SMART AND SECURE ATTENDANCE SYSTEM USING RFID WITH MOTION ACTIVATED READERS AND AUTOMATED NOTIFICATIONS

A PROJECT REPORT

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ABSTRACT

The Smart and Secure Attendance System is a modern, automated solution aimed at enhancing the accuracy, efficiency, and security of attendance tracking in educational institutions and workplaces. This system leverages RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology, motion-activated sensors, and infrared (IR) detection to ensure that only authorized individuals can mark their attendance, thereby reducing manual errors and preventing fraudulent entries. At the core of the system is the Arduino Nano, which acts as the central controller interfacing with key hardware components: an RFID reader, IR sensor, motion detector, and an LCD display. When a person with an authorized RFID tag approach, the motion sensor activates the RFID reader, conserving power and reducing unnecessary scans. The IR sensor further verifies the individual's proximity to the device, adding an extra layer of authentication. Upon successful detection, the system records the attendance, displays a confirmation message on the LCD, and triggers automated notifications via email or SMS to relevant personnel. This real-time update mechanism improves administrative oversight and ensures immediate recordkeeping. The use of these technologies minimizes manual intervention while increasing transparency and reliability. The system is designed with scalability and adaptability in mind, allowing it to be deployed across a variety of environments from small classrooms to large corporate offices. Its low-cost components and modular design make it ideal for institutions with limited resources while still delivering high performance. Additionally, the ease of use ensures that even non-technical staff can operate the system without difficulty. By integrating hardware-level authentication with intelligent sensing and communication, the Smart and Secure Attendance System sets a benchmark for automated attendance management.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Information Technology (IT) has greatly impacted various sectors, including education, especially in systems that monitor and manage students. One of the key aspects of this is attendance tracking, which has become an essential part of the education system in MNC, schools and universities. The traditional way of tracking attendance using a paper register has several drawbacks. For example, passing around an attendance sheet in a large class can be disruptive and time-consuming. There's also the risk of students signing in for others, or the teacher misplacing the attendance records, resulting in the loss of important information.

In light of these challenges, it has become crucial to find a more efficient and reliable way to track student attendance. A more automated system using technology can help improve the overall learning environment. Such a system not only encourages students to attend classes on time but also contributes to better learning outcomes and overall academic performance.

To address these issues, modern schools and colleges are turning to automated systems, including biometric technologies, to track attendance. Biometrics uses unique physical traits such as fingerprints, face recognition, voice patterns, or even signatures to verify a person's identity. This approach eliminates the possibility of cheating or data loss. Technologies like RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) are also being used to automatically log attendance as students enter a classroom, adding another layer of efficiency.

1.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE DOCUMENT

RFID is part of a larger trend known as the Internet of Things (IoT), where objects and devices are connected to the internet to communicate and share data. This concept is transforming not just attendance systems but various aspects of daily life, including the management of buildings, vehicles, and even personal items. By incorporating IoT and RFID, educational institutions can create a seamless and secure way to manage student attendance while also preparing for future technological advancements.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The scope of the Smart Attendance System encompasses functionalities:

- **RFID-Based Attendance Tracking**: The system will utilize RFID technology to automatically record employee check-in and check-out times upon card tap, ensuring accurate and verifiable attendance data.
- **User Management**: Administrators will have the capability to manage employee profiles, including adding new employees, updating existing information, and assigning RFID tags to individual employees.
- **Real-time Attendance Monitoring**: The system will provide a dashboard for real-time visualization of attendance data, allowing immediate insights into present, absent, late, and early arrivals.
- Comprehensive Reporting: Generation of various attendance reports, including daily attendance, attendance summaries, and detailed attendance records for specific periods, will be supported. These reports can be exported for further analysis.
- **Notification System**: Automated notifications will be sent for events such as late arrivals and absences, keeping relevant stakeholders informed. Email summaries of attendance can also be configured.
- **Customizable Settings**: The system will allow for flexible configuration of operational parameters, including defining standard check-in/check-out times, setting working days (e.g., Monday to Friday), and managing notification preferences.
- **Data Persistence**: Employee registration details and system settings will be securely stored to ensure data integrity and system continuity.

1.3 GOALS OF THE PROJECT

The successful implementation of the Smart Attendance System is expected to achieve the following goals:

- Improve Attendance Accuracy: Minimize errors and discrepancies associated with manual attendance recording, leading to more precise attendance data.
- Enhance Operational Efficiency: Automate the attendance process, significantly reducing the administrative workload and time spent on manual attendance management.
- **Provide Real-time Insights**: Enable managers and HR personnel to access up-to-date attendance information, facilitating timely decision-making and interventions.
- Increase Employee Accountability: Promote a culture of punctuality and accountability among employees through clear tracking and notification mechanisms.
- Streamline HR Processes: Integrate attendance data seamlessly into broader HR functions, such as payroll processing and performance evaluations.
- Reduce Manual Effort and Paperwork: Transition from paper-based or manual entry systems to a fully automated digital solution, reducing resource consumption.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this project, we did a literature review and took some paper for the reference as follows:

2.1 Attendance and Information System using RFID and Web-Based Application for Academic Sector

Author: Hasanein D. Rjeib, Nabeel Salih Ali, Ali Al Farawn, Basheer Al-Sadawi, Haider Alsharqi

Journal & Published: International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Applications, January 2018

Description: Presents a web-based RFID system to manage student data, track attendance, manage grades, and reduce paperwork. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology is widely used for automation in various domains, including inventory management, access control, and attendance tracking. RFID systems are based on the interaction between a reader and a tag, which communicates through radio waves. In the context of attendance systems, RFID tags are issued to individuals, and their presence is detected when they come into range of the RFID reader.

Pros:

- Multi-Functionality: Combines attendance, timetable, and grading.
- Paperless System: Reduces physical storage needs.
- Ease of Access: Digital access for staff.

Cons:

- Complex Web-Based System: Needs strong IT infrastructure.
- Limited User Scope: Only for students.

2.2 A RFID-based (IoT) Automatic Attendance System: A Survey Analysis

Author: R.K.A.R. Kariapper, M.S. Suhail Razeeth

Journal & Published: Southeastern University of Sri Lanka, April 2019

Description: Reviews RFID as a technology for automatic attendance with a focus on speed and accuracy. Motion sensors have been integrated into various security and automation systems to detect the presence of individuals or objects. In attendance systems, motion sensors can be used to activate the RFID reader when an individual is in close proximity, ensuring that only authorized persons can mark attendance.

Pros:

- High Accuracy: More reliable than manual systems.
- Speed: Fast attendance marking.
- Technology Adoption: Encourages IoT in workplaces.

Cons:

- No One-Size-Fits-All: Hybrid model may be needed.
- Adaptability Issues: Requires customization.

2.3 A New Model of the Student Attendance Monitoring System Using RFID Technology

Author: Mutammimul Ula, Angga Pratama, Yuli Asbar, Wahyu Fuadi, Riyadhul Fajri, Richki Hardi

Journal & Published: Journal of Physics: Conference Series, CSINTESA 2019

Description: Proposes a secure and digital RFID-based attendance system that avoids data loss. Security is a critical consideration in attendance systems to prevent fraudulent activities such as proxy attendance. An additional layer of security can be provided by incorporating infrared (IR) sensors. These sensors detect the presence of individuals near the RFID reader and can be used to verify whether the individual is authorized to mark attendance.

Pros:

- Secure Data Storage: Prevents data loss.
- Reliable Reporting: Simplifies reporting.
- Automation: Reduces human error.

Cons:

- High Cost: Expensive setup.
- Maintenance Needs: Requires regular updates.

2.4 Fully Automated Classroom Attendance System

Author: Eid Al Hajri, Farrukh Hafeez, Ameer Azhar N V

Journal & Published: International Journal of Interactive Mobile Technologies,

August 2019

Description: Highlights a fully automated attendance system that allows teachers to focus solely on teaching. Automated notification systems have been increasingly utilized in attendance management to provide real-time updates to administrators and supervisors. These systems can send emails, SMS, or push notifications to relevant stakeholders whenever attendance is marked. This not only streamlines communication but also provides timely information to prevent discrepancies.

Pros:

- No Manual Input: Minimizes errors.
- Better Classroom Flow: More focus on teaching.
- High Reliability: Auto-tracks attendance.

Cons:

- Range Limitations: Requires better RFID hardware.
- Biometric Alternatives Suggested: Could be more secure.

2.5 Student Attendance System Using RFID

Author: R. Nivetha, M. Kavipriya, R. Pavithra, C. Jeyanthi, V. Santhana Lakshmi

Journal & Published: International Journal of Research in Engineering, Science and Management, October 2020

Description: Demonstrates RFID-based student attendance using ID card swiping. RFID and motion detection, with the added feature of automated notifications for real-time monitoring. Their research showed the feasibility of creating a more efficient and secure attendance system by combining these technologies.

Pros:

- Time-Saving: Quick attendance.
- User-Friendly: Simple usage.
- Automated Process: Less teacher workload.

Cons:

- Cloud Storage Missing: No cloud backup.
- Limited Communication: No parent notifications.

CHAPTER 3

SYSTEM ANALYSIS

3.1 EXISTING SYSTEM

The existing systems for attendance management predominantly rely on manual recording or basic automated methods. Traditional methods such as manual sign-ins, register entries, or simple card-based systems have limitations such as human error, time consumption, and the potential for fraudulent activities like proxy attendance. Although some automated systems have been developed, they often face challenges in terms of efficiency, security, and ease of use.

1. Manual Attendance Systems

In educational institutions and workplaces, manual attendance systems continue to be prevalent. Teachers by reading out names, or employees may sign a register when they enter or leave the premises. While these systems are simple, they require human intervention, are time-consuming, and are prone to errors. They also provide no verification mechanism to prevent fraudulent activities like proxy attendance.

2. Traditional RFID-Based Attendance Systems

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) systems have emerged as an effective alternative to manual attendance tracking. In these systems, each individual is provided with an RFID card, which they scan upon entering or leaving the room. The system detects the presence of the individual through the RFID card and logs their attendance in a centralized database.

However, traditional RFID-based systems face some challenges:

- Lack of security: RFID systems often lack the ability to verify the identity of the individual accurately, which could result in unauthorized persons marking attendance.
- Limited automation: RFID-based systems generally operate on a continuous mode, meaning the RFID reader remains active all the time, consuming unnecessary power and resources when not in use

• **Potential for proxy attendance**: Since the system relies solely on scanning the card, it does not check if the cardholder is physically present or if someone else is using the card for attendance marking.

3. Motion Sensor-Based Attendance Systems

To improve security and prevent proxy attendance, motion sensor-based systems have been proposed. These systems use motion sensors to detect the presence of an individual near the RFID reader before attendance is marked. The motion sensors help activate the reader only when someone is close to it, making the system more energy-efficient and secure.

However, these systems still suffer from a few limitations:

- **Incomplete security**: Motion sensors alone do not verify the identity of the person. There is a possibility of unauthorized individuals being marked present if they are close to the sensor.
- Limited functionality: Some systems only rely on motion sensors and lack integration with other security measures like IR sensors or automated notifications.

4. IR Sensor-Based Attendance Systems

Some systems have incorporated infrared (IR) sensors to further enhance security. IR sensors detect the presence of objects or individuals in proximity and can be used to confirm whether the person is physically close to the RFID reader before marking attendance. Reduce the chances of proxy attendance, as the system ensures that only the authorized person can mark their presence.

Despite these advantages, there are still areas for improvement:

- Accuracy issues: IR sensors can sometimes trigger false positives or negatives, especially in environments where there are multiple people in close proximity.
- Lack of real-time monitoring: While the IR sensors provide some level of verification, many systems still rely on manual monitoring or have limited automated tracking and notifications.

5. Automated Notification Systems

Automated notification systems have been introduced to enhance the transparency and efficiency of attendance tracking. These systems send automatic notifications to administrators or supervisors when attendance is recorded. The notifications can be in the form of emails, SMS, or even app-based alerts, providing real-time updates.

However, these systems have their shortcomings:

- **Dependency on external systems**: Many notification systems rely on external servers or centralized databases for managing and sending alerts, which can introduce delays or vulnerabilities in the system.
- **Limited integration**: Most notification systems are not integrated with the full attendance system. This results in delays between the attendance registration and notification processes, making the system less real-time.

3.2 PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system aims to address the limitations of existing attendance systems by integrating advanced technologies such as RFID, motion sensors, IR sensors, and automated notifications. This system offers a more secure, efficient, and fully automated solution to track attendance in educational institutions, workplaces, or other environments that require real-time monitoring of attendance.

1. System Components

- 1. **Arduino Nano**: The Arduino Nano microcontroller serves as the brain of the system, responsible for managing the entire attendance process. It communicates with all sensors (RFID, IR, motion) and sends data to the connected display and notification systems.
- 2. **RFID Reader and Cards**: Each individual will be assigned an RFID card containing a unique identifier. When the card is placed near the RFID reader, it detects the person's presence and begins the attendance process. This ensures quick, automated attendance marking.

- 3. **Motion Sensors**: Motion sensors will detect the presence of a person near the RFID reader. The sensor will activate the RFID reader only when motion is detected within its range, preventing unnecessary energy consumption by keeping the reader inactive when not needed.
- 4. **LCD Display**: The LCD display will show real-time information, such as whether the attendance has been marked successfully, the individual name (if programmed), or any error message. This helps maintain transparency and gives immediate feedback to the users.
- 5. **Buzzer**: A buzzer will provide auditory feedback to indicate whether the attendance marking was successful or if there was an issue, such as incorrect placement of the RFID card or failure to detect motion.
- 6. **Automated Notification System**: Once the attendance is marked, the system will automatically send notifications to designated personnel (teachers, administrators, etc.). These notifications can be sent via email, SMS, or other platforms to ensure immediate awareness of attendance updates.

2. System Workflow

- 1. **Motion Detection**: The motion sensor detects the presence of a person near the RFID reader and activates it. The system only begins the attendance process when motion is detected, ensuring energy efficiency.
- 2. **RFID Scanning**: The user presents their RFID card to the reader. The reader scans the card and retrieves the unique ID associated with the individual.
- 3. **Attendance Logging**: Once all conditions are met (motion, RFID, IR), the system logs the attendance and displays a confirmation message on the LCD screen. The buzzer emits a sound to indicate successful attendance marking.
- 4. **Automated Notification**: The system sends an automated notification to administrators, teachers, or supervisors, alerting them that attendance has been marked for the individual.
- 5. **Real-time Feedback**: If any issues arise (e.g., incorrect RFID card placement, failure to detect motion, or invalid IR sensor reading), the system will provide immediate feedback through the LCD and buzzer, allowing users to correct the issue

CHAPTER 4

SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

4.1 SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Python 3.9+
- 2. Flask
- 3. Flask-Sock
- 4. PySerial
- 5. OpenPyXL
- 6. HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- 7. jsPDF & jsPDF-AutoTable
- 8. Arduino IDE

1.Python 3.10

Python serves as the primary backend programming language for this project. It enables efficient handling of logic for attendance processing, serial communication, email notifications, and data export. Its readability and vast ecosystem of libraries make it ideal for hardware-software integration tasks. In this project, Python facilitates interaction between the RFID hardware and the web application. It also supports generating Excel files and managing WebSocket communication.

2.Flask

Flask is a lightweight and flexible Python web framework used to build the RESTful API and serve HTML-based user interfaces. It manages routes for actions such as scanning RFID tags, registering users, and exporting attendance reports. Flask also enables real-time attendance tracking when integrated with

additional libraries like Flask-Sock. It provides a structured way to connect the frontend with backend services, all within a minimal codebase.

3. Flask-Sock

Flask-Sock is a WebSocket extension for Flask, enabling real-time twoway communication between the server and the browser. It allows the web dashboard to receive instant updates when an RFID tag is scanned without the need for refreshing the page. This is essential for creating an interactive and responsive admin panel. Flask-Sock is seamlessly integrated with the main Flask application and supports broadcasting messages to all connected clients.

4. PySerial

PySerial is a Python library that allows serial communication with devices like Arduino via USB. It continuously reads UID data sent from the RFID reader connected to the Arduino board. This data is then parsed and logged by the backend system to record attendance. PySerial ensures reliable and real-time communication between the microcontroller and the Python application, forming the backbone of the hardware interface.

5. OpenPyXL

OpenPyXL is a Python library used to create and manipulate Excel (.xlsx) files. In this project, it is used to export daily attendance records into structured Excel sheets. This allows administrators to store, share, or review attendance reports outside the application. The library supports cell formatting, worksheet creation, and automated file saving, providing a professional and efficient reporting feature.

6. HTML, CSS, JavaScript

These web technologies power the frontend interface of the system. HTML structures the admin dashboard, CSS styles the components for a modern and responsive layout, and JavaScript adds dynamic behaviour and handles asynchronous communication with the backend. Together, they deliver an interactive user experience for managing users, viewing attendance, generating reports, and configuring settings.

7. jsPDF & jsPDF-AutoTable

jsPDF and its plugin jsPDF-AutoTable are JavaScript libraries used to generate PDF documents directly in the browser. They allow attendance tables to be converted into downloadable PDF reports without involving the server. This client-side reporting enhances performance and provides convenience for administrators who want quick access to formatted documents. The autoTable plugin supports complex table formatting, making the PDFs clean and readable.

8. Arduino IDE

The Arduino IDE is used to write, compile, and upload code to the Arduino UNO board. It supports libraries like MFRC522, which are necessary for interfacing with the RFID module. The IDE also includes a serial monitor for testing and debugging communication between the board and the computer. It is essential for programming the hardware logic that detects and sends RFID data.

4.2 COMPONENTS AND SUPPLIES

- 1. Arduino Uno Board
- 2. RFID MFRC522 Module
- 3. SD card module
- 4. RTC module
- 5. RFID Card/Tag
- 6. LCD display
- 7. Breadboard
- 8. Jumper wires

1. Arduino Uno board

Arduino UNO Microcontroller stores the attendance of the student in the microcontroller memory. Main goal of RFID based attendance system is to record the attendance of the student. In this project, Arduino UNO microcontroller is used which is based on 8-bit

ATmega328P Microcontroller. It is the main component of project.

Microcontroller does the following functions:

- 1. Displaying on LCD.
- 2. Input is read from RFID reader.
- 3. The data or RFID card ID is compared with the data stored in microcontroller memory.
- 4. If the tag does not match, the buzzer or the led gives signal.
- 5. If the tag is available in the memory, in time of the student is stored.
- 6. The data is sent to the memory unit and the attendance of the student is marked



Figure 4.1: Arduino UNO Board

2. RFID Reader

MFRC522 Module Full form of RFID is Radio Frequency Identification. RFID tags and RFID reader use wireless communication between them. In this kind of communication RFID Reader does not need any line of sight with the tags. The reader can find the RFID tag even if there is an obstacle between them. RFID Reader is shown in figure



Figure 4.2: RFID MFRC522 Module

3. RFID Card & Tag

There are two main kinds of RFID cards, Passive and Active. Passive RFID tags are used in this system.

We can use normal RFID cards which are of the size of credit card.

These cards are like credit or debit cards which are white in colour that can be used as ID card also.



Figure 4.3: RFID Tag & Card

4. LCD Display

Liquid crystal display is used to display the Name, Time in and Time out of the authorized students and to display error message for unauthorized access

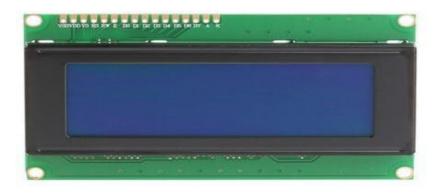


Figure 4.6: LCD Display

5. Breadboard

A breadboard is a rectangular plastic board with a bunch of tiny holes in it. Most electronic components in electronic circuits can be interconnected by inserting their leads or terminals into the holes and then making connections through wires where appropriate. The breadboard has strips of metal underneath the board and connects the holes on the top of the board.

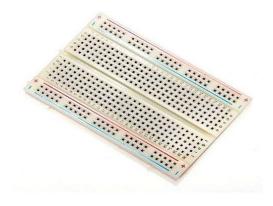


Figure 4.7: Breadboard

6. Jumper Wire

Jumper wires are used to connect two points in a circuit. All Electronics stocks jumper wire in a variety of lengths and assortments. Frequently used with breadboards and other prototyping tools to make it easy to change a circuit as needed. Male jumpers are designed to plug securely into the holes in a breadboard. Female jumpers are useful for connecting male header posts and pin terminals on components.

7. USB-A to USB-B Cable

A USB-A to USB-B cable connects Arduino Uno and Mega to a computer for programming, communication, and power supply. It's essential for uploading code and serial data exchange.

CHAPTER 5

SYSTEM DESIGN

The research methodology used is as follows:

5.1 SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The Smart Attendance System is designed with a modular and scalable architecture to ensure efficient and reliable attendance management. It comprises several interconnected components that work in harmony to provide real-time tracking, data management, and reporting functionalities.

1. Architectural Design

The system follows a client-server architecture, with a web-based frontend interacting with a Python-Flask backend. This backend communicates with an RFID reader for attendance capture and utilizes JSON files for data storage. WebSocket technology facilitates real-time communication between the frontend and backend.

2. Components

2.1. Client-Side (Frontend)

- User Interface (UI): Developed using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (as indicated by indexx.html), this provides an intuitive web interface for administrators and potentially employees.
- Admin Dashboard: Offers functionalities for user management, real-time attendance monitoring, report generation, and system settings configuration.
- **WebSocket's**: Utilizes WebSocket connections to receive real-time updates from the backend, such as immediate notifications upon RFID card taps and attendance updates without requiring page refreshes.

2.2. Server-Side (Backend)

The core logic of the system is handled by a Flask application, as evident from App.py.

- Flask Application: A Python-based web framework that serves as the central hub for processing requests and managing data. It exposes various API endpoints for different functionalities:
 - 1. **User Management APIs**: Endpoints for registering new users, retrieving user details, updating existing user information, and deleting users.
 - 2. Attendance Management APIs: Responsible for recording attendance based on RFID taps, retrieving attendance summaries, fetching detailed attendance records, and clearing attendance data.
 - 3. **Settings Management APIs**: Handles saving and retrieving system configurations, such as working hours and notification preferences.
 - 4. **Reporting APIs**: Generates various attendance reports based on specified criteria.
- WebSocket Server: Integrated within the Flask application, it maintains persistent connections with the frontend clients to push real-time attendance events and updates.
- **Serial Communication Module**: Manages the communication with the physical RFID reader connected via a serial port. It receives RFID tag UIDs (Unique Identifiers) and passes them to the Flask application for processing.
- Email Notification Module: Utilizes smtplib to send automated email notifications for events like late arrivals, absences, or attendance report generation.

2.3. Data Storage

• **JSON Files**: The system uses local JSON files (settings.json, registered_users.json) for persistent storage of system settings and registered employee data. This provides a lightweight and flexible solution for data management.

2.4. RFID Hardware

- **RFID Reader**: A physical device connected to the server via a serial port (SERIAL_PORT). It reads the unique identification numbers (UIDs) from RFID tags when an employee taps their card.
- **RFID Tags/Cards**: Assigned to individual employees, these tags contain a unique identifier that the RFID reader detects.

3. Communication Flow

- 1. **RFID Tap**: An employee taps their RFID card on the reader.
- 2. **Serial Communication**: The RFID reader sends the RFID tag's UID via serial communication to the Backend application.
- 3. **Backend Processing**: The Flask application receives the UID, processes it to record attendance, and updates the internal attendance records.
- 4. **Real-time Updates (WebSockets)**: The Backend pushes attendance updates and relevant notifications (e.g., "RFID Tap Detected") to the Frontend via WebSockets.
- 5. **Frontend Display**: The Frontend updates the Admin Dashboard in real-time to reflect the latest attendance information.
- 6. **Admin Interactions**: Administrators interact with the Frontend to manage users, generate reports, and configure settings. These interactions trigger API calls to the Backend.
- 7. **Data Persistence**: The Backend reads from and writes to the JSON files to store and retrieve system settings and registered user data.
- 8. **Email Notifications**: The Backend triggers email notifications based on predefined rules (e.g., late arrival) using the Email Notification Module.

4. Smart Attendance System Using RFID Architecture

This architectural overview depicts an RFID-driven attendance system, integrating hardware components like an RFID reader and motion sensor via an Arduino for data acquisition. Captured data is processed and stored in a central database, forming the core data repository.

A web-based Staff & Student Dashboard provides user interface functionalities including access logs, profile management, and attendance analytics. Automated notifications are dispatched via email, SMS, and dashboard alerts based on system events.

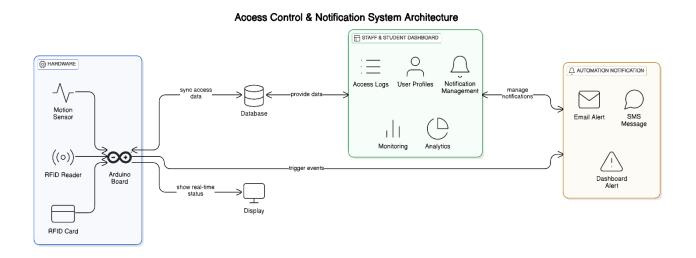


Fig 5.1: Smart Attendance System Using RFID Architecture.

5.2 USE CASE DIAGRAM

Use case diagrams describe typical interactions between users (users) of one system and a different system by telling a narrative about how the system is utilized. In use case diagrams, an actor and the interactions he engages in are shown. These actors might be people, objects, other systems, or other systems that engage in interaction with the system

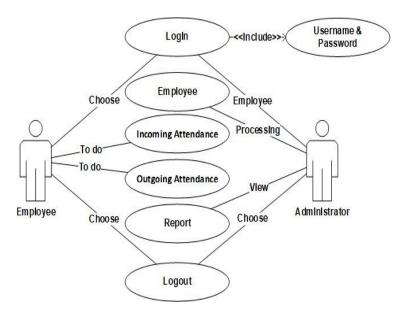


Fig 5.2 Use Case Diagram For RFID

5.3 SEQUENCE DIAGRAM

A sequence diagram is a diagram that shows how various items work together dynamically. Its purpose is to display the exchange of messages between objects and their interactions

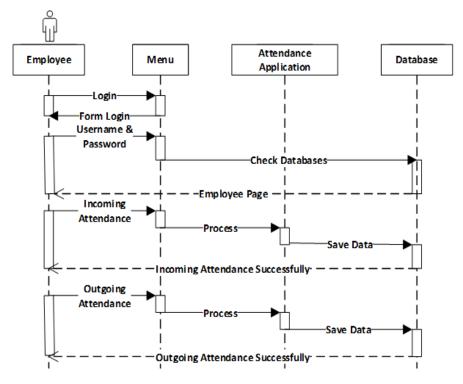


Fig 5.3 Sequence Diagram For RFID

5.4 BLOCK DIAGRAM

A block diagram is used to represent a control system in diagram form. In other words, the practical representation of a control system is its block diagram. Each element of the control system is represented with a block and the block is the symbolic representation of the transfer function of that element.

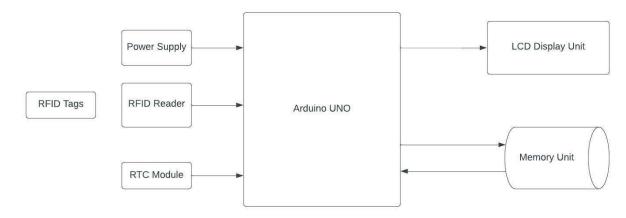


Figure 3.1: Block Diagram of the whole system

This is the block diagram of RFID based Attendance System using Arduino, RTC. Here Arduino UNO acts as a central processor for controlling all other components as input/output unit.

The function of each block in the block diagram is as follows:

- RFID Reader: the input block consists of an RFID reader, the tag data card that the reader detects will be sent to the microcontroller.
- Block microcontroller, data processor and central controller of the system.
- Once it is verified by the microcontroller, data is stored in the memory unit.

5.5 FLOW CHART

A flowchart is a picture of the separate steps of a process in sequential order. It is a generic tool that can be adapted for a wide variety of purposes, and can be used to describe various processes, such as a manufacturing process, an administrative or service process, or a project plan.

Each student will issue an RFID card as their id card and their attendance is marked when they touch their card to RFID reader.

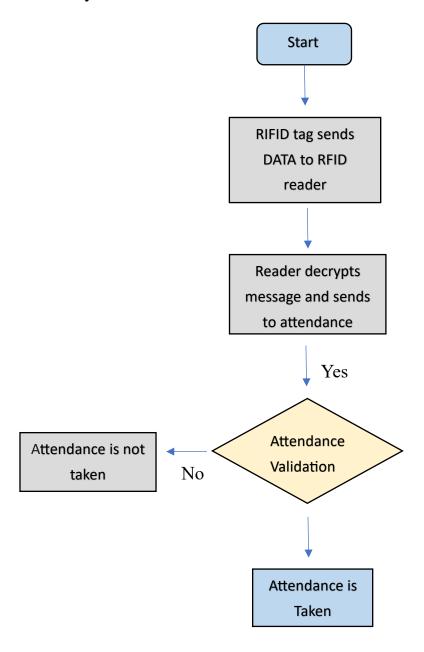


Fig 5.5: Flowchart for the RFID System.

5.6 DATA FLOW DIAGRAM

A data-flow diagram is a way of representing a flow of data through a process or a system (usually an information system). The DFD also provides

information about the outputs and inputs of each entity and the process itself. A data-flow diagram has no control flow there are no decision rules and no loops.

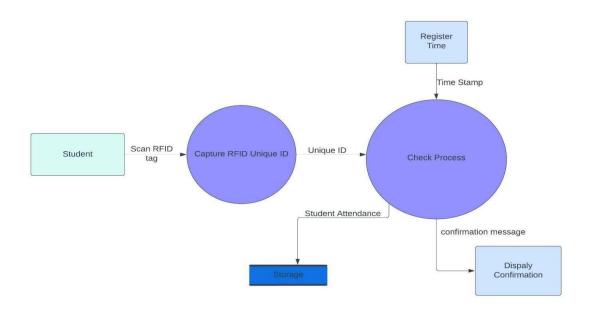


Figure 5.6: Dataflow Diagram of the RFID system

5.7 PIN DIAGRAM

A pin out is a reference to the pins or contacts that connect an electrical device or connector. It describes the functions of transmitted signals and the circuit input/output (I/O) requirements. Each individual pin in a chip, connector or singular wire is defined in text, a table or a diagram.

Arduino Uno:

Arduino Uno is based on the ATmega328P by Atmel. The Arduino Uno pin out consists of 14 digital pins, 6 analogy inputs, a power jack, USB connection and ICSP header

Arduino Uno pin out – Power Supply

There are three ways to power the Arduino Uno:

- **Barrel Jack:** The Barrel Jack or DC Power Jack can be used to power the Arduino board. The barrel jack is usually connected to a wall adapter. The board can be powered by 5-20 volts, but the manufacturer recommends to keep it between 7-12 volts. Above 12 volts, the regulators might overheat, and below 7 volts, might not suffice.
- VIN Pin: This pin is used to power the Arduino Uno board using an external power source. The voltage should be within the range mentioned above.
- **USB cable:** when connected to the computer, provides 5 volts at 500mA. 5v and 3v3: They provide regulated 5 and 3.3v to power external components according to manufacturer specifications.

GND: In the Arduino Uno pin out, you can find 5 GND pins, which are all interconnected. The GND pins are used to close the electrical circuit and provide a common logic reference level throughout your circuit. Always make sure that all GND (of the Arduino, peripherals and components) are connected to one another and have a common ground.

RESET: Resets the Arduino.

IOREF: This pin is the input/output reference. It provides the voltage reference with which the microcontroller operates.

In the Arduino Uno - pins 3, 5,6,9,10,11 have PWM capability.

Digital: Digital is a way of representing voltage in 1 bit: either 0 or 1. Digital pins on the Arduino are pins designed to be configured as inputs or outputs according to the needs of the user. Digital pins are either on or off. When ON they are in a HIGH voltage state of 5V and when OFF they are in a LOW voltage state of 0V. On the Arduino, when the digital pins are configured as output, they are set to 0 or 5 volts.

PWM: In general, Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) is a modulation technique used to encode a message into a pulsing signal. A PWM is comprised of two key components frequency and duty cycle. The PWM frequency dictates how long it takes to complete a single cycle (period) and how quickly the signal fluctuates from high to low. The duty cycle determines how long a signal stays high out of the total period. Duty cycle is represented in percentage.

Communication Protocols: Serial (TTL) - Digital pins 0 and 1 are the serial pins of the Arduino Uno. They are used by the on-board USB module. Serial Communication: Serial communication is used to exchange data between the Arduino board and another serial device such as computers, displays, sensors and more. Each Arduino board has at least one serial port.

Software serial and hardware serial - Most microcontrollers have hardware designed to communicate with other serial devices. Software serial ports use a pin-change interrupt system to communicate.

SPI - SS/SCK/MISO/MOSI pins are the dedicated pins for SPI communication. They can be found on digital pins 10-13 of the Arduino Uno and on the ICSP headers.

SPI: Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) is a serial data protocol used by microcontrollers to communicate with one or more external devices in a buslike connection. The SPI can also be used to connect 2 microcontrollers.

SPI enabled devices always have the following pins:

MISO (Master in Slave Out) - A line for sending data to the Master device.

MOSI (Master Out Slave In) - The Master line for sending data to peripheral devices.

SCK (**Serial Clock**) - A clock signal generated by the Master device to synchronize data transmission.

I2C - SCL/SDA pins are the dedicated pins for I2C communication. On the Arduino Uno they are found on Analog pins A4 and A5.

I2C: is a communication protocol commonly referred to as the "I2C bus". The I2C protocol was designed to enable communication between components on a single circuit board. With I2C there are 2 wires referred to as SCL and SDA.

SCL is the clock line which is designed to synchronize data transfers.

SDA is the line used to transmit data. Each device on the I2C bus has a unique address, up to 255 devices can be connected on the same bus.

Aref - Reference voltage for the analogy inputs.

Interrupt - INT0 and INT1. Arduino Uno has two external interrupt pins.

RFID-RC522:

The RC522 is a 13.56MHz RFID module that is based on the MFRC522 controller from NXP semiconductors. The module can support I2C, SPI and UART and normally is shipped with a RFID card and key fob. It is commonly used in attendance systems and other person/object identification applications.

RC522 Pin Configuration:

Pin Number	Pin Name	Description
1	VCC	Used to Power the module, typically 3.3V is used
2	RST	Reset pin – used to reset or power down the module
3	Ground	Connected to Ground of system
4	IRQ	Interrupt pin – used to wake up the module when a device comes into range
5	MISO/SCL/TX	MISO pin when used for SPI communication, acts as SCL for I2c and TX for UART.
6	MOSI	Master out slave in pin for SPI communication
7	SCK	Serial Clock pin – used to provide clock source
8	SS/SDA/Rx	Acts as Serial input (SS) for SPI communication, SDA for IIC and Rx during UART

Table 5.7: RFID-RC522 Pin

RTC Module:

RTC means Real Time Clock. RTC modules are simply TIME and DATE remembering systems which have battery setup which in the absence of external power keeps the module running. This keeps the TIME and DATE up to date. So, we can have accurate TIME and DATE from RTC module whenever we want.

DS3231 RTC Pin Configuration:

DS3231 is a six-terminal device, out of them two pins are not compulsory to use. So, we have mainly four pins. These four pins are given out on other side of module sharing the same name.

Pin Name	Description
VCC	Connected to positive of power source.
GND	Connected to ground.
SDA	Serial Data pin (I2C interface)
SCL	Serial Clock pin (I2C interface)
SQW	Square Wave output pin
32K	32K oscillator output

Table 5.7: DS3231 RTC Pin Configuration

16x2 LCD Module:

16x2 LCD modules are very commonly used in most embedded projects, the reason being its cheap price, availability, programmer friendly and available educational resources.

16x2 LCD Pinout Configuration:

Pin No:	Pin Name:	Description
1	VSS (Ground)	Ground pin connected to system ground
2	VDD (+5 Volt)	Powers the LCD with $+5V$ (4.7V $-5.3V$)
3	VE (Contrast V)	Decides the contrast level of display. Grounded to get maximum contrast.
4	Register Select	Connected to Microcontroller to shift between command/data register
5	Read/Write	Used to read or write data. Normally grounded to write data to LCD
6	Enable	Connected to Microcontroller Pin and toggled between 1 and 0 for data acknowledgement
7	Data Pin 0	Data pins 0 to 7 forms an 8-bit data line. They can be connected to Microcontroller to send 8-bit data. These LCDs can also operate on 4-bit mode in such case Data pin 4,5,6 and 7 will be left free.
8	Data Pin 1	
9	Data Pin 2	
10	Data Pin 3	
11	Data Pin 4	
12	Data Pin 5	
13	Data Pin 6	
15	LED Positive	Backlight LED pin positive terminal
16	LED Negative	Backlight LED pin negative terminal

Pin Connections of the system:

RFID	UNO
SDA	PIN 10
SCK	PIN 13
MOSI	PIN 12
MISO	PIN 11
IRQ	
GND	GND
RST	
3.3V	3.3V

Table 5.9: Pin Connection of RFID & Uno

SD MODULE	UNO
CS	PIN 5
SCK	PIN 13
MOSI	PIN 12
MISO	PIN 11
VCC	5 v
GND	GND

Table 5.10: Pin Connection of SD Module and Uno

RTC	UNO
32K	
SQW	
SCL	A5
SDA	A4
VCC	5v
GND	GND

Table 5.11: Pin Connection of RTC & Uno

SYSTEM IMPLEMETATION

1. RFID Scanning Module (Arduino)

This module is responsible for detecting RFID tags when users tap their cards. Upon scanning, the RFID reader sends the unique UID to the computer via serial communication. It acts as the bridge between user interaction and system input. Optionally, a motion sensor can be used to activate the reader only when someone is nearby. This helps optimize power consumption and hardware efficiency.

2. Flask Backend Server

The Flask backend continuously listens for RFID data coming from the Arduino. Once data is received, it validates the UID against the list of registered users. It records the attendance along with the timestamp and calculates work hours. The backend also supports real-time updates to the frontend using WebSocket's. Additionally, it provides RESTful APIs for reports, settings, and user management.

3. Web Dashboard (HTML/CSS/JS)

The frontend dashboard allows administrators to manage the entire attendance system. It includes sections to monitor today's check-ins, view present/late/absent counts, and access user records. Admins can add or remove users, change system settings, and download attendance reports. The interface is built using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript for responsive, real-time interaction. It ensures an intuitive experience for system monitoring and control.

4. Notification & Email Module

This module handles the communication of alerts and reports to administrators. It automatically sends email notifications for late arrivals and absentees. A daily summary email can also be configured to summarize attendance status. The system uses SMTP with Gmail for sending these emails securely. It helps ensure timely reporting and accountability within the organization.

ALGORITHM DESCRIPTION

1. RFID Attendance Logging

The system waits for an RFID tag to be scanned via serial input. When a UID is received, it checks whether the tag is registered in the database. If not, it prompts for registration; if registered, it logs the time and updates attendance. On the first tap, it records check-in; subsequent taps are used to calculate work duration. The status is marked as Early, Present, or Late, and a live update is sent to the frontend.

2. Attendance Summary Generation

When a summary is requested, the system first ensures it's processing current-day data. It counts the total number of registered users and classifies them as Present, Late, or Absent based on check-in times. Users without check-ins are marked absent, while others have their status and work hours displayed. The data is structured and sent as a JSON response to be shown on the dashboard. This summary reflects the real-time attendance status.

3.Email Report Sending

The backend generates an Excel report of the day's attendance using OpenPyXL. This file is then attached to an email composed by the system. The email is sent automatically to a configured admin address. SMTP with Gmail is used for sending the message securely. This feature ensures administrators receive timely and formatted attendance data.

WORKING PROCESS OF RFID

The RFID-based Smart Attendance System is designed to streamline attendance tracking using contactless RFID technology integrated with a web-based dashboard. It operates through coordinated hardware and software components to ensure accurate and automated record-keeping.

1. RFID Tag Scan and Arduino Communication

When a user taps their RFID card on the reader (e.g., RC522), the Arduino reads the tag's unique identifier (UID). This UID is then transmitted via serial communication (USB) to the computer running the backend server.

2. Backend Processing (Flask Server)

The Python Flask application continuously listens to the serial port using the PySerial library. When it detects a UID, the system checks whether it matches any registered users stored in a JSON file. If a match is found, the system logs the check-in time and determines the user's attendance status Early, Present, or Late based on preconfigured check-in intervals. If the UID is unrecognized, the system can simulate registration or prompt the admin for action.

3. Real-Time Web Dashboard

The dashboard, built using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, provides an interactive interface for administrators. Using Flask-Sock (WebSocket), the system sends real-time updates to the dashboard when users scan their cards. Admins can view current check-ins, user stats, and generate attendance summaries. The dashboard also supports adding/removing users, configuring system settings, and downloading reports.

4. Attendance Records and Reports

Each attendance taps logs data such as user name, department, timestamp, and calculated work duration. These records are maintained for the day and can be exported as Excel files using the OpenPyXL library.

5. Email Notifications

The system can automatically send notifications for late arrivals and absentees via email. A daily summary report can be configured to be emailed to the admin.

WORKING PROCESS OF RFID FOR ATTENDANCE MONITORING

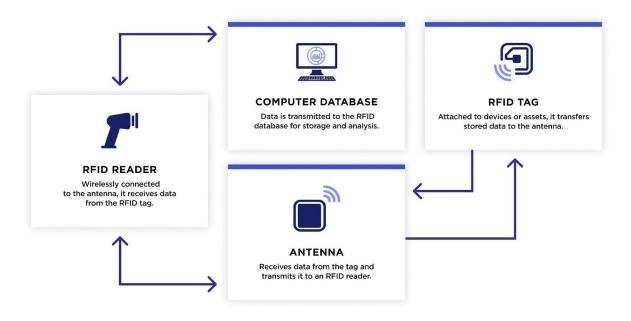


Fig 4.11.2: Working Process of RFID for Attendance Monitoring

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

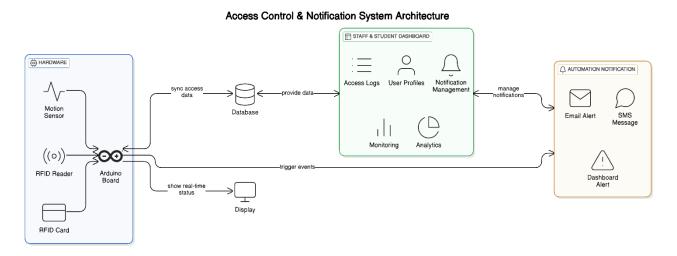


Fig 5.1: Smart Attendance System Using RFID Architecture.

SYSTEM TESTING

Testing Methods for the Smart Attendance System

To ensure the robustness, reliability, and correctness of the Smart Attendance System, a comprehensive testing strategy involving various methodologies would be employed. Below are the key testing methods applicable to the system, considering its frontend (indexx.html) and backend (App.py) components.

1. Unit Testing

Focus: Isolating and testing individual functions or components.

Application:

- Backend (App.py): Test functions like record_attendance, register_user, generate_attendance_report, send_email, and date/time utilities.
- Data Handling: Verify correct reading/writing to settings.json and registered users.json.
- Utility Functions: Test input validation, formatting, and status determination helpers (e.g., is working day).

2. Specification Testing

Focus: Verifying compliance with defined functional and non-functional requirements.

Application:

- **RFID-Based Attendance:** Confirm RFID tap records attendance correctly.
- User Management: Validate user CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) operations via admin interface/APIs.
- Real-time Reporting: Ensure dashboard updates instantly on RFID tap.
- **Notifications:** Verify email notifications for late arrivals, absences, or report generation.
- Customization: Test saving and applying settings (e.g., work hours, notifications). Confirm accuracy of generated attendance reports.

3. Integration Testing

Focus: Testing interactions and interfaces between different system modules.

Application:

- Frontend-Backend: Test API endpoints (e.g., /register_user, /record_attendance) and WebSocket communication (/ws) for data exchange.
- Backend-RFID Reader: Verify serial communication (e.g., serial.Serial) for UID reception.
- Backend-Data Storage: Ensure correct reading/writing to settings.json and registered users.json.
- Backend-Email Server: Confirm send_email function connects to SMTP and sends emails.

4. Functionality Testing (System Testing)

Focus: Evaluating the complete, integrated system against requirements from an end-user perspective.

Application:

• End-to-End Scenarios:

- 1. Register employee, assign RFID, tap reader, record attendance, and appear in reports.
- 2. Mark employee late, confirm notification is sent.
- 3. Change work hours, verify system recalculates correctly.
- 4. Generate and export full attendance report.
- User Experience: Evaluate usability and flow of the admin dashboard and overall system.

5. White-Box Testing

Focus: Testing based on internal structure, design, and implementation (requires source code knowledge).

Application (App.py):

- Code Coverage: Ensure execution of all lines, branches, and loops.
- Path Testing: Design tests for every possible code path, especially complex logic.
- Loop Testing: Test loops with zero, one, typical, and maximum iterations.
- Error Handling: Verify system response to errors (e.g., serial port failures, invalid UIDs, file I/O errors, email sending failures).
- Security Vulnerabilities: Review code for common vulnerabilities.

6. Black-Box Testing

Focus: Testing external system behaviour without internal knowledge, based on requirements.

Application:

- Functional Testing: All aspects of "Functionality Testing" are typically black-box.
- Equivalence Partitioning: Test valid/invalid RFID UIDs, valid/invalid dates.
- Boundary Value Analysis: Test values at input range boundaries (e.g., first/last day of month, exact check-in/out times).
- Error Guessing: Guess potential defect areas (e.g., network interruptions, corrupted JSON).

OUTCOME & RESULT

8.1 Appendix I: Coding

8.1.1 Attendance_RFID.ino

```
#include <Wire.h>
#include <LiquidCrystal I2C.h>
#include <SPI.h>
#include <MFRC522.h>
#define SS PIN 10
#define RST PIN 9
MFRC522 mfrc522(SS PIN, RST PIN);
LiquidCrystal I2C lcd(0x27, 16, 2);
void setup() {
 Serial.begin(9600);
 SPI.begin();
 mfrc522.PCD Init();
 lcd.init();
 lcd.backlight();
 lcd.setCursor(0, 0);
 lcd.print("Scan your card");
}
void loop() {
 if(!mfrc522.PICC IsNewCardPresent()
    ||!mfrc522.PICC ReadCardSerial())
  return;
 String uid = "";
 for (byte i = 0; i < mfrc522.uid.size; i++) {
```

```
uid += String(mfrc522.uid.uidByte[i], HEX);
}
uid.toUpperCase();
// Display on LCD
lcd.clear();
lcd.setCursor(0, 0);
lcd.print("ID:");
lcd.setCursor(3, 0);
lcd.print(uid);
lcd.setCursor(0, 1);
lcd.print("Attendance marked");
// Print to Serial
Serial.println(uid);
delay(3000);
lcd.clear();
lcd.setCursor(0, 0);
lcd.print("Scan your card");
```

8.1.2 Frontend Code

Index.html

```
</div>
         <div class="feature-card">
                    <div class="feature-icon"><i class="fas fa-chart-</pre>
line"></i></div>
           <h3>Real-time Reports</h3>
           Access attendance data instantly
         </div>
         <div class="feature-card">
           <div class="feature-icon"><i class="fas fa-bell"></i></div>
           <h3>Notifications</h3>
           Get alerts for late arrivals and absences
         </div>
         <div class="feature-card">
           <div class="feature-icon"><i class="fas fa-cogs"></i></div>
           <h3>Customizable</h3>
           Adjust settings to fit your needs
         </div>
      </div>
      Powered by RFID Attendance
    </div>
    <div class="login-right">
      <div class="login-box">
         <h2>Admin Login</h2>
         <form id="loginForm" onsubmit="return login(event)">
           <div class="form-group">
             <label for="username">Username</label>
             <input type="text" id="username" placeholder="Enter your</pre>
username" required>
           </div>
           <div class="form-group">
             <label for="password">Password</label>
             <input type="password" id="password" placeholder="Enter</pre>
your password" required>
           </div>
           <button type="submit" class="btn">Login</button>
         </form>
```

```
</div>
</div>
</div>
```

8.1.3 Backend Code App.py

```
from flask import Flask, render template, jsonify, request
import threading
import serial
from openpyxl import Workbook
from datetime import datetime, time, date, timedelta
import random
import json
import os
import smtplib
from email.mime.multipart import MIMEMultipart
from email.mime.text import MIMEText
from email.mime.base import MIMEBase
from email import encoders
from flask cors import CORS
from flask sock import Sock
app = Flask(name)
CORS(app)
sock = Sock(app)
SERIAL PORT = 'COM7'
BAUD RATE = 9600
ser = None
try:
  ser = serial.Serial(SERIAL PORT, BAUD RATE, timeout=1)
  print(f"Serial port {SERIAL PORT} opened successfully.")
except serial. Serial Exception as e:
```

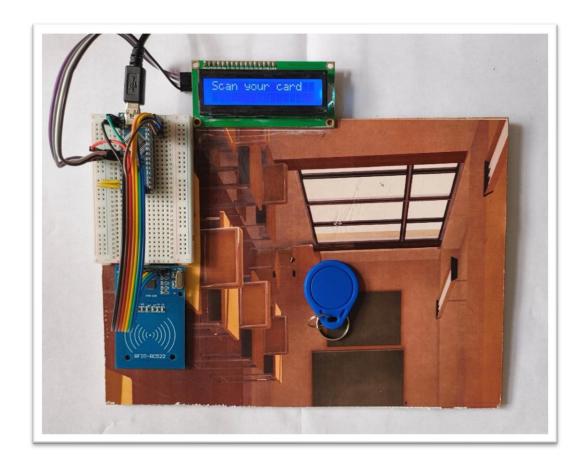
```
print(f"Error opening serial port {SERIAL PORT}: {e}")
  print("Please check if the serial port is correct and not in use. Running
in simulation mode.")
  ser = None
SETTINGS FILE = 'settings.json'
REGISTERED USERS FILE = 'registered users.json'
all attendance records = {}
all registered students = {}
settings = {
  'checkInStart': '09:00',
  'checkInEnd': '10:00',
  'workDays': {
     'monday': True, 'tuesday': True, 'wednesday': True, 'thursday': True,
'friday': True,
    'saturday': False, 'sunday': False
  },
  'notifyLateArrivals': True,
  'notifyAbsences': True,
  'emailSummary': True,
  'notificationEmail': 'sivananthan46m@gmail.com',
  'comPort': SERIAL PORT,
  'baudRate': BAUD RATE
}
clients = set()
rfid scan event = threading.Event()
last scanned rfid = None
last attendance date = None
def websocket connection(ws):
  clients.add(ws)
  print(f"WebSocket client connected. Total clients: {len(clients)}") try:
    while True:
       message = ws.receive()
       if message:
         print(f"Received message from client: {message}")
  except Exception as e:
    print(f"WebSocket error: {e}")
```

```
finally:
    clients.remove(ws)
    print(f''WebSocket client disconnected. Total clients: {len(clients)}'')
serial_processing_thread =
threading.Thread(target=read_serial_and_process, daemon=True)
serial_processing_thread.start()

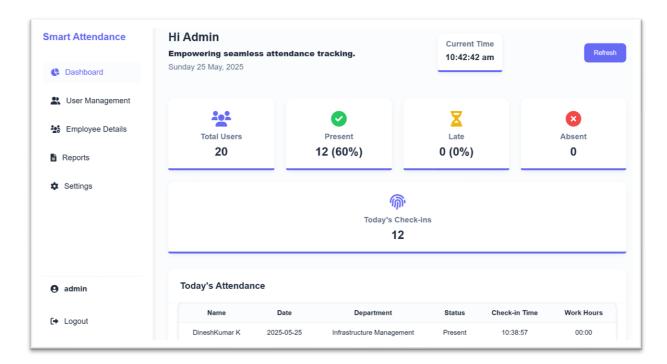
if __name__ == '__main__':
    app.run(debug=True, use_reloader=False)
```

8.2 Appendix II: Screenshot

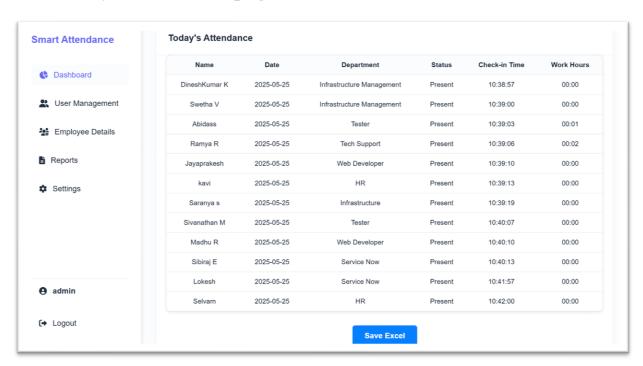
8.2.1 Protomodel of RFID



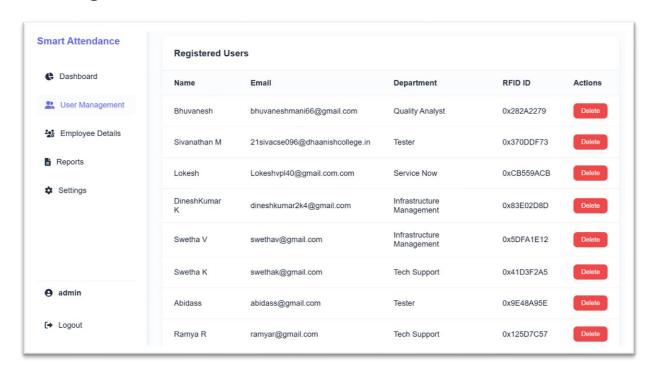
8.2.2 Admin Control Module



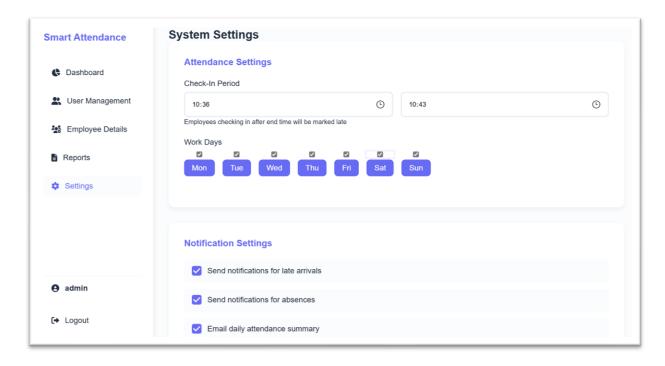
8.2.3 Todays Attendance page



8.2.4 Registered User



8.2.5 Automated Notification Module



CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The **Smart and Secure Attendance System** represents a significant advancement in attendance tracking technology by integrating **RFID**, **motion sensors**, **IR sensors**, and **Arduino Nano** for automated, real-time, and secure attendance marking. By leveraging these technologies, the system ensures both efficiency and accuracy while addressing the challenges of traditional manual attendance systems, such as proxy attendance and data entry errors.

Key Contributions of the System:

1. Automation and Accuracy:

o The system automates the entire attendance process, removing the need for manual intervention and reducing the chances of human error. The combination of **RFID** and **motion sensors** guarantees accurate marking of attendance based on real-time user identification and physical presence.

2. Enhanced Security:

o The inclusion of the **IR sensor** ensures that only the person in close proximity to the RFID reader can mark attendance, eliminating the risk of proxy attendance. This adds an extra layer of security to the system, ensuring the integrity of the data.

3. Real-Time Feedback and Notifications:

The system offers real-time feedback through the LCD display and buzzer, notifying users immediately when attendance has been successfully marked or if an error occurs. Additionally, automated notifications sent via ESP8266 or similar communication modules enhance the system capability to update administrators or supervisors about attendance status instantly.

4. Cost-Effective and Easy to Implement:

 The system uses affordable hardware components, such as Arduino Nano, RFID modules, and motion sensors, making it cost-effective for institutions of all sizes. Its modular design also allows for easy expansion or customization based on specific needs.

5. Potential for Scalability:

o The **system modularity** and ability to integrate with cloud-based databases or platforms for storing attendance records offer significant potential for **scalability**. Institutions can expand the system to handle large-scale deployments, offering centralized tracking of attendance data across multiple locations.

6. Improved User Experience:

o The **user-friendly interface**, coupled with the real-time feedback on the LCD, ensures that both administrators and students experience a seamless interaction with the system. The simple, intuitive design encourages adoption by users with minimal technical knowledge.

Future Enhancements:

- **Integration with Cloud Services**: The system could be enhanced by integrating cloud-based platforms for data storage and more advanced reporting features.
- **Mobile Integration**: A mobile app could be developed to provide students and staff with real-time notifications of their attendance status.
- AI-Based Analytics: AI algorithms could be integrated to analyze attendance patterns and generate insights, which can be used for improving operational efficiency and student engagement.
- Voice or Biometric Authentication: For further security, voice recognition or biometric features (fingerprint, face recognition) could be integrated to further verify the identity of the person marking attendance.

In this conclusion, the **Smart and Secure Attendance System** is an innovative and efficient solution for managing attendance in educational institutions, workplaces, or any other settings that require secure, real-time tracking. By leveraging RFID technology, motion sensors, and automated notifications for modern-day attendance management.

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