

# **STUDENT REGISTRATION PORTAL USING AZURE SERVICES**

**PHASE III REPORT**

**Submitted by**

**SNEKHA R (220701282)**

**SWEDHA J (220701296)**

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# **RAJALAKSHMI ENGINEERING COLLEGE, CHENNAI**

## **BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE**

Certified that this Project titled “ STUDENT EVENT REGISTRATION PORTAL USING AZURE SERVICES” is the bonafide work of SNEKHA R (220701282), SWEDHA J (220701296), who carried out the work under my supervision. Certified further that to the best of my knowledge, the work reported herein does not form part of any other thesis or dissertation on the basis of which a degree or award was conferred on an earlier occasion on this or any other candidate.

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Professor,

Department of Computer Science and Engineering,

Rajalakshmi Engineering College,

Chennai - 602 105.

Submitted to Mini Project Viva-Voce Examination held on \_\_\_\_\_

Internal Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_ External Examiner:

\_\_\_\_\_

## ABSTRACT

The *Student Event Registration Portal* is a full-stack, cloud-native web application designed to automate and simplify the event management process in educational institutions. The system provides a unified digital platform for students to register, log in, browse upcoming events, and book or cancel participation, eliminating the need for traditional paper-based or manually managed systems. It ensures data consistency, scalability, and high availability by leveraging Microsoft Azure cloud services.

The application is developed using **React.js** and **Tailwind CSS** for the frontend, providing a responsive and interactive user experience. The backend is implemented using **Node.js** and **Express.js**, handling authentication, authorization, and core business logic through RESTful APIs. All event, user, and registration data are securely stored in **Azure Cosmos DB**, a globally distributed NoSQL database service optimized for low latency and scalability. The project also integrates an **AI-powered chatbot** built using **Azure OpenAI Service** and **Azure Bot Service**, which guides users, answers event-related queries, and enhances user engagement.

For deployment, the application is containerized using **Docker**, ensuring uniform behavior across development and production environments. **Terraform** is employed for Infrastructure-as-Code (IaC), enabling automated provisioning of Azure resources, while **GitHub Actions** manages the continuous integration and continuous deployment (CI/CD) pipeline, guaranteeing seamless updates and consistent delivery. The system is hosted on **Azure App Service**, ensuring fault tolerance, automatic scaling, and 24/7 accessibility.

This cloud-based approach offers multiple advantages, including easy scalability during peak registration periods, automated backups, global reach, and built-in monitoring through **Azure Application Insights**. The solution not only digitalizes institutional event management but also demonstrates the effective convergence of cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and DevOps automation. Overall, the project provides an intelligent, secure, and efficient event management portal that enhances accessibility, reduces administrative workload, and supports the ongoing digital transformation of higher education systems.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Problem Statement

In most educational institutions, managing event registrations is still a manual or semi-digital process. Students often register through paper forms or shared spreadsheets, while organizers must manually verify entries, track attendance, and update participation lists. This leads to redundant effort, data inconsistencies, lack of transparency, and limited accessibility for students and staff. As the number of college events increases, the existing approach becomes inefficient and difficult to scale. Moreover, traditional systems do not provide real-time updates, automated notifications, or integration with modern cloud technologies. Hence, there is a need for an **intelligent, cloud-based event registration system** that can manage event details, student participation, and communication effectively while ensuring security, scalability, and automation.

### 1.2 Objective of the Project

The main objective of this project is to **design and develop a cloud-based Student Event Registration Portal** that automates and simplifies the process of event management in educational institutions.

- To create a **web-based platform** for students to register, view, and manage event participation digitally.
- To integrate **Azure Cloud Services** for hosting, data management, and scalability and To use **Azure Cosmos DB** for secure, high-performance NoSQL data storage.
- To containerize the application using **Docker** for consistent deployment across environments.
- To implement **Infrastructure-as-Code (IaC)** using **Terraform** for automated provisioning of Azure resources.
- To integrate an **AI-powered chatbot** using **Azure OpenAI** and **Azure Bot Service** for user assistance.
- To ensure **security, reliability, and high availability** through Azure's built-in monitoring and identity management.

### 1.3 Scope and Boundaries

#### Scope:

The system provides a digital solution for managing institutional events efficiently. It includes user registration, authentication, event listing, booking, cancellation, and

automated confirmation notifications. Admin users can manage event details, track registrations, and monitor user participation. The chatbot assists users with event information and navigation.

### **Boundaries:**

The boundaries of this project are defined to maintain focus and feasibility. The current version does not include payment gateway integration, QR code ticketing, or advanced data analytics for event trends. The chatbot is limited to handling event-specific queries and does not support cross-domain or complex conversational flows. The application is designed for web access only, and mobile app development is considered as future work. Furthermore, all storage, deployment, and hosting components are confined to the Microsoft Azure ecosystem to ensure security, scalability, and ease of integration.

## **1.4 Stakeholders and End Users**

The main stakeholders and users of the system are:

- **Students:** Primary users who can view, search, and register for available events.
- **Event Organizers / Admins:** Manage events, view registration statistics, and update schedules.
- **Faculty / Department Coordinators:** Oversee event progress, ensure compliance, and maintain data integrity.
- **System Administrators:** Manage the infrastructure, monitor usage, and ensure availability of the system.
- **Institution Management:** Analyze reports and monitor overall event engagement.

## **1.5 Technologies Used (Azure, Terraform, Docker, etc.)**

The project is built using a modern cloud-native stack integrated through Microsoft Azure:

- **Microsoft Azure:** Provides the primary cloud platform for hosting, storage, database management, and monitoring services. It ensures scalability, security, and high availability for the entire application.
- **Terraform:** Defines and automates the provisioning of Azure resources through Infrastructure as Code (IaC), ensuring repeatability, version control, and simplified infrastructure management.

- **Docker:** Containerizes both the frontend and backend components of the web application, ensuring consistent environments across development, testing, and production deployments.
- **GitHub Actions:** Implements the Continuous Integration and Continuous Deployment (CI/CD) pipeline, automating each stage from code commit to Docker image build, testing, and deployment on Azure.
- **Node.js & Express.js:** Serve as the backend framework for handling RESTful APIs, business logic, user authentication, and communication between the frontend and database.
- **Azure SQL Database / Azure Cosmos DB:** Used to securely store event details, user profiles, and registration data, providing high performance and reliability with global scalability.
- **GenAI (Perplexity API) / Azure OpenAI:** Powers the integrated AI-based chatbot that offers real-time conversational assistance and guides users through event registration processes.

## 1.6 Organization of the Report

This report is organized to cover the complete lifecycle of the project. It begins with an introduction explaining the problem statement, objectives, and technologies used. The following chapters describe the system design, architecture, and implementation details, including DevOps automation and containerization. Subsequent sections focus on cloud operations, security measures, and performance evaluation. The report concludes with the results, key learnings, and future enhancements, providing a complete overview of the project's development and deployment.

## CHAPTER 2

### SYSTEM DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

#### 2.1 Requirement Summary (Functional & Non-Functional)

The *Student Event Registration Portal* is designed to provide a digital platform that automates the entire process of managing college events. The functional requirements of the system include user registration, authentication, event creation, and registration management. Students should be able to log in, browse available events, view details, and register or cancel participation easily. Administrators must have the ability to add, modify, or delete events and monitor registrations through a dedicated dashboard. The system also integrates an AI chatbot powered by Azure OpenAI and Azure Bot Service to assist users with event-related queries and provide real-time support. All event and user data are securely stored in Azure Cosmos DB or Azure SQL Database, and the entire application is deployed on Azure App Service to ensure global accessibility and reliability.

The non-functional requirements focus on ensuring scalability, performance, and security. The system should handle multiple concurrent users efficiently through Azure's autoscaling capabilities and maintain high availability with minimal downtime. Data security is prioritized through encryption, secure authentication, and Azure Key Vault integration. The interface is designed to be intuitive and responsive for a seamless user experience, while Docker containerization ensures consistent behavior across development and deployment environments. Additionally, the infrastructure is managed using Terraform for repeatable deployments, and Azure Monitor along with Application Insights is used to track performance and detect issues in real time, ensuring smooth and reliable operation of the platform.

#### 2.2 Proposed Solution Overview

The proposed system offers a cloud-based solution that automates the entire event registration process within an educational institution. It provides students with an interactive web portal where they can view, register, and manage participation in events, while administrators can efficiently create and monitor event details. The system is developed using **React.js** and **Tailwind CSS** for a responsive user interface and **Node.js with Express.js** for backend services, ensuring fast and reliable performance.

The application is deployed on **Microsoft Azure**, utilizing **Azure App Service** for hosting, **Azure Cosmos DB / Azure SQL Database** for secure data storage, and **Azure**

**OpenAI with Azure Bot Service** to enable an AI-powered chatbot for user assistance. The entire infrastructure is defined using **Terraform**, and continuous integration and deployment are automated through **GitHub Actions**. With **Docker** ensuring consistent containerized environments and **Azure Monitor** providing real-time insights, the proposed system delivers a scalable, secure, and intelligent platform that enhances event management efficiency for both students and administrators.

### 2.3 Cloud Deployment Strategy (Cloud/Service Model, Region, Architecture Diagram)

The *Student Event Registration Portal* is deployed on **Microsoft Azure** using a **Platform as a Service (PaaS)** model. The frontend and backend are hosted on **Azure App Service**, and data is managed through **Azure Cosmos DB**. The infrastructure is automated using **Terraform**, while **GitHub Actions** handles CI/CD for continuous deployment. The application is containerized with **Docker** to ensure consistent environments. Deployment is carried out in the **Central India** region for low latency, with **South India** configured as a backup for disaster recovery. This setup ensures scalability, reliability.

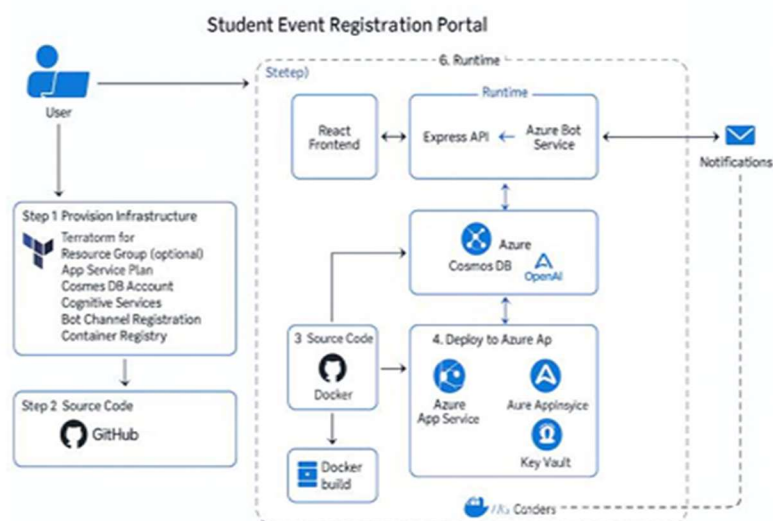


Fig 2.1 Azure Architecture Diagram

## 2.4 Infrastructure Requirements (VM sizes, Storage, Network components)

The *Student Event Registration Portal* uses a lightweight and scalable cloud setup on **Microsoft Azure**. The application is hosted on **Azure App Service (Linux, S1 tier)**, which provides automatic scaling and load balancing without the need to manage virtual machines manually. Data is stored in **Azure Cosmos DB (SQL API)** or **Azure SQL Database (Standard tier)** for high availability and low-latency access.

For media and document storage, **Azure Blob Storage** is used with **Geo-Redundant Storage (GRS)** to ensure data durability. **Azure Key Vault** securely stores connection strings and credentials, while **Azure Container Registry (ACR)** maintains Docker images. Networking components include an **Azure Virtual Network (VNet)** for secure communication between services and **Network Security Groups (NSGs)** for access control. **Azure Front Door** or **Application Gateway** can be configured for global load balancing and SSL management, ensuring secure and reliable connectivity across all components.

## 2.5 Azure Services Mapping and Justification

- **Azure App Service:** Chosen for managed container hosting, automatic scaling, and simplified SSL configuration. It minimizes operational effort and supports seamless CI/CD integration.
- **Azure Cosmos DB / Azure SQL Database:** Selected for secure, scalable, and globally distributed data storage with automated backups and high availability.
- **Azure Blob Storage:** Used for storing event posters, images, and media files with redundancy and fast retrieval capabilities.
- **Azure Key Vault:** Ensures secure storage of API keys, credentials, and database connection strings, reducing the risk of data exposure.
- **Azure Monitor & Application Insights:** Provide real-time monitoring, diagnostics, and performance analytics to maintain application reliability.
- **GitHub Actions:** Though not an Azure service, it automates build, test, and deployment workflows, fully integrated with Azure for continuous delivery.

Selecting these services ensures a balance between scalability, performance, security, and ease of maintenance, making the event registration portal cloud-optimized and future-ready.

## CHAPTER 3

### DEVOPS IMPLEMENTATION

#### 3.1 Continuous Integration and Deployment (CI/CD) Setup

A robust CI/CD pipeline was implemented using **GitHub Actions** to automate the entire software delivery process for the Student Event Registration Portal. Every time code is committed to the GitHub repository, the workflow is triggered to perform a series of automated stages—code checkout, dependency installation, lint and unit testing, Docker image build, and deployment to **Azure App Service**. This setup ensures that the latest version of the application is consistently built and deployed with minimal human intervention. The automation helps maintain code quality, eliminates manual configuration errors, and enables faster release cycles. The pipeline pushes Docker images to **Azure Container Registry (ACR)** and then deploys them to the production environment through Azure's continuous deployment integration. Secrets and credentials, including Azure access keys, are securely stored in **GitHub Encrypted Secrets** and **Azure Key Vault**, ensuring compliance and data protection. This CI/CD pipeline forms the backbone of the DevOps strategy, enabling repeatable, traceable, and reliable application delivery across environments.

#### 3.2 Terraform Infrastructure-as-Code (IaC)

To simplify cloud resource provisioning, the project leverages **Terraform** for Infrastructure-as-Code (IaC). Terraform scripts were created to define and deploy Azure resources such as the **Resource Group**, **App Service Plan**, **Azure Cosmos DB**, **Azure Key Vault**, **Azure Monitor**, and **Application Insights**. This automation enables the complete infrastructure to be set up or destroyed within minutes using a single command, ensuring consistency between development, staging, and production environments. All Terraform configurations are version-controlled within GitHub, allowing teams to review, modify, and roll back infrastructure changes seamlessly. This IaC approach reduces human error, ensures repeatability, and maintains an auditable record of infrastructure changes. Additionally, the integration of Terraform with CI/CD pipelines facilitates automated validation and deployment of infrastructure changes, aligning the project with best practices in cloud-native DevOps automation.

#### 3.3 Containerization Strategy (Docker)

The portal is fully **containerized using Docker** to guarantee consistent runtime environments and smooth deployments. Custom **Dockerfiles** were developed for both

the frontend (React.js) and backend (Node.js/Express.js) components. Each container includes the required dependencies, configurations, and runtime environment, ensuring that the application behaves identically across local, testing, and production stages.

This containerization eliminates environment-specific issues, simplifies debugging, and supports horizontal scaling when user traffic increases. The Docker images are automatically built and stored in **Azure Container Registry (ACR)** through the CI/CD workflow. These images are then deployed to **Azure App Service (Web App for Containers)**, ensuring every release is consistent, portable, and version-controlled. Docker's lightweight isolation makes scaling and rolling updates seamless, aligning perfectly with Azure's managed service model.

### 3.4 Kubernetes Orchestration (AKS Deployment, Scaling)

Although the current deployment utilizes **Azure App Service**, the system is designed for future scalability using **Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS)**. This orchestration layer supports deploying multiple containerized components as microservices, enabling high scalability, fault tolerance, and resilience. As user demand grows, components such as event management, registration, chatbot, and notifications can be decoupled and deployed as independent pods within AKS. AKS ensures automated container scaling, rolling updates, and self-healing of failed pods without service interruption. The Kubernetes manifests can be managed alongside Terraform configurations, integrating with **Azure Container Registry (ACR)** for seamless image deployment. This setup provides a clear migration path toward microservices, supporting large-scale institutional use with minimal downtime and improved operational control.

### 3.5 GenAI Integration and Azure AI Service Mapping

Delivering intelligent user support within the portal was achieved by integrating a GenAI-powered chatbot, offering real-time conversational interaction to address user queries around payments. An intelligent **AI-powered chatbot** is integrated into the portal to enhance user interaction and support. The chatbot is implemented using **Azure OpenAI Service** and **Azure Bot Service**, allowing users to ask event-related questions, receive instant responses, and get guided through registration steps. The backend routes queries to the AI model, which interprets intent and returns context-aware replies, providing a conversational interface within the web portal.

Environment variables and **Azure Key Vault** ensure that API credentials and access tokens are stored securely. This AI integration not only improves accessibility and user satisfaction but also demonstrates how generative AI can augment academic platforms. The architecture is designed to evolve with future capabilities such as personalized

recommendations, event feedback analysis, and natural language search—further extending the portal’s intelligence and user engagement.

## CHAPTER 4

### CLOUD OPERATIONS AND SECURITY

#### 4.1 DevSecOps Integration

Security and automation are embedded into every phase of the project using a **DevSecOps approach**. The CI/CD pipeline built with **GitHub Actions** automates the entire workflow—from building and testing the application to containerization and deployment on **Azure App Service**. Sensitive credentials, access tokens, and connection strings are securely stored in **Azure Key Vault**, which integrates directly with the pipeline using managed identities to prevent hardcoded secrets. Infrastructure is provisioned through **Terraform**, ensuring every Azure resource is deployed consistently and securely. Docker images used for deployment are validated to maintain integrity and reduce vulnerabilities. Azure Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) is applied to limit developer and admin permissions, ensuring only authorized users can make production changes. This integration of development, security, and operations guarantees reliability, traceability, and protection of data throughout the system lifecycle.

#### 4.2 Monitoring and Observability (Azure Monitor / App Insights)

Effective monitoring and observability are achieved using **Azure Monitor** and **Application Insights**, providing real-time visibility into application performance, resource usage, and user activity. Every API request, registration transaction, and event interaction is logged and analyzed for performance metrics such as response time, failure rate, and throughput. These insights help detect anomalies early and maintain optimal system performance. Custom dashboards and alerts notify the operations team of unusual activities, ensuring proactive issue resolution. This end-to-end monitoring framework enables rapid root-cause analysis, supports capacity planning, and ensures high uptime, performance, and user satisfaction across the event registration portal.

#### 4.3 Access Control (RBAC Overview)

The system employs **Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)** both within the application and the Azure cloud environment. In the portal, users are assigned roles such as **Student**, **Organizer**, or **Administrator**, with specific permissions defining their actions. Administrators can manage events and view reports, while students can browse and register for events.

At the cloud infrastructure level, **Azure RBAC** assigns roles like Owner, Contributor, and Reader to team members, restricting access based on responsibility. Sensitive credentials and configurations are stored in **Azure Key Vault**, accessible only through authorized managed identities. This layered access control approach ensures data confidentiality, integrity, and security throughout the system.

#### 4.4 Deployment and Reliability Measures

The *Student Event Registration Portal* is deployed through an automated CI/CD pipeline using **GitHub Actions**, which builds Docker images and deploys them directly to **Azure App Service**. This ensures every update to the codebase is automatically reflected in the live environment after passing build and validation steps. The deployment approach minimizes downtime and eliminates manual errors.

While advanced Blue-Green or multi-region deployment was not implemented, the system benefits from **Azure's built-in reliability features**, including automatic scaling, managed uptime, and fault tolerance. The **Azure Cosmos DB** instance provides high availability and automatic replication within the selected region. Regular backups and application monitoring through **Azure Monitor** and **Application Insights** ensure that the portal remains stable and recoverable in case of unexpected failures.

## CHAPTER 5

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 5.1 Implementation Summary

The implementation of the **Student Event Registration Portal** was successfully completed using **Microsoft Azure** as the primary cloud platform. All major features and cloud integrations planned in the design phase were achieved. The application enables **secure student and admin login**, allows administrators to **create, edit, and manage events**, and lets students **browse, register, and cancel event participation**. The backend, built using **Node.js and Express.js**, interacts reliably with **Azure Cosmos DB**, while the frontend, developed in **React.js**, delivers a modern, responsive interface. A **GenAI-powered chatbot**, integrated using **Perplexity API** (and designed for future migration to Azure OpenAI), provides real-time assistance to users regarding event registration and general queries. DevOps automation through **GitHub Actions** ensures continuous integration and deployment, while **Terraform** provisions infrastructure consistently. The application is **containerized using Docker**, deployed to **Azure App Service**, and monitored using **Azure Monitor** and **Application Insights**. Overall, the system achieved stability, scalability, and security in line with modern cloud-native standards.

#### 5.2 Challenges Faced and Resolutions

Several challenges emerged during the project lifecycle:

- **Azure Subscription Limits:** The student Azure account restricted certain deployments. The app was temporarily hosted on **Render** to continue progress until Azure access was restored.
- **Chatbot API Constraints:** **Azure OpenAI** usage limits led to the integration of the **Perplexity API**, ensuring continuous chatbot functionality.
- **CI/CD Pipeline Errors:** Initial GitHub Actions workflow failed due to misconfigured Docker paths and missing secrets. These were resolved through proper environment setup and pipeline validation.
- **Database Connectivity Issues:** Connection problems with **Azure Cosmos DB** were fixed by configuring drivers, environment variables, and **Azure Key Vault** for secure credential

### 5.3 Performance or Cost Observations

The solution was designed with **cost efficiency and scalability** in mind, leveraging Azure's **Platform as a Service (PaaS)** components. The **Azure App Service (B1 tier)** provided sufficient performance for concurrent user access, while **Azure Cosmos DB (serverless configuration)** handled event data efficiently. The **pay-as-you-go** pricing model minimized costs during development and testing while ensuring performance stability.

Monitoring through **Azure Application Insights** showed consistent response times below one second for key API requests and stable throughput even under simulated concurrent access. Resource utilization remained within optimal limits, demonstrating that the chosen configuration supports institutional-scale workloads. The combination of **Docker containerization** and **automated deployments** further reduced maintenance costs by eliminating manual scaling and downtime.

### 5.4 Key Learnings and Team Contributions

The project provided valuable exposure to **end-to-end cloud-native development**, emphasizing the integration of multiple Azure services through a DevOps-driven workflow. Key learnings included understanding how **Infrastructure as Code (Terraform)** promotes reproducibility, how **CI/CD automation (GitHub Actions)** accelerates delivery cycles, and how **Docker** simplifies deployment across environments. The experience also deepened knowledge in **Azure database management**, **cloud monitoring**, and **secure secret handling with Azure Key Vault**.

The **AI chatbot integration** highlighted the potential of **Generative AI** in enhancing user experience within institutional systems. Each team member contributed significantly — from **frontend and backend development** to **DevOps setup**, **Terraform scripting**, **cloud monitoring**, and **testing**. Collaboration, continuous learning, and adaptability were key factors behind the project's success, resulting in a fully functional, secure, and intelligent event registration platform ready for institutional deployment.

## CHAPTER 6

### CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

#### 6.1 Conclusion

The implementation of the **Student Event Registration Portal** successfully achieved its objective of simplifying and automating event management for educational institutions. By leveraging **Microsoft Azure**, **Docker containerization**, and **Terraform-based infrastructure automation**, the system provides a secure, scalable, and efficient cloud-native solution. The integration of **GitHub Actions** for continuous integration and deployment streamlined delivery, ensuring consistent and error-free updates.

The portal enables students to browse and register for events easily, while administrators can manage event creation and participation seamlessly. The inclusion of a **GenAI-powered chatbot**, built using the **Perplexity API**, enhances user engagement by offering real-time support and interactive responses. Throughout the development process, the team effectively utilized Azure services such as **App Service**, **Cosmos DB**, **Monitor**, and **Key Vault**, ensuring reliability and data security.

Overall, the project met all functional and non-functional goals, demonstrating how modern cloud technologies can be combined to build intelligent, automated institutional systems. The experience also reinforced key concepts in **DevOps**, **AI integration**, and **cloud infrastructure management**, setting a solid foundation for further innovation and scalability.

#### 6.2 Future Scope

Building on its strong cloud-native architecture, the *Event Registration Portal* can be enhanced in several ways to support broader adoption and advanced functionality:

- **Integration with Notification and Calendar Systems:**  
Adding automated **email/SMS notifications** and **calendar syncing** (e.g., Google Calendar or Outlook) to remind users of event schedules and updates.
- **Advanced Analytics and Dashboards:**  
Implementing **Azure Power BI** or **Application Insights dashboards** to provide event participation analytics, user trends, and feedback summaries for administrators.
- **Mobile and Offline Access:**  
Developing a **Progressive Web App (PWA)** or **mobile version** for improved accessibility and offline functionality, especially for student users.
- **Enhanced Security and Authentication:**  
Incorporating **multi-factor authentication (MFA)**, improved encryption standards, and **OAuth-based login** (e.g., institutional accounts) for increased protection.

- **AI and Personalization:**

Expanding the chatbot's capabilities with **Azure OpenAI Service** for smarter recommendations, personalized event suggestions, and voice-based assistance.

These enhancements will further strengthen usability, security, and intelligence, making the system a comprehensive platform for event management and institutional collaboration.

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