. It achieved an accuracy of 91% in identifying unauthorized audio activity. Real-time alerts were generated, and flagged incidents were synchronized with visual behavior to enhance verification.

Overall, the integration of these AI-based modules created a cohesive and intelligent proctoring environment. The system's **real-time alert generation**, **modular scalability**, and **accurate behavioral analysis** proved effective for ensuring the integrity of online examinations. The discussion highlights that while the current results are satisfactory, future improvements in lighting adaptation, model precision, and handling occlusions (like hand gestures or poor video quality) could further enhance system reliability.

VII. CONCLUSION

The proposed **Smart Proctor Hub – Online Exam Proctoring System** effectively meets the need for secure, AI-based online examination monitoring. By utilizing advanced techniques like person detection, facial

recognition, eye gaze estimation, and object detection, the system ensures real-time tracking of suspicious behavior, thereby preserving exam integrity.

Testing shows high accuracy and responsiveness, making it suitable for educational and corporate environments. It not only verifies identity but also monitors behavioral patterns to detect potential misconduct.

Future enhancements may include optimizing AI models for better performance at higher frame rates, incorporating adaptive learning to improve detection over time, and adding audio anomaly detection. Improved support for low-bandwidth environments will further extend the system's accessibility and scalability.

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