# Mobile Web Application

# Electronic Payment System

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Abstract— Since the last few decades, the smartphone has become necessary for everyone in the daily life, instead of just tools for communications. Due to the rapid development of the mobile system, the mobile applications made people's life more convenient such as map applications and delivering applications. Among the vast quantities of mobile apps, electronic payment applications have become an essential part of the application family. It has become significant for developing and improving electronic payment applications with great qualities.

In this project, a mobile web application for electronic payment will be designed and implemented. This electronic payment application will be focusing on providing users with convenient and safe electronic payment experiences. Multiple kinds of functions will be performed in this application including QR code and face recognition, which have been widely applied in mobile application fields to merely the procedures of payment.

In the design and development of this project, a RESTful structure will be used with android front-end application, Java back-end server, MySQL database and Google Cloud Message pushing service. Furthermore, face recognition parts will be implemented by Tensorflow in Artificial Neural Network field, a method called Eigenface will be referenced.

Convenient and safe electronic payment systems will be developed as the goal of this project. Compared to other existing applications, it is focusing on brand-new system architecture, better payment experiences among users, especially the implementation of face identification payment method. However, there's quite a lot limitation in the final product, like safety method and capacity of the application, which shall be improved for further considerations.

Keywords—Electornic Payment; RESTful API; Android; Tensorflow; MySOL

## I. INTRODUCTION

## A. Background

The electronic payment is defined as "Users send payment orders to bank systems directly or indirectly via electronic devices, to achieve currency payment and fund transfer." However, in the recent decades, while the smart mobile phones are being developed rapidly, a significant number of mobile applications for electronic payment are carried out like Alipay, WeChat Pay, and PayPal, which are designed as professional commercial applications and shows substantial influences on users' daily lives.

## B. Objective

In this project named "Mobile Web Application - Mobile Electronic Payment System," an Android mobile application called "Free Yeah Payment" (denoted as FYP in the following) will be developed.

FYP applications are developed based on ideas of "Better electronic payment experiences on interactions within users." In other words, the bank is not a considerable role in this project; all functions are designed for interactions between users and users.

As a professional application system, it is necessary to implement the following components: mobile application, central server, and back-end database. And platforms, structures, and languages for each part, connections and communication methods between them shall be considered.

Mainly speaking, besides all the essential functions like login and registration, electronic payment methods are the most critical parts to be considered. Three kinds of arrangements for electronic payment will be developed in this project: pay by direct transfer, payment by QR code and payment by Face Recognition. A function of payment by direct transfer is added as a backup choice for users, which can make the whole application more completed and professional. The feature of payment by OR code is implemented as the primary method in FYP, which satisfies the payment needs in different scenarios. In other words, any two users can use QR code in serval ways to achieve the goal of payment. As for the last function of payment by Face Recognition, this is considered as the new feature in electronic payment systems. In this feature, the final goal is to achieve "Payment by scanning faces on portable(mobile) devices." Until the current moment, there're still many works to be done in this field; even Alipay does not support face recognition on mobile devices.

#### C. Project Scope and Limitations

This FYP project will be fully developed on a personal computer and a mobile phone, which means the central server and database will be deployed on one single laptop. Therefore, user capacity supported will be a significant limitation in this environment. Meanwhile, as for the front-end application implemented on the mobile phone, the final product will not help for other operation systems, but only android, even more, it may carry out unpredictable issues like GUI layout missing

and function support on mobile phone of another brand different from the testing machine (a Huawei and MI phone are tested in this project).

According to the basic ideas for function design in this project, it is assumed that all the functions are designed for interactions with users. Therefore, as it was mentioned before, the role of the bank is ignored in this project.

As for the safety, some simple security methods are implemented here like user's IP checking and QR code valid number. However, compared to formal commercial electronic applications, security methods implemented in FYP have significant limitations, which worth further improvements.

For the Face Recognition feature which has been implemented already, due to the hardware and Eigenface method used limitations, a limited number of users may be supported. Although the basic idea of face recognition payment has been achieved, even more, issues are worth for further consideration, as the justification of images and a real human, improvement of user capability and handling of wrong identification exception, which shall provide suggestions on formal commercial applications in real life. Details will be discussed in the following parts.

#### II. IMPLEMENTATION-MODULE PERSPECTIVE

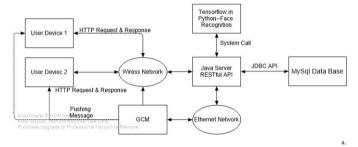


Fig. 1. Overall System Architecture

[Figure. 2.1.1] shows the overall system architecture of FYP project. There are four main modules in the whole system: Front-end application, primary server, database, and GCM. The front-end application is designed for end-users, who are going to use this electronic payment service. Meanwhile, the frontend application is deployed in users' end-devices, which could be portable. Both central server and database are implemented in one single PC. Therefore, the hardware issue could be a limitation for system capacity and performance. According to [Figure. 2.1.1], the users send HTTP request from the mobile device to the primary server via the wireless network (WIFI mostly). And the central server communicates with MySQL database through JDBC (Java Database Connectivity) API. As for the GCM, the central server will send HTTP request to GCM, which is in the cloud server supported by Google and updated to Firebase Cloud Messaging (FCM), via the Ethernet network. GCM will then push the costumed messages to specific users via the wireless network.

## A. Front-end Application

In this project, the front-end application is developed on Android platform, because Android has currently become the most popular operating system for portable devices. Therefore, the Android Studio IDE is chosen for growing, which is the official IDE tools presented by Google and it is considered to be the most wildly used tools for android programming.

The front-end application takes the responsibility of interaction with different users. Therefore, the principles of UI design shall be taken into consideration like being convenient, precise and user-friendly.

## 1) User Interface Design

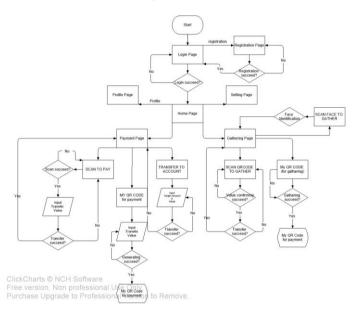


Fig. 2. UI Flow Diagram

According to the Fig.2, this diagram describes the working flow of the android front-end application and user interface structure. When the user clicks the application icon on mobile devices, the Android app will be launched with the login page.

## 2) Technical Implementation

The front-end application is implemented on Android Studio, which is the most widely used IDE for android programming because it is open source and user-friendly for programming, like visual programming for layout and the virtual device simulator. Most of the project files are in Java and XML, called the activity and the layout. In android programming, each application page is generated and run by a Java activity and an XML layout file. In other words, the XML file determines the layout of the page and Java activity defines behaviors and interactions.

#### 3) Communication with the Server

Because of the server implementation of RESTful API style, which keeps listening, accepting HTTP requests and sending back the corresponding responses. Therefore, whenever the android application is supposed to communicate with the primary server, the application starts a new thread,

which generates the HTTP request, sends it out. And then waiting for the response.

This mechanism has benefits on simplifying the communication method, which suits the server requirements best. However, some parameters like password, transfer value, and transfer value shall not be generated into URL directly. It is possible to develop an encryption function for the settings or change the server structure and use HTTPS for the communication.

All the responses from the server are self-defined as JSON format, and the android application can resolve the answer, which determines the next process of the claim.

However, in face identification part, the Android application takes the responsibility of uploading an image to the server to identify. Therefore, in the activity of gathering by face, once the application successful gets the face image and transfers it to the target size in grayscale, the application will encode the image in BITMAP format to string by the BASE64 method. And then transfer the string with HTTP request by POST method.

Furthermore, once the server receives the target string, it will decode the string to JPEG format by the BASE64 method. BASE64 encoding and decoding methods are available libraries for Java.

#### B. Server Module

In the design of server module, primarily the RESTful API structure is implemented for server construction. RESTful API has the critical term "REST," which stands for the full term of "Representational State Transfer." REST describes an interaction mode between client and server. Therefore, RESTful APIA means API in REST style structure. Clients and servers communicate with each other through HTTP requests and responses, in other words, the REST structure uses URL for locating resources and HTTP action for behaviors. According to the definition and features of RESTful API, it has been regarded as a suitable design for the web application, cause URL and HTTP have been designed for web technology. However, in FYP project, RESTful API is used as the base server structure, which is not common though, there're reasons for the choice. Firstly, the RESTful API has been well designed and developed already, which means there's no need to define new communication protocol because it uses URL to locate the resources. Secondly, the RESTful API is light-weight and has reasonable performance on the test server machine, which owns only personal level hardware. Lastly, for further consideration, because this API is designed for the web application, therefore, it is assumed that platform transplantation will be more natural. Java is chosen to be the programming language because it is an accessible language for RESTful API server construction.

## 1) Working Flow of the Server

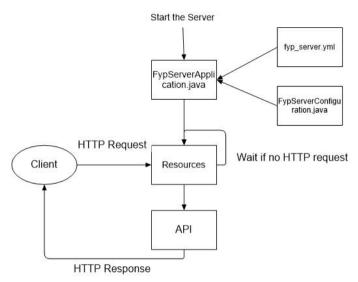


Fig. 3. Flow Diagram of the Server

- Run file FypServerApplication.java to start the server
- File fyp server.yml defines the port of the server
- File FYPServerConfiguration.java defines the other initial configurations
- Resource package contains all the resource files (like Login.java). When there is an HTTP request from the client, the server will locate the resource file according to the HTTP request with URL. If there is no request, just waiting for the activation.
- Once the resource file is located, call the API files to response. In other words, API files define the format of the response
- The response is sent back to the client by HTTP

The server design of FYP combines the regular listening pattern and RESTful API together, which is a new design approach for server design. The android applications on user devices send the HTTP request and the server responses with a pre-defined object. However, there're limitations for this server structure. For instance, compared to socket communication method, URL with HTTP actions method may be less efficient in image transfer.

#### 2) Technical Implementation

The Java server is fully implemented on Eclipse, which is a powerful IDE for Java programming and efficient on project management. Since a RESTful structure was determined as the backbone of the server, a specific version of a RESTful architecture called Dropwizard was implemented.

To have better management on this project, Maven on Eclipse was used to load dependencies and build the project, which is an uncomplicated project management tool. The file structure will be discussed in next section.

Therefore, before server starts, Maven will rebuild the whole project when file structure or dependencies changed. Run the server application file to start the server quickly.

## 3) Communication with Database

Because MySQL database was implemented in this project, a library called Java DataBase Connectivity (JDBC) is used for communication between the Java server and the MySQL database.

Because connecting and disconnecting in every resource will reduce the performance of the server. Therefore, a connection instance of JDBC is created in FypServerApplication.java and is passed to every resource for utilization. JDBC was used in the resource by executing a query via the instance stmt (java.sql.Statement) and storing the query result in instance rs (java.sql.ResultSet). The data can be accessed via the result set rs.

#### C. Database Module

MySQL database is deployed because MySQL is free for student and has excellent performance in data management. In this project, two tables were created: table fyp\_user for user information and table fyp\_trans for transaction information.

Field	Туре	Null	Key	Default	Extra
user_id user_password user_password user_passlAddr user_balance user_createTine user_lastModifiedTine user_paskcoount user_prined user_ip user_ip user_gdValue user_fcnOken	int (5) varchar (10) varchar (20) varchar (20) int (10) timestamp (6) thar (11) varchar (20) timestamp (6) varchar (16) varchar (16) varchar (6) int (10) longtext	MO MO MO MO MO MO MO MO MO YES MO MO YES	PRI UNI	NULL OURSENT TIMESTAMP (6) CURRENT_TIMESTAMP (6) CURRENT_TIMESTAMP (6) O.O.O.O  **xxxxxx** -1 NULL	auto_increment  on update CURRENT_TIMESTAMP(6)

Fig. 4. Structure of Table fyp\_user

The table of fyp\_user stores all the information related to the user basically like id, name, password, and balance. However, some special attributes are belonging to specific functions.

For attribute user\_ip, it is used to implement a security method. When the user login successfully, the login IP address will be stored into the database, which can guarantee that the transactions are made after the user login. In other words, attribute user\_ip can be considered as verification of current session, because every moment when the transaction is going to be made, the server will check the user\_ip attribute, make sure the transaction request is from the right user.

For attribute user\_qrValidNum, it is used to implement another security method for QR code. According to the function design, the user can generate QR codes for payment and gathering. The QR code for gathering has no limit on usage times. However, the QR code for payment can be scanned and used up for only once. Therefore, every moment when the user sends out the request for generating a QR code for payment with pre-entered value, the server will update the randomly generated user\_qrValidNum. And check this attribute when any user is trying to scan the code to receive money from the QR code owner. After the transaction is done, this attribute will be set to the default value.

#### III. IMPLEMENTATION -FUNCTION PERSPECTIVE

Based on the project objectives, this electronic payment system is supposed to be multi-functional. This chapter mainly discusses the implementation through a function perspective.

## A. Login & Register

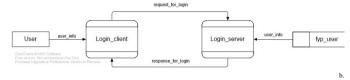


Fig. 5. Data Flow Diagram of the Login Function

Fig.5. shows the data flow of the login function. When the user enters the username and password, and then click the login button in the login page, the Android application generates an HTTP request, passes the required information (username and password) to Java server as parameters in URL. Once the server receives the HTTP request for login, it locates to the corresponding resource file based on the URL. In this process, the server will retrieve the correct password from the database, check whether the password matches and return the corresponding response object to the client.



Fig. 6. Data Flow Diagram of the Register Function

Fig.6. shows the data flow of register function. When the user enters the required information and clicks, the register button in register page, the Android application generates an HTTP request, passes the information required to Java server as parameters in URL. The server will check the validation of register information and return the response to the client.

## B. Payment by Transfer

The function of payment by transfer is designed for a direct transfer method, which requires target username and transfer value to make the transaction. And this function is not supported for gathering.

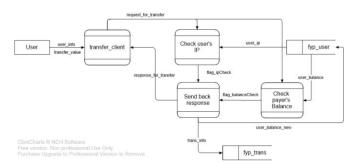


Fig. 7. Data Flow Diagram of the Payment by Transfer Function

## C. Transaction by the QR Code

#### 1) Introduction to the QR Code

QR Code stands for Quick Response Code, invented by Denso Cooperation in 1994. It is a 2-dimensional matrix code, which stores data and information. Compared to the traditional barcode, QR code is reliable, safe and better capacity of data. Nowadays, QR code has become a standard technology and shows up in daily life. QR code used in electronic payment application simplifies the payment procedure.

#### 2) Flow of the Transaction by the QR Code

Both the payment and gathering are supported by QR Code in this implementation.

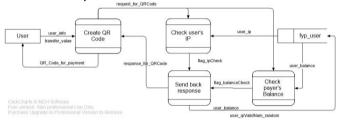


Fig. 8. Data Flow Diagram of the Payment by Scanning QR Codes

When the user clicks the "SCAN TO PAY" button on the Payment page, the camera for scanning QR codes will be launched. If the user focuses the camera on a QR code, it will automatically scan it and send the corresponding HTTP request to the server. The QR code carries necessary information like username, QR code type which identifies the QR code is for payment or gathering. Because in this case which scans a QR code to pay to another user, the payment user is required to enter transfer value, which means the QR code only provides the receiver information. After the user successfully scans and enter the transfer value, like payment by the transfer function, the server will check user's current IP address with login IP address and balance before completing the transaction and respond to the client

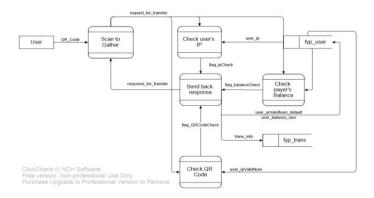


Fig. 9. Data Flow Diagram of the Gathering by Scanning QR Codes.

Another transaction function related to QR code is scanning a QR code to receive money. In this case, the QR code performs like the cheque and can only be used once. When the user clicks, the "SCAN QR CODES" button in the gathering page, the application will launch the QR code

camera. Once the user successfully scans the QR code and click confirm button in the dialog, the client will send out the transfer request. There is no need for the user to enter transfer value, cause the allowed transfer value has been carried by QR code. Therefore, an attribute called QR code validation number, which is generated from the QR code will be check in the server process.

The validation number is created when the request of generating QR code is accepted by the server (discussed in next section for generating QR code), and stored in database binding with the QR code owner. Once this QR code is scanned and the transaction is finished, the server will set the QR code validation number of the owner to a default value, which means this QR code has become invalid. Meanwhile, every user can keep only one cheque type QR code valid, and if a new one is generated, the old one will be considered as invalid and lose its value.

### 3) Generate & Scan the QR Codes

The user can click "MY QR CODE" button in payment page to generate a payment type QR code which requires to the transfer value, and click "GET MY QR CODE" button to generate a gathering type QR code.

In fact, when the user clicks the button to generate a QR code, the client application sends HTTP request for generating QR codes to the server, which will be located to resource file "QRCode.java". Especially for the payment type QR code, the server will check the transfer value with user's balance and update the QR code validation number.

The server will return a response for permission to the client. For the payment type QR code, the QR code validation number will also be returned. Based on the response object, the client application will generate the QR code for the user.

Both generating and scanning functions are implemented by ZXing library, which is an open source project developed by Google.

#### D. Gathering by Scanning a Face

## 1) Function Specification

This application supports scanning a registered member's face to start a transaction. Once the face is scanned, the file will be uploaded to server by an HTTP POST request. If the face identification is successful, the payment user will receive a notification from GCM, and the user can click the notification to start the payment.

## 2) Flow of the Face Identification Function

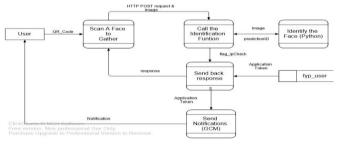


Fig. 10. Data Flow Diagram of the Gathering by Scanning A Face

When the user opens the camera by clicking "SCAN FACES" in gathering page, the user can press the black bar to take a face picture. Meanwhile, this image will be stored in the local memory. Later, the client application will send the HTTP POST request with the face image to the server, and then the server will call the identification file in Python to identify the image. Once the predicated user ID has been returned by the Python identification file, the server retrieves the predicted user's application token from the database, which is used for the GCM server to send a notification to the predicated user.

## 3) Theory Explanation of Face Identification Function

In this function, a method for face recognition called "Eigenface" was used for implementation, which is efficient and easy to implement compared to other face identification methods like feature extraction.

The idea of eigenfaces is to represent a collection of faces by principal component analysis (PCA), and generate the feature vector for each face by a reconstructed method [1]. And then use these feature vectors to train an artificial neural network (ANN). As for the prediction, the procedure is to calculate the feature vector from the new image and put it into the neural network model for prediction.

## 4) Implementation of the Face Identification Function

Based on the method discussed in the last section, the neural network for face identification was implemented by Tensorflow, which is an open source structure for deep learning. Meanwhile, this part was developed in Python language, because Tensorflow has the excellent capability with Python and Python is power at data processing. The following statements describe how the Tensorflow python files predict the input face images.

- Generate the trained model
  - o Read in the images from the face database
  - Calculate the feature vectors from the face collection
  - o Define the target labels
    - An array of size of class numbers represents the results. In the matrix, 1 for the correct ID and 0 for the others
    - Define the layers and construct the model
    - Define the layers with random weights and basis by addLayer function
    - Define the network structure with layer number, node number and active function for each layer
    - Define the loss function, as crossentropy method was used.
    - Define the optimizer, as gradient descent optimizer was used
    - Define the learning rate
  - o Run the training session and output the loss
  - Output the test result
  - o Save the trained neural network model
- Prediction
  - Read in the target image for identification
  - o Calculate the feature vector of the target image

- Restore the trained model
- o Feed the feature vector to the model
- Output the prediction result

### 5) Re-training of the Neural Network Model

Because the neural network model must be constructed before training with data, it is supposed to be re-trained if new classes join, which will change the model structure. Mainly speaking, in this application, when a new user wants to use the face identification feature, the system shall allow the user to upload the face images and re-train the model to work. In the practical deployment, the server shall re-train the model with new pictures in a reasonable time interval

#### 6) Sample Test

## i. Assumption

This sample test will test the face identification function which is deployed in this electronic payment system. A face image database of 10 people and ten images for each were used. According to the model parameters:

- Ten classes and ten images for each
- 60% of images were used for training, and 40 of images are used for testing
- Two network layers
- 50 middle nodes and ten output nodes
- ReLU was used as the active function
- Cross-entropy was used for loss function
- Gradient descent optimizer was used for training
- Learning rate was set to 0.01
- Training iteration number was set to 5000

## ii. Result of Training

```
O. 20331827
O. 20330757
O. 20330757
O. 2632965
O. 26328528
O. 26327488
The accuracy is
O. 975
Saving Completed
PS D:\Files\FYP_Project\Server\identificationFile\Codes>
```

Fig. 11. Result of the Training Example

With environment setting to the assumption section, the model was trained for multiple times. However, the model was saved, the best result was picked up and shown in Fig. 11.

According to the result, the value of loss function nearly converged to 0.2632, and the final accuracy for test image set was 0.975, which was considered acceptable in a 100-sample test.

## iii. Sample Result of the Face Identification

In this test, the client application took a face photo and transferred to the server for identification. The complete face identification function was tested in this section.

Their photos were taken on a registered member with user ID 1, the following results were got:

- Test Case 1
  - o Image:



#### • Test Case 2

o Image:



#### Test Case 3

o Image:



The result contained three parts: "true" mean this identification is successfully made; the matrix showed the final weights of the label, the highest weight represented the predicated ID; the last number indicated the target user ID, which was the predication result.

According to the three test cases, the result was accurate and acceptable, even the target user showed different motions or wore glasses.

## E. GCM Service

#### 1) Introduction to GCM

GCM stands for Google Clouding Messaging, which is used for pushing a message to the end-user device. Because the server is built in request-response mode, therefore, the server cannot send a message to the user if the user doesn't give a request, but some messages are necessary for users like

transaction results. GCM takes the responsibility of pushing a message to the end-user when the transaction happened or finished. At this moment, the GCM has been updated to a new system called Firebase Clouding Message which stands for FCM. Both two terms stand for the same meaning.

- 2) Flow of GCM Notification
- In android application:
  - Generate the GCM token by a library call
  - Send the GCM token to the server by HTTP request
- In Java server:
  - o Retrieve the target GCM token from database
  - Send the HTTP request to GCM cloud server with the token

## 3) Implementation of GCM

Besides of using the library in the application, the project was required to register on Firebase. The web API key shall be carried by the server, which will be used to send HTTP request to the cloud server for notification.

#### IV. LIMITATIONS & FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

## A. Security

## 1) Security of the URL

In this project, HTTP was used, and most of the parameters were transmitted in the unencrypted URL, which means that this method may be under security risks like faking URL. Although the server will check the user's IP address every moment before the transactions are made, it is not exactly safe in some ways.

This part can be improved by updating the communication protocol to more secure ones like HTTPS, or making use device's ID or application ID which can fairly be considered as unique somehow, and checking all the attributes to make sure that the request is sent by the right user.

## 2) Security of the QR Code

Although an attribute called QR Code Validation Number was used to prevent some security issues, the QR codes generated by this application can be read by any other applications as a standard QR code.

This issue can be solved by encrypting the data of QR code and only supports decryptions in the server or the client application.

#### B. Face Identification

#### 1) The Capacity of the Model

In the test case of face identification function, only ten classes with ten images each were trained on this model and made reasonable results. However, when changed the test classes for 40, the training time raised up a lot and lost the high accuracy.

It is possible to modify and improve the identification method or justify the model parameters like learning rate.

## 2) Incorrect Face Identification Result

If the system gives out incorrect face identification result, the server shall have the ability to handle the mistakes. Although a notification for confirmation will be sent before the transaction, the accuracy shall be even more close to 100%, which makes the face identification function not reliable.

It is possible to make use of the miss-identification data to re-train the model for reducing further mistakes.

#### 3) Add New Users to the Model

The new user will not be able to upload the face images for training and use the face identification service immediately. Because it is difficult to update the neural network model every moment when new users join.

Therefore, the system can be set to re-train the neural network model once a day or once an hour.

## 4) Identify the Unregistered User

Because the output label of the identification model was in the same size with the number of classes. Therefore, the model will make predictions on any images pushed in, even the images belonging to unregistered users. Furthermore, the model will even make predictions on any image passed to it, no matter it is a face or not.

This issue shall be solved by firstly, adding human face detection feature to the camera, which guarantees the images are human faces. Secondly adding extra classes for unregistered faces may handle the issue.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The project "Mobile Web Application – Electronic payment System" focusing on a complete application system design and developing. The final product application of FYP project aims at providing various and comfortable payment

experiences, including QR code payment and face recognition payment. Especially the face recognition function, which is assumed to be a new feature applied to portable devices. During the developing progress, different technical methods are implemented like Android and Java for programming, RESTful API structure for system structure and neural network technology for face recognition. The product application works well for all the basic functions and different payment methods.

However, compared to existing commercial applications in the market, there're limitations of FYP project in fields of UI design and security issue. Furthermore, for the future development, besides UI improvement and security issue, it will be significant to give out better QR code payment method and performance of face recognition function in electronic payment system including capacity and performance.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Until the current stage of the final report, the project has been fully implemented. Therefore, while writing this report, first, I wish to express my most profound gratitude to my project supervisor, Dr. Lam, who has given me valuable suggestions and advice. Then I would like to show my sincere thanks to the Assistant Lecturer from CAES, Mr. Cezar Cazan, who has taught me with Knolege on technical report writing.

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