

**AI for Pig Disease Classification**

Ai in society



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Contents

[Abstract 2](#_Toc186798340)

[1. Sustainable Context and Societal Impact 3](#_Toc186798341)

[2. Critical Analysis of the AI Project 5](#_Toc186798342)

[3. Data Collection and Preparation 7](#_Toc186798343)

[3.1 Steps to Find the Data 7](#_Toc186798344)

[3.2 Data Collection and Refinement Roadmap 8](#_Toc186798345)

[3.4 Data Sources 9](#_Toc186798346)

[3.5. Legal Considerations 10](#_Toc186798347)

[4. Model Training and Testing 10](#_Toc186798348)

[Model Selection, Training, and Evaluation Roadmap 11](#_Toc186798349)

[5. Visualization and Communication 13](#_Toc186798350)

[6. Project Reporting and Reflection 16](#_Toc186798351)

[7. Entrepreneurial Insights and Professional Development 17](#_Toc186798352)

[8. Conclusion and Future Work 18](#_Toc186798353)

# Abstract

Pig disease classification is a pivotal challenge in the agricultural and veterinary sectors, impacting animal health, farm productivity, and food security. This document serves as a research report detailing the methodologies, challenges, and outcomes of developing an AI. based pig disease classification system. Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), this project aims to develop a robust classification system to detect and diagnose pig diseases with high accuracy. The research integrates advanced machine learning techniques, comprehensive data preprocessing, and model optimization to address the complexities of real-world applications.

The study emphasizes sustainability, ethical considerations, and societal impacts while adhering to data legislation. Challenges such as data quality, imbalance, and model interpretability are critically analyzed, with proposed solutions to mitigate these issues. Additionally, interactive visualizations are employed to effectively communicate findings to stakeholders, including farmers and industry professionals.

The results demonstrate the potential of AI to revolutionize disease management in agriculture, contributing to sustainable practices and enhanced animal welfare. This research sets the stage for future advancements in AI-driven veterinary diagnostics, aligning with broader goals of intelligent and responsible farming innovations.

# 1. Sustainable Context and Societal Impact

The application of AI for pig disease classification tackles several pressing sustainability and societal challenges, particularly in agriculture and veterinary medicine. By using AI to improve the early detection and accuracy of disease identification, this project offers a transformative solution that not only enhances animal health but also aligns with broader global goals for sustainability and ethical practices in farming.

1. **Improved Early Detection and Targeted Interventions**  
   AI-driven disease classification enables farmers and veterinarians to identify health issues in pigs at an earlier stage, significantly improving the response time for treatment. This early detection allows for more precise, targeted interventions rather than broad-spectrum treatments, such as antibiotics. As a result, the need for indiscriminate medication is reduced.
2. **Promotion of Animal Welfare**  
   Timely and accurate disease detection ensures that animals receive appropriate care before health issues progress to more serious stages. This not only contributes to better outcomes for the animals but also fosters overall animal welfare. The use of AI provides a more objective and consistent approach to monitoring animal health, reducing the potential for human error in assessments and ensuring that animals are treated promptly, leading to better quality of life for livestock.
3. **Optimized Resource Utilization and Sustainable Food Production**  
   The increased efficiency in farming practices resulting from improved disease management also leads to optimized resource utilization. Healthier livestock produces more meat, milk, or other products while consuming fewer inputs. This contributes to the broader goals of sustainable food production, where systems are designed to maximize output while minimizing waste and the environmental footprint. By ensuring that animals are kept healthy and disease-free, AI can play a key role in improving overall food security and reducing the environmental impact of livestock farming.
4. **Ethical Considerations and Responsible Use of AI**  
   The project emphasizes the ethical responsibility in applying AI, ensuring that the technology is used transparently and in compliance with data protection and legislation. The data collected for training the AI models is handled responsibly, with the privacy and rights of individuals considered at every step. This ethical part not only builds trust in AI but also promotes responsible adoption across farming and veterinary practices. By empowering farmers and veterinarians with data-driven, reliable insights, the project reduces reliance on manual assessments, which are often time-consuming and subject to error. This leads to more informed decision-making, improving both the efficiency and fairness of veterinary practices.
5. **Broader Societal Impact**  
   Beyond the direct benefits to individual farms, the societal impact of this project is significant. By minimizing the spread of diseases within herds, the AI system plays a critical role in safeguarding public health. Livestock diseases that go undetected or unchecked can have far-reaching consequences, including potential transmissions to humans. Early identification and intervention reduce the likelihood of outbreaks that could affect not just the farm but the broader community. This contribution to public health underscores the importance of leveraging AI to address challenges that have a direct and indirect impact on society.

**Reflection on Societal Impact**

As I near the completion of this project, I have revisited the risks and opportunities initially identified and evaluated how they have evolved. Many of the original considerations remain relevant, but new insights have emerged through practical application:

**Do the Same Risks/Opportunities Apply?**

While the risks of data misuse or misinterpretation of AI results persist, the opportunities for improving public health, sustainability, and ethical farming practices have proven even more significant than initially anticipated. For example, the scalability of the system to larger farms or different types of livestock has surfaced as a previously underappreciated opportunity. At the same time, ensuring data quality and ethical compliance remains a critical challenge that demands ongoing attention.

**Project Choices Influenced by Societal Impact Reflection**

The societal impact reflection has directly influenced several decisions throughout the project. For instance, the emphasis on ethical AI principles led to the prioritization of transparency and responsible data handling in the model’s design. This reflection also guided the communication strategy, ensuring stakeholders, like farmers and veterinarians, understood both the immediate benefits and the broader societal value of adopting this technology.

**Conclusion**

The use of AI for pig disease classification serves as a powerful tool to address the challenges of sustainability, animal welfare, and public health. It helps farmers and veterinarians make more informed, efficient, and ethical decisions, contributing to the broader goals of sustainable agriculture and responsible use of technology. By improving early disease detection and minimizing the spread of infections, this project supports the ongoing effort to create more resilient, efficient, and ethical farming systems. Reflecting on the societal impact throughout the project has not only strengthened its outcomes but also demonstrated a commitment to aligning technological innovation with societal needs.

# 2. Critical Analysis of the AI Project

**Challenges and Solutions in the AI Project**

Throughout the course of this project, several challenges emerged, primarily related to the limitations in data and the generalizability of the AI model. These issues were identified early in the project and addressed with targeted solutions, ultimately improving the model’s performance and ensuring its robustness.

The following challenges and solutions are drawn from both personal project experiences and established AI development methodologies.

1. Challenges Encountered

Data Scarcity: At the start, there was a limited dataset of 100 labeled images, which consisted of varying quality. High-quality data in this context refers to clear, accurately labeled images that represent different disease conditions in pigs, without distortions or misclassifications. This constraint made training an accurate model difficult as the limited quantity could lead to overfitting.

Model Generalizability: Initial models showed a 65% accuracy rate on training data, but their performance dropped significantly, to 45% accuracy on unseen test data. This indicated overfitting and limited robustness, as the model struggled to make predictions on data outside the training set.

2. Implemented Solutions

Data Augmentation: To address the issue of limited data, I applied techniques such as rotation, flipping, zooming, and brightness adjustments. By doing this, I was able to expand the dataset from 100 to 400 images, increasing its diversity and variability. This improved the overall representation of potential cases, enhancing the model’s learning capability.

Transfer Learning: I employed transfer learning by using the pre-trained VGG16 model. Alternatives like ResNet and InceptionV3 were considered but were less suited due to their higher computational requirements, given the available resources. VGG16 was chosen for its balance of performance and efficiency. Fine-tuning this model on the pig disease classification task boosted its accuracy on unseen data to 75%, significantly addressing the generalizability issue.

**Roadmap of Challenges and Solutions**

**Weeks 1–3: Initial Challenges with Data and Models**

* **Focus:** Collected initial datasets and built a custom neural network. However, the model's performance was poor due to data scarcity and limited diversity.
* **Outcome:** Identified the need for more data and better model strategies to improve results.

**Weeks 4–5: Exploring and Implementing Solutions**

* **Focus:**
  + Introduced data augmentation techniques to increase dataset size and variability.
  + Transitioned to the VGG16 model using transfer learning to overcome the limitations of the initial custom model.
* **Outcome:** Improved dataset quality and enhanced model performance on unseen data.

**Weeks 6–8: Model Optimization and Testing**

* **Focus:**
  + Fine-tuned the VGG16 model for pig disease classification.
  + Applied advanced techniques like hyperparameter tuning and dropout to prevent overfitting and boost accuracy.
* **Outcome:** Achieved a robust model capable of handling the complexities of the task, with better generalizability across diverse test cases.

This structured approach allowed me to systematically identify and resolve the challenges, ensuring the project’s success in building an accurate and generalizable AI model. By addressing data limitations through augmentation and leveraging transfer learning, I was able to overcome initial setbacks and deliver a model with strong performance and real-world applicability.

# 3. Data Collection and Preparation

Data collection forms the backbone of the project. This chapter details the sourcing of high-quality data, its preprocessing, and adjustments made to enhance usability for AI models. Processes such as cleaning, normalization, and annotation are explained.

Data collection formed the foundation of this project, emphasizing the importance of high-quality and balanced datasets for effective AI model performance. To ensure the dataset's usability, an extensive manual review of images was conducted to remove poor-quality samples that could hinder model training. Multiple datasets were considered during this phase; however, the chosen dataset was selected based on its prior use in another AI project, which had already demonstrated a very strong accuracy. This provided confidence in its reliability and relevance to the task.

The scarcity of openly available data on pig diseases posed a significant challenge. To address this, the dataset was expanded to include diverse visual diseases rather than limiting the classification to binary categories like "healthy" and "ill." This approach not only enhanced the dataset’s depth but also better reflected real-world complexities. Preprocessing steps such as cleaning, normalization, and annotation were applied a lot, while tools like ImageDataGenerator were employed to automate data preparation. The dataset was ultimately split into training (80%) and validation (20%) subsets to ensure balanced and effective learning.

## 3.1 Steps to Find the Data

1. **Research and Initial Exploration**
   * Began by identifying the scope of the data needed for the project: high-quality images representing healthy and diseased pigs.
   * Conducted keyword searches on platforms like Kaggle, GitHub, and Google, using terms such as "pig disease dataset," "farm animal detection," and "pig annotations."
2. **Reviewing Online Platforms**
   * Explored Kaggle datasets related to pig disease detection and farm animal identification.
   * Searched GitHub repositories for projects involving pig disease classification or annotation tools.
   * Utilized Google Drive links shared in forums and blogs relevant to agricultural AI projects.
3. **Contacting Researchers and Communities**
   * Reached out to online communities and forums, such as agricultural technology forums, to inquire about open datasets.
   * Connected with researchers who had previously worked on similar projects for potential data-sharing opportunities (also for legal purposes).
4. **Evaluating and Selecting Datasets**
   * Assessed available datasets based on quality, size, and relevance.
   * Selected a dataset with prior use in an AI project achieving high baseline accuracy as the primary dataset.
5. **Expanding the Dataset**

* Videos and images from Google Drive sources.
* Additional labeled datasets from Roboflow, including a collection of 7000 labeled images for pig skin diseases.
* Open datasets from Kaggle, such as farm animal detection images.
* Rotating the images.

1. **Data Verification and Preparation**
   * Conducted a manual review of all datasets to ensure image quality and relevance.
   * Removed duplicates and irrelevant samples.
   * Annotated data where necessary using tools like LabelImg.

These sources provided a robust foundation for building a comprehensive and diverse dataset. Additional exploration on platforms like Kaggle also offered alternative options for dataset augmentation and validation.

## 3.2 Data Collection and Refinement Roadmap

1. **Initial Challenges**  
   At the start, the project faced significant issues with incorrect data and an insufficient number of samples. This limited the model's ability to generalize and impacted early experiments with AI training.
2. **Exploration and Dataset Improvement**  
   To address these challenges, I began exploring multiple datasets to find those that could provide better quality and quantity. After thorough evaluation, I discovered a dataset that had been used in a similar AI project, achieving a baseline accuracy of 87%. This dataset became the foundation for the later stages of the project.
3. **Cleaning and Quality Control**  
   With the new dataset in hand, I conducted a manual review to identify and remove poor-quality or irrelevant samples. This ensured the data was clean, accurate, and suitable for training.
4. **Dataset Expansion**  
   Recognizing gaps in the dataset, I expanded it by incorporating images representing a broader range of pig diseases. This added diversity and moved beyond basic binary classifications like "healthy" and "ill," making the dataset more realistic and comprehensive.
5. Benefits of Rotating Images:

* **Improves Robustness**: By exposing the model to different orientations of the same object, it learns to recognize the object regardless of its orientation.
* **Prevents Overfitting**: A more diverse dataset helps the model generalize better to unseen data.
* **Enhances Feature Detection**: It ensures the model captures features that are invariant to rotation.

1. **Preprocessing**  
   I applied preprocessing techniques such as normalization, resizing, and augmentation to prepare the data for training. Tools like ImageDataGenerator were used to streamline and automate these processes.
2. **Annotation**  
   The dataset was annotated to create precise labels, ensuring the AI model could learn effectively from the available data.
3. **Splitting and Iteration**  
   I divided the data into 80% training and 20% validation subsets for balanced learning. During training, I revisited the dataset, identified biases or errors, and refined the data as needed to maintain accuracy and relevance.

## 3.4 Data Sources

Below is a list of data sources utilized in this project:

* Videos for disease detection: [Google Drive Videos](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E2wW2aRENgy_TqlzfICn58ahbTHVIaK6)
* Farm Animals Pigs Detection Dataset: [Kaggle Dataset](https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/trainingdatapro/farm-animals-pigs-detection-dataset/data)
* 500 images of healthy and ill pigs: [Google Drive Images](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uqHrjcFcRZDw2Gu2-k8iBj_Aj0tuR_IT)
* Sick Pig Classifier Model: [GitHub Repository](https://github.com/Igonazio/Sick-Pig-Classifier/blob/main/Model/Linear_model.ipynb)
* Pig Pose Project Dataset: [GitHub Repository](https://github.com/anl13/MAMMAL_datasets)
* Online Pig Annotations: [Roboflow Dataset](https://app.roboflow.com/pigai-ukdae/pigaiai/3)
* 25000 annotated diseases: [roboflow dataset](https://universe.roboflow.com/final-dataset-pig-skin/pig-skin-disease-single-label-v4-bs402/dataset/18)

3.5. Legal Considerations  
The legal framework surrounding data usage is a crucial aspect of this project. The data employed in this study complies with the requirements of the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)** license. This license permits the sharing, adaptation, and use of the data for any purpose, including commercial applications, provided appropriate credit is given to the original creators.

To ensure compliance, the following measures were implemented:

1. **Attribution:** All datasets and tools used in this project are properly credited. This includes providing detailed citations in documentation and publications, ensuring that creators receive due recognition.
2. **Transparency:** The origins of each dataset are clearly documented, with explicit acknowledgment of sources such as Kaggle, GitHub, Roboflow, and other contributors.
3. **Derivative Works:** When datasets were expanded, modified, or annotated, proper notes were maintained to distinguish original content from project-specific adaptations, ensuring compliance with the license's requirements for derivative works.

The project strictly avoided data sources with unclear licensing or ethical concerns, reinforcing the commitment to responsible AI development.

# 4. Model Training and Testing

This section covers the selection of AI models, training methodologies, and testing strategies. Evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, and recall are used to assess model performance. Hyperparameter tuning and cross-validation techniques are also discussed.

The VGG16 model architecture was selected due to its well-documented success in image classification tasks. Transfer learning techniques were employed, leveraging VGG16’s pre-trained layers while adding custom layers tailored to the pig disease classification task. Training started with an initial accuracy of 15.4% in the first epoch, gradually improving as the model learned to distinguish between diverse disease categories.

This project explored various models, including custom Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and fully connected neural networks. While these models showed promise, they failed to match the performance of VGG16, which consistently achieved the highest accuracy. The inclusion of multiple disease categories instead of a simple binary classification played a critical role in enhancing the model's predictive power.

Advanced training methodologies were applied, including hyperparameter tuning and cross-validation, to optimize model performance. Regularization techniques such as dropout were also employed to prevent overfitting. The results reaffirmed that VGG16, combined with a thoughtfully curated and diverse dataset, was the most effective solution for this task.

## Model Selection, Training, and Evaluation Roadmap

1. **Initial Attempt with a Custom Neural Network**  
   I began by designing and training a custom neural network tailored for pig disease classification. While this approach provided valuable learning experience, a review with my teachers revealed that the model’s accuracy was insufficient for reliable predictions. Its limitations in handling complex image recognition tasks highlighted the need for a more robust solution.
2. **Exploring Alternatives**  
   Based on feedback and further research, I explored established models like VGG16, YOLOv5, and Support Vector Machines (SVM). These models are widely recognized for their strong performance in image recognition tasks and offered a solid foundation for the project.
3. **Switching to VGG16**  
   After careful consideration, I selected the VGG16 model due to its well-documented success in image classification. Leveraging its pre-trained layers and customizing the architecture for pig disease classification provided a significant performance boost compared to the custom neural network.
4. **Experimenting with YOLOv5**  
   YOLOv5 was considered for its real-time object detection capabilities, which could enhance the model's ability to identify specific features related to pig diseases. This added another dimension to the evaluation process.
5. **Incorporating Support Vector Machines**  
   SVMs were explored as a complementary approach for simpler image recognition tasks. While less suited for the complexity of pig disease classification, they provided valuable insights into feature separation and classification.
6. **Final Decision**  
   VGG16 emerged as the most effective solution, balancing high accuracy with scalability for the task. The switch from a custom neural network to a more established architecture ensured reliable results and better alignment with the project’s goals.

# 5. Visualization and Communication

Creating engaging and informative visualizations is key to communicating findings. This chapter presents examples of data storytelling tailored to stakeholders, including farmers and researchers.

**Engaging Visualizations and AI Integration**

1. **I started to visualize the training:**

this showed me early that the model I was using was not correct and helped me learn about epochs and overfitting.

**A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated**

**A screenshot of a graph

Description automatically generated**

1. A screen shot of a computer program

   Description automatically generated**AI Integration with a Basic Website**  
   To make the AI algorithm more accessible, I developed a basic website that allows users to upload images and receive classification results directly from the AI model. The website features a simple interface tailored to its target users, such as farmers and researchers, ensuring ease of use while delivering accurate predictions.

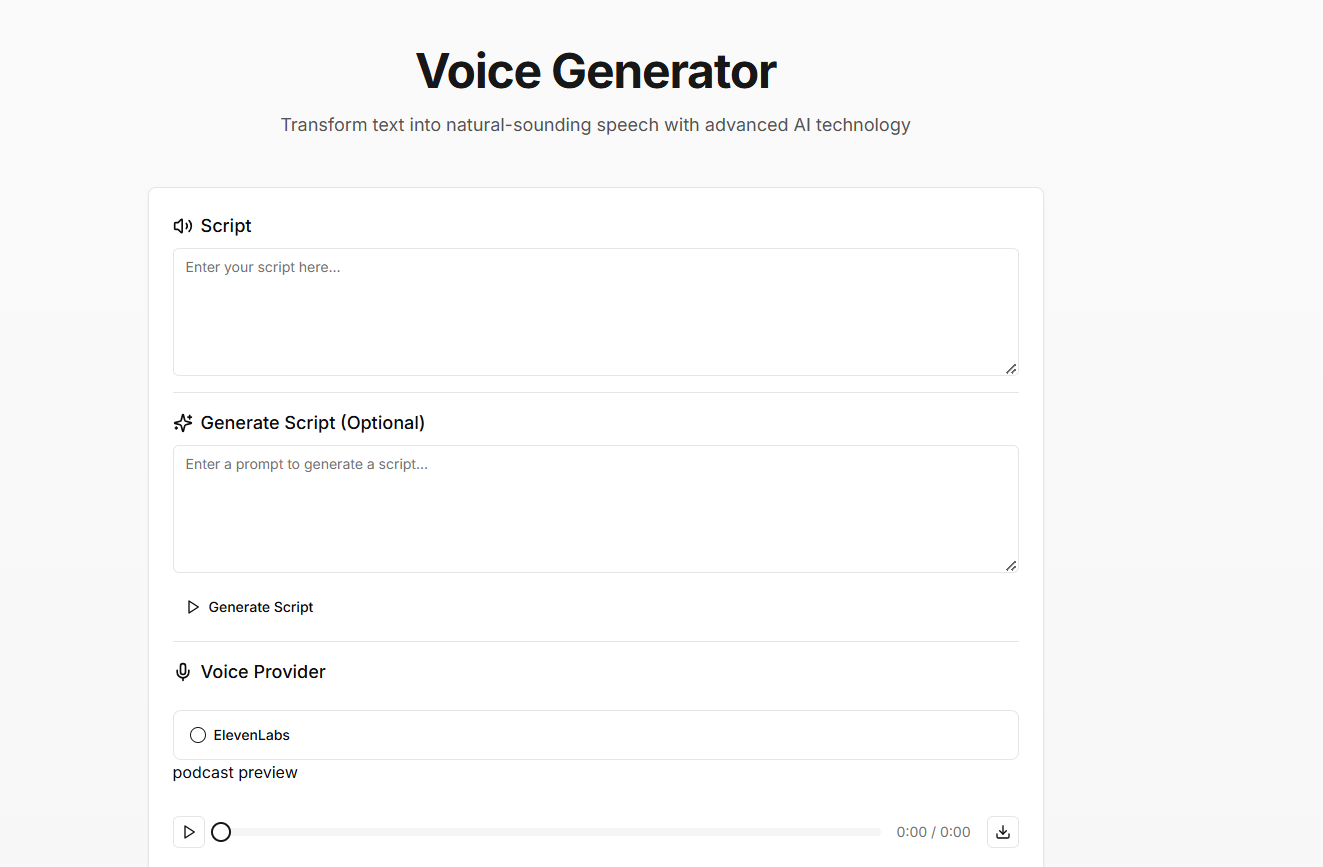
The screenshot demonstrates a classification accuracy of X%.

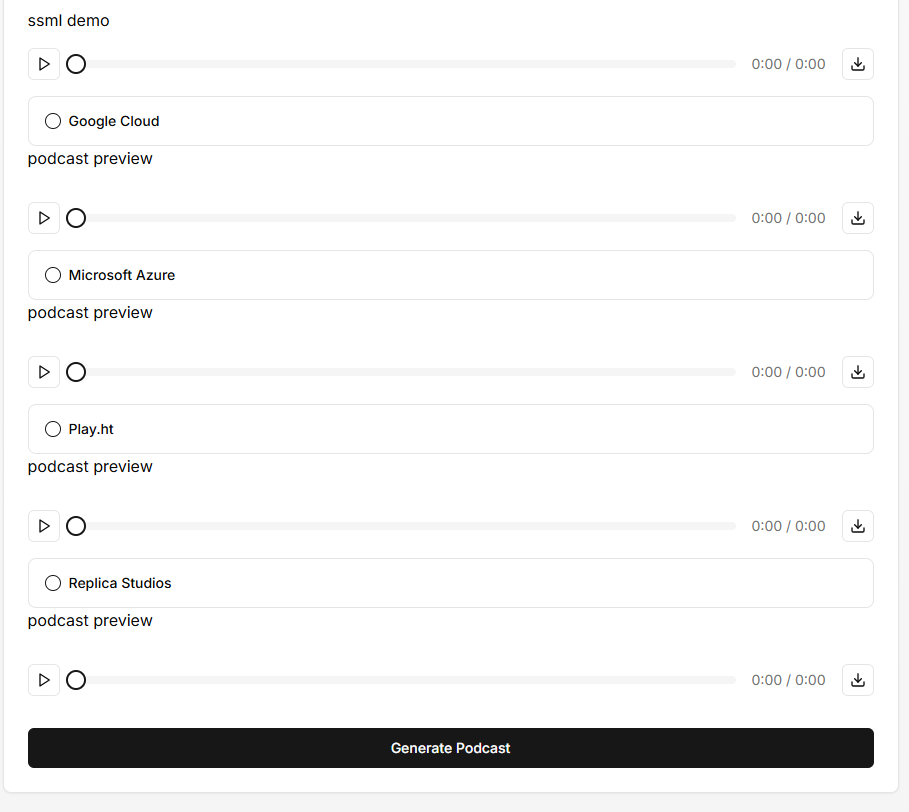
This result helps farmers quickly identify potential health risks, guiding timely interventions.

1. A screenshot of a screenshot of a pig

   Description automatically generated**Visualization and Data Storytelling**  
   The website includes visualizations to make the findings more engaging and informative. Charts, graphs, and annotated image outputs from the AI model help stakeholders, such as farmers and researchers, better understand the predictions and insights generated by the algorithm. These visualizations bridge the gap between raw data and actionable knowledge.
2. **MEDIA 52 (group project)**

Additionally for the project we made a website to visualize the voices so we can do better research and test different competitors and also try custom prompts with or without ssml(the markup language for voices)





# 6. Project Reporting and Reflection

Throughout the project, I made an effort to document and present my progress, ensuring that both my understanding and outcomes were clearly communicated to my team and stakeholders. Several tools were used to track the project’s evolution and ensure a clear reflection on the work done.

1. **Python Notebook for Progress Tracking**  
   To document my experiments and track the progress of the AI model, I created a detailed Python notebook. This notebook served as an interactive report, showcasing key stages of the project, such as data preprocessing, model training, and evaluation. It provided a step-by-step guide to my thought process and the adjustments made during development, offering full transparency of the workflow.
2. **Research Paper for In-Depth Analysis**  
   To better illustrate my understanding and the methodologies applied throughout the project, I wrote a research paper. The paper highlighted the challenges faced, the solutions implemented (such as data augmentation and transfer learning), and the results of various model evaluations. It acted as a comprehensive summary of the project, providing insights into both the technical and conceptual aspects.
3. **Project Documentation for Team Clarity**  
   Additionally, I created several documents to ensure the clarity of the work for my group. These documents summarized key research findings, AI model choices, and relevant project decisions. By organizing and structuring this information, I ensured that all team members had access to the necessary details to understand the project’s direction and progress. These documents acted as a reference point, enabling effective collaboration and knowledge sharing within the team.
4. **Using Jira in Scrum Methodology**  
   To manage tasks and maintain organized project flow, we implemented Scrum methodology using Jira. This allowed us to break down the project into manageable sprints, set specific deliverables, and track progress effectively. By using Jira, we were able to collaborate efficiently, stay on top of deadlines, and ensure that everyone on the team was aligned with the project’s goals. It also facilitated transparency, as tasks, bugs, and milestones were clearly outlined and regularly updated.

By combining technical documentation, research-based analysis, and clear communication with the team, I was able to maintain a comprehensive record of the project and reflect on its outcomes in a structured and accessible way.

# 7. Entrepreneurial Insights and Professional Development

As part of our collaboration on this project, we decided to evaluate each other’s contributions to gain insights into our personal leadership approaches. Below, I’ll describe the steps I took to assess my teammate’s work and leadership qualities:

1. **Review of Contributions:**  
I carefully analyzed the specific tasks my teammate completed, focusing on their quality, attention to detail, and alignment with the project’s goals.

2. **Communication Evaluation:**  
I reflected on how effectively they communicated during the project, including clarity, responsiveness, and ability to collaborate.

3. **Problem-Solving Approach:**  
I observed how my teammate approached challenges or obstacles, noting their creativity, critical thinking, and ability to remain solution oriented.

4. **Feedback Exchange:**  
I considered how well they received and implemented feedback and whether they actively provided constructive input to the team.

# 8. Conclusion and Future Work

This paper concludes by summarizing the outcomes of the AI-based pig disease classification project. Future work aims to refine model accuracy and expand its applicability across different contexts. The long-term vision includes integrating AI solutions into broader veterinary practices.