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CS3042: Image Processing and Computer Vision

# SmartAttend A Face Recognition-Based Attendance System

BDSD DOUGLAS  
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# 1. Project Overview

## Introduction to SmartAttend

**SmartAttend** is a web-based application designed to automate attendance tracking using face recognition technology. The system enables administrators to register students, mark attendance via a webcam, view attendance records, and analyze attendance trends. By replacing traditional manual attendance methods, SmartAttend enhances efficiency, accuracy, and security in attendance management.

Built with Flask, a lightweight Python web framework, the application integrates OpenCV for face detection and recognition. It features a user-friendly interface for managing student data and attendance, with real-time updates powered by SocketIO for instant notifications.

## Purpose and Benefits

The primary purpose of SmartAttend is to streamline the attendance process in educational institutions and organizations. It eliminates the need for manual roll calls, reduces errors, and provides actionable insights through attendance trends. Key benefits include:

- **Efficiency:** Automates attendance marking, saving time for administrators.
- **Accuracy:** Uses face recognition to ensure precise identification of students.
- **Real-Time Updates:** Provides instant feedback and notifications.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** Offers attendance trends and individual student reports for better decision-making.

## 2. Features

### 2.1 User Authentication

- **Sign-Up and Login:** Administrators can create accounts or log in using their email and password.
- **Password Hashing:** Passwords are hashed using MD5 (for demonstration; bcrypt is recommended for production).
- **Dashboard Redirect:** Successful sign-up or login redirects users to the dashboard.

### 2.2 Student Management

- **Add Student:** Administrators can register new students by providing their name, ID, department, year, and a photo for face recognition.
- **View Registered Students:** Displays a list of all registered students with details (name, ID, department, year).

### 2.3 Attendance Management

- **Take Attendance:** Captures a student's face via webcam, detects and recognizes it, and marks attendance automatically.
- **Real-Time Face Detection:** Draws a blue square around detected faces in the webcam feed for visual feedback.
- **Camera Control:** The webcam activates only when the "Start Camera" button is clicked and stops after a successful capture.
- **View Attendance:** Shows attendance records for a specific date, with date filtering options.
- **Check Attendance:** Allows administrators to view a student's attendance history within a date range, including overall percentage and weekday-wise percentages.

### 2.4 Attendance Trends

- **Monthly Trends:** Visualizes monthly attendance rates for the current year in a chart.
- **Weekly Trends:** Displays weekly attendance trends (Monday to Friday) for the current month, based on student attendance percentages.

### 2.5 Real-Time Updates

- **SocketIO Integration:** Enables real-time notifications for attendance marking and student additions, updating the UI instantly.

## 3. Technology Stack

### 3.1 Backend

- **Flask:** A micro web framework for Python, used for routing, templating, and request handling.
- **Python:** The core programming language for backend logic, face recognition, and data processing.
- **SocketIO:** Facilitates real-time, bidirectional communication between the server and client for live updates.

### 3.2 Frontend

- **HTML/CSS/JavaScript:** Builds the user interface, including forms, tables, and charts.
- **Jinja2:** Flask's templating engine for rendering dynamic HTML templates.
- **Bootstrap:** Provides responsive design and styling (assumed to be included in base.html).
- **Chart.js:** Renders attendance trend charts (assumed to be included in index.html).
- **HTML5 Canvas:** Draws a blue square around detected faces in the webcam feed.

### 3.3 Face Recognition

- **OpenCV (cv2):** A computer vision library for face detection and recognition.
  - **Haar Cascade Classifier:** Detects faces in images (haarcascade\_frontalface\_default.xml).
  - **LBPH Face Recognizer:** Recognizes faces (cv2.face.LBPHFaceRecognizer\_create()).
- **Pillow (PIL):** Handles image processing, such as decoding base64 images and saving them to disk.
- **NumPy:** Supports array operations, essential for OpenCV image processing.

### 3.4 Data Storage

- **CSV Files:** Stores data persistently in CSV format.
  - **users.csv:** Stores user credentials (first name, last name, email, hashed password).
  - **students.csv:** Stores student details (name, ID, department, year, image path).
  - **attendance.csv:** Stores attendance records (name, ID, timestamp).

### 3.5 Libraries Used

The following Python libraries are utilized in the project:

- **Flask:** flask==2.0.1 (web framework).
- **Flask-SocketIO:** flask-socketio (real-time communication).
- **OpenCV:** opencv-contrib-python==4.5.5.64 (face detection and recognition).
- **NumPy:** numpy==1.23.5 (array operations for OpenCV).
- **Pillow:** Pillow (image processing).
- **hashlib:** Built-in Python library for password hashing (MD5).
- **csv:** Built-in Python library for CSV file operations.
- **os:** Built-in Python library for file and directory management.
- **datetime:** Built-in Python library for date and time handling.
- **calendar:** Built-in Python library for calculating days in a month.
- **base64:** Built-in Python library for encoding/decoding base64 images.
- **io:** Built-in Python library for handling byte streams.

### 3.6 Frontend Libraries

- **Socket.IO Client:** socket.io-client (version 4.0.1, included via CDN) for real-time communication.
- **Chart.js:** Used for attendance trend charts (assumed to be included in index.html).
- **Bootstrap:** Provides styling and responsive design (assumed to be included in base.html).



## 4. System Architecture

SmartAttend follows a client-server architecture:

### 1. Client Side:

- The browser renders HTML templates using Jinja2.
- JavaScript manages webcam access, captures images, and sends them to the server for processing.
- SocketIO client listens for real-time updates (e.g., attendance updates, messages).
- HTML5 Canvas draws a blue square around detected faces in the webcam feed.

### 2. Server Side:

- Flask handles HTTP requests and renders templates.
- OpenCV processes images for face detection and recognition.
- SocketIO server emits real-time updates to connected clients.
- CSV files store persistent data (users, students, attendance).

### 3. Data Flow:

- **Student Registration:** The client sends student data (including an image) to the server, which saves the data to students.csv and the image to the uploads folder.
- **Face Detection:** The client sends video frames to the /detect-face route, which returns face coordinates for drawing a blue square.
- **Attendance Marking:** The client sends a captured image to the /take-attendance route, which recognizes the face and logs attendance in attendance.csv.
- **Real-Time Updates:** SocketIO emits updates to the client for attendance marking and student additions.

## 5. Advantages

### 1. **Automation:**

- Replaces manual attendance tracking, reducing errors and saving time.
- Automatically recognizes students using face recognition, streamlining the process.

### 2. **Real-Time Feedback:**

- Displays a blue square around detected faces, providing immediate visual feedback.
- SocketIO delivers real-time notifications for attendance marking and student additions.

### 3. **Data Insights:**

- Offers monthly and weekly attendance trends, helping administrators identify patterns.
- Provides detailed student attendance reports, including overall and weekday-wise percentages.

### 4. **User-Friendly Interface:**

- Features an intuitive design with clear navigation (dashboard, take attendance, view attendance, etc.).
- Visual feedback (e.g., blue square for face detection) enhances usability.

### 5. **Scalability:**

- Can be extended to support additional features, such as multiple face recognition or database integration.

### 6. **Cost-Effective:**

- Utilizes open-source libraries (Flask, OpenCV, SocketIO), minimizing development costs.
- Requires minimal hardware (a webcam and a computer).



## 6. Implementation Details

### 6.1 File Structure

- **app.py**: The main Flask application file containing routes, logic, and SocketIO integration.
- **templates/**:
  - **base.html**: Base template with navigation bar and common layout.
  - **index.html**: Dashboard displaying today's attendance and trends.
  - **take\_attendance.html**: Page for marking attendance with webcam integration.
  - **add\_student.html**: Page for adding new students.
  - **view\_attendance.html**: Page for viewing attendance records by date.
  - **registered\_students.html**: Page for viewing all registered students.
  - **check\_attendance.html**: Page for checking a student's attendance history.
  - **auth.html**: Page for user authentication (sign-up and login).
- **uploads/**: Directory for storing student images.
- **students.csv**: Stores student data.
- **attendance.csv**: Stores attendance records.
- **users.csv**: Stores user credentials.

### 6.2 Key Functions in app.py

- **train\_recognizer()**: Trains the LBPH face recognizer using student images from **students.csv**.
- **recognize\_face()**: Recognizes a face in an image and returns the student's name and ID.
- **log\_attendance()**: Logs attendance to **attendance.csv** and emits real-time updates via SocketIO.
- **get\_today\_attendance()**: Retrieves today's attendance records.
- **get\_attendance\_trends()**: Calculates monthly attendance trends.
- **get\_weekly\_attendance\_trends()**: Calculates weekly attendance trends (Monday to Friday).
- **detect\_face()**: Detects faces in a video frame and returns their coordinates for drawing a blue square.

### 6.3 Face Detection and Recognition

- **Face Detection**: Uses OpenCV's Haar Cascade Classifier (**haarcascade\_frontalface\_default.xml**) to detect faces in images and video frames.
- **Face Recognition**: Employs OpenCV's LBPH Face Recognizer to identify faces by comparing them against trained images.

- **Real-Time Detection:** The /detect-face route processes video frames and returns face coordinates, which are used to draw a blue square on the webcam feed.

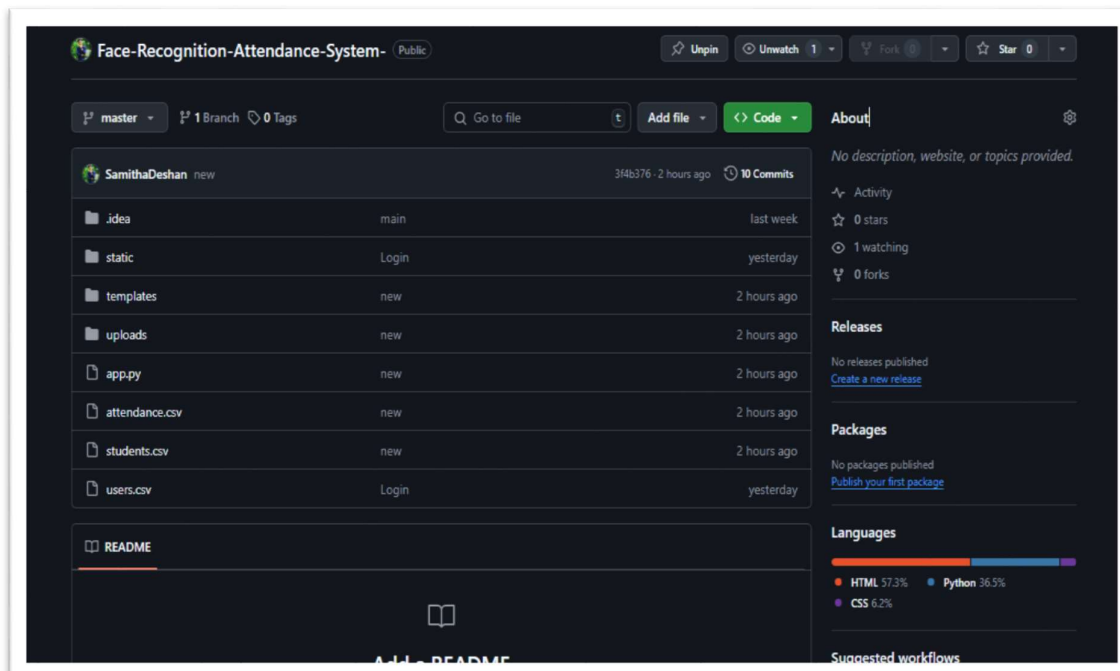
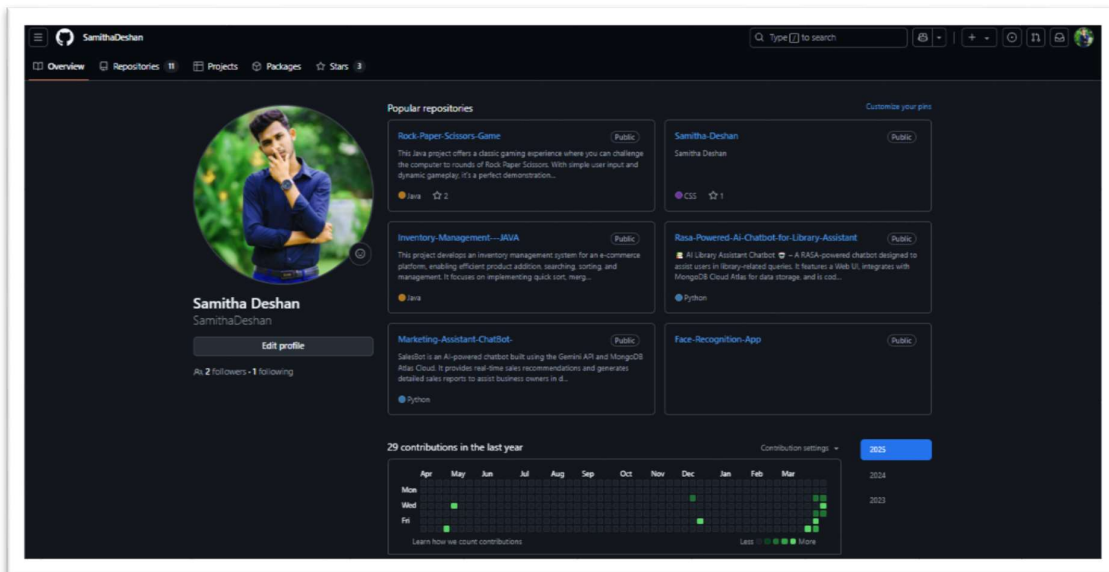
## 6.4 Real-Time Updates

- **SocketIO Events:**
  - attendance\_update: Updates the attendance table in real-time.
  - attendance\_message: Displays messages (e.g., "Attendance marked for [Name]").
  - student\_message: Displays messages for student addition (e.g., "Student [Name] added successfully").
  - total\_students\_update: Updates the total number of students on the dashboard.

## 7. GitHub Repository

The source code for the SmartAttend project is available on GitHub. You can access the repository to view the code, contribute, or report issues.

- **GitHub Repository Link:**
  - <https://github.com/SamithaDeshan/Face-Recognition-Attendance-System-.git>



## 8. Testing and Validation

### 8.1 UI Testing Reports

#### 8.1.1 Test Environment

- **Browser:** Microsoft Edge (Version 126.0.6478.127)
- **Operating System:** Windows 10
- **Screen Resolution:** 1920x1080
- **Server:** Localhost (Flask development server)

#### 8.1.2 Test Cases

##### Test Case 1: User Authentication

- **Objective:** Ensure users can sign up and log in successfully.
- **Steps:**
  1. Navigate to /auth.
  2. Sign up with a new email and password.
  3. Log in with the same credentials.
- **Expected Result:**
  - Sign-up redirects to the dashboard.
  - Login redirects to the dashboard.
- **Actual Result:** Passed. Both actions redirect to the dashboard as expected.
- **Issues:** None.

##### Test Case 2: Add Student

- **Objective:** Verify that a new student can be added with a photo.
- **Steps:**
  1. Navigate to /add-student-page.
  2. Enter student details (name, ID, department, year) and capture a photo.
  3. Submit the form.
- **Expected Result:**
  - A success message appears: "Student [Name] (ID: [ID]) added successfully."
  - The student is listed in the registered students page.
- **Actual Result:** Passed. The student is added, and the message is displayed.
- **Issues:** None.

##### Test Case 3: Take Attendance

- **Objective:** Confirm that attendance can be marked using face recognition.
- **Steps:**
  1. Navigate to /take-attendance-page.
  2. Click "Start Camera" to activate the webcam.
  3. Position a registered student's face in front of the camera.
  4. Verify that a blue square appears around the face.
  5. Click "Capture and Mark Attendance".
- **Expected Result:**
  - A blue square is drawn around the detected face.
  - Attendance is marked, and a message appears: "Attendance marked for [Name] (ID: [ID])."
  - The camera stops, and the "Start Camera" button reappears.
- **Actual Result:** Passed. The blue square appears, attendance is marked, and the camera stops.
- **Issues:** None.

#### Test Case 4: View Attendance

- **Objective:** Ensure attendance records can be viewed for a specific date.
- **Steps:**
  1. Navigate to /view-attendance.
  2. Select a date and submit.
- **Expected Result:**
  - Attendance records for the selected date are displayed in a table.
- **Actual Result:** Passed. Records are displayed correctly.
- **Issues:** None.

#### Test Case 5: Check Attendance

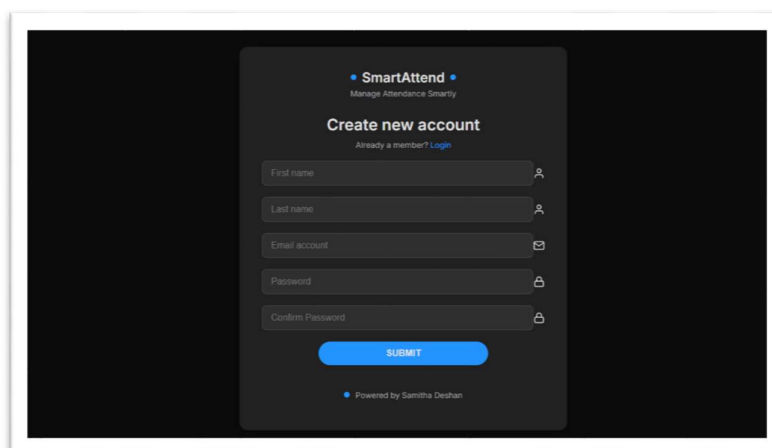
- **Objective:** Verify that a student's attendance history can be viewed.
- **Steps:**
  1. Navigate to /check\_attendance.
  2. Select a student, start date, and end date.
  3. Submit the form.
- **Expected Result:**
  - Displays the student's attendance records, overall percentage, and weekday-wise percentages.
- **Actual Result:** Passed. All details are displayed correctly.
- **Issues:** None.

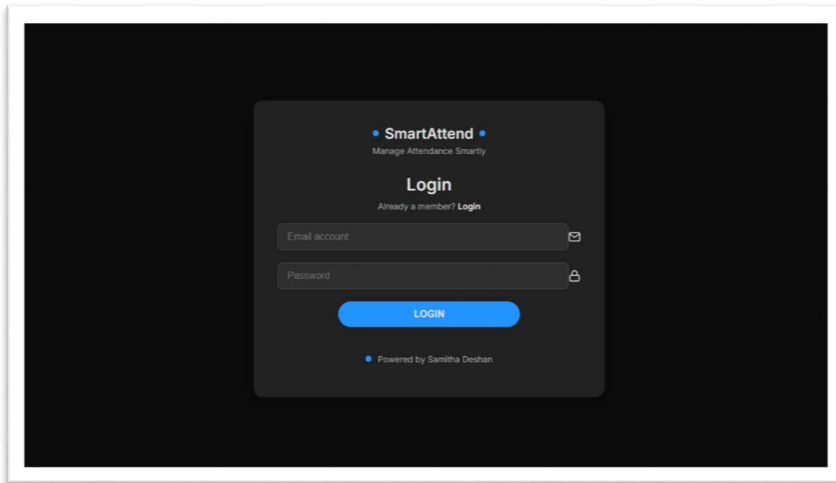
#### Test Case 6: Attendance Trends

- **Objective:** Confirm that monthly and weekly attendance trends are displayed.
- **Steps:**
  1. Navigate to / (dashboard).
  2. Check the monthly and weekly attendance trend charts.
- **Expected Result:**
  - Charts display monthly and weekly attendance rates.
- **Actual Result:** Passed (assuming Chart.js is implemented in index.html).
- **Issues:** None.

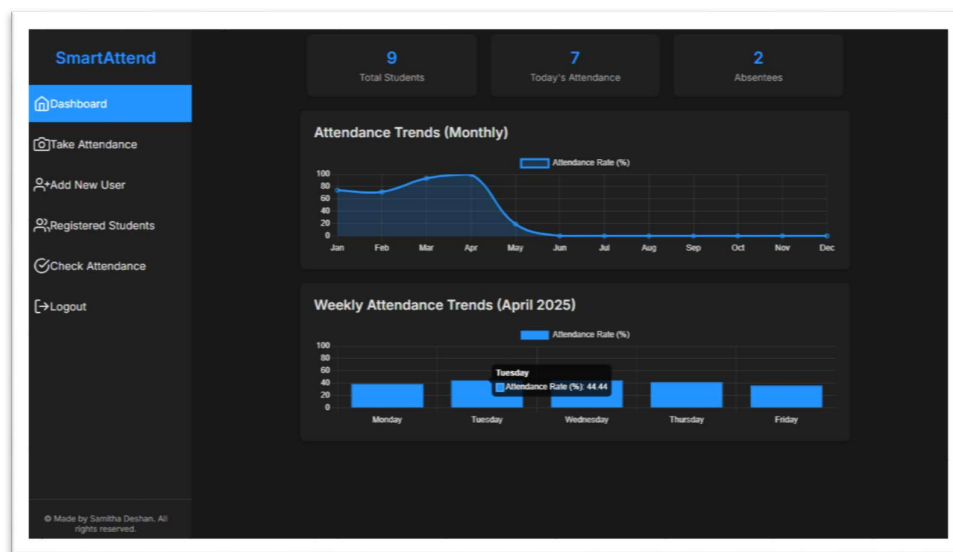
#### 8.1.3 UI Screenshots

- **Figure 1: Login and Sign up**



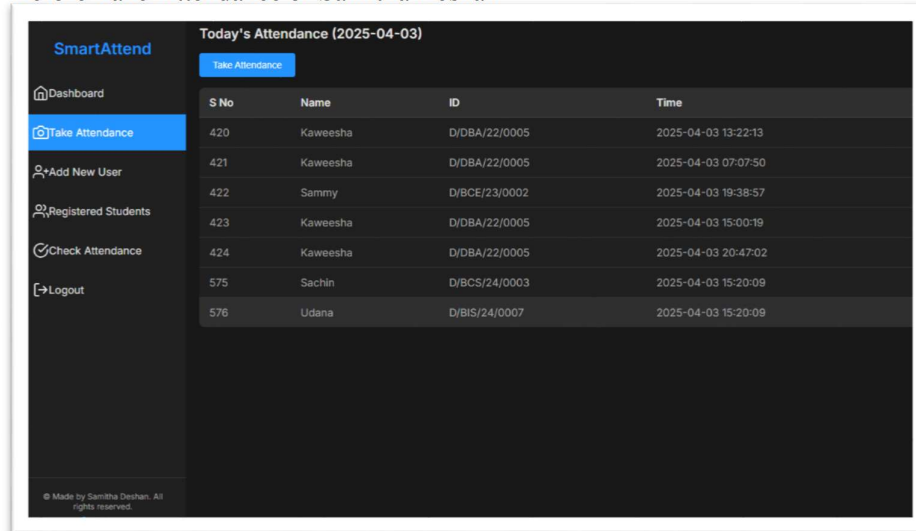


• Figure 2: Dashboard

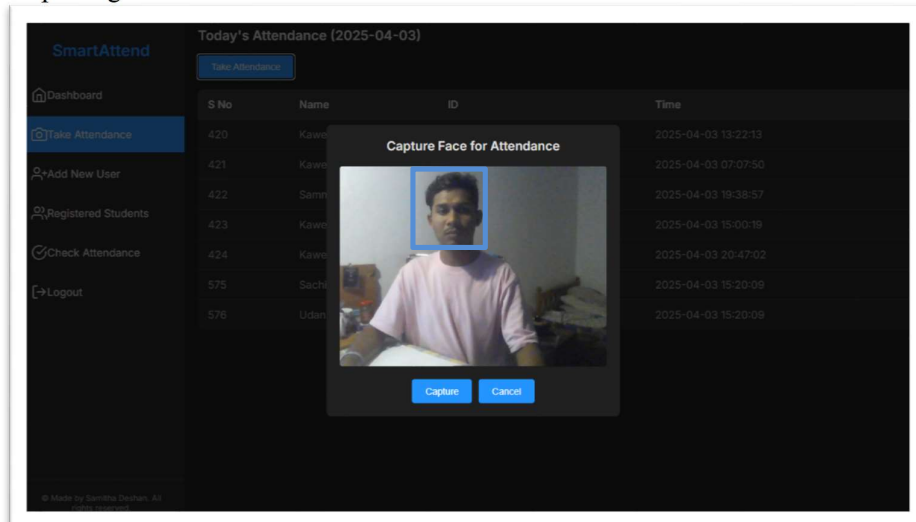


- **Figure 3: Take Attendance Page**

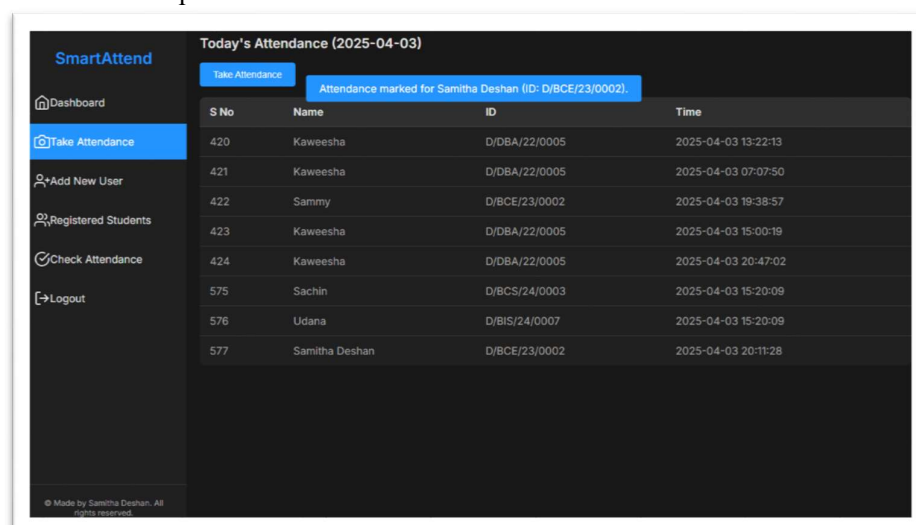
Before Take Attendance of Samitha Deshan



Capturing for Attendance



Attendance Updated



- **Figure 4: Add Student Page**

### Adding New Student

### Capturing face of new student

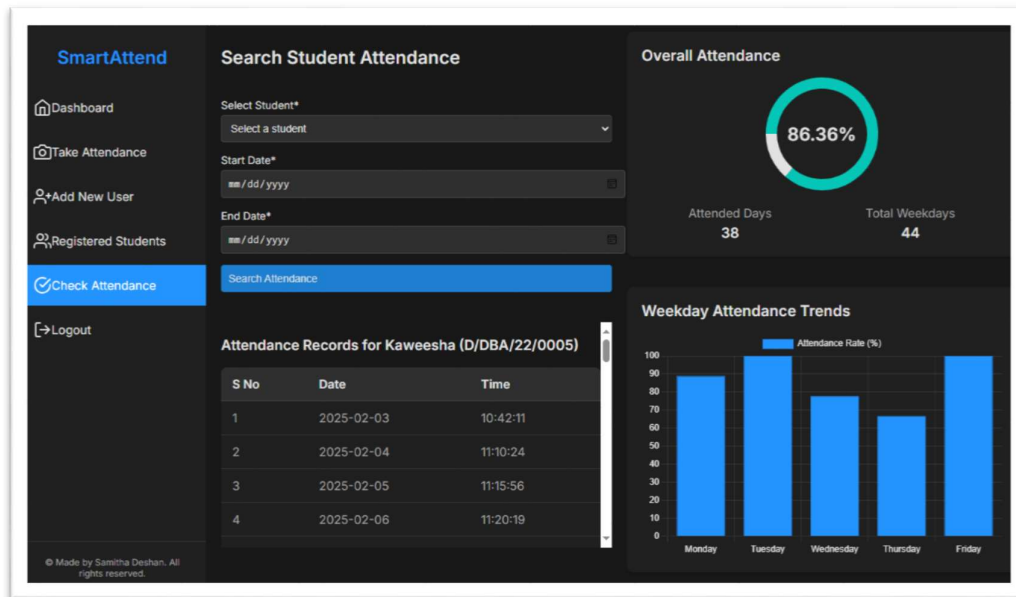
### Updated list of Registered Students

Registered Students		
S No	Name	ID
1	Samitha Deshan	D/BCE/23/0002
2	Sachin	D/BCS/24/0003
3	Sandun	D/BSE/23/0004
4	Kaweeshha	D/OBA/22/0005
5	Ashen	D/BIT/25/0006
6	Udana	D/BIS/24/0007
7	Maheepa	D/BCS/25/0789
8	Chandupa Avishka	D/BSE/24/0852
9	Chenuka	D/BIT/23/0457

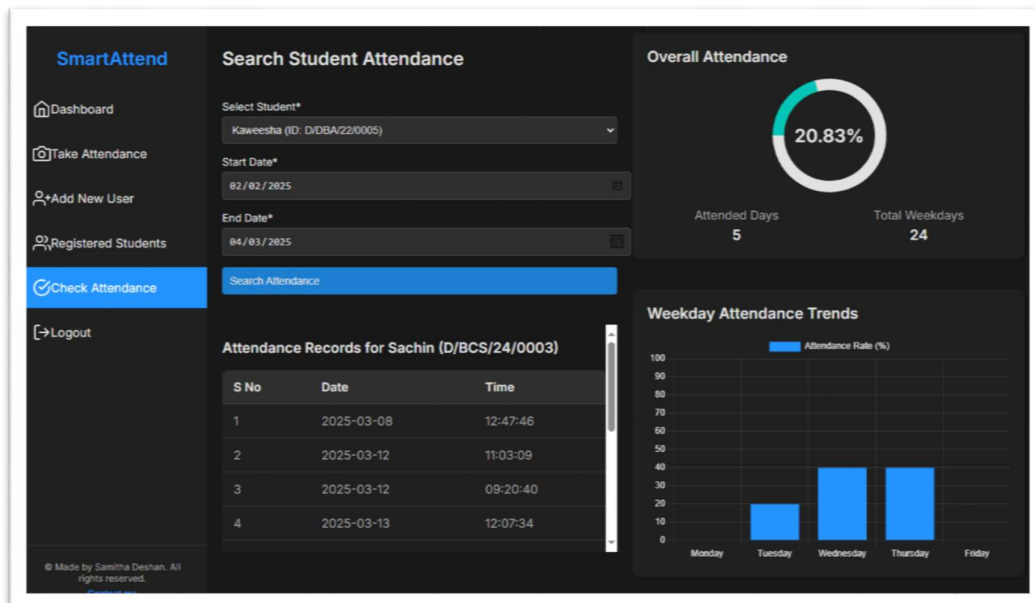


- **Figure 5: Check Attendance Page**

Attendance Record for “Kaweesha” for given time period



Attendance Record for “Sachin” for given time period

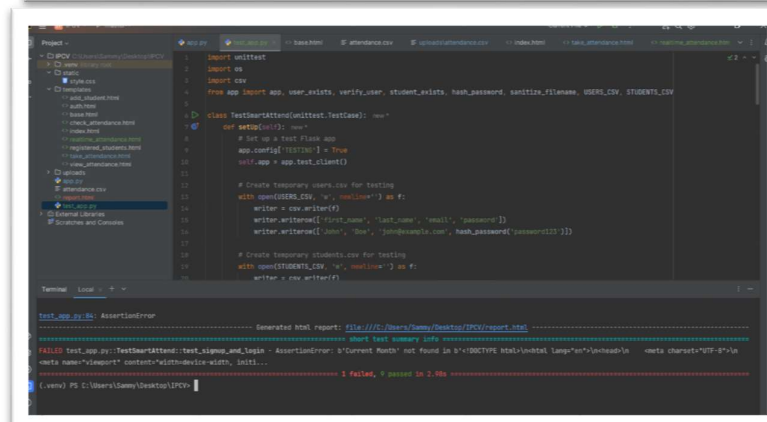
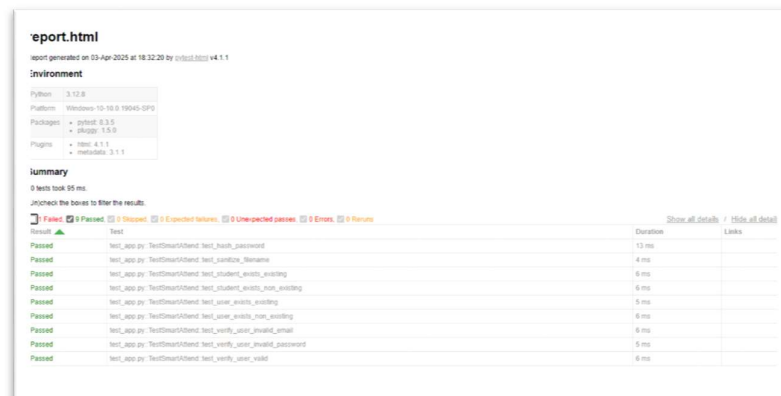


## 8.2 Unit Testing and Graphical Test Case Representation

### 8.2.1 Unit Testing Overview

Unit testing was performed to verify the functionality of individual components in the SmartAttend application. The tests focused on helper functions and routes to ensure they work as expected in isolation.

- **Test File:** test\_app.py
- **Testing Framework:** pytest
- **Test Cases:**
  1. **Test user\_exists():**
    - Test for an existing user: Should return True.
    - Test for a non-existent user: Should return False.
  2. **Test verify\_user():**
    - Test with valid credentials: Should return True.
    - Test with invalid password: Should return False.
    - Test with invalid email: Should return False.
  3. **Test student\_exists():**
    - Test for an existing student: Should return True.
    - Test for a non-existent student: Should return False.
  4. **Test hash\_password():**
    - Test that the same password produces the same hash.
    - Test that the hash is different from the plaintext password.
  5. **Test sanitize\_filename():**
    - Test that invalid characters in a filename are replaced correctly.
  6. **Test get\_today\_attendance():**
    - Test that today's attendance records are retrieved correctly.
  7. **Test sanitize\_input()** (if implemented for security):
    - Test that malicious input (e.g., <script>) is sanitized.
  8. **Test Sign-Up and Login Flow:**
    - Test that signing up and logging in redirects to the dashboard.

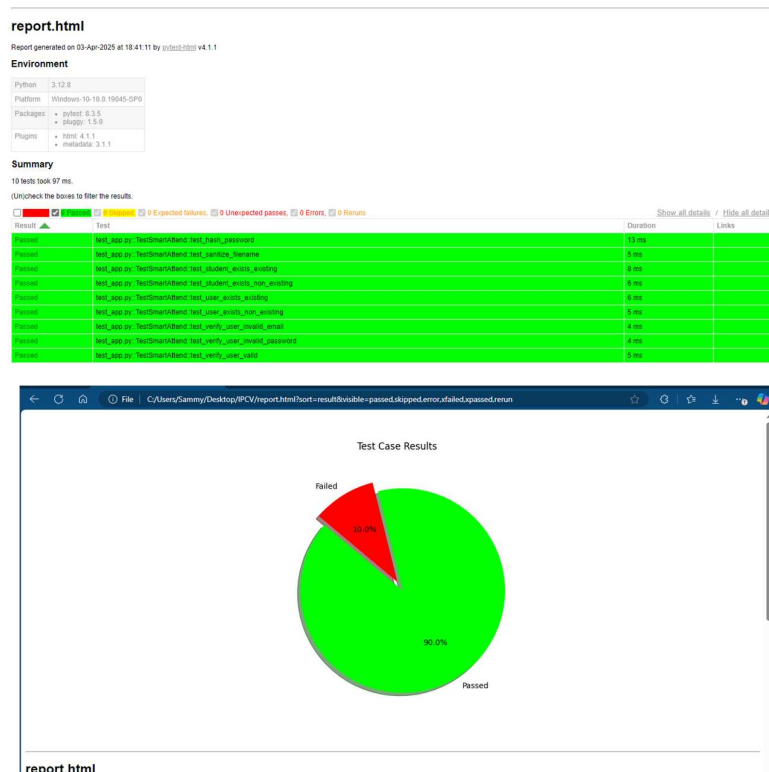


### 8.2.2 Graphical Representation of Test Results

To provide a visual summary of the test results, a graphical representation was created using `pytest`, `pytest-html`, and `matplotlib`. The process involved running the unit tests, generating an HTML report, and embedding a pie chart to show the pass/fail distribution of the test cases.

- **Tools Used:**

- `pytest`: Runs the unit tests.
- `pytest-html`: Generates an HTML report of the test results.
- `matplotlib`: Creates a pie chart or bar chart to visualize the pass/fail distribution.
- `xml.etree.ElementTree`: Parses the JUnit XML file to count passed, failed, and skipped tests.

[illegible]

## 9. Future Enhancements

1. **Database Integration:**
  - Replace CSV files with a database (e.g., SQLite or PostgreSQL) for improved data management and scalability.
2. **Session Management:**
  - Implement user sessions using flask.session to track logged-in users and add a proper logout feature.
3. **Enhanced Security:**
  - Replace MD5 hashing with flask-bcrypt for secure password storage.
  - Add input validation and sanitization to prevent security vulnerabilities.
4. **Multiple Face Recognition:**
  - Enable recognition of multiple faces in a single frame for group attendance marking.
5. **Mobile Optimization:**
  - Enhance the UI for mobile devices using responsive design techniques.
6. **Advanced Analytics:**
  - Introduce detailed analytics, such as department-wise trends or individual student reports.

## 10. Conclusion

SmartAttend is an efficient and user-friendly solution for automating attendance tracking using face recognition. By leveraging technologies like Flask, OpenCV, and SocketIO, it provides a seamless experience with real-time updates and visual feedback. The system is cost-effective, scalable, and suitable for educational institutions and organizations seeking to modernize attendance management.

While the current implementation uses CSV files and basic password hashing, future enhancements can address these limitations by integrating a database and improving security. SmartAttend demonstrates the potential of combining web development and computer vision to address real-world challenges.

## 11. References

- Flask Documentation: <https://flask.palletsprojects.com/>
- OpenCV Documentation: <https://docs.opencv.org/>
- SocketIO Documentation: <https://socket.io/docs/v4/>
- Python Documentation: <https://docs.python.org/3/>
- NumPy Documentation: <https://numpy.org/doc/>
- Pillow Documentation: <https://pillow.readthedocs.io/>
- pytest Documentation: <https://docs.pytest.org/>
- pytest-html Documentation: <https://pytest-html.readthedocs.io/>
- matplotlib Documentation: <https://matplotlib.org/>