DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, LONERE.

PROJECT PHASE II

A PROJECT REPORT

ON

"GCP FILE STORAGE"

Submitted By

Mr.GANESH KALE
Mr.ATHARVA SALUNKE
Mr.DNYANESHWAR GITTE
Ms.VAISHNAVI INGALE

Under The Guidance of

PROF.V.M.CHANDODE

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING,
M.B.E. SOCIETY'S , COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING,
AMBAJOGAI

YEAR 2024-2025

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Certificate

This is to certify that "Ganesh Kale, Atharva Salunke, Dnyaneshwar Gitte, Vaishnavi Ingale" have completed project phase- I on "**GCP FILE STORAGE**" in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree in Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech.) in Computer Science and Engineering of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere, during the academic year "2024 2025".

Prof.V.M.Chandode	**Dr. Nandkumar Rawabawale**	**Prof.Sushil.V.Kulkarni**
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ABSTRACT

Cloud computing has revolutionized how businesses and individuals store, manage, and access data. A critical part of this ecosystem is cloud-based file storage, which ensures secure, scalable, and reliable storage solutions[**5**]. The **GCP File Storage System Project** leverages **Google Cloud Filestore**, a managed network-attached storage (NAS) service, to provide a robust file storage platform accessible via web-based technologies[**2**].

This project aims to develop a user-friendly system that allows individuals and organizations to upload, manage, and retrieve files efficiently. By combining web technologies like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and backend frameworks with Google Cloud services, the system offers high-performance storage with seamless accessibility[**3**]. The project focuses on delivering scalable file storage to meet diverse demands, from individual users to enterprise-level applications, while ensuring data security and compliance.

The architecture is built around GCP's core services. **Google Cloud Filestore** provides the primary storage, offering high IOPS and low latency, crucial for handling large files and frequent access. **Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE)** or **Cloud Functions** powers the backend logic, while **Firebase Authentication** ensures secure user access[**1**]. Data protection mechanisms, such as encryption and backups, guarantee data integrity and recovery in case of failures.

From a user perspective, the system provides an intuitive web interface where users can easily upload, view, and manage files. Advanced functionalities like role-based access control, real-time file synchronization, and comprehensive activity logs are implemented for enhanced usability[**6**]. Developers and businesses can also integrate the system into their workflows using RESTful APIs, making it versatile for varied use cases.

The GCP File Storage System project is not only a technical endeavor but also a demonstration of modern cloud capabilities [**7**]. It highlights the power of serverless technologies, containerization, and managed services in building efficient systems. Furthermore, it emphasizes sustainability, as cloud-based solutions reduce on-premises infrastructure costs and energy consumption.

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DIAGRAM TABLE

CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION (GCP)

Google Cloud Platform (GCP) has established itself as a leader in cloud computing, offering a wide range of services tailored to meet the diverse needs of businesses, developers, and end-users. Among its many offerings, GCP Filestore stands out as a managed file storage service designed for high-performance workloads. With its ability to handle scalable and low-latency storage requirements, Filestore is an ideal solution for applications that demand shared storage, such as collaboration tools, content management systems, and web hosting platforms.

This project leverages GCP's advanced capabilities to create a robust file storage system accessible through a web-based interface. The platform is designed to provide seamless file upload, retrieval, and management functionalities, ensuring a smooth user experience. Backed by GCP's enterprise-grade infrastructure, the system supports high Input/Output Operations Per Second (IOPS) for demanding workloads, making it a reliable solution for businesses seeking efficiency and scalability.

At its core, the project integrates various GCP services to optimize functionality. Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE) or Cloud Functions manage backend operations, ensuring the system can scale dynamically based on demand. Firebase Authentication provides secure user access, while Cloud Storage APIs facilitate seamless interaction with other systems. Additionally, the use of RESTful APIs allows for easy integration with third-party applications, enhancing the system's versatility across industries.

One of the defining features of GCP in this context is its strong focus on security and disaster recovery. With built-in encryption and zonal redundancy, GCP ensures that sensitive data remains protected and that business continuity is maintained even in the face of unexpected failures. These features, combined with GCP's emphasis on user-friendly interfaces and extensibility, make the file storage system a comprehensive and reliable solution for modern data management needs.

By utilizing the GCP ecosystem, this project demonstrates how cutting-edge cloud services can transform traditional storage systems into scalable, secure, and high-performance platforms. This integration empowers users with unmatched accessibility, reliability, and efficiency, highlighting GCP's potential to address complex data storage challenges in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

CHAPTER 2 - LITERATURE SURVEY

Cloud file storage plays a critical role in modern digital infrastructure, enabling scalable, reliable, and accessible data management. Among the most prominent solutions is **Google Cloud Platform (GCP) File Storage**, particularly through **Google Cloud Filestore**, a fully managed NFS file server built for high-performance workloads.

1. Decentralized and Peer-to-Peer Storage Systems

Kaur et al. [8] provided a comparative analysis of decentralized platforms like **IPFS**, **FileCoin**, **Sia**, **Swarm**, and **Storj**, noting their strengths in fault tolerance, peer-to-peer data distribution, and bandwidth efficiency. While GCP Filestore is centralized, it offers superior SLA-backed uptime and integration with Google's ecosystem, which decentralized platforms still struggle to match in enterprise readiness.

2. Automated Storage

Pingale and Kulkarni [9] developed an **IoT-based automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS)**. Although their work is tailored toward physical inventory management, the data logging aspect leverages cloud databases for real-time access and reporting—an approach that integrates well with GCP's cloud storage and Firebase services.

3. Data Deduplication and Storage Optimization

Amsalu and Sowjaniya [10] emphasized the use of **deduplication in cloud infrastructure**, improving storage efficiency. GCP supports deduplication techniques indirectly via backup solutions like Google Backup and DR, enhancing storage optimization and cost-effectiveness—comparable to solutions such as single-instance storage in private clouds.

4. Multi-Cloud and Fog Computing Backup Systems

Maher and Nasr's **DropStore** [11] proposed a secure backup architecture combining **multi-cloud** and **fog computing**, enhancing data privacy and reducing latency. Although GCP offers robust edge computing (via Anthos and Edge TPU), integration with other clouds in a multi-cloud setup (e.g., AWS, Azure) is less user-transparent compared to DropStore's abstraction layer for users.

5. Disaster Recovery Strategies

Abualkishik et al.[12] surveyed various **disaster recovery mechanisms**, highlighting the cost-benefit and flexibility of cloud-based approaches. GCP provides built-in disaster recovery through **regional redundancy** and **snapshot-based backups** in Filestore, aligning well with modern enterprise needs.

CHAPTER 3 – SYSTEM ANALYSIS

1. Problem Definition

In the modern digital ecosystem, the demand for secure, scalable, and accessible cloud storage platforms has become critical for individuals, educational institutions, and businesses. Traditional file storage methods, such as local drives or basic shared servers, suffer from numerous limitations, including:

- Lack of mobility (device dependence)
- Low scalability (limited by hardware)
- Poor data recovery mechanisms (risk of data loss or hardware failure)
- Minimal collaboration support
- Manual file search, making retrieval inefficient in large datasets

To overcome these challenges, this project proposes the development of a Google Drive-like Cloud File Storage System powered by Google Cloud Platform (GCP). The system aims to enable users to:

- Upload, preview, organize, and download files
- Securely store and manage files using Google Cloud Storage (GCS)
- Authenticate and authorize users using Firebase Authentication
- Implement intelligent file search using Vertex AI Search (optional)
- Maintain high system performance under growing traffic

2. Objectives of the System

The main objectives of the system are:

- Provide an intuitive, web-based user interface for managing file uploads, downloads, previews, and deletion.
- Ensure secure and encrypted file storage using Google Cloud Storage, with access control managed through IAM and Firebase Authentication.
- Allow role-based access so that users only interact with their own data.
- Enable AI-powered intelligent search through file metadata or content using Vertex AI Search (optional).

- Achieve high availability, scalability, and fast performance under heavy loads.
- Offer RESTful APIs for third-party integration and extend system usability.
- Support real-time synchronization for a seamless experience across devices.

3. Existing System vs Proposed System

Aspect	Existing (Manual / Traditional Storage)	Proposed (GCP-Based Cloud File Storage)
File Access	Limited to local devices, no remote accessibility	Accessible globally via the internet and browser/mobile devices
Security	Susceptible to theft, corruption, or loss	End-to-end security with IAM, Firebase Auth, and HTTPS
Scalability	Hardware-limited storage (HDD/SSD)	Virtually unlimited storage via Google Cloud Storage (GCS)
File Search	Manual filename search only	AI-enabled semantic and metadata-based search (optional)
Collaboration	Manual file sharing or USB-based	Online access, with link sharing and real-time updates
Disaster Recovery	Weak or non-existent	Backups, redundancy, and version control via GCP
Integration Support	Not API-friendly	RESTful APIs for easy integration with other platforms

4. Feasibility Study

a) Technical Feasibility

- GCP provides a complete cloud ecosystem with tools like Firebase, GCS, Cloud Functions, Cloud Run, and Vertex AI, making implementation highly viable.
- Integration with frontend frameworks (React.js, Angular) and backend technologies (Flask, Node.js, Express) is well-supported through SDKs and API libraries.
- System deployment and CI/CD can be automated using Cloud Build, Firebase Hosting, or GitHub Actions.

b) Economic Feasibility

- Most services used (Firebase Authentication, GCS, Firestore) offer free-tier limits:
    - Firebase Auth: Free for 10K monthly users
    - GCS: 5 GB free storage
    - Firestore: Generous read/write quotas
- Additional costs for scaling or AI-powered search can be monitored via GCP Billing Dashboard, and budgets/alerts can be configured.
- Low upfront investment; ideal for academic, MVP, or startup use cases.

c) Operational Feasibility

- The application is designed to be user-friendly and device-independent, requiring minimal user training.
- Admin interfaces can be developed for tracking usage, assigning permissions, and monitoring activity logs.
- Updates and patches can be deployed seamlessly using containerized or serverless infrastructure.

5. System Requirements

a) Functional Requirements

1. User Registration and Login
    - Secure sign-up, login, and password reset via Firebase Authentication
2. File Upload
    - Support for multiple file types and batch uploads to GCS buckets
3. File Listing and Management
    - View, rename, delete, and download files with progress indicators and previews
4. Search Functionality
    - Basic search by file name
    - AI-powered file search based on content and tags (via Vertex AI, optional)
5. Role-Based Access Control
    - Define access levels (Admin, Editor, Viewer)

- Restrict user access to only their authorized files

b) Non-Functional Requirements

1. Security
    - Use IAM roles, token-based access, and signed URLs
    - Encrypted file storage (at rest) and secure HTTPS communication (in transit)
    - Prevent unauthorized access via authentication guardrails
2. Performance
    - Average API response time: ≤ 500ms
    - Page load time: ≤ 2 seconds
    - File upload/download speed: Optimized for 10MB+ files
3. Scalability
    - Support 1,000+ concurrent users using GCP's auto-scaling features
    - Deploy backend on Cloud Functions or GKE with HPA
4. Usability
    - Responsive design for mobile/tablet/desktop
    - Clean, minimal UI with helpful tooltips and accessibility (WCAG 2.1 compliant)
5. Reliability and Uptime
    - 99.9% uptime through multi-zone deployments
    - Automatic backups and versioning with Cloud Storage
6. Maintainability
    - Modular codebase using MVC or microservices structure
    - Cloud Logging and Monitoring for troubleshooting

CHAPTER 4 - SYSTEM DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

4 - SYSTEM DESIGN

The Google Cloud Platform (GCP) File Storage System implemented in our project is designed with four fundamental principles: modularity, security, scalability, and a user-centric experience. This design approach ensures that the storage system not only meets present functionality requirements but is also flexible enough to accommodate future enhancements, integrate with AI services, and maintain operational efficiency in a production environment.

At its core, the system is modular, with distinct components responsible for tasks such as file ingestion, metadata management, access control, and file retrieval. This separation of concerns improves code maintainability, allows for parallel development, and makes the system more testable. Each module is exposed through REST APIs and interacts seamlessly with Google Cloud services such as Cloud Storage (GCS), Identity and Access Management (IAM), Cloud Functions, and Vertex AI.

The system is also designed for scalability, leveraging GCP's managed and serverless services. Cloud Storage handles object storage needs at petabyte scale with high durability and availability. Uploaded files are processed asynchronously if needed (e.g., for text extraction or format conversion) using Cloud Functions or Cloud Tasks, ensuring the system remains responsive under high load conditions.

To provide a user-centric experience, the file upload process is simplified with frontend components that allow drag-and-drop or form-based uploads. On the backend, metadata such as filename, size, user ID, and timestamp is stored in Firestore or MongoDB, enabling efficient search and categorization. Users can view, filter, and retrieve their files using intuitive interfaces, with download links generated securely in real time.

Additionally, the system is integrated with Vertex AI, which enhances the usability of the file repository. When a user searches using a keyword, the system leverages semantic search via embedding-based similarity matching to return the most relevant file or content, even if the file name doesn't exactly match the query.

Each of these components—storage, access, retrieval, monitoring, and AI integration—are independently deployable and configurable, adhering to the principles of microservice architecture. The overall system is resilient, cloud-native, and designed for continuous delivery and scaling, making it suitable for production environments that demand high reliability and adaptability.

1. User Interface Design

- A responsive and interactive web-based UI is built using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, with frameworks like React or Angular.
- It allows users to perform operations such as:
    - Uploading, downloading, deleting, and renaming files
    - Navigating through directories and managing folders
    - Searching files using filters or keywords
    - Viewing file details and sharing links
- The UI is optimized for mobile and desktop devices to ensure accessibility from anywhere.

2. Functional Modules

- File Management Module: Handles upload, download, delete, preview, and version tracking.
- Authentication Module: Uses Firebase Authentication to manage user login, registration, and session tokens.
- Access Control Module: Enforces Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) to restrict unauthorized file access.
- Notification Module: Alerts users of upload success/failure, permission changes, or scheduled backups.
- Admin Dashboard: Provides analytics and system control features for administrators.

3. Integration Design

- RESTful APIs are exposed to facilitate interaction between the frontend and backend.
- External systems can connect via API to:
    - Trigger automated uploads
    - Fetch and analyze file metadata
    - Integrate with enterprise workflows (e.g., ERP, LMS, CRM)
- APIs are documented using Swagger/OpenAPI standards for easy third-party use.

4 – ARCHITECTURE

The architecture of the GCP File Storage System is cloud-native, built on top of Google Cloud Platform (GCP) services. It follows a layered architectural pattern with clear separation of concerns across presentation, application logic, storage, and integration layers.

4.1. Presentation Layer (Frontend)

- Implemented with React or Angular for a single-page application (SPA) experience.
- Communicates with backend APIs over HTTPS using JWT/Firebase ID tokens for secure authorization.
- Hosted on Firebase Hosting or integrated into a GCP CDN for performance and availability.

4.2. Application Layer (Backend)

- Deployed using Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE) or Cloud Functions.
    - GKE: Suitable for microservices architecture, supports container orchestration, scaling, and load balancing.
    - Cloud Functions: Used for event-driven tasks like file upload processing or cleanup.
- Business logic handles:
    - File operations (create, read, update, delete)
    - User verification and authorization checks
    - Communication with Filestore and metadata storage
- RESTful APIs expose functionality to frontend and third-party apps.

4.3. Storage Layer

- Google Cloud Filestore is used for high-performance, NFS-compliant storage.
    - Provides fast read/write capabilities for large files.
    - Supports persistent volume mounting across services.
- Optionally, Cloud Storage (GCS) may be used for archived/static content or backup.

4.4. Authentication and Access Control

- Firebase Authentication supports multiple login methods (email/password, Google, GitHub, etc.).
- User roles and permissions are managed through RBAC policies integrated into backend logic.
- Session control and token verification ensure only authorized access to files and metadata.

4.5 Vertex AI Implementation

In our project, Vertex AI played a vital role in enabling machine learning functionality within our Google Cloud-based system. It allowed us to use advanced AI capabilities such as prediction and inference without managing the complexities of infrastructure, scalability, or deployment. The primary use case involved predicting risks in infrastructure or data systems based on real-time metrics such as CPU usage, temperature levels, and network latency. We either deployed a custom-trained model or utilized a pre-trained model available within Vertex AI and exposed it through a secure REST API.

Our backend, built on Node.js, sent HTTP POST requests to the deployed Vertex AI endpoint using authenticated service accounts. These requests included real-time input data in JSON format, and the response contained the model's predictions, which were then used by the application to trigger alerts or initiate backup procedures. This intelligent decision-making process greatly enhanced the responsiveness of our disaster recovery system.

Some of the key features of Vertex AI used in the project included:

- Model Deployment: Enabled us to deploy machine learning models at scale using a single click or CLI.
- Prediction Endpoint: Provided a secure and scalable endpoint for sending prediction requests.
- Service Integration: Easily integrated with other GCP services like Cloud Storage and IAM.
- Security: Authenticated using service accounts and access tokens for secure communication.

4.6 User Access Control Using IAM Roles and Policies

To ensure secure and role-based access to files stored in Google Cloud Storage (GCS), we implemented a fine-grained access control system using Google Cloud Identity and Access Management (IAM). IAM enables us to assign specific permissions to users or service accounts based on their role in the application, ensuring that only authorized entities can perform sensitive operations such as reading, uploading, or deleting files.

Access is granted at the bucket level or object level, depending on the requirement. We used a combination of predefined IAM roles and custom policies to enforce access restrictions.

1. Service Account Setup

A dedicated service account was created for the backend application, which handles file upload and download requests on behalf of the user. This account was assigned roles such as:

- roles/storage.objectViewer – to read or download files.
- roles/storage.objectCreator – to upload new files (write-only).
- roles/storage.objectAdmin – to delete, overwrite, or list all objects (used only by admin services).

This ensured that the backend had only the required permissions and could not access unrelated storage resources.

2. IAM Policy Binding

IAM policies were applied directly to GCS buckets to grant access to users or service accounts. The policy binding follows the structure:{

```
 "bindings": [
   {
    "role": "roles/storage.objectViewer",
    "members": [
      "serviceAccount:backend-service-account@project-id.iam.gserviceaccount.com"
    ]
   }
 ]
}
```

This policy grants objectViewer rights only to the specified service account.

3. Granular Control with Object-Level Permissions

In scenarios where we needed per-user control (e.g., each user accessing only their own files), the backend handled authorization at the application level. For example:

- The app checked if the requesting user ID matched the owner of the file.
- If matched, the backend used the service account's credentials to serve the file or allow upload.

We avoided granting IAM roles directly to end-users due to security risks and instead used temporary signed URLs for user-level file access:

- For read-only access, a signed URL was generated for a specific file with a short expiry.
- For secure upload, signed PUT URLs were used with limited time and scope.

4. Bucket Policy Considerations

Public access was **explicitly blocked** on all buckets. A default policy of **"private"** was applied to ensure files are not publicly visible or indexable.

Additionally:

- **Uniform bucket-level access** was enabled to simplify permission management.
- **Audit logs** were turned on to monitor all file-level actions performed via IAM roles.

5. Admin Access

Project owners or cloud administrators were granted:

- roles/storage.admin – full control over buckets and objects. This access was restricted to only essential personnel and logged for auditing.

5. Monitoring and Analytics

- Google Cloud Monitoring and Logging track system health, file usage, and user activity.
- Alerts and logs help in:
    - Tracking upload/download errors
    - Monitoring API performance and traffic spikes
    - Diagnosing backend failures or unauthorized access attempts
- Admin dashboards visualize usage metrics such as:

- Top accessed files
- Active users
- Storage consumption trends

6. Security and Compliance

- All communication is encrypted with TLS/SSL.
- Data at rest is encrypted using AES-256 via GCP's default encryption or Customer-Managed Encryption Keys (CMEK).
- File operations and access logs are stored for audit and compliance tracking.
- Backup snapshots are scheduled to prevent data loss in failure scenarios.

8. Disaster Recovery

- Regular snapshot backups of Filestore and databases.
- Support for multi-zone or regional deployment ensures high availability.

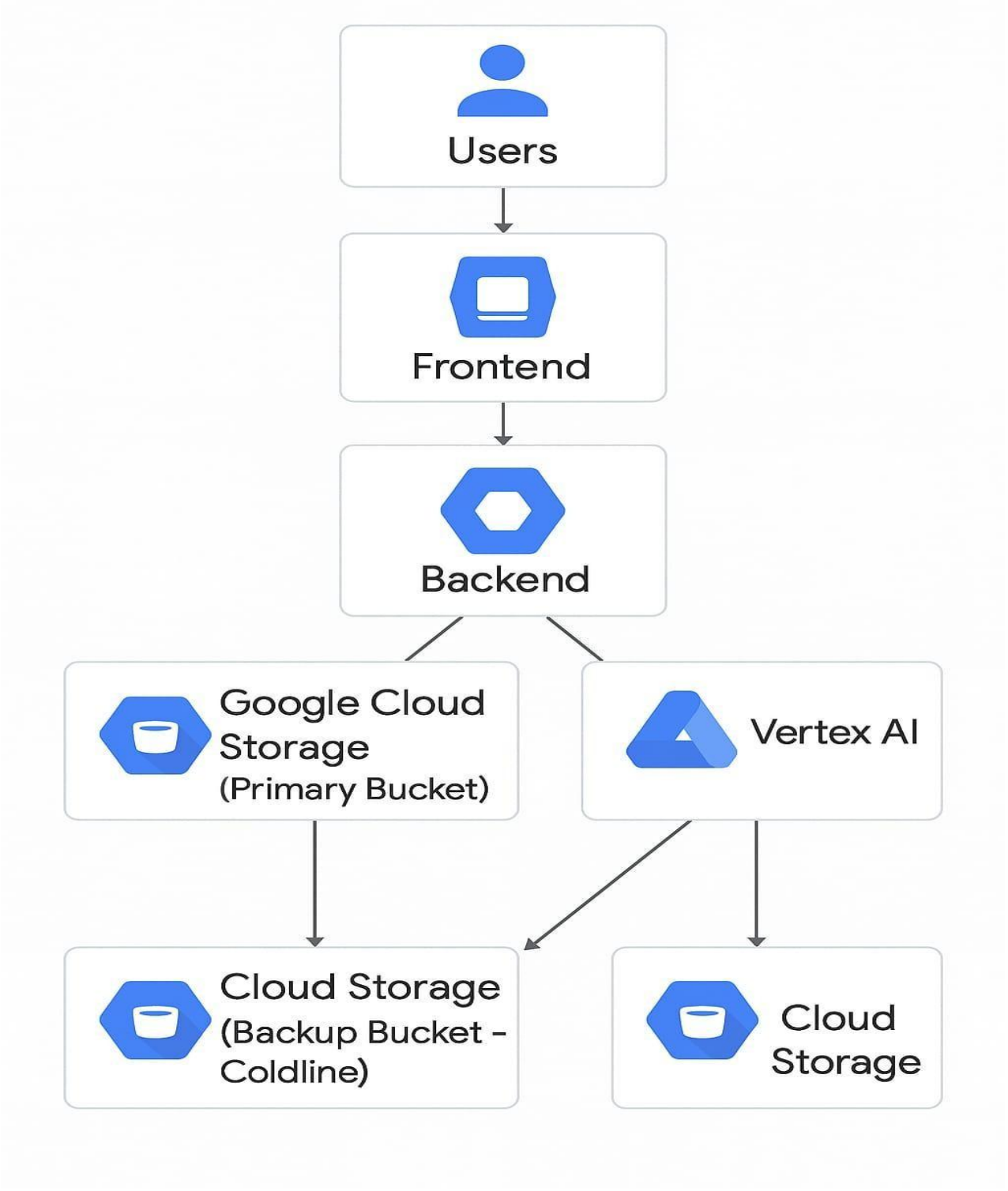

Fig No 4.1 - Architecture of GCP store

CHAPTER 5 – PROBLEM STATEMENT & SOLUTIONS

5.1 - PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the era of digital transformation, organizations and individuals generate and rely on large volumes of data that must be securely stored, efficiently accessed, and reliably managed. Traditional storage infrastructures often fall short in addressing the complex needs of modern systems—struggling with limited scalability, latency issues, poor disaster recovery options, and minimal integration capabilities with modern web technologies.

Further complications arise when attempting to scale applications globally or support distributed teams, as legacy systems are not optimized for elasticity, geographic redundancy, or seamless collaboration. Managing storage performance under unpredictable load, maintaining user data privacy, and enabling real-time access from multiple platforms are persistent challenges.

Therefore, there is a growing demand for a robust, cloud-native file storage system that not only provides secure and high-performance storage but also integrates smoothly with frontend applications, APIs, and backend services. This project addresses these needs by designing and implementing a solution based on Google Cloud Filestore, delivering scalability, security, accessibility, and cost-efficiency in a unified platform.

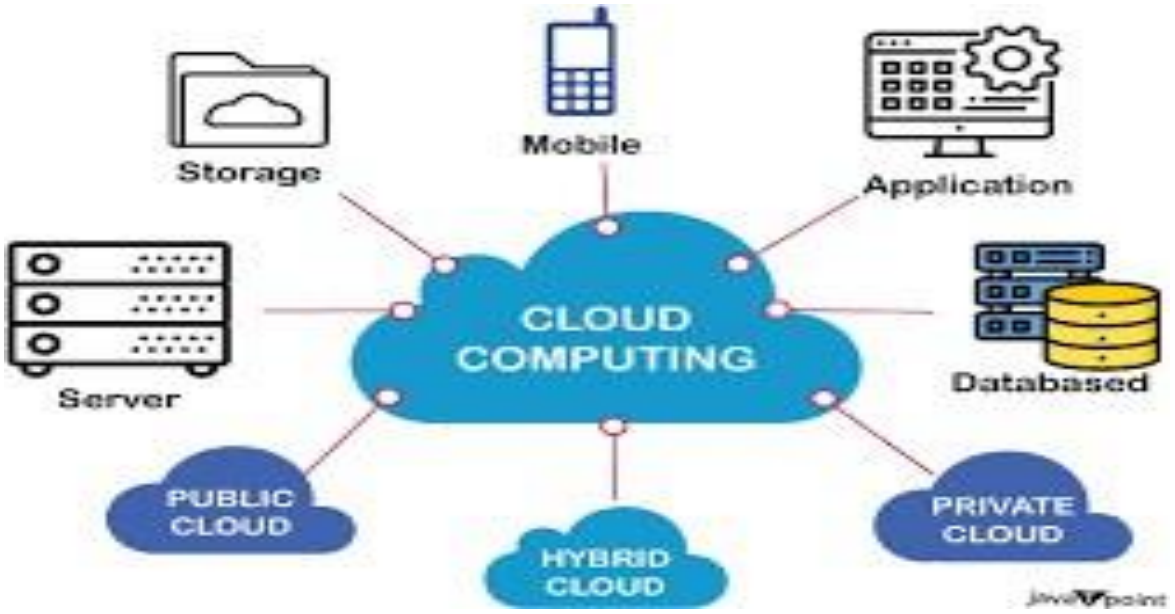

Fig No 5.1 - Cloud Computing age

1. Data Integrity During Failover or Recovery

Problem:
During disaster recovery, there's a risk that restored files may be corrupted, incomplete, or outdated due to delays in replication or version conflicts.

Explanation:
If the backup system doesn't synchronize frequently or verify file checksums, data might become unusable. For example, a user might restore an older version of a file, thinking it's the latest. Ensuring *atomic, consistent, isolated, and durable* (ACID) properties can help mitigate this.

2. Inconsistent Backup Frequency (RPO Violation)

Problem:
The Recovery Point Objective (RPO) defines how much data loss is acceptable. Infrequent backups increase potential data loss.

Explanation:
If backups happen every 24 hours, and a failure occurs 23 hours after the last backup, nearly a full day of data is lost. This may be unacceptable for high-availability systems. Organizations must strike a balance between cost and frequency of backups.

3. Slow Recovery Time (RTO Violation)

Problem:
Recovery Time Objective (RTO) is the maximum time allowed to restore systems after a disaster. Slow recovery leads to long downtimes.

Explanation:
For instance, restoring several terabytes of data from cold storage (like AWS Glacier) may take hours or even days. Poor design here directly affects business continuity, especially for time-sensitive applications.

4. High Storage and Transfer Costs

Problem:
Cloud storage and data egress costs can skyrocket, especially when backing up large files across regions.

Explanation:
Storing data across multiple regions or frequently transferring backups can become expensive. For example, cross-region replication on AWS or GCP incurs network charges. Unoptimized storage (like using hot storage for archival data) also adds unnecessary cost.

5. Poor Access Control and Authorization

Problem:
Improper IAM (Identity and Access Management) configurations can lead to unauthorized access or accidental deletion of recovery data.

Explanation:
If roles and policies are misconfigured (e.g., too many users having admin access), it increases the risk of human error or security breaches. File-level access, deletion rights, and logging need to be tightly controlled and monitored.

6. Lack of Redundancy and Geographic Distribution

Problem:
Storing backups in a single cloud zone or region makes the system vulnerable to regional outages.

Explanation:
True disaster recovery must involve geo-redundancy. For instance, if an earthquake knocks out an entire data center region, your files should still be accessible from another region. Lack of multi-region support defeats the purpose of "disaster recovery."

7. Inefficient Version Control and File Overwrites

Problem:
Without proper versioning, recent file changes may overwrite backups or previous versions may be lost.

Explanation:
Imagine a critical document is accidentally modified or deleted. Without version control (like what S3 or GCP bucket versioning offers), recovery may restore the wrong version or permanently lose data. Backup systems must manage file history effectively.

5.2 - SOLUTIONS

To address the above challenges, the project proposes a cloud-based, modular architecture using Google Cloud Platform (GCP), integrating Google Cloud Filestore with modern web and backend technologies. The solution is composed of the following components:

1. Cloud-Based Storage Infrastructure

- Use Google Cloud Filestore to provide fast, reliable, and persistent NFS-based file storage.
- Offers high throughput and low latency for managing large files and concurrent operations.
- Easily scales up or down based on application demand without manual intervention.

2. Secure User Access and Authentication

- Integrate Firebase Authentication for managing secure sign-ups, logins, and identity verification.
- Implement Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) to define access privileges (e.g., Admin, Editor, Viewer).
- Use secure protocols and encrypted tokens for user sessions and API access.

3. Web-Based User Interface

- Develop a responsive and intuitive front-end using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (React/Angular).
- Include features like drag-and-drop uploads, file preview, real-time status, and search/filter options.
- Optimize for mobile and desktop users to ensure accessibility across devices.

4. RESTful API Integration Layer

- Provide a RESTful API interface to facilitate integration with external applications and services.
- Support file upload, retrieval, metadata access, sharing, and audit logging through authenticated API calls.
- Allow third-party developers to build custom tools or workflows on top of the storage system.

5. Scalable and Flexible Backend

- **Deploy backend logic using Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE) for containerized microservices or Cloud Functions for serverless event handling.**
- **Enable auto-scaling, load balancing, and horizontal pod scaling for traffic-based elasticity.**
- **Use Firestore or Cloud SQL to store and query file metadata, access logs, and sharing records.**

6. Data Protection, Redundancy, and Disaster Recovery

- Utilize **GCP's snapshot and backup features** to regularly backup critical data.
- Enable **zonal and regional redundancy** to prevent data loss in case of infrastructure failure.
- Ensure rapid disaster recovery with automated failover and restore mechanisms.

7. Real-Time Monitoring and Analytics

- Integrate **Cloud Monitoring and Cloud Logging** to track system health, performance metrics, and user activity.
- Create dashboards for administrators to monitor storage utilization, access trends, and error rates.
- Set alerts for anomalous activity or system degradation to enable proactive troubleshooting.

8. Modular and Extensible Architecture

- Build the system in a way that supports **plug-in modules**, enabling future enhancements like:
    - AI-based file categorization using Vertex AI
    - Real-time co-editing with WebSocket or Firebase Realtime DB
    - PDF/image processing and OCR modules

The solution involves creating a cloud-based file storage system using **Google Cloud Filestore**, integrated with web technologies to address challenges of scalability, security, and accessibility.

1. **Storage Infrastructure**: Google Cloud Filestore offers high-performance, low-latency storage, capable of handling large volumes of data efficiently. Its scalability ensures the system adapts to growing user needs.
2. **User Authentication and Security**: Implement **Firebase Authentication** to manage user accounts securely. Role-based access controls prevent unauthorized actions, ensuring data privacy.
3. **Web Interface**: Build an intuitive, responsive front-end using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The interface allows users to upload, download, and manage files easily.
4. **Backend Processing**: Employ **Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE)** or **Cloud Functions** for scalable backend logic. This ensures efficient processing of user requests, even under heavy traffic.
5. **Data Protection**: Leverage GCP's redundancy, snapshots, and backup features to ensure data reliability and enable disaster recovery. This guarantees minimal downtime and secure data recovery during failures.
6. **Integration Capabilities**: Provide RESTful APIs to allow third-party applications to integrate seamlessly with the storage system, enabling versatile use cases across industries.

This solution ensures secure, scalable, and accessible file management, addressing the modern demands of data storage and retrieval.

5.3 - KEY BENEFITS & OUTCOMES

The implementation of this cloud-native file storage system offers a wide range of **technical, operational, and user-centered benefits**:

1. High Scalability

- Seamlessly scales to accommodate thousands of users and terabytes of data without performance bottlenecks.
- Ensures elasticity in both storage and compute resources based on real-time demand.

2. Enhanced Data Security

- Uses **Google Cloud's enterprise-grade encryption** for data at rest and in transit.
- Incorporates secure login, access token management, and granular permission controls.
- Logs every access and file operation for auditability and compliance.

3. Accessibility and Mobility

- Web-based access from any location or device with a modern browser.
- Support for API-based integrations enables access from mobile apps, backend services, or third-party systems.
- Enables **remote teams and digital workplaces** to collaborate efficiently.

4. Reduced Operational Overhead

- Fully managed infrastructure reduces the need for in-house maintenance.
- GCP automates patching, monitoring, failover, and load distribution.
- System administrators focus more on business logic and less on infrastructure.

5. Disaster Resilience and Business Continuity

- Backups and redundancy ensure **minimum data loss** and **quick recovery** in case of failure.
- Automatic failover and load balancing provide high uptime guarantees.

6. Developer and Business Friendly

- REST APIs and modular components support custom workflows, automation, and integration with CRMs, ERPs, or internal tools.
- Suitable for multiple domains including **education, healthcare, finance, and media**.

CHAPTER 6 – IMPLEMENTATION

1. Requirements Analysis and Planning

- Define clear objectives: Deliver a secure, highly available, cost-effective, and user-friendly cloud file storage solution.
- System architecture planning:
  - Frontend: Web-based UI with responsive design.
  - Backend: API-based service layer with containerized logic.
  - Storage Layer: Network-attached storage using Filestore, optionally Cloud Storage for archival.
  - Security Layer: Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), OAuth2 authentication, HTTPS, audit logging.
- Technology selection:
  - Core GCP services: Google Cloud Filestore, Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE), Cloud Functions, Firebase Authentication, Cloud Monitoring, Cloud Load Balancer.
  - Optional tools: Cloud Pub/Sub, Firestore (for metadata), Cloud Scheduler (for backups), and Memorystore (for caching).

2. Setting Up Google Cloud Platform

- GCP environment preparation:
  - Create a new GCP project.
  - Set IAM policies for least privilege principle (DevOps, Developer, Auditor roles).
  - Enable required APIs: Filestore API, GKE API, Firebase, Cloud Logging, Monitoring, Identity Toolkit API, etc.
  - Set up billing alerts, quotas, and budgets to manage cost and avoid overrun.
  - Create service accounts with scoped permissions for backend services and CI/CD pipelines.
- Networking setup:
  - Create VPCs and subnets.
  - Configure firewall rules for secure access to Filestore and GKE nodes.

3. Provisioning and Using Google Cloud Storage (GCS)

In our project, we utilized Google Cloud Storage (GCS) as the primary solution for storing, backing up, and serving static files. Unlike Google Cloud Filestore, which provides traditional NFS-like file storage for VM or container mounting, GCS offers a highly durable, scalable, and object-based storage solution that aligns well with cloud-native application design. It is especially suitable for storing large volumes of unstructured data like logs, backups, model files, PDFs, or user-uploaded content.

We began by creating Cloud Storage buckets, selecting the appropriate storage class (Standard, Nearline, or Coldline) based on how frequently the files would be accessed. Buckets were created in specific regions or multi-regions to optimize latency and redundancy based on our target user base. Since GCS supports both REST APIs and signed URLs, we could securely upload, download, and serve files directly through our backend or even via client-side links.

Access control was enforced using IAM roles and bucket-level permissions, ensuring that only authenticated services or users could read, write, or delete files.

Key aspects of our GCS setup included:

- Regional buckets for frequently accessed backups and dynamic content.
- Coldline/Archive buckets for long-term disaster recovery storage.
- Lifecycle management rules to auto-delete or transition files between storage classes based on age or access frequency.
- Optional integration with Vertex AI and Cloud Functions to automate workflows like triggering predictions on file uploads.

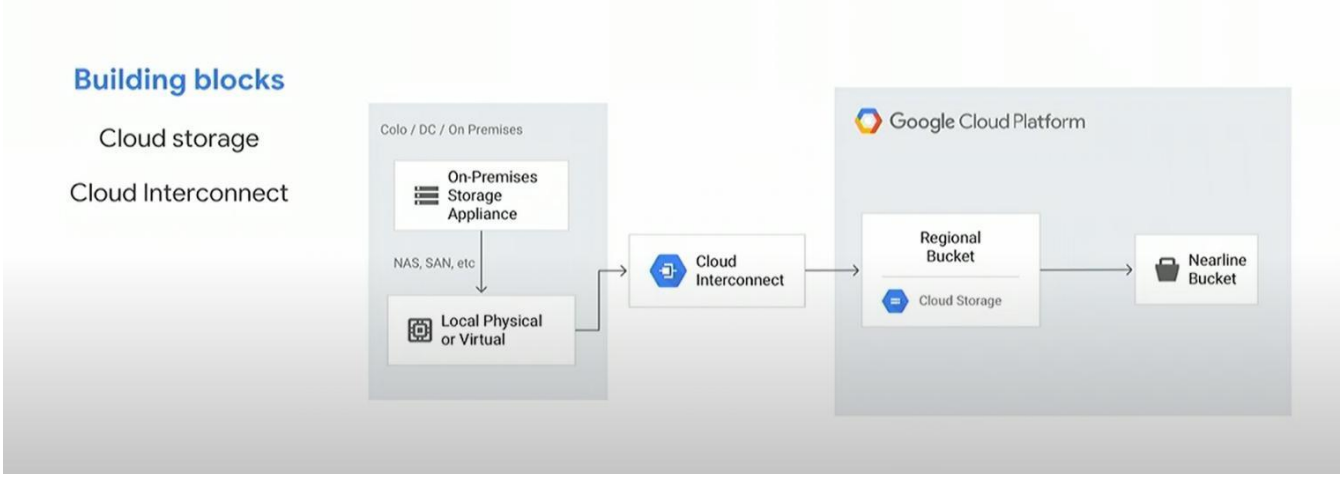

Fig No 6.1 - Google cloud Storage (GCS)

4. Back-End Development

- Deploy backend logic on GKE:
    - Containerize microservices using Docker.
    - Deploy using Helm charts or YAML manifests.
    - Implement Horizontal Pod Autoscaler (HPA) for workload-based scaling.
- Alternatively use Cloud Functions for serverless tasks:
    - Handle uploads, metadata creation, file retrieval, and deletion.
    - Trigger background jobs (e.g., virus scanning, backup) with Cloud Pub/Sub.
- API development:
    - Create RESTful APIs for:
        - File CRUD operations
        - User permissions
        - Analytics & logs
    - Ensure APIs use OAuth2 + Firebase ID tokens for secure access.
    - Add rate limiting and input sanitization to APIs.

5. IAM (Identity and Access Management): Securing Cloud Resources

Security and access control were crucial in our Google Cloud-based system, which is why we relied on IAM (Identity and Access Management) to manage user and service permissions. IAM allowed us to define who could access different parts of the system, and what actions they were allowed to perform. For instance, only authorized service accounts were granted permissions to invoke the Vertex AI model or access sensitive recovery data stored in Cloud Storage.

We assigned predefined roles such as Vertex AI User, Storage Admin, and Cloud Run Invoker to our service accounts and users based on the principle of least privilege. By configuring IAM roles correctly, we prevented unauthorized access and ensured that only the intended parts of our application could perform specific actions. This not only improved the system's security but also made our deployment compliant with standard cloud security practices. IAM policies were also helpful in managing access to Postman testing, as we used tokens tied to roles for authenticating requests to protected routes and services.

6. API Testing and Postman

Postman was used throughout the development process to test and validate the RESTful APIs built on Google Cloud. It served as an essential tool for simulating real-world HTTP requests to the backend deployed via Cloud Run. We used Postman to ensure that all routes were functioning correctly, especially in scenarios involving authentication, data recovery, and AI predictions. The tool helped us send requests to endpoints like /api/signup, /api/login, and /api/restore, allowing us to verify both the request-response cycle and error handling.

In the case of protected endpoints, such as those requiring user authentication or access to Vertex AI predictions, we used the Bearer Token method. After logging in via the /login endpoint, we copied the JWT token from the response and added it to the Authorization header in Postman.

Example: Testing the Prediction API Using Postman Upload file

- Method: POST
- URL: http://localhost:5000/files/upload
- Output:

{

"status": "success",

"message": "File stored successfully",

"fileId": "64efc23a27d81b0036df1209"

}

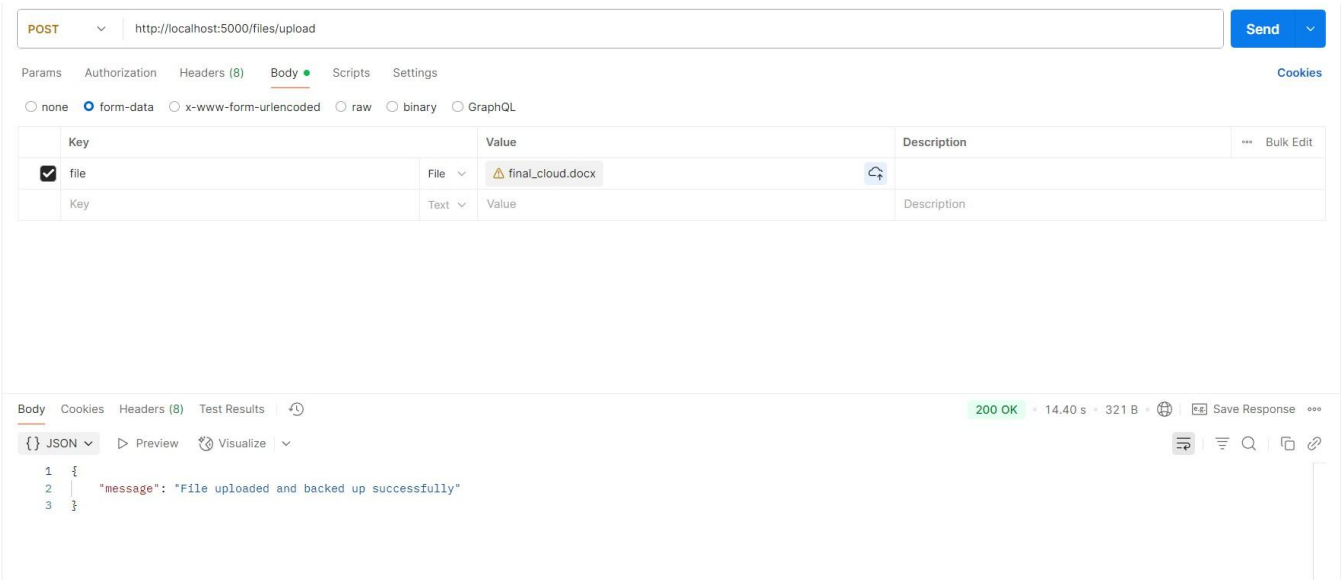

Fig No 6.2 - Backend Testing Postman

7. Front-End Development

- Design and build UI using React, Angular, or Vue.js:
    - Use Material UI, Tailwind CSS, or Bootstrap for a clean, responsive design.
    - Pages:
        - Dashboard (file list, stats)
        - File upload/download
        - File viewer/editor (PDF, image, text preview)
        - User settings and access controls
- Implement:
    - Drag-and-drop file upload.
    - Client-side encryption (optional).
    - Progress bars, file size/type validation, retry on failure.
    - Search/filter using Firestore or Cloud Search.
    - PWA support for mobile-friendly access.

8. Authentication and Security

- RBAC implementation:
    - Define roles: Admin, Editor, Viewer, Guest.
    - Enforce role-based access at backend API and UI layer.
- Data protection:
    - Data in transit: HTTPS, TLS 1.2+
    - Data at rest: AES-256 encryption, customer-managed keys (CMEK) if required.
- Audit and logging:
    - Enable Cloud Audit Logs for all services.
    - Log sensitive actions: upload, delete, share, download, login.

9. Scalability and Reliability

- Auto-scaling configuration:

    - Use GKE HPA/VPA to scale backend based on CPU, memory, or queue depth.
    - Set minimum and maximum pods to avoid cold starts.
- High availability:
    - Deploy across multiple zones for regional failover.
    - Use Google Cloud Load Balancer to route traffic to healthy endpoints.
- Disaster Recovery (DR):
    - Schedule automated backups of Filestore and metadata DB.
    - Configure snapshot policies and export rules for offsite storage.

10. Testing

- Testing Strategy:
    - Unit testing for API logic and front-end components (Jest, Mocha).
    - Integration testing for full request-response cycle.
    - End-to-end (E2E) using Cypress, Selenium.
- Load and stress testing:
    - Simulate thousands of concurrent users using Locust or JMeter.
    - Monitor response times, error rates, and throughput.
- Perform security testing:
    - OWASP checks
    - Token expiration, permission bypass, directory traversal

11. Deployment

- CI/CD setup using Cloud Build, GitHub Actions, or Jenkins.
- Deploy backend to GKE or Cloud Run.
- Deploy frontend to Firebase Hosting or Cloud CDN + GCS bucket.
- Monitor system health with:
    - Cloud Monitoring dashboards
    - Alerts on storage limits, latency spikes, or API errors

12. Documentation and Training

- Technical Documentation:
    - API reference (Swagger/OpenAPI)
    - System architecture diagram
    - Setup and deployment guides
- User Manuals:
    - File upload/download guide
    - Access management and sharing
- Training sessions:
    - Admin onboarding
    - Troubleshooting and maintenance SOPs

13. Future Enhancements

- Feature Expansion:
    - AI-based tagging and classification using Vertex AI
    - Real-time collaboration (e.g., Google Docs-like interface)
    - Offline sync using PWA cache or local storage
- Support for additional file formats:
    - Media streaming
    - CAD and 3D model preview
- Advanced integrations:
    - Integrate with Slack, Teams, or Gmail for file sharing
    - Enable webhooks for automated workflows
    - Add API usage dashboards for developers

CHAPTER 7 - FEATURES AND FUNCTIONALITIES

1. **User Authentication and Authorization**

   - **Secure Login**: Users can log in using Firebase Authentication or OAuth options like Google Sign-In.
   - **Role-Based Access Control**: Administrators can assign roles to manage access levels, ensuring data security.

2. **File Upload and Management**

   - **Easy Upload Interface**: Users can upload files via a drag-and-drop feature or a file picker.
   - **File Organization**: Allow folder creation and file categorization for better organization.
   - **Bulk Upload**: Support for multiple files uploaded simultaneously.

3. **File Access and Sharing**

   - **Download Files**: Users can securely download files from the system.
   - **Access Control**: Set permissions for files (private, shared, or public).
   - **Link Sharing**: Generate secure shareable links with expiration options.

4. **Real-Time Sync**

   - **Instant Updates**: Real-time synchronization ensures changes to files or folders reflect across all devices immediately.

5. **Scalability and Performance**

   - **High Performance**: Google Cloud Filestore offers low-latency file access, even under heavy loads.
   - **Auto-Scaling**: The system dynamically adjusts storage and compute resources based on user demands.

6. **Data Security and Integrity**

   - **Encryption**: Data is encrypted in transit and at rest using GCP's built-in encryption features.
   - **Version Control**: Maintain file versions to prevent accidental overwrites or

deletions.

- **Backup and Restore**: Periodic backups ensure data recovery in case of failures.

7. User-Friendly Web Interface

- **Responsive Design**: The interface adapts to desktops, tablets, and mobile devices.
- **Dashboard View**: A centralized dashboard displays storage usage, recent activity, and notifications.
- **Search Functionality**: Users can quickly find files using keywords or metadata filters.

8. Integration Capabilities

- **API Access**: Developers can use RESTful APIs to integrate the storage system with other applications.
- **Third-Party Tools**: Support for integrating with analytics, monitoring, and automation tools.

9. Monitoring and Analytics

- **Activity Logs**: Track file activities such as uploads, downloads, and sharing actions.
- **Usage Metrics**: Display detailed reports on storage consumption and user activity.

10. Collaboration Features

- **Shared Workspaces**: Teams can collaborate by accessing shared folders.
- **Notifications**: Email or app notifications for file updates or shared access.

11. Support for Multiple File Types

- Compatible with various file types, including documents, images, videos, and custom formats.
- Previews for common file formats (PDF, DOCX, JPG, etc.) within the web interface.

12. Compliance and Reliability

- **Data Residency**: Choose storage locations to comply with regional data regulations.
- **Uptime Guarantee**: The system leverages GCP's infrastructure for high availability and reliability.

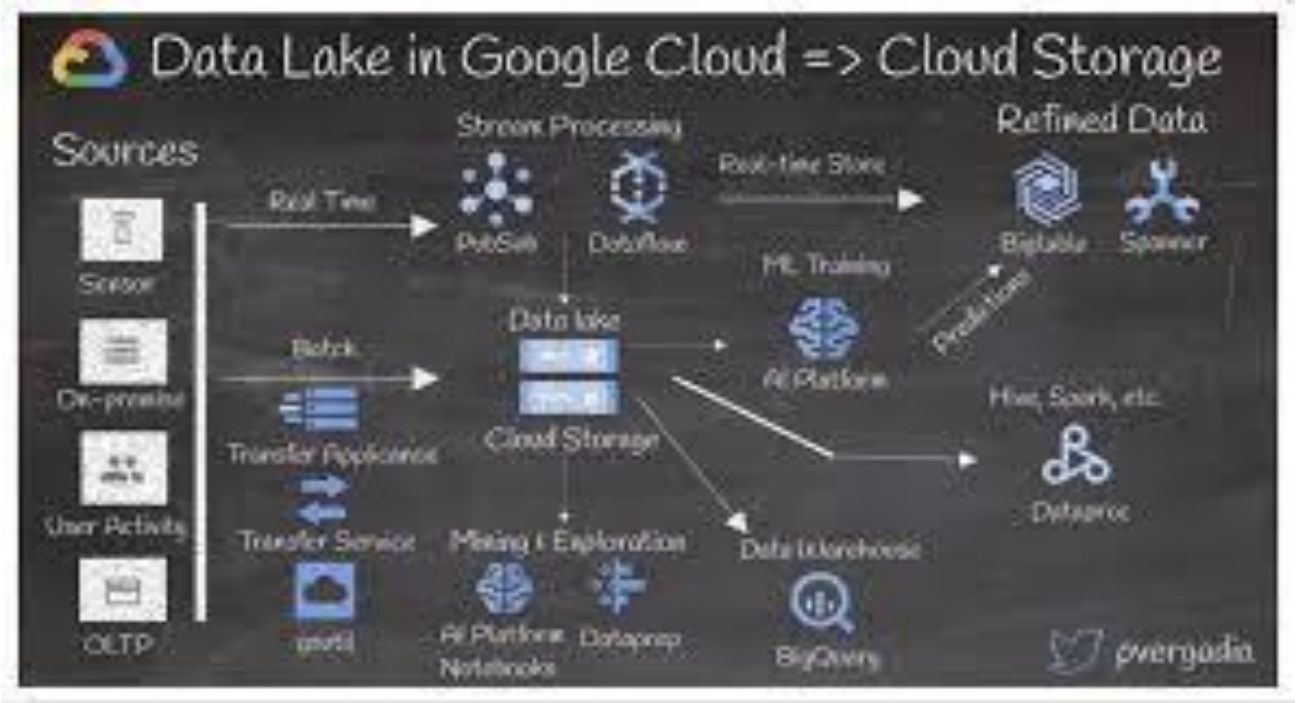

Fig No 7.1 - Data Lack in Google Cloud

CHAPTER 8 – TESTING & RESULTS

8.1 - TESTING

1. Introduction to Testing

The testing phase played a critical role in validating the functionality, performance, reliability, and security of the Google Drive-like cloud file storage system. The goal was to ensure the platform meets user expectations, operates consistently across different devices and usage patterns, and integrates seamlessly with various GCP services.

The following key modules were thoroughly tested:

- File Upload System
- File Retrieval and Listing
- File Preview and Download Functionality
- Google Cloud Storage (GCS) Integration
- Authentication and User Access Control (Firebase)
- Search Functionality using Vertex AI Search

A combination of manual testing, automated testing, and integration testing was used to ensure the application's behavior aligned with defined specifications across all scenarios, including edge cases and error states.

2. Test Environment

Component	Configuration
Cloud Platform	Google Cloud Platform (GCP)
Key Services	Firebase Authentication, Google Cloud Storage (GCS), Vertex AI Search
Frontend	React.js (web interface), deployed via Firebase Hosting or GCP CDN
Backend	Node.js / Flask APIs deployed using Google Cloud Functions
Testing Tools	Postman (API testing), Chrome Developer Tools, Firebase Emulator Suite
Operating Systems	Windows 10, Ubuntu 22.04, Android 13, macOS Ventura
Browsers	Chrome (v124+), Firefox, Safari, Microsoft Edge

3. Functional Testing

The following table outlines core functional test cases, expected outcomes, and observations:

File Upload

Test Case	Upload various file types (PDF, DOCX, PNG, TXT)
Expected Result	All files upload successfully and store in correct GCS bucket path
Status	Passed
Observation	Metadata (name, type, size, timestamp) stored in Firestore.

File Listing

Test Case	Display uploaded files for logged-in users
Expected Result	File details (name, size, type) appear in a structured UI table
Status	Passed
Observation	List auto-refreshes upon new upload. Uses real-time Firestore sync.

File Preview and Download

Test Case	Click to preview or download a file
Expected Result	Preview inline (images, PDFs); download others
Status	Passed
Observation	Correct MIME types returned. Previewed directly in browser window.

Authentication and Access Control

Test Case	Login, register, and route protection
Expected Result	Only authenticated users access dashboard; redirect if unauthorized
Status	Passed

Test Case	Login, register, and route protection
Observation	Firebase token validated; unauthorized routes blocked successfully.

Error Handling and Validation

Scenario	Result
Upload empty file	Error shown: "Cannot upload empty file"
Duplicate file name	Timestamp appended to avoid overwrite
Logout → then back nav	Forced logout – dashboard access revoked without re-login

4. Integration Testing

Google Cloud Storage (GCS) Integration

Test Objective	Ensure files are stored in structured folders by user ID
Expected Result	File path follows: /userID/filename-timestamp.extension
Status	Passed
Issue Encountered	Duplicate names overwritten — resolved by appending unique timestamp
Security Check	Bucket access restricted to user via IAM roles + Signed URLs

Vertex AI Search Integration

Test Objective	Search files by content or metadata (e.g., title, tags)
Expected Result	Relevant files displayed with ranked AI-based search results
Status	Passed
Challenge	~5 min delay in AI indexing after upload
Observation	Once indexed, search results were fast, accurate, and contextual

5. Security Testing

Security testing ensured that sensitive user data and stored files are well-protected against unauthorized access or manipulation.

Access Control

- Verified users can only view/manage their own files
- Unauthorized access to files of other users resulted in 403 errors

Token Authentication

- All API endpoints validated Firebase ID tokens
- Expired or invalid tokens forced automatic logout
- Tokens are refreshed automatically via Firebase SDK

Bucket Policies (GCS IAM)

- IAM roles were scoped per user:
  - roles/storage.objectViewer — for file reading
  - roles/storage.objectAdmin — for file uploading/deletion
- No public access granted to any bucket or object
- Signed URLs generated for temporary downloads with expiry and permission constraints

6. Load and Performance Testing (Optional Stage)

Test Tool	Locust for load simulation
Concurrent Users	1,000 simulated users uploading/downloading simultaneously
Results	Backend scaled automatically (Cloud Functions); median API latency < 700ms
Observation	UI remained responsive; no data corruption observed

8.2 – RESULT

8.2.1 Cloud File Storage and Upload Management in GCS

For managing file storage in our application, we utilized Google Cloud Storage (GCS) to handle the uploading, storing, and serving of various files, such as user documents, backups, and logs. GCS offers object-based storage with virtually unlimited capacity, high durability (99.999999999%), and integration with other Google Cloud services, making it ideal for handling cloud-native file storage operations.

To ensure security and efficiency during uploads, we implemented the following measures:

- Service Account Authentication: The backend server is authenticated using a GCP service account with limited permissions, ensuring only authorized services can perform storage operations.
- IAM Role Restrictions: Roles such as Storage Object Admin or Storage Object Creator were assigned only to the backend process, preventing direct unauthorized access to the storage bucket.
- Public Access Control: Public access was disabled by default. If certain files (like PDFs or reports) needed to be temporarily accessible, we generated signed URLs that allowed time-limited, secure access to individual files.
- Folder-like Structure: Although GCS is flat, we used naming conventions like user123/backups/report1.pdf to simulate folders and keep files logically organized.

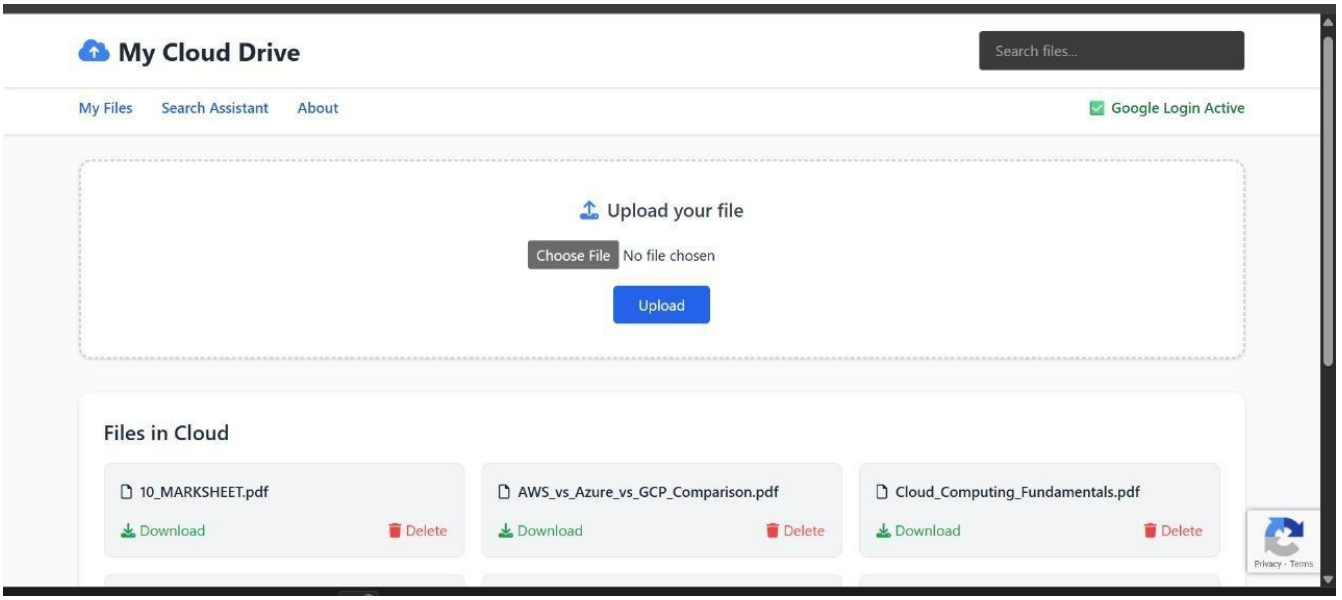

Fig No 8.1 - File storage user interface

8.2.2 Vertex AI Integration for Intelligent File/Data Search

- Purpose:
  Integrated Vertex AI to allow users to search using a single keyword and retrieve relevant files or content, improving the accuracy and intelligence of search functionality.
- Embedding Generation:
  - Extracted meaningful text/content from uploaded files (e.g., PDF, DOCX, TXT).
  - Sent text data to Vertex AI's embedding endpoint.
  - Stored the returned embedding vectors in a database or vector store (e.g., Pinecone or FAISS).
- Search Process:
  - User enters a single keyword (e.g., "invoice", "contract").
  - The keyword is converted to an embedding via Vertex AI.
  - A vector similarity search is performed against stored embeddings to find the closest match.
  - The system retrieves and displays the actual file or data that matches the keyword contextually.

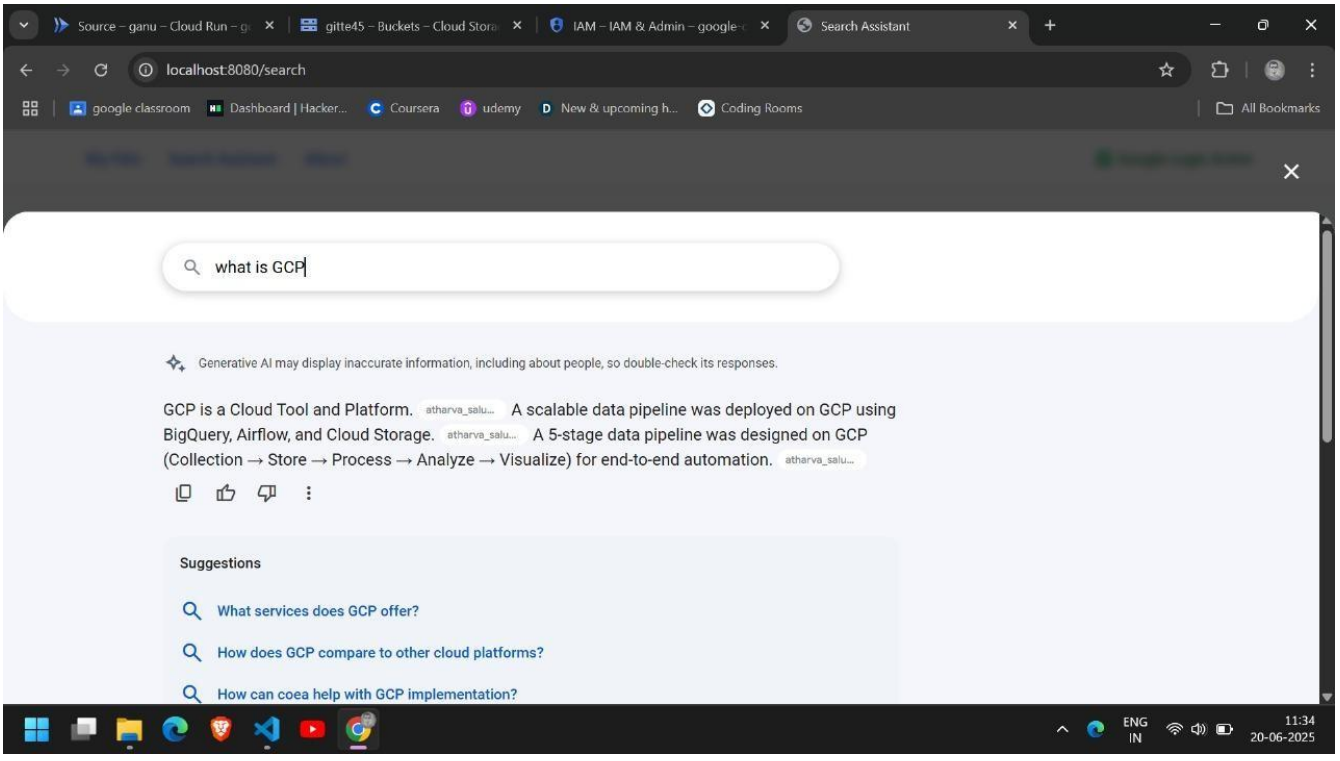

Fig No 8.2 - Vertex AI agent

8.2.3 Google Cloud Storage (GCS) Overview and Usage in Our Project

- Purpose:
  Google Cloud Storage (GCS) was used as the primary file storage system in our project. It handled user-uploaded files, backup data, ML model files, logs, and downloadable reports efficiently and securely.
- Bucket Creation:
  - Created GCS buckets to organize and manage files.
  - Configured region-specific buckets for optimized access speed and multi-region buckets for high durability and availability.
  - Used logical folder-like naming inside buckets (e.g., user-data/reports/2025/invoice1.pdf).
- File Uploading:
  - Files were uploaded using backend code via the Google Cloud Storage SDK (e.g., @google-cloud/storage for Node.js).
  - Verified file types, size limits, and applied user-based access logic.
  - Each file was given a unique path or timestamp-based filename to avoid collisions.
- Access Control:
  - Implemented IAM role-based access for service accounts and users.
  - Prevented public access by default.
  - Used signed URLs for secure, time-limited access to specific files (e.g., report downloads).

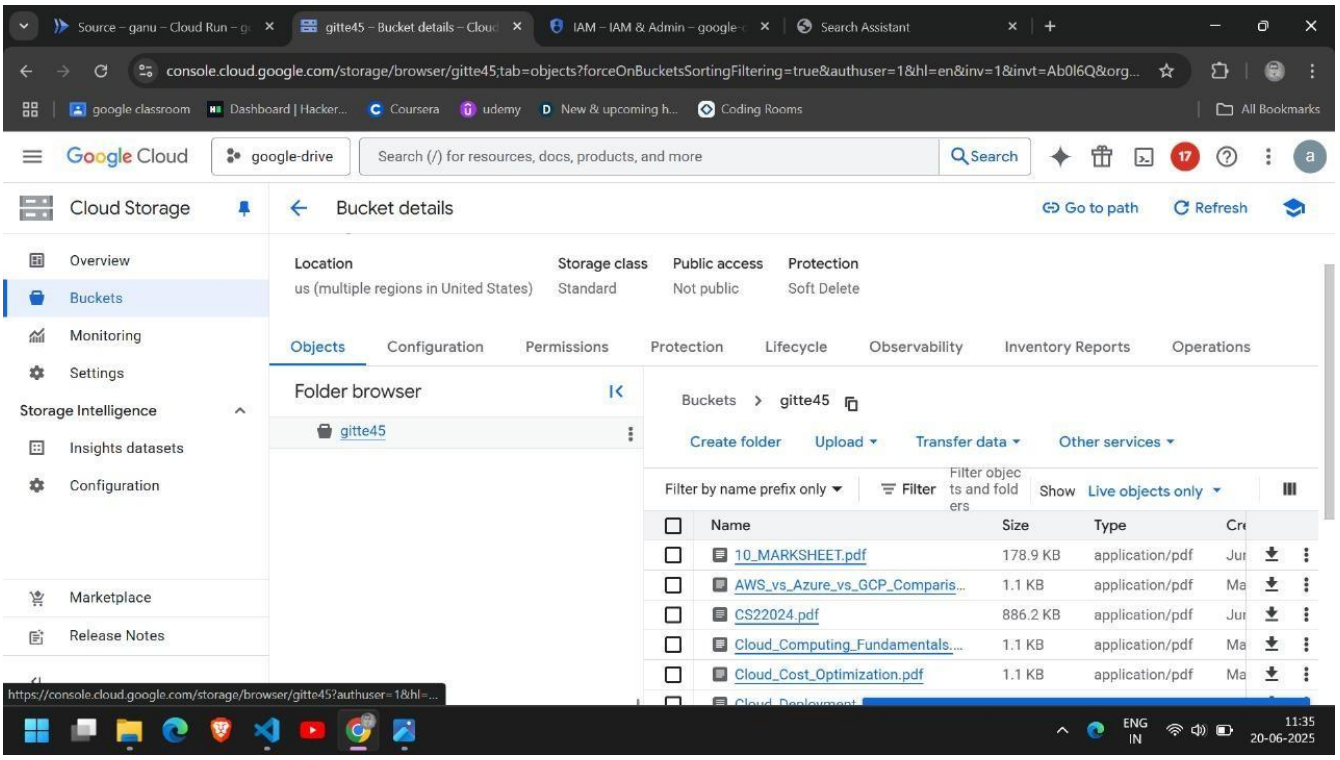

Fig No 8.3 Cloud Storage Bucket

CHAPTER 9 – CONCLUSION & FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

9.1 – CONCLUSION

The **GCP File Storage System project** exemplifies the power and flexibility of modern cloud infrastructure by leveraging **Google Cloud Platform's** robust suite of services—including **Filestore**, **Firebase Authentication**, and **Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE)**. This integration results in a **secure, scalable, and high-performance file storage solution** tailored for a wide range of enterprise and personal use cases.

By adopting cutting-edge technologies such as managed NFS storage, container orchestration, and cloud-based identity management, the system efficiently addresses critical challenges in **data accessibility, security, reliability**, and **operational efficiency**. Users benefit from seamless file sharing and retrieval across devices, consistent uptime, and granular access control, all while reducing infrastructure management overhead.

Moreover, the system's architecture is built with extensibility in mind. Planned future enhancements—including **AI-powered file tagging and categorization**, **real-time multi-user collaboration**, and **cross-platform integration with mobile, desktop, and web ecosystems**—highlight its potential to evolve into a comprehensive cloud-native content management platform.

In essence, this project not only meets current storage and access demands but also lays a strong foundation for **next-generation cloud storage innovations**. With a commitment to performance, scalability, and user-centric features, the GCP File Storage System stands out as a **future-ready, intelligent, and resilient solution** capable of serving diverse digital ecosystems across industries and domains.

9.2 - FUTURE ENHANCEMEN

AI-Based File Tagging: Integrate machine learning to automatically categorize and tag files based on their content, making search and organization easier.

1. Blockchain for File Integrity: Implement blockchain technology to track file modifications and ensure tamper-proof record-keeping, improving data security and transparency.

2. Real-Time Collaboration: Add collaboration features like live document editing, version control, and commenting, allowing multiple users to work on the same file in real time.
3. Extended File Format Support: Enhance support for more file formats and introduce preview options for files like CAD drawings, 3D models, or other specialized formats.
4. Cross-Platform Integration: Extend the system's capabilities to integrate seamlessly with more cloud platforms (e.g., AWS, Microsoft Azure), allowing users to sync and manage files across multiple storage providers.
5. Automated Backup and Recovery: Improve backup capabilities with automated recovery workflows that can restore systems or files to previous states based on set criteria.
6. Mobile Application: Develop mobile apps for both iOS and Android to allow users to upload, download, and manage files on the go.
7. Data Analytics & Reporting: Build advanced reporting tools for administrators to analyze storage trends, user behaviors, and potential system issues for proactive management.

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