

# NoteScribe - Notes Taking Application

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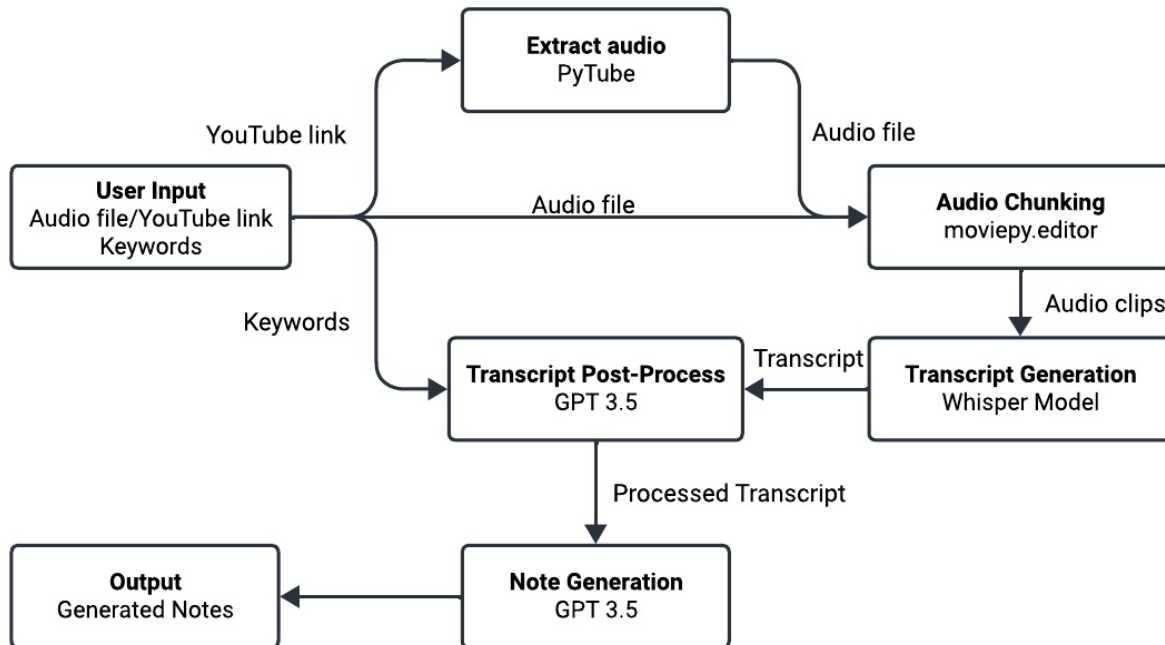


Figure 1: Architecture

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## 1 GITHUB LINK

<https://github.com/Spoon7227/CS510-Project>

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## 2 MOTIVATION

The idea for creating this stand-alone artificial intelligence notes-taking web application came from realizing how time-consuming and inefficient it is to manually extract important points from audio and video content. This is a problem that is common to traditional note-taking processes. The difficulty of condensing vast volumes of material from lectures, seminars, and internet resources into brief and insightful notes is especially evident in professional and educational contexts. The application intends to drastically speed up this process by utilizing cutting-edge AI technologies, like OpenAI's API and the Whisper model for audio-to-text conversion. By automating note-taking tasks and including features like post-processing, keyword assistance, and context-awareness, the application solves the drawbacks of time-consuming human transcribing and comprehension, giving users with a more efficient and effective solution. Furthermore, the application's ability to accommodate uncommon words and acronyms, as well as its support for retrieving audio transcripts from popular media

streaming platforms such as YouTube, increase its utility and relevance in meeting the needs of users looking to improve their note-taking workflows.

### 3 INTENDED USERS

The intended users of this AI notes-taking web application are diverse, spanning both educational and professional fields. Students at all stages of education, from high school to university, stand to gain greatly from the application's capabilities. For students, the program is an invaluable study tool, allowing them to create concise and detailed notes from lecture videos, online tutorials, and instructional content available on sites such as YouTube. By automating the note-taking process and providing features like keyword assistance and context awareness, the application enables students to easily record and retain critical information, improving their learning outcomes and academic achievement. In the professional realm, the application is designed for professionals who attend meetings, conferences, or training sessions that require note-taking. Business professionals, researchers, and knowledge workers can use the program to extract insights, action items, and key takeaways from audio and video content, allowing for better decision-making, collaboration, and knowledge management within organizations. Overall, the application's user-centric design, adaptability, and scalability make it an invaluable tool for a diverse spectrum of users looking to optimize their note-taking processes and increase productivity in both educational and professional settings.

### 4 MAJOR FUNCTIONS

In our project "NoteScribe", we develop a new standalone AI-driven web application to automate the process of note-taking from Audio inputs and Text transcripts. This application also leverages the modern web technologies and Machine Learning Models to provide a flexible, user-centered Tool useful for note-taking. Which supports a variety of user needs starting from academic learning to professional meeting documentation. The Major Functionalities of our project "NoteScribe" are as follows

**3.1 Audio and Text Transcript Processing:** Functionality: "NoteScribe" is created to handle audio inputs from multiple sources, including direct uploads from users and also from streaming platforms like YouTube. It supports a wide range of audio formats, which are automatically processed through advanced speech-to-text engines. The application utilizes the Whisper API for accurate and efficient transcription. This API is known for its robust performance across different languages and dialects, ensuring broad usability.

**3.2 Dynamic Note Generation:** The system generates customized notes based on user-selected parameters. It can produce various outputs such as detailed summaries, lists of action items, and records of key decisions. Making use of OpenAI's GPT models, "NoteScribe" transforms raw transcriptions into structured formats. The model is fine-tuned with prompts

that guide the generation of specific types of notes, allowing for flexibility and relevance to the user's needs.

**3.3 Keyword Assisted Transcript Correction:** The accuracy of transcripts generated by speech-to-text models in recognizing domain-specific entities underrepresented in training data is improved by performing post-processing with user-provided keywords. Correcting key phrases and terms relevant to the context helps highlight significant concepts that could be missed during downstream note generation.

**3.3 User-Centered Customization** Users can customize their note-taking experience by setting preferences for the format, level of detail, and handling of specialized keywords. The frontend interface allows users to specify these preferences, which are then stored in a user profile managed by the backend. These preferences are then applied dynamically to the note generation process.

## 5 IMPLEMENTATION

Figure 1 shows the architecture of our system. "NoteScribe" begins its process by offering a user-friendly frontend, developed using React, which allows users to manage inputs through interactive form controls. Users can upload audio files or enter URLs from platforms like YouTube, which are then processed. The system's state management capabilities ensure that user preferences and sessions are dynamically handled, also enhancing the personalization of the experience.

Once the audio is uploaded or fetched from a URL, the backend (Node.js), takes over. It manages essential tasks such as session management and file storage, and begins the workflow of audio processing. The backend also handles the integration with third-party APIs, ensuring that data flows smoothly from the frontend to the processing modules.

In the audio processing stage shown in Algorithm 1, it undergoes naive chunking where it's divided into equal-length intervals, facilitating straightforward and efficient processing.

Audio is then fed into OpenAI's Whisper model to generate transcript as shown in Algorithm 2. Since speech-to-text models often struggle with domain-specific entities that are underrepresented in training data, we also perform post-processing on the raw transcript using user-provided keywords. We pass the transcript and keywords as a prompt to OpenAI's GPT-3.5-turbo model to correct transcription errors as shown in Algorithm 3.

The keyword corrected transcript is then fed into the GPT model as shown in Algorithm 4. Here, based on the user's predefined preferences and the type of notes required like summaries or concise action items, the GPT model then tailors the output. It uses various prompt strategies to generate notes that are not only relevant but also formatted according to the user's needs.

The integration with external APIs, like the YouTube API for sourcing audio directly from video content, and the efficient transcription and text generation is facilitated by the Whisper and GPT APIs, respectively, ensures that the entire process is seamless. These APIs are crucial for real-time processing.

**Algorithm 1** Process Audio File

**Require:** *audio\_clip*: Audio file, *notes\_type*: Type of notes,  
*keywords*: Keywords for processing, *chunk\_length*:  
Length of audio chunks (default=60)  
**Ensure:** Processed transcript and notes

- 1: *chunks\_transcript*  $\leftarrow []$
- 2: *total\_duration*  $\leftarrow$  *audio\_clip*.duration
- 3: *num\_chunks*  $\leftarrow \lfloor \text{total\_duration} / \text{chunk\_length} \rfloor + 1$
- 4: **for** *i* = 0 to *num\_chunks* - 1 **do**
- 5:   *start\_time*  $\leftarrow i \times \text{chunk\_length}$
- 6:   *end\_time*  $\leftarrow \min((i + 1) \times \text{chunk\_length}, \text{total\_duration})$
- 7:   *chunk\_audio\_clip*  $\leftarrow$  *audio\_clip*.subclip(*start\_time*,  
    *end\_time*)
- 8:   *chunk\_transcript*  $\leftarrow$  transcribe\_audio\_with\_openai(*chunk\_audio\_clip*,  
    *keywords*)
- 9:   Append *chunk\_transcript* to *chunks\_transcript*
- 10: **end for**
- 11: Concatenate all *chunks\_transcript* into a single transcript
- 12: **if** *len(keywords)* > 0 **then**
- 13:   Post-process transcript with keywords
- 14: **end if**
- 15: Generate notes based on *notes\_type*
- 16: **return** transcript and notes

**Algorithm 2** Transcribe Audio with OpenAI

**Require:** *audio\_file\_path*: Path to the audio file, *keywords*:  
Keywords for transcription  
**Ensure:** Transcribed text

- 1: Initialize the OpenAI client
- 2: Load audio file
- 3: **with** open(*audio\_file\_path*, "rb") **as** *audio\_file*:
- 4:   Transcribe
- 5:   *transcription*  $\leftarrow$  client.audio.transcriptions.create(model="whisper-  
1", file=*audio\_file*, prompt=*keywords*)
- 6: **return** The transcribed text

## 6 STEPS TO USE NOTESCRIBE

### (1) Installation:

- Clone the repository using:  
**git clone https://github.com/Spoon7227/CS510-Project.git**
- Navigate to the backend directory:  
**cd backend**
- Install backend dependencies: **npm install**  
**pip install -r requirements.txt**

**Algorithm 3** Correct Keywords

**Require:** *user\_input*: User input text, *keywords*: List of key-  
words  
**Ensure:** Text with corrected keywords

- 1: Initialize the OpenAI client
- 2: *prompt*  $\leftarrow$  "Please ensure that all occurrences of the fol-  
lowing keywords are spelled exactly as given, maintaining  
exact case sensitivity: " + *keywords* + ". For example: 'I  
like apple and water guns': [APPLE, WaterGuns]Output:  
'I like APPLE and WaterGuns.'"
- 3: Define the prompt with the system message and user  
query
- 4: *prompt*  $\leftarrow$  [{"role": "system", "content": *prompt*, "role":  
"user", "content": *user\_input*}]
- 5: Generate completion
- 6: *completion*  $\leftarrow$  client.chat.completions.create(model="gpt-  
3.5-turbo", messages=*prompt*)
- 7: **return** The generated notes

**Algorithm 4** Generate Notes

**Require:** *user\_input*: User input text, *prompt*: Prompt for  
generating notes  
**Ensure:** Generated notes

- 1: Initialize the OpenAI client
- 2: Define the prompt with the system message and user  
query
- 3: *prompt*  $\leftarrow$  [{"role": "system", "content": *prompt*, "role":  
"user", "content": *user\_input*}]
- 4: Generate completion
- 5: *completion*  $\leftarrow$  client.chat.completions.create(model="gpt-  
3.5-turbo", messages=*prompt*)
- 6: **return** The generated notes

- Navigate to the frontend directory:  
**cd ../frontend**

- Install frontend dependencies:  
**npm install**

- Install react-scripts:  
**npm install react-scripts**

- (2) **Configuration:** Configure the OpenAI API key in the  
config.js file. This key is required for authenticating  
with the OpenAI API and accessing language models  
used for transcription and note generation.

### (3) Usage:

- Start the backend server:  
**node server.js**
- Start the frontend server:  
**npm start**

- Access the application using **http://localhost:3000**
- Choose prompt choice: Meeting notes or lecture notes
- Choose input type: Enter link or upload audio file.
- Figure 2 and Figure 3 show the input and output for a meeting video.
- Figure 4 and Figure 5 show the input and output for a lecture video.
- You can pass keywords to the input as shown in Figure 6.
- Figure 7 shows the transcript without using keywords. It is seen that the word "Truity" is misspelled as "Trudy". Figure 8 shows the transcript when keywords are given and "Truity" is spelled correctly.

Prompt Choice:

Meeting Notes

Keywords:

Comma seperated Keywords

Input Type:

Enter Link

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WrZMzqpFTd

Cancel

Submit

Figure 2: Input for meeting notes (YouTube link)

NoteScribe

Transcript

Notes

Hello everyone, thank you guys for coming to our weekly student success meeting and let's just get started. So I have our list of chronically absent students here, and I've been noticing a troubling trend a lot of students are skipping on Fridays. Some even have our class sheet signed and I've heard some of my students talking about how it's really hard to get out of bed on Fridays. It might be good if we did something like a pancake breakfast to encourage them to come I think that's a good idea. Let's try that next week. It might also be because a lot of students have been getting sick now that it's getting colder outside I've had a number of students come to my office with symptoms like sniffing and coughing. We should get on track with tips for not getting sick later in the semester like you know wash your hands after the bathroom stuff like that I think that's a good idea, and I'll be a good reminder for the teachers as well to see other thing I wanted to talk about there's a student I've noticed have John Smith, he's missed some days recently, and it's only November doesn't even feel as though we're doing on with him. I forgot to be able to fill in the gaps there. I talked to John today and he's really stressed out, he's been dealing with helping his parents take care of his younger siblings during the day. It might actually be a good idea if he spoke to the guidance counselor a little bit. I can talk to him today if you want to have him to my office when you meet with him. It's a lot to deal with for a middle schooler. Great, thanks. And I can help out with the family's child care needs. I'll look for some free or low-cost resources in the community to share with John and he can share them with his family. Great, well, come really good idea here today. Thanks for coming and if we see him anything else I think we can wrap up.

**Meeting Summary:**  
The meeting discussed the issue of chronically absent students, particularly on Fridays, and brainstormed ideas to address this trend. The meeting also touched upon students getting sick as the weather gets colder and proposed preventative measures. Additionally, the group addressed a specific case of a student, John Smith, who has missed several days due to family responsibilities.

**Action Items:**

- Implement a pancake breakfast next week to encourage student attendance on Fridays.
- Create and display posters with tips for preventing illness, such as handwashing, to promote health awareness.
- Encourage John Smith to speak with the guidance counselor to address his stress and family obligations.

**Next Steps:**

- Organize a pancake breakfast event to incentivize student attendance.
- Provide resources for John Smith's family to assist with childcare needs.

**Decisions Made:**

- Implement a pancake breakfast event to encourage student attendance on Fridays.
- Display posters with preventative health tips to combat illness during the season.
- Recommend John Smith to speak with the guidance counselor for support.

**Next Steps:**

- Follow up with John Smith to ensure he meets with the guidance counselor.
- Research and share community resources for John Smith's family to alleviate childcare needs.

Figure 3: Output for meeting notes

Prompt Choice:

Lecture Notes

Keywords:

Comma seperated Keywords

Input Type:

Enter Link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aA1V

Cancel

Submit

Figure 4: Input for lecture notes (YouTube link)

NoteScribe

Transcript

Notes

Transcription sponsored by RenaissanceWax. What an audience. But if I'm being honest, I don't care what you think of my talk. I don't. I care what the internet thinks of my talk. Because they're the ones who get it seen and get it shared. And I think that's where most people get it wrong. They're talking to you, here. Instead of talking to you, random person scrolling Facebook. Thanks for the slide. Now you, back in 2009, we all had these weird little things called attention spans. Yeah, they're gone. They're gone. We killed them. They're dead. I'm trying to know of the last time I watched an 18-minute TED talk. It's been years. Literally years. So if you're giving a TED talk, keep it quick. You and mine in under a minute. I'm at 44 seconds right now. That means we've got time for...

one final joke. Why are balloons so expensive? Inflation.

**Lecture Overview:**

- The speaker emphasizes the importance of catering to internet audiences for talk visibility and shares their own about attention spans and the brevity of talks.

**Section Summaries:**

- The speaker highlights the shift in audience focus from physical audiences to internet users.
- He mentions the decline in attention spans and the need for concise talks, citing personal experiences and humor.

**Key concepts and definitions:**

- Attention spans: The duration for which a person can focus on a particular task or activity.

**Questions for review:**

- How has the speaker's approach to giving talks differed from traditional expectations?
- Why does the speaker emphasize the importance of engaging internet audiences?
- What is the significance of delivering concise talks in today's digital age?

Figure 5: Output Notes for lecture notes

Prompt Choice:

Lecture Notes

Keywords:

Truity's, truity.com/enneagram

Input Type:

Enter Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUs->

Cancel Submit

Figure 6: Input with keywords

Transcript

The Enneagram is a personality assessment which helps you identify your core motivations, fears, and drivers at work, home, and in relationships. It explains the why behind our behaviors, answering questions unique to you like, why do people describe me as intimidating when I don't feel that way? Or why is it so difficult for me to decide what I really want? Although its exact origins are unclear, the Enneagram has ancient roots dating back around 4,000 years, but became more widely used by psychologists in the 20th century. The Enneagram outlines nine core types with different patterns of thinking, feeling, and acting. It helps you understand how you relate to yourself, others, and the world around you. Our accurate test takes less than 10 minutes to complete and gives you an overview of your unique Enneagram type. Over 50 million people have taken our test to date and have given it an average star rating of 4.9 out of 5 stars. To find out why Trudy's Enneagram test has helped so many discover their true selves, go to [truity.com/enneagram](https://www.truity.com/enneagram). And to learn even more about your Enneagram type and how it plays into your work life, relationships and stress levels, upgrade to get your full 19-page report.

Figure 7: Output without keywords

Transcript

The Enneagram is a personality assessment which helps you identify your core motivations, fears, and drivers at work, home, and in relationships. It explains the why behind our behaviors, answering questions unique to you like, why do people describe me as intimidating when I don't feel that way? Or why is it so difficult for me to decide what I really want? Although its exact origins are unclear, the Enneagram has ancient roots dating back around 4,000 years, but became more widely used by psychologists in the 20th century. The Enneagram outlines nine core types with different patterns of thinking, feeling, and acting. It helps you understand how you relate to yourself, others, and the world around you. Our accurate test takes less than 10 minutes to complete and gives you an overview of your unique Enneagram type. Over 50 million people have taken our test to date and have given it an average star rating of 4.9 out of 5 stars. To find out why Trudy's Enneagram test has helped so many discover their true selves, go to [truity.com/enneagram](https://www.truity.com/enneagram). And to learn even more about your Enneagram type and how it plays into your work life, relationships, and stress levels, upgrade to get your full 19-page report.

Figure 8: Output with keywords

## 7 INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- (1) Joseph Jang - Planned the project's technical design, developed the front-end landing page and output display, managed API requests and file upload middle-ware, and implemented transcript post-processing with keyword enhancement.
- (2) Kiruthika Janakiraman - Developed the backend script for generating meeting/lecture notes from the generated transcript using OpenAI's Chat Completion API and integrated the backend and frontend.
- (3) Sai Shreya Kumar - Designed the input system for direct audio uploads and extracting audio from YouTube Links,

implemented audio chunking to efficiently process long recordings, and integrated Open AI's Whisper model for accurate transcript generation.

- (4) Sudarshni Ramesh - Implemented several key features including choice input for links and audio files, a panel with three fields, a prompt choice dropdown menu, and the ability to input keywords as a list of strings. Also developed the functionality for uploading files or links and displaying the corresponding upload field based on user selection and integrated with the main p.

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