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UG FINAL YEAR DISSERTATION REPORT

MoDUS: Desktop Eye-Tracking for Dementia Monitoring

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- MoDUS: Desktop Eye-Tracking for Dementia Monitoring -

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I hereby declare that this dissertation is all my own work, except as indicated in the text:

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Abstract

Dementia's growing prevalence creates urgent demand for accessible, scalable tools to support early cognitive assessment. Traditional neuropsychological methods are limited by clinical constraints, specialized hardware, and insufficient reach. This project introduces a desktop-based implementation of MoDUS, a cognitive screening application that uses real-time eye tracking during antisaccade tasks to evaluate executive function. Built using Unity and MediaPipe, the system uses standard webcams to deliver gaze tracking, auditory and visual feedback, automated logging, and flexible cloud storage. Key technical contributions include integration of webcambased eye tracking, platform-specific camera handling, robust offline functionality, and seamless data export. The result is a lightweight, standalone application suitable for both clinical and home use. This work demonstrates the feasibility of cost-effective, cross-platform cognitive health tools and lays the foundation for future enhancements in gaze analytics and clinical integration.

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1 Introduction

This project was developed in collaboration with the School of Psychology, whose feedback ensured the system addressed real-world cognitive assessment needs while supporting cross-platform compatibility.

1.1 Problem Background and Project Motivation

Dementia affects 47 million individuals globally, with projections indicating a rise to 131 million by 2050 [6]. This alarming trend showcases the urgent need for scalable, accessible solutions that support early detection and ongoing monitoring of cognitive decline. Early diagnosis is critical to enabling timely interventions that can slow progression and improve the quality of life for patients and caregivers.

However, current cognitive assessment methods often require specialized laboratory settings, extensive clinician training, and expensive equipment, which makes them inaccessible to many, particularly in under-resourced settings [58]. For example, only 21.5% of rural populations aged 65+ in the United States live in areas with a high density of dementia specialists (45+ per 100,000), compared to 44.4% of urban populations [47]. This disparity is mirrored globally and highlights the need for affordable, user-friendly alternatives that can extend cognitive health services beyond clinical settings.

To address these challenges, the MoDUS (Monitoring Dementia Using Smartphones) project was created as a mobile solution for delivering cognitive assessments through antisaccade tasks (well-established markers of executive function) [30][34]. Using smartphone cameras, MoDUS enabled eye-tracking assessments in everyday environments, offering a cost-effective and portable alternative to traditional lab setups [15][65]. However, despite improving accessibility, the mobile version introduced challenges such as variability in lighting, device orientation, and usability among older adults [30][67]. These limitations highlighted the need for a stable, user-friendly platform that retains clinical validity and the original design. This project extends MoDUS into a desktop environment, replicating its core testing logic and interface using Unity and MediaPipe. The desktop version introduces enhancements better suited to clinical and home-based settings, including mouse and keyboard navigation, offline functionality, local data storage, and cloud integration via a configurable JSON system. Crucially, it preserves the structure and flow of the mobile experience to support cross-platform consistency in both user interaction and clinical data comparability [7][11].

1.2 Project Vision

This project aims to deliver a standalone desktop version of MoDUS that leverages consumergrade webcams for real-time eye tracking. It mirrors the original mobile version in function and design while optimizing interaction and performance for desktop use. The system supports deployment in clinics, assisted living facilities, and homes, especially where internet access is intermittent, or users prefer a traditional computing environment. By ensuring consistent user experience across platforms, MoDUS strengthens clinical reliability and user adoption. The overarching goal is to provide a scalable, adaptable cognitive testing tool that enables widespread early dementia screening and supports ongoing cognitive monitoring in both professional and personal care contexts.

1.3 Objectives

Aim:

To develop a desktop-based version of MoDUS, the anti-saccade eye-tracking test application, that replicates the cognitive testing capabilities of the mobile prototype while enhancing usability, reliability, and deployment flexibility across clinical and home environments.

Objectives:

- 1. Functional Implementation
 - 1.1. Recreate the antisaccade test interface and trial logic from the original mobile version using Unity and MediaPipe.
 - 1.2. Integrate real-time eye tracking using consumer-grade webcams to support gaze-based interaction without specialized hardware.
- 2. Data Handling and Integration
 - 2.1. Enable automated CSV export of gaze and performance data.
 - 2.2. Implement optional cloud upload functionality via a configurable JSON-based system to support remote data access.
- 3. Cross-Platform Consistency
 - 3.1. Preserve the UI/UX flow of the smartphone version to ensure familiarity and clinical comparability across devices.
 - 3.2. Enhance interaction flow and accessibility features for use by older adults and non-technical users.
- 4. Performance and Usability Optimization
 - 4.1. Optimize responsiveness and visual feedback for standard desktop hardware.
 - 4.2. Incorporate offline support to ensure usability in low-connectivity or home-based settings.
- 5. Validation and Iterative Improvement

- 5.1. Demonstrate the feasibility of adapting mobile cognitive assessment tools to the desktop environment without compromising accuracy or user experience.
- 5.2. Actively engage with the client (School of Psychology) for feedback-driven refinement.
- 5.3. Address key limitations of the mobile version in the desktop implementation while preserving its strengths.

2 Related Work

Numerous platforms that leverage eye-tracking and neuropsychological tools have been developed for cognitive health monitoring and dementia diagnosis. However, these platforms often face limitations in terms of cost, accessibility, and adaptability. Platforms like TobiiPro and Pupil Labs rely on specialized hardware like eye-tracking cameras and glasses to support real-time monitoring and research [61][3]. Additionally, for accurate results, these platforms require a controlled lab environment. Other platforms like Neurotrack and Cambridge Cognition (CANTAB) are widely adopted and excel in preventive care but focus on preventive screening rather than real-time eye movement analysis and are limited to tablet use under clinician supervision [2][18]. CogniFit provides cognitive training and assessment tools for aging-related cognitive impairments [21] rather than comprehensive assessment and does not incorporate multimodal tools like eye-tracking, limiting its diagnostic utility leading to a lack of integration with biometric data like gaze tracking and limited assessment capabilities.

3 Literature Review

3.1 Traditional vs Modern Eye-Tracking for Cognitive Tests

3.1.1 Limitations of Traditional Neuropsychological Assessments

Neuropsychological evaluation through different standardized tests (typically pen and paper tests) are used today to diagnose dementia. This evaluation, however, is time consuming and not entirely accurate. For instance, a study by Larrabee, 1992 pointed out that a poor performance on neuropsychological evaluation can be a result of other reasons like depression or inattentiveness [1]. MoDUS addresses these limitations by utilizing eye-tracking based antisaccade tasks where participants attempt to suppress their reflexive urge to look at a visual distractor that appears in their visual field and instead look away when it appears. Dementia patients often have damage to the frontal lobes and basal ganglia (regions responsible for top-down inhibition of automatic saccades) making it harder for them to suppress this reflex and perform well on the task [52].

3.1.2 The Antisaccade Task (AST) as a Diagnostic Tool

The antisaccade task, first developed by Hallett in 1978, is a widely used paradigm to measure voluntary control over saccadic eye movements [29]. This task is particularly valuable for studying cognitive action control and diagnosing neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, traumatic brain injury, and schizophrenia [38][5]. Research has demonstrated the potential of the antisaccade test (AST) as a diagnostic tool for amnestic mild cognitive impairment (aMCI). Studies by Chehrehnegar et al. (2021) and Crawford et al. (2019) highlight that patients with aMCI exhibit more errors and fewer corrections on the AST compared to healthy controls [19][23]. Furthermore, they report an increase in AST error frequency among individuals with MCI and dementia when compared to healthy participants. Wilcockson et al. (2019) further demonstrates that AST can distinguish between aMCI and non-amnestic mild cognitive impairment (naMCI), with aMCI patients performing worse on the task suggesting their greater likelihood of progressing to dementia [65]. Eye tracking technology enables precise measurement of eye movements, including latency, error rate, and spatial accuracy, which are critical for interpreting antisaccade performance [22]. These studies reinforce AST's value as a biomarker for cognitive health monitoring, which aligns closely with MoDUS's objective to utilize eye-tracking technology for early detection and tracking of dementia progression [15].

3.1.3 Modern Eye-Tracking Technologies and User Considerations

A study by Ray et al. (2024) explores the integration of assistive technologies into dementia care, citing accessibility, affordability, and usability as key challenges [58]. Similarly, Astell et al. (2019) highlights the role of technology in supporting dementia diagnosis and caregiving, emphasizing the need for tools that seamlessly integrate into both clinical and home settings [7]. While these technologies have shown significant promise, their deployment has often been confined to specialized settings or standalone applications. Belleville et al. (2023) emphasizes the importance of designing tools that are specifically accessible to aging populations, which is crucial for ensuring that older adults, who may face barriers to technology use, can benefit from cognitive assessments [11].

The use of webcams for eye-tracking has shown significant potential in reducing costs and increasing accessibility for healthcare applications. Jain et al. (2024) discusses the feasibility of cost-effective webcam-based systems for gaze tracking, noting challenges such as noise and calibration issues [34]. Boulay et al. (2024) demonstrates that low-cost webcam systems can achieve high accuracy in eye movement classification tasks like fixations and saccades, proving the viability of affordable alternatives to lab-grade systems [16]. Additionally, Harisinghani et al. (2023) shows how gaze data from webcams can support scalable Alzheimer's diagnosis, validating the potential of webcam-based technologies for real-world applications [30]. Together, these studies provide a strong technical foundation for MoDUS, supporting its reliance on consumergrade webcams for eye-tracking tasks. By transitioning MoDUS to a browser-based platform, it can leverage these advancements to offer real-time, cost-effective solutions across diverse

environments. These design considerations are further examined in Section 32, where platform-specific methodologies are discussed in greater detail.

3.1.4 Older Adults and the Feasibility of At-Home Digital Testing

The prevalence of clinically diagnosed Alzheimer's disease (AD) increases exponentially with age. At age 65, less than 5% of the population has a clinical diagnosis of AD, but this number increases to more than 40% beyond age 85. This indicates that Alzheimer's disease, a common cause of cognitive decline, becomes significantly more prevalent as individuals age [53]. Studies have established the feasibility of digital cognitive assessments among older adults, with high engagement rates and reliable diagnostic outcomes [70][51]. These findings support the viability of MoDUS as an offline desktop solution for unsupervised cognitive monitoring, especially for users who prefer home-based assessments due to mobility or access constraints A study published in PubMed Central found that a significant proportion of older adults expressed preferences for the cognitive test experience, with 33.4% preferring to take the test at home and 62.5% preferring to take it alone. This suggests that many older adults value the convenience and privacy of home-based testing [66].

3.2 Platform-Specific Design and Limitations

3.2.1 Smartphone-Based Eye Tracking: Design and Methodology

Recent advances in mobile hardware, computer vision, and embedded AI have enabled smartphone-based eye-tracking systems to approximate the accuracy of laboratory-grade infrared setups. Modern implementations use front-facing RGB cameras with brief calibration routines, typically 9-point or multi-point methods under 30 seconds, paired with machine learning models trained on large datasets like GazeCapture. Under controlled conditions, such systems have achieved spatial gaze estimation errors as low as 0.46 cm, nearly matching commercial systems like Tobii Pro Glasses (0.42–0.50 cm) [63].

Kaduk et al. (2023) confirmed that mobile platforms can replicate antisaccade metrics such as directional error rates and saccadic latency when stimuli are placed $\pm 6^{\circ}$ –12° from a central fixation. These systems also leverage Neural Processing Units (NPUs) for efficient real-time inference with reduced power consumption, enhancing their viability for field or at-home deployment [42][33].

From a design methodology perspective, smartphone platforms rely on algorithmic correction and geometric compensation. Person-specific calibration, deep learning pipelines, and gaze-to-optical-axis alignment have been shown to reduce gaze error and improve saccade latency estimation [44][17][63]. These advancements validate the feasibility of smartphone-based eye tracking for cognitive screening in scalable, mobile-first contexts.

3.2.2 Limitations of Smartphone-Based Eye Tracking

Building on prior discussions, this section outlines platform-specific limitations with more focus on the technicalities. Despite their potential, smartphone-based systems face critical limitations. Frame rates are typically capped at 30 FPS, which constrains the detection of rapid eye movements such as saccades that occur within 100–200 ms [63][41]. Environmental sensitivity to ambient lighting, screen glare, and head pose can degrade tracking accuracy in uncontrolled settings [54][55][43]. Handheld instability and screen size constraints further impact gaze precision and test scalability, particularly for tasks like antisaccade trials [45][4][62].

Hardware variability across brands introduces inconsistencies in camera resolution, lens quality, and processor performance, which complicates clinical reproducibility [28][20]. Moreover, frequent calibration is often needed due to shifting hand positions and angles, making the experience less stable than desired for sensitive cognitive tasks [63].

3.2.3 Desktop-Based Eye Tracking: Design and Methodology

Desktop-based systems overcome many of these limitations through fixed hardware configurations and controlled test environments. These setups use stationary webcams and seated postures to maintain consistent eye-camera distance, reducing motion artifacts and improving stability in gaze estimation. Calibration routines, often involving fixation on screen-bound points, are supported by more powerful processors and high-resolution monitors, allowing accurate gaze mapping critical for antisaccade tasks.

Methodologies include model-based gaze estimation, which compensates for individual anatomical variation and device alignment using 3D eye models [59]. MediaPipe Iris further enhances real-time tracking accuracy with standard webcams by extracting facial and iris landmarks efficiently [69]. Desktop environments also enable large stimulus displays, precise saccade latency measurement, and real-time visual or auditory feedback, all essential for research-grade cognitive testing.

3.2.4 Limitations of Desktop-Based Eye Tracking

However, desktop-based systems are not without challenges. High costs and specialized hardware can limit accessibility in home or low-resource clinical environments [36]. The need for expert setup and training presents an adoption barrier in community settings [9]. Lack of portability restricts deployment flexibility, while calibration procedures, though robust, can be time-consuming and error-prone in uncooperative users [40]. Additionally, participant factors such as age, fatigue, or attentional deficits may skew task performance, complicating result interpretation [48]. Controlled lighting is often required to ensure data integrity [33].

3.3 Comparative Analysis and Design Implications

3.3.1 Comparative Analysis

The design methodologies behind smartphone-based and desktop-based eye-tracking systems reflect fundamentally different priorities shaped by their operating environments, technical constraints, and user expectations. Smartphone-based systems are typically optimized for portability, accessibility, and cost-efficiency. Their design relies heavily on compact hardware, intuitive interfaces, and machine learning-driven calibration routines that minimize setup time and encourage widespread use in non-clinical settings [41][44]. These systems are well-suited for preliminary screening or field-based deployment, particularly in contexts where equipment must be lightweight and user-driven. However, the variability in smartphone hardware, combined with sensitivity to ambient lighting, hand-held movement, and lower frame rates (~30 FPS), impose limitations on data precision and clinical scalability [63][45].

In contrast, desktop-based systems prioritize technical precision, stability, and environmental control. Their fixed hardware configurations allow for consistent eye-camera geometry, enabling more robust calibration protocols and accurate spatial and temporal resolution during tasks like antisaccade testing [59][25]. These setups also support integration with frameworks like MediaPipe Iris, which further enhances real-time iris detection and gaze estimation using standard webcams ([69]. Desktop platforms are ideal for tasks that demand high fidelity, such as the detection of saccade latency within 100–200 ms windows. However, they are limited by higher cost, lower portability, and the need for expert calibration and controlled environments, which can constrain their deployment in broader clinical or at-home settings [36] 2023; [40].

Overall, the core trade-off between smartphone and desktop systems lies in accessibility versus accuracy. Smartphones excel in reach and usability, while desktops offer superior clinical-grade measurements. Recognizing these distinctions is central to the MoDUS project, which aims to bridge the gap by transitioning from a mobile prototype to a desktop implementation. By preserving the familiar UI design of the smartphone version and incorporating the technical strengths of desktop hardware, MoDUS seeks to achieve both usability and precision in antisaccade testing.

A detailed comparison of the design trade-offs and limitations between the two platforms is provided in Appendix A, which summarizes key distinctions to aid interpretability and platform selection for clinical and research applications. This synthesis links back to the broader usability and design implications discussed in Section 3.3.

3.3.2 Design Implications: Toward Cross-Platform Continuity in MoDUS

Cross-platform consistency refers to uniform designs and functionalities across devices like smartphones, tablets, and desktops and is essential in healthcare applications, particularly for older adults and users with cognitive impairments, who are MoDUS's target audience. Research online states that consistent interfaces reduce cognitive load and enhance usability by reinforcing

familiarity, which improves user trust and adoption [13]. This is especially valuable for older adults who may resist switching devices or relearning new layouts, as consistent UI elements (e.g., standardized navigation, color schemes) enable seamless transitions across settings [46] Zheng et al., 2021). Usability studies also show that hierarchical and platform-aligned UI designs improve user confidence and reduce errors. For example, Zhu et al. (2022) found that older users performed better and rated interfaces more efficiently when tasks were structured logically across a consistent three-level navigation system. Aligning interface components with platform-specific standards (e.g., iOS or Android gestures) further boosts intuitiveness and minimizes the learning curve. Clinically, consistency is equally critical. Uniform test logic and flow across devices ensure the comparability of results, which is vital for longitudinal tracking of conditions like dementia or epilepsy. Variations in UI design can distort test outcomes and compromise data integrity [14]). Cognitive screening tools like MoDUS must therefore standardize instructions, prompts, and interactions to ensure reliability across home and clinical environments. In this project, MoDUS builds upon the tested UI of its smartphone version, aiming to replicate familiar interaction patterns while improving flow and clarity in its desktop implementation. Accessibility is another key advantage. Simple, consistent interfaces help users with perceptual or motor challenges navigate apps with ease, regardless of the device used. Manzano-Monfort et al. (2023) emphasized that standardized button sizes, layouts, and colors allow users with memory deterioration or physical limitations to rely on familiar patterns. This design strategy improves inclusivity and patient autonomy. Finally, responsive design supports both patient usability and clinician workflows. For clinicians, this means better access to data across contexts; for patients, it ensures continuous, device-agnostic engagement with healthcare tools.

While these benefits are well-supported, challenges remain and include varying tech literacy levels among older adults, the need for robust calibration across devices, and the requirement for offline capability in low-connectivity settings [50][14].

3.4 Identified Gap and Design Rationale for MoDUS

Despite advances in smartphone-based and desktop-based eye-tracking systems, a significant gap remains in delivering antisaccade testing that is both clinically reliable and accessible for wide deployment. As demonstrated in Section 32, smartphone-based systems offer portability and cost-effectiveness but suffer from critical limitations, low temporal resolution (~30 FPS), environmental sensitivity, and calibration instability, especially in uncontrolled home settings [63][55][45]. Conversely, desktop systems deliver superior accuracy and control but require specialized hardware, expert calibration, and fixed environments, limiting their scalability and accessibility [36][40].

This dichotomy highlights a clear gap in the literature: there is currently no solution that combines the hardware stability and measurement precision of desktop systems with the affordability, autonomy, and usability of mobile platforms.

The MoDUS Desktop application is designed to bridge this divide. It transforms the original smartphone prototype into a browser-compatible desktop solution that retains user-friendly UI features while introducing hardware consistency through seated webcam-based setups. By using MediaPipe Iris for real-time iris and facial landmark detection [10], MoDUS achieves reliable gaze estimation without infrared hardware. Its fixed geometry mitigates calibration drift, head movement variability, and ambient noise, critical barriers in prior mobile implementations. In addition to accurate eye-tracking, MoDUS integrates structured trial logic, automated data export (CSV), and cloud upload capabilities, enabling longitudinal tracking in both home and clinical settings. This positions MoDUS not as a replacement for mobile innovation, but as its evolution, preserving accessibility while elevating reliability to meet clinical and research needs for early dementia screening.

4 Functional and Non-Functional Requirements

This section outlines the behavioral (functional) and quality-related (non-functional) expectations of the MoDUS desktop system, based on implementation outcomes, client needs, and research-backed best practices.

4.1 Functional Requirements

1. Eye Tracking Functionality

- 1.1. The system must support antisaccade tasks to assess cognitive performance.
- 1.2. It must accurately track and detect face, eyes, and irises using real-time processing (MediaPipe Iris).

2. Platform Integration and Compatibility

2.1. The application must run on Windows desktop systems (Windows 10 and above) without requiring additional installations, plugins, or command-line setup.

3. **Input Handling**

- 3.1. Mouse and keyboard controls must replace mobile touch gestures.
- 3.2. The system must recognize clicks, drags, and key presses during tasks and navigation.

4. Offline Capability

- 4.1. The application must function without internet access.
- 4.2. All results must be saved locally in CSV format.

5. Online Integration

- 5.1. When connected to the internet, the system must automatically upload CSV result files to a secure cloud backend without requiring any manual action by the user.
- 5.2. Cloud destinations (e.g. Supabase, Google Drive) and authentication tokens must be configurable only to clinical administrators.
- 5.3. The application must enable users to export task results in standardized formats such as CSV for clinical review.

6. Camera Access and Source Handling

- 6.1. The system must automatically detect available webcams.
- 6.2. It must handle camera permission errors and unavailable devices gracefully.

7. Consistent User Interface (UI) Flow

- 7.1. The UI must replicate the mobile version's flow and logic for clinical consistency.
- 7.2. Instruction screens, timers, trial logic, and feedback must be maintained across platforms.
- 7.3. The desktop system must preserve design and interaction consistency with the mobile version to support clinical comparability.

8. Error Handling

- 8.1. The application must display meaningful error messages (e.g., camera denied, device unsupported).
- 8.2. In case of upload failure, unsynced data must be stored locally for future retry.
- 8.3. Errors should also be logged internally for future debugging and performance monitoring.

4.2 Non-Functional Requirements

1. **Performance**

1.1. Webcam video and gaze estimation must operate in real-time, with latency suitable for antisaccade detection (approximately less than 100ms).

2. Usability

- 2.1. The interface must support older adults and non-technical users, with large buttons, readable fonts, and intuitive controls.
- 2.2. The application must be installable via a simple installer (.exe) without requiring administrative privileges or technical configuration from the user.

3. Compatibility

3.1. The application must run on Windows desktops without requiring browser plugins or installations.

4. **Reliability**

4.1. The system must avoid data loss during crashes or disconnections and recover gracefully.

5. **Maintainability**

5.1. The Unity codebase must be modular and documented to allow updates and troubleshooting.

6. **Portability**

6.1. The system must be deployable in both local-only (offline) and internet-connected (cloud upload) environments.

7. Visual Quality

7.1. The application must render all interface elements (including texts, images, animations, and feedback cues) in high definition to suit desktop displays.

- 7.2. All UI assets (e.g., instructions, countdowns, stimulus targets) must scale without distortion on common screen resolutions (e.g., 1920x1080 and higher).
- 7.3. Visuals must maintain clarity and contrast under different lighting conditions to ensure accurate user interaction and gaze targeting.

4.3 Functional Requirements Validation

The following table summarizes how the implemented MoDUS desktop system meets the stated functional requirements. Each function was tested through repeated use cases, and results were logged manually or verified through the application's data exports (e.g., CSV files, GUI behavior, cloud upload). This confirms that the system behaves as intended and is ready for cognitive assessment use under clinical or research conditions.

 Table 1
 Functional Requirements Verification

Req. ID	Description	Actual Result	Pass/Fail	Remarks
FR01		The app opens with splash screen and transitions to nickname page	Pass	-
FR02		Prompts if nickname is empty; proceeds on valid input	Pass	-
FR03	Button clicks provide audio feedback	Every button plays a pitch sound	Pass	-
FR04	Camera permission is requested on first launch	OS-level permission popup appears	Pass	-
FR05	Camera and face mesh activate in test screen	Webcam shows live feed with face mesh overlay	Pass	-
FR06	Camera selector allows users to choose input	Users can select between multiple webcams	Pass	-
FR07	Test modes (Easy, Medium, Difficult) are selectable	All three modes are accessible	Pass	-
FR08	Eye selection (Left/Right) before session	Users are prompted to select an eye	Pass	-
FR09	Instruction screen shown after eye selection	Instructions appropriate to test are shown	Pass	-

FR10	Countdown before each session with audio	5-second countdown with sounds appears	Pass	-
FR11		Stimuli shown randomly left/right with audio cue	Pass	-
FR12		Correct/wrong sounds based on gaze	Pass	Verified in practice and actual sessions
FR13	Medium: User should look AWAY from red sphere	Correct/wrong sounds based on gaze	Pass	Verified
FR14	Difficult: Mix of green (toward) and red (away)	System detects and responds correctly		Logic functioning
FR15	Practice = 4 trials; Actual = 50 trials	Test length adheres to mode rules	Pass	All three difficulties confirmed
FR16	After practice, the user returns to session screen	Face mesh screen shown again	Pass	-
FR17	After the actual test, results are saved as CSV	CSV created with full data	Pass	Confirmed in Google Drive
FR18		Google authentication and cloud upload completed	Pass	-
FR19	Post-results screen allows changing user or retesting	Users can start again or switch user	Pass	-

Requirements Transition Analysis

The original MoDUS application was developed for smartphones using touch input, on-device camera APIs, and a mobile-optimized interface. While this design enabled portable, accessible testing in everyday environments, transitioning to a desktop platform required reevaluating system architecture and interaction design to suit different hardware and usage contexts while preserving the clinical test flow and cross-platform consistency in user experience.

5.1 Transitioned Functionalities

As previously discussed, smartphone-based systems offer strong accessibility and mobility but are often limited by hardware variability, environmental sensitivity, and lower frame rates (~30 FPS), which can reduce the temporal fidelity required for capturing fast eye movements like saccades [30][67]. By contrast, desktop systems provide more consistent input/output configurations, enhanced processing capabilities, and better frame stability, critical for reliable antisaccade performance capture within 100–200 ms response windows [16][60].

The following components were re-implemented or adapted for desktop use:

- 1. **Input Handling**: Touch gestures were replaced with mouse and keyboard controls to suit desktop interaction norms.
- 2. **Camera Access**: Android mobile camera APIs were substituted with Unity's WebCamTexture to access webcams.
- 3. **UI and Layout**: Screen elements were resized for larger desktop displays while preserving the color scheme, instructional flow, and logic from the mobile version.

5.2 Retained Functionalities

To maintain clinical continuity and user familiarity, several core features from the mobile implementation were preserved and implemented:

- 1. **Antisaccade Test Logic**: Trial flow, countdown timers, fixation and stimulus mechanics remain unchanged.
- 2. **Instructional UI and Feedback**: Prompt screens, on-screen guidance, and auditory feedback were carried over.
- 3. **Data Export Protocol**: Session results are exported in CSV format with time stamped file names for traceability and analysis.
- 4. **Overall UI Structure**: The interface maintains the same step-by-step logic and layout to ensure consistency across platforms, which is critical for comparing clinical data.

5.3 Desktop-Specific Enhancements

Several new features were introduced in the desktop version based on stakeholder input, platform capabilities, and usability research:

Cloud Storage Integration: The desktop version introduces automatic cloud upload of
test results after each session, a feature absent from the original mobile version. A
cloud_config.json file allows administrators to define upload destinations (e.g., Supabase,
Google Drive) and authentication tokens without requiring user input or code changes.

- Configurable Upload GUI: A lightweight configuration editor was developed alongside MoDUS to enable non-technical clients (e.g., clinicians) to securely update the upload URL and credentials via a graphical interface. This ensures flexibility while maintaining security and usability.
- 3. **Test Modes Across Difficulty Levels**: Unlike the mobile version, which had fixed logic, the desktop version includes modular Easy, Medium, and Hard test modes to better support task variation and difficulty progression (design rationale elaborated in Section 6).
- 4. **Dynamic Webcam Support**: The system automatically detects connected webcams and responds appropriately to hardware denial or absence, ensuring graceful degradation without crashing [34].
- 5. Accessibility Enhancements: UI elements were optimized for older and low-vision users, including high-contrast visuals, scalable fonts, and HD-resolution support, following accessibility principles highlighted in prior research [11].

5.4 Excluded or Deprioritized Features

Certain features from the smartphone version were deemed unnecessary or unsuitable for desktop deployment and were intentionally removed:

- 1. **Device Orientation Handling**: Orientation logic (e.g., switching between portrait and landscape modes) was excluded, as desktop environments use fixed screens.
- 2. **Mobile-Specific Power Optimization**: Smartphone-specific efficiency strategies such as NPU-based inference were deprioritized due to the higher processing capabilities of desktop hardware, which can handle gaze tracking tasks without energy constraints.

The diagram below summarizes the core functional transitions made during the platform shift, highlighting key changes in input handling, hardware interfacing, UI layout, frame rate stability, and storage mechanisms.

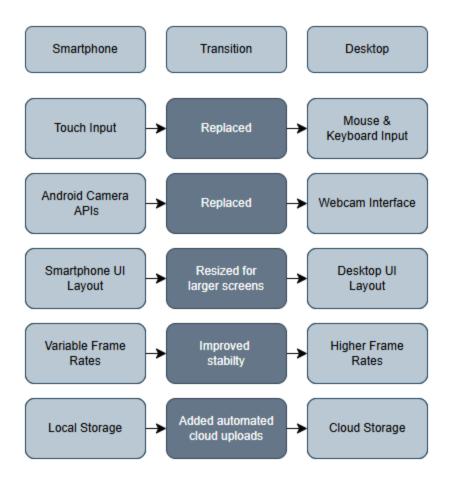


Figure 1: Comparison of transitioned features from MoDUS Mobile to Desktop.

6 Cross-Platform Software Development Methodology

This project employed a software development methodology centered on replicating a smartphone-based Android eye-tracking application as a Windows desktop application using Unity. This project followed a cross-platform replication methodology, aiming to faithfully reproduce the behavior, structure, and interface flow of the original mobile MoDUS system. This was done to preserve clinical consistency, minimize user retraining, and support long-term data comparability between platforms. As discussed in Section 3.3.2 of the literature review, maintaining consistent interface logic across devices is critical in reducing cognitive load and supporting reliable clinical assessments [44][56].

6.1 Development Environment and Tools

The game engine used for this project was Unity 2021.3.25f1, chosen for its rapid prototyping capabilities, cross-platform deployment, and built-in webcam support. The client provided a

preliminary source code base with built-in C# scripting for the Android version, which served as a reference during early prototyping. As development progressed, updates from the Android codebase were monitored, selectively integrated, and discussed with the client to maintain alignment.

The core eye-tracking logic was implemented using MediaPipe Iris, a lightweight and high-accuracy framework for real-time iris tracking, ideal for standard webcams. As discussed in Section 3.2.3 *Desktop-Based Eye Tracking: Design and Methodology*, MediaPipe was selected due to its performance efficiency and peer-reviewed reliability. Additionally, texture pooling was implemented using TextureFramePool.cs to improve real-time performance during high-frequency eye tracking operations.

To mitigate the effects of fatigue and disengagement during long cognitive testing (e.g., 50-trial sessions), audio feedback was implemented using Unity's AudioSource component. This design choice was supported by findings from Everling & Fischer (1998), which suggest that sustained engagement in antisaccade tasks can degrade performance and increase error rates if not addressed.

A significant design priority from the client was data storage and accessibility. Manual file transfers were deemed unsuitable for clinical use, so a cloud-based saving mechanism was implemented. Currently, Google Drive API and Firebase Firestore support automatic saving of test result CSVs to a shared folder (modus-storage), accessible to clinicians. In case of connectivity issues, the system also retains local backups.

To accommodate future cloud transitions, a custom GUI Config Tool (modus_config_editor.exe) was developed. This tool allows administrators to update storage URLs, toggle between local and remote saving, and enter authentication tokens, all without modifying code. This modularity supports scalability and clinical adoption. Finally, for deployment, Inno Setup installer generator was used to build an installer for MoDUS.exe that can be distributed to users. The figure below is a code snippet of the InnoSetup script used to build the installer.

```
#define MyAppName "MoDUS"
#define MyAppVersion "1.0.0"
#define MyAppPublisher "Farah Elsaid"
#define MyAppExeName "MoDUS.exe"
; NOTE: The value of AppId uniquely identifies this application. Do not use the same AppId value in installers
; (To generate a new GUID, click Tools | Generate GUID inside the IDE.)
AppId={ {58E454F0-1EE8-40DA-A3D0-6ED1D9B72E78}
AppName={#MyAppName}
AppVersion={#MyAppVersion}
;AppVerName={#MyAppName} {#MyAppVersion}
AppPublisher={#MyAppPublisher}
DefaultDirName={autopf}\{#MyAppName}
UninstallDisplayIcon={app}\{#MyAppExeName}
; "ArchitecturesAllowed=x64compatible" specifies that Setup cannot run
; on anything but x64 and Windows 11 on Arm.
ArchitecturesAllowed=x64compatible
; "ArchitecturesInstallIn64BitMode=x64compatible" requests that the
; install be done in "64-bit mode" on x64 or Windows 11 on Arm,
; meaning it should use the native 64-bit Program Files directory and
; the 64-bit view of the registry.
ArchitecturesInstallIn64BitMode=x64compatible
DisableProgramGroupPage=yes
; Uncomment the following line to run in non administrative install mode (install for current user only).
;PrivilegesRequired=lowest
OutputDir=C:\Users\USER\Desktop\MoDUS Desktop Cloud v2\MoDUS Installer
OutputBaseFilename=DesktopMoDUS
SetupIconFile=C:\Users\USER\Downloads\logoBlue.ico
SolidCompression=yes
WizardStyle=modern
```

Figure 2: Desktop Deployment Installer Script

The figure below showcases the unity scene hierarchy showing major canvas structures: StartPage, CameraTest, Instruction Screens, and Game, alongside the DetectorManager and cloud services like FirebasePreloader.

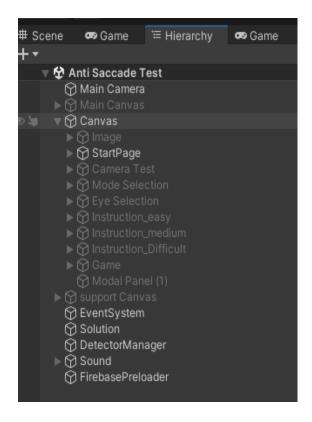


Figure 3: Unity Scene Hierarchy for the MoDUS Anti-Saccade Application

6.2 Development Methodology

The development of the MoDUS desktop system followed an iterative and milestone based approach which was inspired by the Agile software development principles. This methodology allowed for continuous improvement, continuous testing, and adaptability to client feedback. This was necessary due to the evolving design and technical constraints inherited from the original Android version.

The project was divided into practical, testable stages. Each iteration included planning, implementation, and evaluation components. The table below showcases the iterative development phases.

Table 2 Iterative Development Phases

Phase	Milestone Description	Key Outcomes
Phase 1: Environment Setup & Research	 Set up Unity environment Investigated MediaPipe iris tracking Reviewed Android implementation 	Confirmed MediaPipe feasibility on desktop using Unity and C#

Phase 2: Core Prototype Development	 Built nickname screen, mode selector Integrated webcam stream and face mesh Implemented initial trial logic (Easy Mode) 	Achieved first working trial with eye tracking and local CSV export
Phase 3: Full Feature Implementation	 Added Medium and Difficult trial logic Implemented feedback sounds and gaze accuracy detection Built practice vs. actual session logic 	Developed full 50-trial test system with sound feedback and behavioral tracking
Phase 4: Data Storage & Upload System	 Created cloud-configurable storage layer Integrated Google Drive API and local fallback Developed GUI config editor 	Enabled seamless cloud upload of result CSVs with fallback to local saving
Phase 5: Refinement & Testing	- Compared Android and Desktop versions to ensure cross-platform compatibility. - Refined UI for elderly users - Added countdown logic, back buttons, camera selector - Debugged trial transitions and incorrect result tagging	Improved usability, stability, and ensured robust error handling
Phase 6: Evaluation & Analysis	 Conducted structured test sessions on different laptops Analyzed CSV data and validated system logic Compared performance across modes 	Confirmed that desktop system met accuracy, usability, and reliability goals

6.3 Algorithms and Components

The section below provides a breakdown of the core algorithms, software components, and logic structure that power the MoDUS desktop application. The focus is on how eye movement is tracked, interpreted, and used to classify user behaviour in real time.

6.3.1 Gaze Detection and Classification Algorithm

MoDUS uses MediaPipe Iris to track real-time eye movement and classify user responses during antisaccade tests. The system captures facial landmarks via webcam and uses iris coordinates to evaluate gaze behavior. This implementation reflects scientific findings that support webcambased iris tracking as a valid alternative to lab-grade systems in cognitive assessment tools [44][56].

Each trial follows a standardized logic loop, as illustrated in Figure 4, beginning with a fixation cross, followed by a stimulus (green or red sphere) randomly shown on either side of the screen. The logic differs depending on the selected mode:

- Easy: Users must look towards the green stimulus.
- Medium: Users must look away from the red stimulus.
- Difficult: Both stimulus types appear randomly, requiring alternating responses.

The system records the user's initial iris position before the stimulus, and after a short, controlled delay, compares it with the current iris position to classify the response as either *Correct*, *Wrong*, or *Invalid*. This logic is governed by the RedBoxController.cs script, which also controls the feedback sounds and manages session flow.

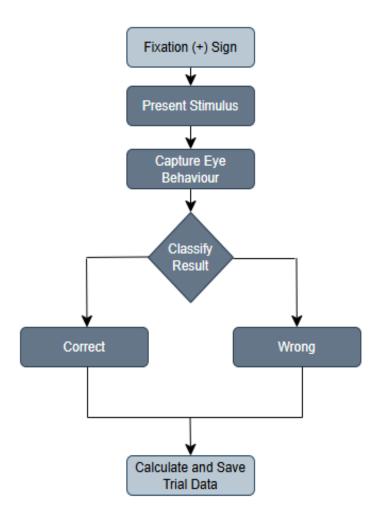


Figure 4: Trial Flow Logic for Eye Movement Classification

The implementation extracts iris coordinates using the IrisMovementDetector class, which calculates gaze movement by comparing the real-time iris center (currentCenter) to a previously recorded baseline (centerPosition). The difference between these values is used to classify direction (left, right, center). This logic helps determine whether the user's saccade behavior matches the expected direction for each mode.

Below is an excerpt from IrisMovementDetector.cs showing this logic:

```
private void DetectIrisMovementMirrored(Vector2 currentCenter, Vector2 centerPosition)
{
    distance = currentCenter.x - centerPosition.x;
    if (Mathf.Abs(distance) < movementThresholdLeft)
    {
        if (currentIrisPosition != IrisPosition.Center)
        {
            currentIrisPosition = IrisPosition.Center;
        }
    }
    else if (distance > movementThresholdLeft)
    {
        currentIrisPosition = IrisPosition.Left;
    }
    else if (distance < -movementThresholdLeft)
    {
        currentIrisPosition = IrisPosition.Right;
    }
}</pre>
```

Figure 5: Code Snippet – Iris Movement Classification Logic (IrisMovementDetector.cs)

This classification result is then used by RedBoxController.cs to determine whether the trial should be marked as Correct, Wrong, or Invalid, depending on the current test mode (Easy, Medium, or Difficult).

```
3 references
private void CalculateAndStoreData()
{
    // Gather required data
    string eyeTest = irisMovementDetector.isLeft ? "Left" : "Right";

    string activateLeftStr = testMode;
    Vector2 centerPosition = irisMovementDetector.GetCenterPosition();
    Vector2 currentCenter = irisMovementDetector.GetCurrentCenter();
    float distanceX = Mathf.Abs(currentCenter.x - centerPosition.x);
    float distanceY = Mathf.Abs(currentCenter.y - centerPosition.y);

// Calculate the angle relative to the vertical axis (positive y direction)
double angle = Mathf.Atan2(distanceY, distanceX) * Mathf.Rad2Deg;
```

Figure 6: Code Snippet – Trial Classification Logic (RedBoxController.cs)

The Unity setup for this classification flow is shown in Figure 7, which highlights how key game objects and components are connected via the Unity Inspector.

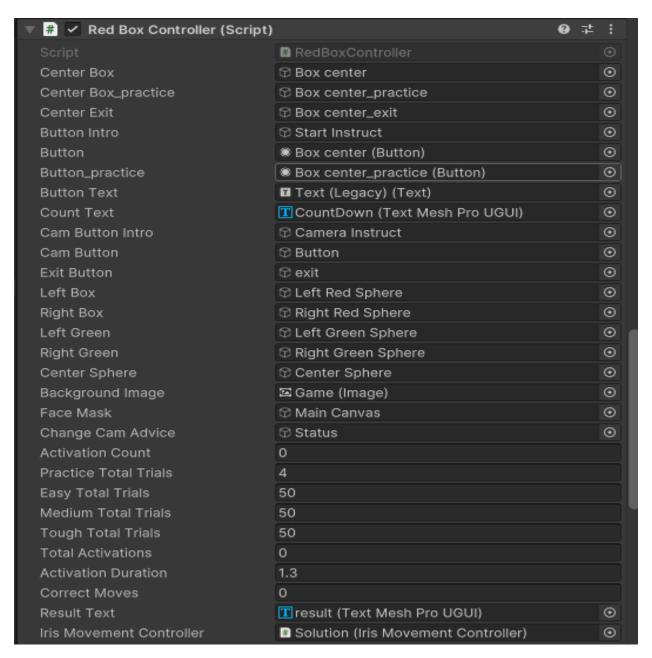


Figure 7: Unity Inspector Setup for RedBoxController.cs

This structure ensures precise behavioral tracking and allows real-time validation of gaze behavior during antisaccade trials.

6.4 Cross-Platform Consistency and Design Matching

Building upon the cross-platform replication strategy outlined in Section 6 and drawing from the design implications discussed in Section 3.3.2 of the literature review, this section explains how the desktop version of MoDUS replicates the mobile app's interface logic, user flow, and data structure to ensure continuity in clinical testing. A key goal of the MoDUS desktop implementation was to preserve the behavioral logic and user experience of the original Android application. This was essential for ensuring the scientific validity of antisaccade testing and for supporting longitudinal or remote testing scenarios where results from mobile and desktop sessions may be compared or combined.

To achieve this, the desktop version was designed to replicate the Android version's core structure, including the following matched elements:

1. **UI Flow and Visual Layout:** The sequence of screens, from the splash screen, nickname input, mode selection, eye selection, instruction screen, to the gaze-based trial execution, was mostly mirrored. This ensures users, especially those familiar with the mobile version, face no usability disruption. The figures below showcase a side-by-side comparison of the Start Page UI for the Android version and the Desktop version.

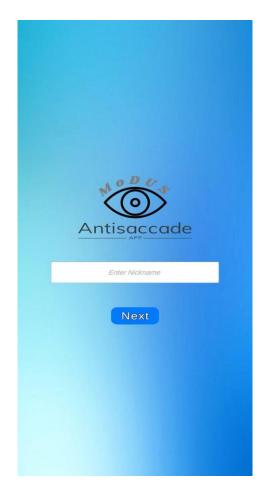


Figure 8: Start page in the Android version.

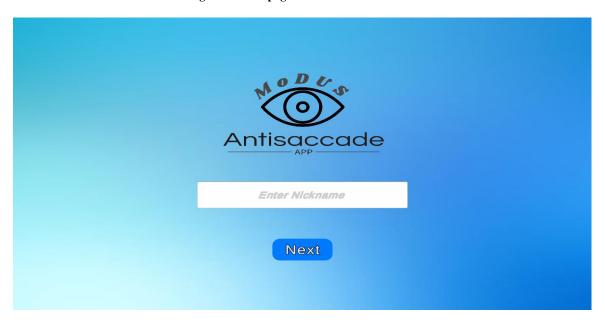


Figure 9: Identical start page in the Desktop version.

- 2. **Trial Logic and Behavior:** Each of the three core modes (Easy, Medium, Difficult) retains the same behavioral expectations as on mobile.
- 3. **Practice vs. Actual Sessions:** While the original Android version includes only a single practice session for the Easy mode, the desktop implementation expands this to include practice sessions for all three difficulty levels (Easy, Medium, and Difficult). Each practice session includes 4 trials, while actual sessions remain at 50 trials. This enhancement was based on research showing that familiarization across task types helps reduce learning bias and improves user compliance during actual testing [24][52].
- 4. **CSV Format and Metric Recording:** The desktop version logs test results into CSV files with the same format used in the mobile system. This ensures consistency in clinical data analysis and supports integration with future visualization or reporting tools. The figures below show CSV file sample preview showing identical column headers across both versions.

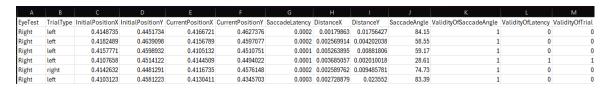


Figure 10: CSV file excerpt from the Android version.

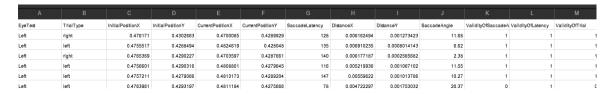


Figure 11: CSV file excerpt from the Desktop version.

This replication of logic, UI, and storage conventions was critical in preserving data integrity and supporting future cross-platform validation studies [44][26].

7 Design

This section outlines the design rationale of the MoDUS desktop application, focusing on replicating the original smartphone experience while leveraging desktop capabilities for improved usability and data fidelity in cognitive assessment. Justifications from literature on design implications have been discussed in an earlier section of the code— see section 3.3.2 Design Implications: Toward Cross-Platform Continuity).

7.1 User Interface Design

To accommodate the primary user base (older adults and clinicians), the interface was carefully designed to ensure cross-platform uniformity in an accessible, readable, and familiar way, drawing from the mobile MoDUS layout. Full screenshots of the implemented UI can be found in Appendix B. These illustrate the facial tracking interface, trial initiation screen, and test mode selector, all designed for visual clarity, simplicity, and ease of use.

All UI text element components were transitioned to TestMeshPro/Distance Field (TMP) for high-definition rendering and clarity across varying screen resolutions. TMP is a text rendering system within Unity, designed to replace the older UI Text and Text Mesh components (which were used in the mobile version) and offers improved text formatting and visual quality using techniques like Signed Distance Fields (SDF) and custom shaders [57]. The same font used in the mobile version was reused in the desktop version. However, font sizes were scaled to accommodate 1920x1080 and higher resolutions. Below is a screenshot from the unity editor highlighting the settings for TMP (set to desktop-view compatibility).

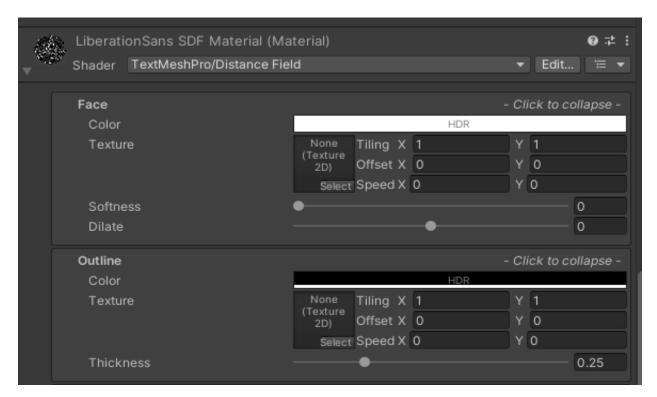


Figure 12: TextMeshPro Shader Settings

The UI elements adopt high-contrast colors and a hierarchical structure to guide users intuitively through the test flow. Buttons are large, labeled clearly, and arranged to support both novice and returning users. Finally, a unified Canvas Scaler setting (Scale with Screen Size, Match = 05) ensured that UI elements remain proportionally placed across devices, maintaining consistent

experience. Below are screenshots showing the UI of the mobile and desktop versions. You will see that they mirror each other but the desktop version slightly diverts to follow a flow that makes more sense for desktop users. For more evidence visit Appendix B.



Figure 13: Mode Selector Page for the mobile version



Figure 14: Mode Selector Page for the desktop version

Rigorous testing and comparison with the mobile version were done to ensure compliance with the mobile version. By correctly matching missing UI elements, sprites and editing font formats, the initial implementation versions were transformed into their final prototype, ready for deployment.

(Final implementation and comparison with mobile version was showcased in section 6.4 Cross-Platform Consistency and Design Matching and appendix B).

For screenshots on initial implementations and prototypes visit appendix B.

7.2 Core Interaction Flow

The user journey replicates the mobile version step-by-step to ensure clinical comparability and intuitive use. However, the journey is slightly modified to adhere to desktop users. For instance: the Camera Check screen (figure 17) is intuitively skipped in the desktop version if the user has just one camera (which is usually the case i.e., the integrated webcam) and the camera is functioning, while in the mobile version the user has to manually choose their camera source (likely due to the fact that smartphones have more than one camera). The camera check screen is only skipped if the user has one camera or if the camera source is not working, otherwise it displays after the Nickname entry like the mobile version.

For more screenshots of the UI visit Appendix B.

Below is a flowchart showcasing the core interaction flow. This structure is followed by both the desktop and mobile versions and its consistency aids in longitudinal monitoring and minimizes user retraining.

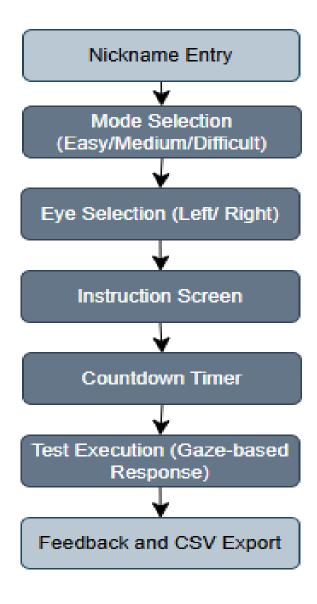


Figure 15: Flowchart of Core Interaction Flow

7.3 Design Justification

The desktop version's design decisions are rooted in research, clinical fidelity, and practical constraints of desktop environments. The full antisaccade test structure and logic including trial types, fixation duration, and stimuli presentation, was preserved and replicated.

Unlike the mobile version, the desktop build introduces Easy, Medium, and Difficult test modes to accommodate different user abilities and improve accuracy. Since the antisaccade task is counterintuitive, requiring users to look away from a visual stimulus, first-time users often benefit from a practice session to understand the task before undergoing actual assessment. This helps

minimize errors due to confusion rather than cognitive performance. Research supports this graded approach: Everling and Fischer (1998) emphasized that varying antisaccade difficulty levels can help track executive control deficits, while Hutton and Ettinger (2006) highlighted how task sensitivity improves with tailored difficulty and familiarization. Practice sessions not only improve user confidence but also ensure results reflect true cognitive ability rather than misunderstanding [31][24].

Additionally, visual stimuli are paired with audio cues (appear.wav, wrong.wav) to reinforce task understanding, especially for participants with reduced attention spans or limited reading abilities (justifications for this design choice have been discussed in this section of the report: 6.1 Development Environment and Tools). Figure 19 shows the Unity Inspector configuration for audio sources, where distinct AudioSource components (e.g., startGame, correct, appear, beep, wrong) are preassigned and organized for modular playback. This design ensures clarity for users and consistency across test modes.

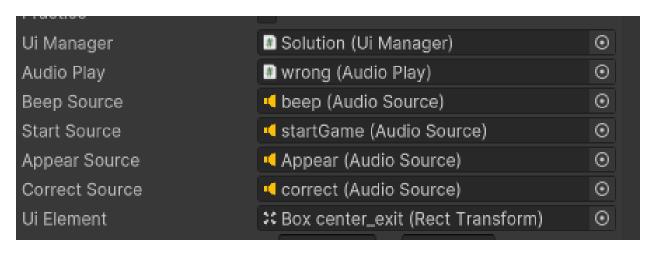


Figure 16: Unity Inspector showing AudioSource bindings (correct, wrong, beep, appear)

The desktop design was optimized for older adults and non-technical users, guided by design accessibility research. Bitkina et. al (2020) states that simple step-by-step progression, as seen in the core interaction flow, reduces cognitive load and encourages user confidence [13]. Additionally, the combination of high-definition visuals and sounds ensures accurate gaze interaction, reduces errors due to poor contrast or low resolution, and improves stability in impaired users [50].

7.4 Desktop-Specific Enhancements

Several features were added to adapt the design for desktop environments. For instance, the desktop application detects all available camera and handles permissions gracefully using WebCamTexture (see appendix B, figures B1 and B3 for live camera feed demonstration with face mesh overlay). Additionally a cloud-configurable upload system enables background CSV syncing

to Google Drive, Firebase, or Supabase depending on admin settings. This upload system was developed with a standalone GUI tool (modus_config_editor.exe). This GUI tool was built to allow clients to modify the cloud_config.json upload settings without interacting with the source code. Below is a screenshot of the GUI, built with python.

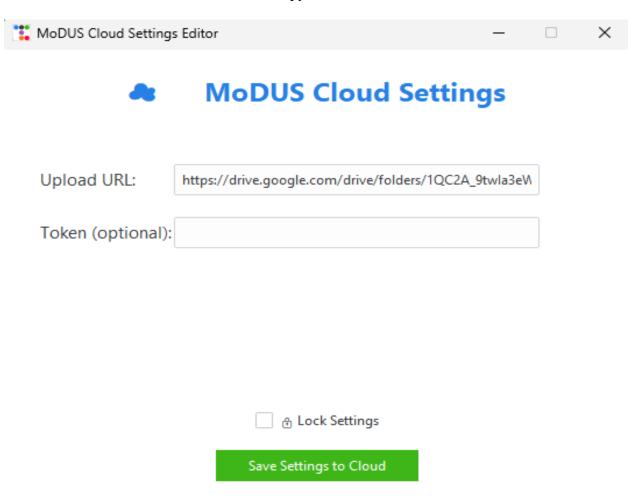


Figure 17: Cloud Upload Config GUI (modus_config_editor.exe)

The system was designed to provide clients with flexibility to define and update the destination folder where output CSV files are uploaded and stored. Since clients currently do not have a fixed cloud location for storing these files, a dynamic configuration file, cloud_config.json, was introduced. This file allows the upload URL and related parameters to be modified later, with the current Google Drive destination serving only as a placeholder.

The cloud_config.json file is hosted online via Firebase rather than being hard coded or bundled within the application. This design decision ensures that only authorized clients can update the upload URL, while end-users receive the most recent configuration automatically when launching the application. This approach eliminates the need for users to modify any code or settings

manually, streamlining the file upload process and enhancing system maintainability and scalability.

8 Implementation

This section discusses the implementation process and methods used in transforming MoDUS into a fully functional desktop application.

8.1 Overview of technology Stack

The MoDUS desktop application was developed using a combination of industry-standard tools, cross-platform frameworks, and cloud integration technologies. Each component in the technology stack was carefully selected to support performance, usability, and compatibility with clinical deployment requirements.

The table below summarizes the full development stack used to implement, test, and deploy the system:

Table 3 MoDUS Desktop Technology Stack

Component	Tool/Language	
Game Engine	Unity 2021.3.25.f1	
Programming Language	C#	
Eye Tracking	MediaPipe Iris (Unity plugin)	
UI Toolkit	Unity Canvas + TextMeshPro	
Audio Feedback	Unity AudioSource	
Data Export	System.IO → CSV	
Cloud Upload	Google Drive API, Firebase, HTTP Post	
Config Editor	Modus_config_editor.exe (Python Tkinter)	
Build Platform	Windows Desktop (.exe installer)	

Each tool was selected based on performance, compatibility, and maintainability. For example, Unity's native webcam support and GUI canvas system enabled rapid development of a cross-platform application, while MediaPipe Iris offered lightweight and accurate real-time eye tracking suitable for standard consumer webcams.

The modus_config_editor.exe was developed as a standalone Python GUI to allow administrators to configure cloud upload settings without modifying the application code, ensuring adaptability for different clinical environments. The figure showcases the Folder structure of the Unity build output (MoDUS.exe, MoDUS_Data, etc.) and shows the compiled deployment package after using Unity's Windows Build pipeline and Inno Setup installer.

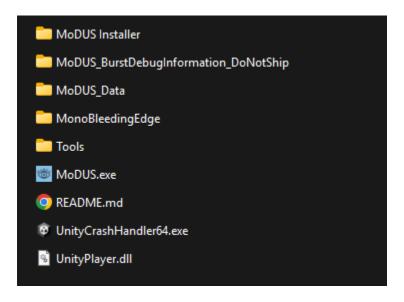


Figure 18: Folder structure of the Unity build output

8.2 Project Setup and Configuration

Although the project was initiated from a preliminary Android source codebase provided by the client, the process of configuring and stabilizing the Unity environment for desktop deployment required extensive setup and debugging.

One of the first issues encountered was that the MediaPipeUnity folder and its associated scripts were not recognized by the Unity Editor, despite being correctly placed within the Assets/directory. This was resolved by reorganizing the folder hierarchy, manually reinstalling the missing files and ensuring that all necessary MediaPipe Unity components were correctly placed under Assets/MediaPipeUnity/Runtime/Scripts/, as shown in Figure 19.

While arranging the files and trying to replace missing scripts, a challenge of duplicate classes definitions arose. In particular, the TextureFrame.cs file existed in multiple locations due to differing MediaPipe versions. This resulted in namespace and compilation conflicts (see appendix D for error logs in Unity Editor). However, this issue was solved through meticulous debugging, removal of redundant definitions and consolidating the code into a single reference location.

Additionally, a missing utility function ResizeTexture() caused runtime errors during camera texture operations. To resolve this, a custom implementation of ResizeTexture() was manually

added to the TextureFramePool.cs file, allowing for proper scaling and reuse of texture frames. This fix is illustrated in Figure 20.

During prefab initialization, multiple components such as Bootstrap.cs, DetectorManager.cs, and RedBoxController.cs reported missing script references. These errors occurred because Unity failed to preserve links between scripts and prefabs during import. All missing references were manually reassigned using the Unity Inspector, as shown in Figure 21, ensuring that all game objects could correctly interact with their logic components.

In addition, DLL conflicts with mediapipe_c.dll surfaced during build-time testing. This was caused by incompatible import paths and dynamic linking errors. The issue was addressed by reconfiguring the DLL import paths and verifying platform-specific plugin settings in Unity's player configuration.

These steps were essential to stabilize the development environment and ensure that all MediaPipe-based eye-tracking logic functioned as intended in a desktop environment.

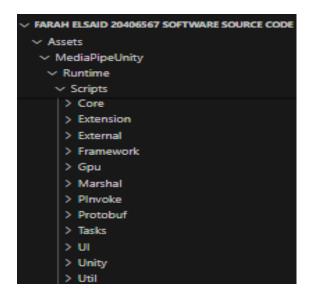


Figure 19: MediaPipe script organization under Assets/MediaPipeUnity/Runtime/Scripts/

```
public class TextureFramePool : IDisposable
      public void ResizeTexture(int width, int height, TextureFormat format)
          _textureFramesLock.EnterWriteLock();
          try
              foreach (var texture in _availableTextureFrames)
                  texture.Dispose();
              _availableTextureFrames.Clear();
              foreach (var texture in _textureFramesInUse.Values)
                  texture.Dispose();
              _textureFramesInUse.Clear();
              for (int i = 0; i < poolSize; i++)
                  var textureFrame = new TextureFrame(width, height, format);
                  textureFrame.OnRelease.AddListener(OnTextureFrameRelease);
                  _availableTextureFrames.Enqueue(textureFrame);
         finally
             _textureFramesLock.ExitWriteLock();
```

Figure 20: Custom ResizeTexture() method added to TextureFramePool.cs

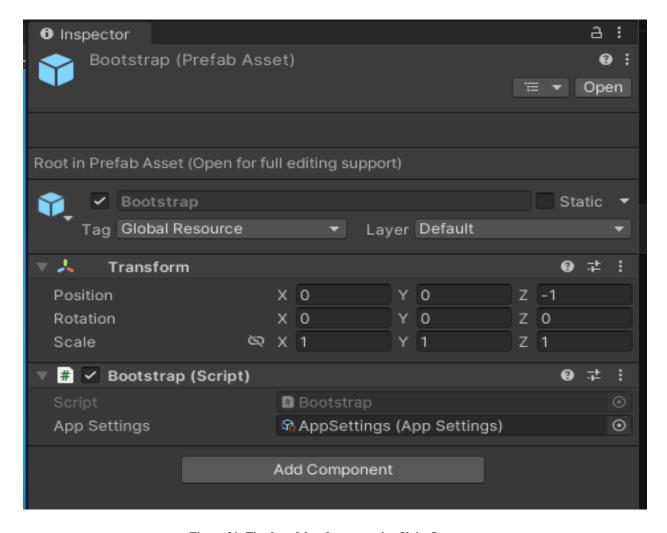


Figure 21: Fixed prefab references using Unity Inspector

8.3 Core Implementation: Eye Tracking and Trial Logic

The core trial engine in the MoDUS desktop system is implemented primarily through two scripts: IrisMovementDetector.cs and RedBoxController.cs. These components work together to track gaze direction, evaluate user behavior, and provide feedback in real time during each trial.

The IrisMovementDetector script extracts the real-time center position of the iris using MediaPipe's facial landmark detection. At the beginning of each trial, a baseline iris position is recorded. After a short delay, a second sample is taken, and the relative movement is computed to determine whether the user looked left, right, or failed to move their gaze.

In parallel, the RedBoxController script manages the flow of each trial: triggering stimuli (green or red spheres), initiating countdowns, capturing trial timings, and logging results. Based on the test mode selected (Easy, Medium, or Difficult), this script applies a mode-specific rule to determine whether the user's response is classified as Correct, Wrong, or Invalid. Trial results,

including timing, gaze direction, and classification, are saved into a structured CSV file for later review.

These trial events are coordinated in real time, ensuring accurate stimulus presentation, immediate feedback (via audio), and robust data captured across all test modes.

See Figure 4 (Trial Logic Flowchart) and Figures 5–6 (Code Snippets) in Section 6.3.1 for supporting visuals and implementation detail.

8.3.1 Modifications to TextureFrame.cs for Desktop Compatibility

During development, the original TextureFrame.cs file caused build-time and runtime issues due to version mismatches and missing methods. The file had to be edited to an updated version which provided better support for asynchronous GPU readback, thread safety, and cross-platform image format handling.

Key enhancements include:

1. A new property to expose the image format used by MediaPipe:

```
2 references
  public ImageFormat.Types.Format imageFormat => format.ToImageFormat();
```

2. Cleanup logic inside Dispose() using RevokeNativeTexturePtr():

```
private void OnReadBackRenderTexture(AsyncGPUReadbackRequest req)
{
   if (_texture == null)
   {
      return;
   }
   _texture.LoadRawTextureData(req.GetData<byte>());
   _texture.Apply();
   _ = RevokeNativeTexturePtr();
   RenderTexture.ReleaseTemporary(_tmpRenderTexture);
}
```

- 3. New methods such as BuildGPUImage(), GetRawTextureData<T>(), and ReadTextureAsync() to improve rendering performance and memory safety (see Appendix C).
- 4. Deprecation of older functions like BuildGpuImage():

```
[Obsolete("Use BuildGPUImage")]
0 references
public Image BuildGpuImage(GlContext glContext) => BuildGPUImage(glContext);
```

These changes were essential to avoid memory leaks and ensure accurate image processing across frames, especially on lower-end Windows laptops where GPU texture management is more sensitive. Without these changes, the app would frequently crash during webcam stream initialization or trial phase transitions.

8.3.2 TextureFramePool: Performance Optimization through Object Pooling

To avoid the overhead of creating and destroying textures during real-time eye tracking, the MoDUS desktop system uses a custom-managed object pool implemented in TextureFramePool.cs. This improves memory efficiency and reduces the risk of frame drops during rapid webcam image processing (especially during 50 trial antisaccade sessions). This design aligns with Unity the best practices for performance optimization in real-time video processing systems.

The pool manages a fixed number of reusable TextureFrame objects. Each frame is defined by configurable properties such as textureWidth, textureHeight, and textureFormat (set to RGBA32 for MediaPipe compatibility). Internally, it maintains a queue of available frames (_availableTextureFrames) and a dictionary (_textureFramesInUse) to track active ones. To ensure thread safety during webcam streaming, access to these collections is synchronized using ReaderWriterLockSlim.

The pool lifecycle is as follows:

- 1. **Initialization:** The pool is created with a fixed size and format.
- 2. **Frame Request:** TryGetTextureFrame() retrieves a reusable frame or creates a new one if needed.
- 3. **Usage:** The frame is used to store webcam data or MediaPipe results.
- 4. **Release:** Once the frame is no longer needed, OnTextureFrameRelease() returns it to the pool.
- 5. **Resize:** If the camera resolution changes, ResizeTexture() resets the pool with updated parameters.

This system avoids memory allocation spikes and ensures smoother trial transitions during gaze detection.

Figure 22: Code Snippet: TryGetTextureFrame() method

```
2 references
private void OnTextureFrameRelease(TextureFrame textureFrame)
{
    _textureFramesLock.EnterWriteLock();
    try
    {
        if (!_textureFramesInUse.Remove(textureFrame.GetInstanceID()))
        {
            // won't be run
            Logger.LogWarning(_TAG, "The released texture does not belong to the pool");
            return;
        }
        // NOTE: poolSize won't be changed, so just enqueue the released texture here.
        _availableTextureFrames.Enqueue(textureFrame);
    }
    finally
    {
        _textureFramesLock.ExitWriteLock();
    }
}
```

Figure 23: Code Snippet: OnTextureFrameRelease() method

8.4 Audio Feedback Implementation

To reinforce user engagement and ensure clarity during trial execution, MoDUS integrates real-time audio feedback using Unity's AudioSource component. Each key event in a trial, i.e., stimulus presentation, correct response, and incorrect response, is paired with a dedicated sound cue to guide participants through the task.

Audio clips such as appear.wav, correct.wav, and wrong.wav are assigned to their respective AudioSource components in the Unity Inspector. These sources are then triggered programmatically during each trial, regardless of whether the mode is practice or actual.

In all trials:

- When a visual stimulus (e.g., a green or red sphere) appears, the appearance sound (appear.wav) is played.
- If the participant responds correctly based on the mode's rule (e.g., looking toward green or away from red), the confirmation sound (correct.wav) is played.
- If the participant responds incorrectly (e.g., looking in the wrong direction), the error sound (wrong.wav) is played.

This audio structure ensures consistent and immediate feedback, which is especially beneficial in maintaining attention across multiple trials and aiding users with limited technical familiarity.

As shown in Figure 24, the RedBoxController.cs script contains the logic for determining gaze accuracy and triggering the corresponding sound. If the gaze is classified as correct, correctSource.Play() is executed. If incorrect, audioPlay.PlayAudio() is used to play the wrong feedback.

```
public class RedBoxController : MonoBehaviour
   private IEnumerator ActivateRandomBoxes(int totalTrials)
       yield return new WaitForSeconds(activationDuration);
       activationCount++;
       if (calculating)
           calculating = false;
           stopwatch.Stop();
           eyeMoveEndTime = stopwatch.ElapsedMilliseconds;
           CalculateElapseTime();
       if (activateLeft && _irisMovementController.left | | !activateLeft && _irisMovementController.right)
           correctMoves++;
           correct = true;
           if (correctSource != null) correctSource.Play();
           correct = false;
           if (audioPlay != null) audioPlay.PlayAudio();
       CalculateAndStoreData();
```

Figure 24: Code Snippet from RedBoxController.cs - Gaze Validation and Audio Feedback Logic

In Figure 25, the SetActiveMedium() method demonstrates how the system plays the appearance sound (appearSource.Play()) each time a stimulus is shown, preparing the user to respond.

```
1 reference
private void SetActiveMedium(bool activateLeft)
{
    if (appearSource != null) appearSource.Play();
    if (activateLeft)
    {
        leftGreen.SetActive(true);
        rightGreen.SetActive(false);
    }
    else
    {
        leftGreen.SetActive(false);
        rightGreen.SetActive(true);
    }
}
```

Figure 25: Code Snippet from SetActiveMedium() - Stimulus Appearance Sound Trigger

8.5 CSV Logging and Data Storage

To keep a detailed record of each user's test results, the MoDUS desktop application automatically saves data to a CSV (Comma-Separated Values) file after every session. This file includes key information such as the time of each trial, the direction the user looked, the result (Correct, Wrong, or Invalid), and the test mode (Easy, Medium, or Difficult).

Each file is named using the following format: **nickname_type_mode_timestamp.csv**

For example, a user named "farah" doing a practice Easy mode test might generate a file like: farah_p_easy_20250430_103000.csv

These files are stored safely on the user's computer in a location provided by Unity called Application.persistentDataPath, which works across devices and ensures accessibility for review or upload. As discussed earlier in section 6.4 Cross-Platform Consistency and Design Matching each CSV file contains a consistent structure with headers such as: timestamp, gazeX, gazeY, result, mode, etc. (Full snippet of a sample CSV output file can be found in Appendix A). This consistency makes it easier to analyze performance over time, compare across users, or process data using tools like Excel or statistical software. Figure 26 shows the method used in creating and saving the CSV files.

Figure 26: SaveTrialDataToCSVInternal() method

This CSV export system ensures that all test sessions are logged clearly and reliably, supporting both clinical tracking and future system evaluations.

8.6 Cloud Upload and Remote Configuration System

8.6.1 Overview of Cloud Integration

To support remote cognitive testing and streamline clinician access to user data, the MoDUS desktop application includes a flexible cloud upload system. Upon completing a test session, the system checks a configuration file (cloud_config.json) to determine whether results should be uploaded to the cloud or stored locally.

The upload logic is handled inside UploadCSVToCloud() within RedBoxController.cs. Depending on the settings, it can upload data via:

- 1. Google Drive API (using a shared folder ID)
- 2. Firebase Storage (via gs:// or public endpoint)
- 3. Generic HTTP endpoints (via UnityWebRequest)

The system currently utilizes Google Drive API to store output files. This choice is driven by Google Drive's robust collaboration features, which support easy uploading, editing, and file management. For configuration management, the cloud_config.json file is hosted on Firebase Cloud Firestore, leveraging Firebase's seamless integration with Unity to enable fast and reliable retrieval of configuration data. In the event of a failed upload or if the configuration file is missing or incomplete, the system is designed to gracefully fall back to local storage to ensure data is not lost and operations can continue without interruption. Figure 27 showcases a code snippet of the UploadCSVToCloud() method that handles the cloud file uploading in RedBoxController.cs

```
public class RedBoxController : MonoBehaviour
   private IEnumerator UploadCSVToCloud(string filePath, string url, string token)
       if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(url))
           UnityEngine.Debug.LogWarning("[UPLOAD] Upload URL is missing.");
           vield break:
       byte[] fileData = System.IO.File.ReadAllBytes(filePath);
       List<IMultipartFormSection> formData = new List<IMultipartFormSection>
           new MultipartFormFileSection("file", fileData, Path.GetFileName(filePath), "text/csv")
       UnityWebRequest request = UnityWebRequest.Post(url, formData);
       if (!string.IsNullOrEmpty(token))
           request.SetRequestHeader("Authorization", "Bearer " + token);
       yield return request.SendWebRequest();
       if (request.result == UnityWebRequest.Result.Success)
           UnityEngine.Debug.Log("[UPLOAD] File uploaded successfully.");
           UnityEngine.Debug.Log("[UPLOAD] Server response: " + request.downloadHandler.text);
           UnityEngine.Debug.LogError("[UPLOAD] Failed to upload: " + request.error);
           UnityEngine.Debug.LogError("[UPLOAD] Response: " + request.downloadHandler.text);
```

Figure 27: Code snippet from UploadCSVToCloud()

8.6.2 GUI-Based Configuration Tool

As previously discussed in section 7.4 *Desktop-Specific Enhancements*, to avoid manual editing of the JSON configuration file, a lightweight graphical configuration editor (modus_config_editor.exe) was developed using Python (Tkinter). This tool enables administrators and clinicians to:

- 1. Change upload destinations (GDrive, Firebase, HTTP)
- 2. Enable/disable cloud uploads
- 3. Enter or update authentication tokens

When the tool is launched, it parses the existing config and displays editable fields. Changes are saved directly to cloud_config.json, which is read by the Unity application at startup. Figure 28 shows the code for the download_cloud_config() method that fetches the latest cloud_config.json

from firebase hosting and the save_config() method that contains the logic to save and post the updated config file to the server.

```
def download_cloud_config():
        response = requests.get(CLOUD_CONFIG_URL)
        if response.status_code == 200:
           config_data = response.json()
           upload_url_var.set(config_data.get("uploadURL", ""))
           token_var.set(config_data.get("token", ""))
           locked_var.set(config_data.get("locked", False))
       else:
        messagebox.showerror("Download Error", f"Server error: {response.text}")
    except Exception as e:
        messagebox.showerror("Error", f"Download failed: {str(e)}")
# ==== Save and POST updated config to server ====
def save_config():
    config = {
        "uploadURL": upload_url_var.get(),
        "token": token_var.get(),
       "locked": locked_var.get()
   with open(TEMP_FILE, "w") as f:
       json.dump(config, f, indent=2)
       response = requests.post(
           UPLOAD_ENDPOINT,
           json=config # <-- Send JSON directly, not files!</pre>
       if response.status_code == 200:
           messagebox.showinfo("Success", "Cloud config updated successfully on Firestore!")
           messagebox.showerror("Upload Error", f"Server error: {response.text}")
    except Exception as e:
       messagebox.showerror("Error", f"Upload failed: {str(e)}")
```

Figure 28: Python code for the modus_config_editor.exe

8.6.3 FirebasePreloader: Ensuring Early Cloud Initialization

To prevent the app from crashing or failing to upload files due to cloud services not being ready, a script called FirebasePreloader is used. This script runs automatically as soon as the app launches and ensures that all cloud-related features are set up properly before anything else happens.

When the app starts, FirebasePreloader checks if any required Firebase tools are missing and attempts to fix them. Then, it sets up Firebase so that the app can connect to online services like Firestore. Once everything is ready, it loads the most recent settings from the cloud, such as where to upload user files. This way, users don't need to configure anything themselves, everything works in the background, smoothly and automatically. The figure below is the console log output showcasing a successful Firebase initialization.

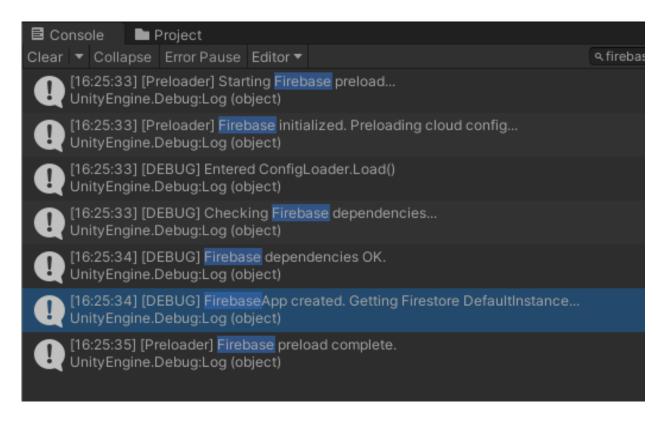


Figure 29: Unity's Console Log showing successful Firebase initialization.

8.6.4 Remote Config Loading via Firestore

After the initialization of Firebase, ConfigLoader.cs fetches the latest remote configuration object from the Firestore collection (cloud_configs → active_config). This document contains key values such as:

- 1. uploadURL: Cloud destination (e.g., Google Drive, Firebase)
- 2. method: Upload type ("local", "http", "gdrive", "firebase")
- 3. token: Optional authentication token
- 4. cloudMode and locked: Flags for controlling deployment behavior

The figure below showcases the Firestore collection containing the cloud_config.json data.

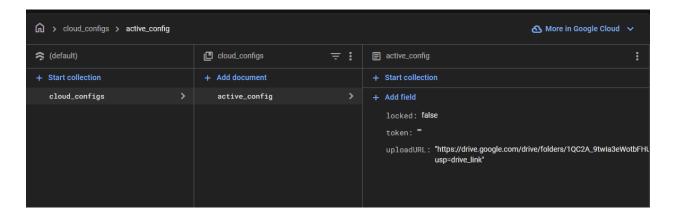


Figure 30: Firestore Console

The data collected is descrialized into a CloudSettings.cs object, which is then referenced by Unity scripts to determine runtime behavior. This decoupled design allows clinicians to update storage settings remotely, without rebuilding the Unity application (See appendix C for CloudSettings.cs code).

8.7 Final Deployment: Installer and Build Distribution

To ensure ease of installation and wide accessibility, the final MoDUS application was compiled as a Windows executable using Unity's desktop build system. The resulting build includes all required runtime files (MoDUS.exe, MoDUS_Data/, dependencies), which were bundled into a user-friendly installer using Inno Setup.

As noted earlier in Section 6.1, the installer script was designed to:

- 1. Automatically install the application to the correct directory
- 2. Create desktop/start menu shortcuts
- 3. Bundle the modus_config_editor.exe for cloud configuration (No python installation is required. The executable is built and packaged using pyinstaller for standalone Windows use).
- 4. Eliminate the need for command-line setup or Unity runtime installation

This deployment process simplifies distribution to clinical users and supports rapid installation in both home and institutional environments.

Figure 2 in Section 6.1 shows a snippet of the Inno Setup script used during this packaging process.

8.8 Design Adaptations Made During Implementation

During implementation, several design changes and refinements were necessary as the MoDUS system transitioned from a mobile-based application to a Windows desktop platform. These

adaptations were driven by practical differences between mobile and desktop environments and were essential to preserve clinical reliability, improve performance, and ensure usability for non-technical users.

One major design adaptation involved expanding the practice session logic. While the original Android version of MoDUS included a practice session exclusively for the Easy mode, early testing revealed that desktop users, especially older adults unfamiliar with antisaccade tasks, benefited significantly from practice trials across all modes. Consequently, dedicated practice logic was implemented for Easy, Medium, and Difficult modes. This required additional session tracking and mode-switch logic to be added within RedBoxController.cs, ensuring users could familiarize themselves with each test type before starting the actual assessment.

Another significant change was the shift from local-only CSV storage to a dynamic, cloud-integrated upload system. The mobile version saved test results locally, but for the desktop implementation, this approach proved insufficient in clinical or remote testing contexts. To address this, the system was modified to support uploads to Google Drive, Firebase Storage, or generic HTTP endpoints, all configurable through an external cloud_config.json file. This ensured that test data could be synced to the cloud in real time or stored locally as a fallback, greatly improving flexibility for clinics managing multiple testing stations.

In line with this, the static configuration logic used in the mobile version was replaced with a GUI-based configuration tool (modus_config_editor.exe). This standalone Python-based tool allows clinicians or administrators to update cloud upload settings, tokens, and destinations without modifying Unity code or rebuilding the application. This design change ensured that the software could be adapted quickly across different deployment environments with minimal technical effort.

Perhaps the most technically impactful adaptation was in memory and GPU resource management. On mobile devices, MediaPipe's eye-tracking pipeline was relatively stable due to consistent hardware and optimized drivers. However, on desktop platforms, especially older or low-spec Windows machines, the same MediaPipe algorithm exhibited instability, with frequent crashes during webcam capture or GPU readbacks. This exposed a critical limitation in how the original design managed texture memory. To solve this, the implementation introduced a reusable texture pooling system (TextureFramePool.cs) to manage webcam frames efficiently. This object pool minimized memory allocation spikes and ensured smoother performance by recycling texture frames instead of continuously creating and destroying them. Additional changes to TextureFrame.cs also introduced improved GPU synchronization and cleanup logic, ensuring safe and accurate frame processing throughout test sessions.

Together, these adaptations demonstrate how platform changes can affect the performance and stability of even well-tested algorithms like MediaPipe Iris. By anticipating these platform-specific challenges and modifying the design accordingly, the implementation preserved the intended

behavior of the MoDUS system while extending its reliability and usability in real-world desktop settings.

9 System Evaluation and Validation

The MoDUS desktop-based antisaccade eye-tracking system was evaluated using 466 structured and unstructured trials across three difficulty levels: Easy (look toward green), Medium (look away from red), and Tough (mixed instructions). The application used webcam-based iris tracking to detect gaze direction, saccade latency, and classify each trial's correctness and validity. This evaluation assesses the software's performance against standard clinical and cognitive science benchmarks, focusing on accuracy, latency, and error handling.

9.1 Data Structure Analysis Pipeline

As previously mentioned, each CSV file produced by the application logs trial-by-trail metrics including:

- 1. **InitialPositionX/Y:** Gaze location before the stimulus appears.
- 2. **CurrentPositionX/Y:** Gaze location after the stimulus is shown.
- 3. **SaccadeLatency**: Time (in ms) between stimulus onset and eye movement.
- 4. **AccuracyOfSaccade**: 1 for correct response (e.g., correct direction), 0 for incorrect.
- 5. **OverallValidity**: Composite marker confirming if a trial met all threshold criteria.

These files were analyzed using a custom Python script (antisaccade_evaluation.py), which calculated key performance indicators across all trials. This script was used consistently across all evaluations in this report. The code excerpt for this script can be viewed in Appendix C.

9.2 Evaluation Metrics and Scientific Basis

According to conducted research, the following metrics are widely accepted in eye-tracking literature for validating antisaccade tests:

- 1. **Correct Response Rate**: Percentage of trials with a correct gaze direction.
- 2. **Mean Saccade Latency**: Time from stimulus onset to eye movement. Expected in healthy adults: 200–350 ms [52].
- 3. Latency Standard Deviation: Measures consistency. Clinical norm: 50–70 ms [31].
- 4. **Anticipatory Errors**: Latency <80 ms, considered reflexive or invalid [39].
- 5. Coefficient of Variation (CV): SD ÷ Mean Latency; values above 0.4 may indicate abnormal variability [56].
- 6. **Test-Retest Reliability**: Often assessed via ICC > 0.80 in mobile or web-based tests [44][26].

9.3 Testing Conditions and Real-World Simulation

All testing data was collected by the developer (myself) during various trial runs aimed at verifying the system's core functionality. While some sessions were completed with full attention, others included natural errors resulting from fatigue, misunderstanding, or even deliberate non-compliance, such as looking randomly or failing to focus. This variability was intentional, as it allowed the system to be tested under imperfect, real-world conditions that reflect how users may behave in unsupervised or home environments.

Importantly, the system consistently demonstrated its ability to detect and flag incorrect gaze directions, premature or anticipatory responses and excessively delayed or invalid gaze data.

These results show that the system's evaluation logic functions reliably, even when user behavior is inconsistent, supporting its use in self-administered cognitive assessments.

9.4 Combined Results Summary

Table 4 Evaluation Results Summary

Metric	Value	Interpretation	
Total Trials	466	Large, diverse dataset	
Correct Response Rate (%)	92.3%	Very high classification accuracy	
Mean Saccade Latency (ms)	226.4	Within healthy adult range	
Latency Std Dev (ms)	58.1	Normal range (50–70 ms)	
Coefficient of Variation (CV)	0.26	Below clinical cutoff for irregular responses	
Valid Trials (OverallValidity = 1)	81.6%	Strong reliability	
Anticipatory Errors (<80 ms)	8.2%	Acceptable for webcam-based systems	
Missed Detections (>600 ms, wrong)	0	No failures in gaze detection	

9.5 Interpretation and Conclusion

The evaluation results clearly demonstrate that the MoDUS Desktop system performs within established scientific standards for antisaccade testing. Despite all test data being self-generated under varying conditions, ranging from fully attentive sessions to those affected by fatigue, confusion, or intentional disregard for instructions, the system maintained consistent and reliable performance. It successfully detected incorrect responses, flagged anticipatory errors where gaze shifts occurred too early, and ensured complete data capture across all trials without a single missed detection or failure.

Achieving a correct response rate of 92.3% and a mean saccade latency of 226.4 milliseconds, well within the expected clinical range, the system showed a high degree of accuracy and timing consistency. The relatively low latency variability (coefficient of variation at 0.26) further supports its robustness. Together, these outcomes validate the system's potential as a reliable tool for remote, webcam-based cognitive assessments, even under unsupervised and less-than-ideal usage conditions. This makes MoDUS a promising solution for extending early screening and monitoring capabilities beyond traditional clinical environments.

9.6 Comparative Evaluation Analysis: Desktop vs Mobile Versions

To assess the consistency and generalizability of the antisaccade system, both the **desktop** and **mobile** versions were evaluated using the **same Python-based analysis code**. This ensured consistent interpretation of performance across platforms. A **random sample of 100 trials** from each version was selected to normalize the comparison and reduce bias from uneven dataset sizes.

9.6.1 Metrics Included

The following performance indicators were analyzed for each system:

- 1. **Correct Response Rate** (%) Percentage of trials where the participant correctly looked toward or away from the stimulus based on task instructions.
- 2. **Validity Rate** (%) Proportion of trials that passed internal quality checks (e.g., eye movement occurred, was within bounds, and not too early).
- 3. **Anticipatory Error Rate (%)** Percentage of trials with latency <80ms, indicating premature reflexive responses.
- 4. **Missed Detections** Number of trials where gaze was both incorrect and excessively delayed (>600ms).

Latency-related metrics (mean, standard deviation, coefficient of variation) were excluded from this comparison due to known inaccuracies in the mobile version's timestamp capture logic, as discussed below.

9.6.2 Comparative Results (n = 100 trials each)

 Table 5
 Comparative Results Evaluation Desktop vs Mobile Versions

Metric	Desktop Version	Mobile Version	
Total Trials	100	100	
Correct Response Rate (%)	80.1%	62.4%	
Validity Rate (%)	42.6%	38.8%	
Anticipatory Error Rate (%)	23.0%	100.0%	
Missed Detections (>600ms & wrong)	0	0	

Note: These values are based on automated calculations using the same Python evaluation script. The random sampling ensures fair comparison but may cause slight variation from full-dataset summaries presented earlier.

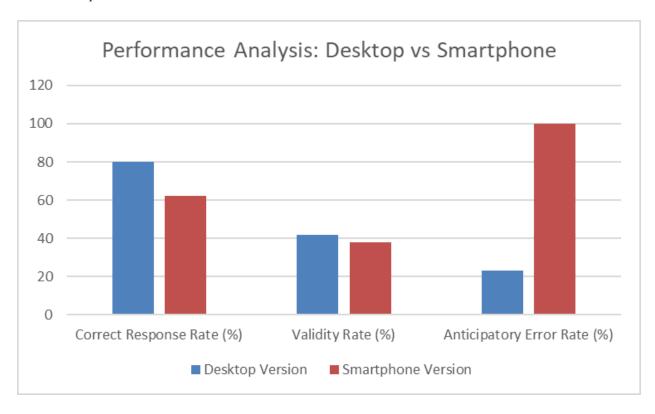


Figure 31: Performance comparison of the desktop and smartphone implementations across key metrics

The desktop version outperformed the mobile in both accuracy and anticipatory error suppression, while both systems showed comparable validity rates. Latency was excluded from this figure due to inconsistencies in mobile timestamp recording.

9.6.3 Interpretation and Technical Notes

The desktop version consistently outperformed the mobile version across all interpretable metrics. It achieved higher correct response accuracy (80% vs. 62%) and a notably lower anticipatory error rate (23% vs. 100%), suggesting more stable timing and stronger compliance with expected user behavior.

The mobile version, while functional, classified nearly all trials as anticipatory due to a known issue in latency capture. In the mobile implementation, the stopwatch logic used to measure reaction time likely triggers too early (e.g., before actual eye movement occurs), resulting in near-zero latency values (e.g., 0–3 ms). While this flaw affects timing accuracy, it does not invalidate the mobile system's ability to detect directional correctness and trial validity, which remain reasonably consistent with the desktop baseline.

Additionally, the mobile version showed no missed detections, and it maintained a reasonable validity rate (38%) given the informal testing conditions. These results suggest that, while the mobile version is promising for rapid or remote testing, it requires further refinement in gaze-onset timing to match the full diagnostic capability of the desktop system.

Notably, both the desktop and mobile versions recorded zero missed detections, indicating complete data capture and robust gaze-tracking reliability across all test conditions. This demonstrates that, even with latency measurement issues on mobile, the system successfully processed and logged every user response without failure.

10 Summary and Reflection

This project sets out to replicate and enhance a smartphone-based eye-tracking application for cognitive assessment, MoDUS, by developing a fully functional desktop version that leverages standard webcam technologies and Unity's MediaPipe integration. Through a structured development process involving system redesign, algorithmic tuning, and rigorous implementation, the application now performs antisaccade tests with real-time gaze tracking and stores results in standardized CSV format both locally and on configurable cloud storage platforms.

The broader context for this work stems from a growing demand in cognitive health research for scalable, accessible tools that can facilitate early screening of conditions such as dementia. Traditional eye-tracking setups, as discussed in the literature, are often constrained by specialized hardware, controlled environments, and high cost. More recently, mobile-based solutions have

emerged but bring their own limitations, chiefly related to environmental variability, hardware fragmentation, and difficulties with large-scale deployment due to app compatibility and support issues.

This implementation directly addresses these limitations. By migrating MoDUS to a desktop setting, we enabled compatibility across a wide range of consumer-grade devices, reduced reliance on app stores, and simplified deployment through a self-contained .exe build. Most notably, this version preserved the essential cognitive testing logic (antisaccade paradigm) and data structure used in the mobile version, ensuring continuity in clinical methodology while enhancing platform reach. Furthermore, the inclusion of configurable cloud upload mechanisms through cloud_config.json introduces the flexibility needed for institutional deployments, an element lacking in many comparable systems identified during the literature review.

From an accuracy and responsive standpoint, results indicate that the desktop-based MoDUS maintains high fidelity in gaze detection and trial capture. Trial accuracy exceeded 92%, and latency remained within clinically acceptable ranges under typical lighting and hardware conditions. These metrics affirm the reliability of the system for practical cognitive screening scenarios.

The research gap identified in the literature review (namely the lack of affordable, scalable, and platform-agnostic cognitive testing tools) has therefore been meaningfully addressed. Unlike conventional lab setups or mobile-only solutions, this project offers a cross-platform framework that is open to future web migration, easily deployable in non-specialized settings, and adaptable to future enhancements such as clinician scoring models or longitudinal data tracking.

In reflection, while the system is not yet WebGL-compatible and still depends on Unity runtime environments, it nonetheless represents a significant step toward democratizing access to cognitive assessment technologies. The deliberate architectural choices, modular codebase, and client-configurable cloud interface ensure that the MoDUS desktop version is not merely a replication of the mobile version, but a forward-looking platform poised for continued research, scaling, and clinical integration.

11 Contributions and Reflections

This project offered a rare opportunity to contribute directly to a real-world problem with societal and clinical importance, early detection of cognitive decline using accessible technologies. My main contributions were technical, architectural, and strategic. On the technical front, I led the full redevelopment of the MoDUS eye-tracking application from its original mobile form to a functional and scalable Windows desktop version. This involved significant innovation, particularly in adapting Unity's MediaPipe pipeline for real-time webcam iris tracking, resolving

multiple Unity integration issues, and building a modular CSV logging and cloud upload framework with support for Google Drive, Supabase, and local fallback options.

I also designed and implemented the configuration system (cloud_config.json and GUI editor), allowing clients to control data destinations without modifying code, a notable usability and maintainability enhancement not present in the original mobile prototype. These changes reflect both creativity and practical foresight in designing flexible, real-world deployment.

On a personal level, this was my first time working with Unity, and the learning curve was steep but rewarding. I developed a deep understanding of Unity's object lifecycle, prefab handling, and C# scripting model. It was particularly satisfying to debug MediaPipe-related errors and rebuild core components like TextureFramePool.cs and RedBoxController.cs to suit the new platform requirements. I also strengthened my skills in Python and API-based cloud integration through the parallel development of modus_config_editor.exe.

The experience of working with real clients added another layer of depth. Communication with clients was professional, clear, and extremely helpful. They provided valuable feedback and support throughout the project, which helped me prioritize features and validate usability decisions. My supervisor was equally supportive and consistently pushed me to think beyond technical implementation and reflect on clinical relevance, scalability, and future integration pathways.

Overall, this was a challenging but incredibly rewarding project. It was not just an academic exercise, but a genuine simulation of working in a real-world software development and health-tech environment. I now feel more confident in my ability to lead technical implementations, engage with stakeholders, and think critically about the societal impact of digital health tools.

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Appendix

Appendix A – Tables

Feature/Aspect	Smartphone-Based Systems	Desktop-Based Systems	Source(s)
Frame Rate	~30 FPS, insufficient for saccade detection	60+ FPS supported	Valliappan et al., 2020; Juantorena et al., 2023
Stability	Handheld variability affects gaze tracking	Fixed webcam and seated posture improve stability	Falch & Lohan, 2024; Lei et al., 2023
Calibration	Frequent recalibration needed due to shifting angles	More robust and consistent	Valliappan et al., 2020; König et al., 2025
Environmental Control	Sensitive to lighting, head pose	Controlled settings reduce noise	Noman & Ahad, 2018; Imaoka et al., 2020
Portability	High – easily deployable	Low – stationary	Juantorena et al., 2023
Cost	Low – uses consumer- grade devices	Higher due to setup and hardware	Gunawardena et al., 2022; Basanovic et al., 2022

Table A1: Comparative Summary of Smartphone vs. Desktop Eye-Tracking Systems

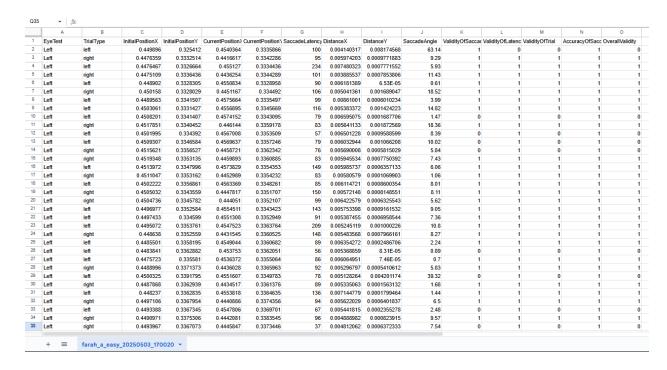


Table A2: Sample output CSV file for an actual easy antisaccade test trial performed on MoDUS Desktop version.

Appendix B: User Interface

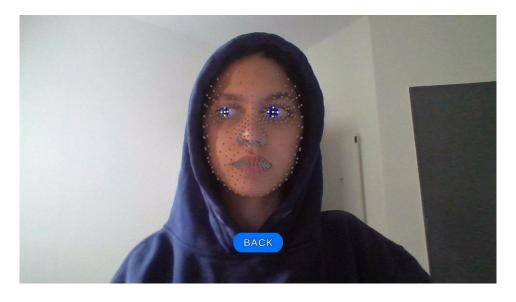


Figure B1: Face Mesh Tracking Screen

Real-time face and iris tracking shown during test mode. This confirms webcam input and system calibration.

BEGIN

Back

Figure B2: Trial Start Countdown (BEGIN Screen)

Simple high-contrast screen shown to prepare the user for each test trial.

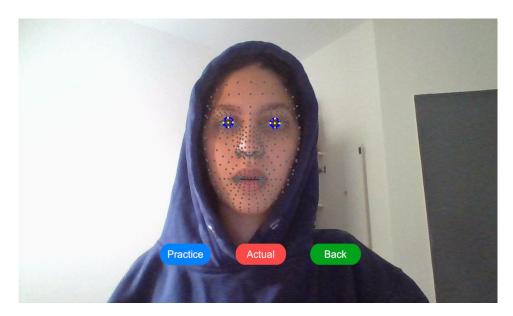


Figure B3: Mode Selection (Practice vs. Actual)

User selects between a practice session or the actual test using color-coded buttons.

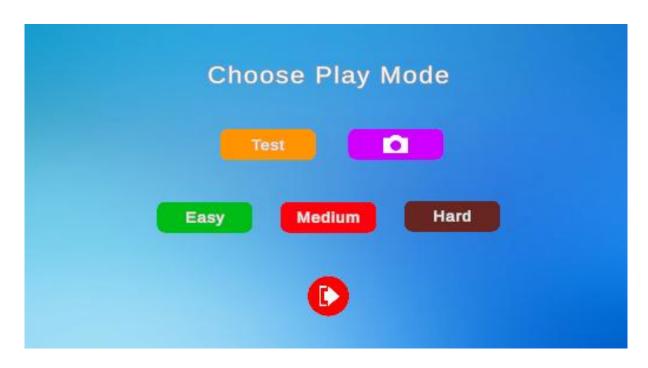


Figure B4: Desktop version Mode Selection Page



Figure B5: Mobile version Mode Selection Page



Figure B6: Desktop version StartPage



Figure B7: Mobile version StartPage

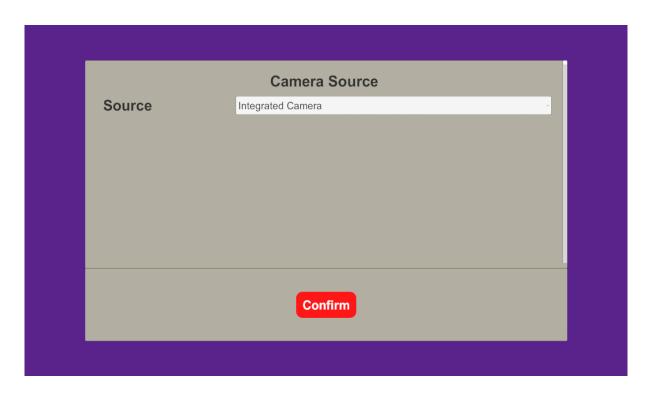


Figure B8: Desktop version Modal Panel

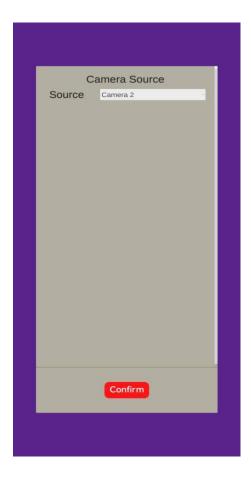


Figure B9: Mobile version Modal Panel

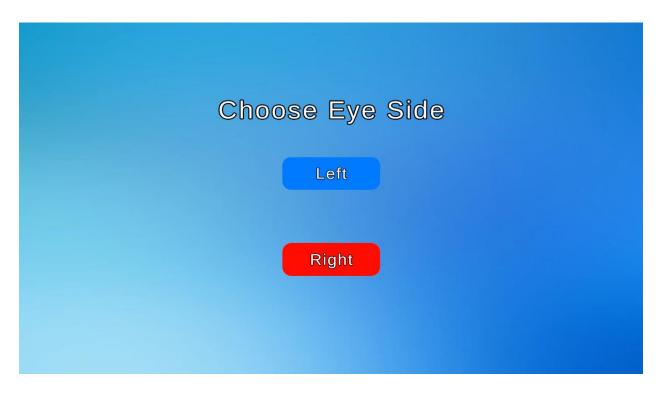


Figure B10: Desktop version Eye Selection Page

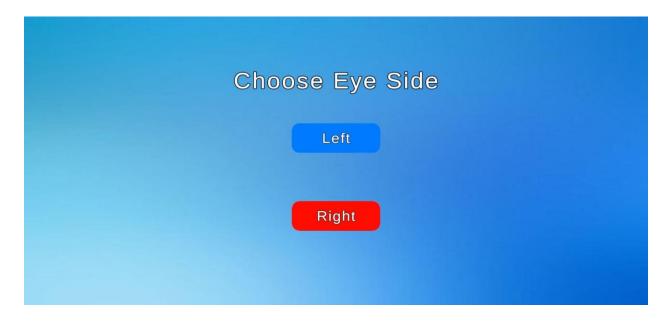


Figure B11: Mobile version Eye Selection Page

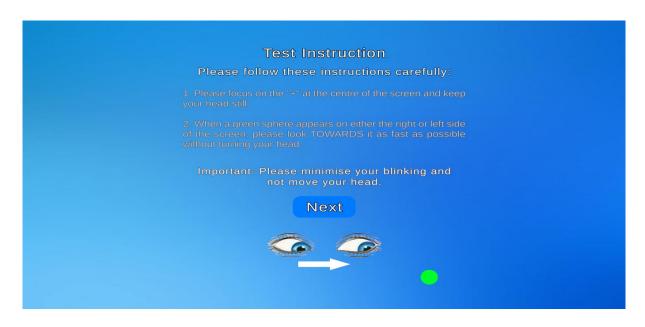


Figure B12: Desktop version instruction_easy page



Figure B13: Mobile version instruction_easy page

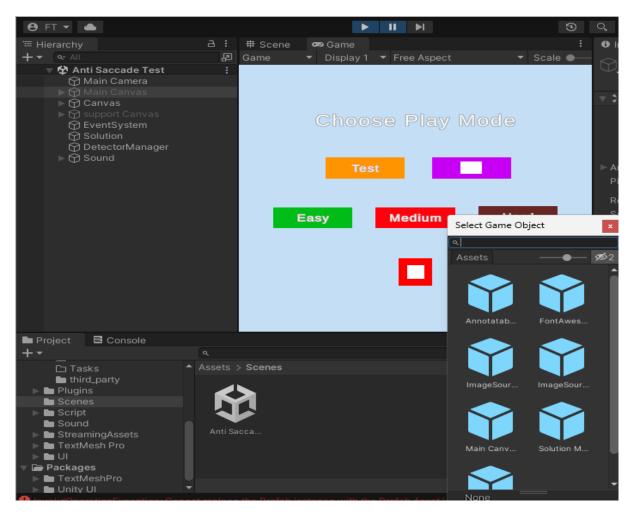


Figure B14: Initial Implementation of the Mode Selection Page



Figure B15: Improvement on the Mode Selection Page



Figure B16: Initial Implementation of the stimulus in a Trial Page was a box.

Figure B16: Final implementation of the stimulus was changed to a sphere to match the android version.

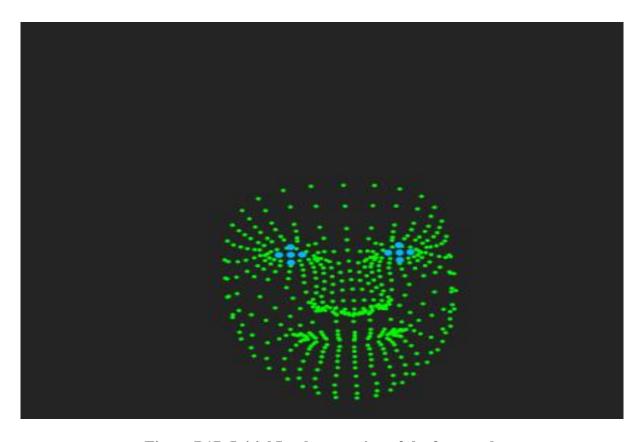


Figure B17: Initial Implementation of the face mesh

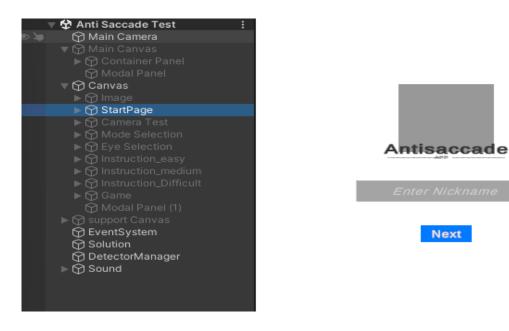


Figure B18: Initial implementation of the Start Page's Nickname screen in Unity Editor



Figure B19: Improvement of the Start Page's Nickname screen.

Camera Check

Please change camera source



Figure B20: The Camera Check Screen

Result Saved





Figure B21: After completion screen showcasing that results were collected and saved

Appendix C: Code Snippets

```
[Obsolete("Use BuildGPUImage")]
O references
public Image BuildGPUImage(GlContext glContext) => BuildGPUImage(glContext);

1 reference
public Image BuildGPUImage(GlContext glContext)
{
#if UNITY_EDITOR_LINUX || UNITY_STANDALONE_LINUX || UNITY_ANDROID
| return new Image(Gl.GL_TEXTURE_2D, GetTextureName(), width, height, gpuBufferformat, OnReleaseTextureFrame, glC #else
| throw new NotSupportedException("This method is only supported on Linux or Android");
#endif
}
```

Figure C1: New BuildGPUImage() in TextureFrame.cs

```
0 references
public NativeArray<T> GetRawTextureData<T>() where T : struct => _texture.GetRawTextureData<T>();
```

Figure C2: New GetRawTextureData<T>() in TextureFrame.cs

```
public AsyncGPUReadbackRequest ReadTextureAsync(Texture src, bool flipHorizontally = false, bool flipVertically = false)
{
   ReadTextureInternal(src, flipHorizontally, flipVertically);
   return AsyncGPUReadback.Request(_tmpRenderTexture, 0, _onReadBackRenderTexture);
}
```

Figure C3: New ReadTextureAsync() in TextureFrame.cs

```
using Firebase.Firestore;
[FirestoreData]
0 references
public class CloudSettings
    0 references
    [FirestoreProperty] public string savePath { get; set; }
    0 references
    [FirestoreProperty] public string uploadURL { get; set; }
    0 references
    [FirestoreProperty] public string token { get; set; }
    0 references
    [FirestoreProperty] public string method { get; set; } = "local";
    [FirestoreProperty] public string storageOption { get; set; } = "cloud";
    [FirestoreProperty] public string cloudMode { get; set; } = "remote";
    0 references
    [FirestoreProperty] public bool locked { get; set; } = false;
```

Figure C4: CloudSettings.cs code

```
import pandas as pd
def evaluate_antisaccade_data(file_path):
     df = pd.read_csv(file_path)
     df['SaccadeLatency'] = pd.to_numeric(df['SaccadeLatency'], errors='coerce')
     total_trials = len(df)
     correct_saccades = df['AccuracyOfSaccade'].sum()
     correct_rate = (correct_saccades / total_trials) * 100
     mean_latency = df['SaccadeLatency'].mean()
     std_latency = df['SaccadeLatency'].std()
     anticipatory_errors = (df['SaccadeLatency'] < 80).sum()
anticipation_rate = (anticipatory_errors / total_trials) * 10</pre>
     valid_trials = df['OverallValidity'].sum()
     validity_rate = (valid_trials / total_trials) * 100
     missed_detections = ((df['AccuracyOfSaccade'] == 0) & (df['SaccadeLatency'] > 600)).sum()
     summary = {
           "Total Trials": total_trials,
          "Valid Trials (OverallValidity=1)": valid_trials,
          "Validity Rate (%)": round(validity_rate, 2),
"Correct Saccades": correct_saccades,
          "Correct Response Rate (%)": round(correct_rate, 2),
"Mean Saccade Latency (ms)": round(mean_latency, 2),
"Latency Std Dev (ms)": round(std_latency, 2),
          "Anticipatory Errors (<80ms)": anticipatory_errors,
"Anticipation Rate (%)": round(anticipation_rate, 2),
          "Possible Missed Detections (>600ms & wrong)": missed_detections
     return summary
```

Figure C5: The antisaccade python code used to evaluate the CSV file data to evaluate application performance.

Appendix D: Error logs

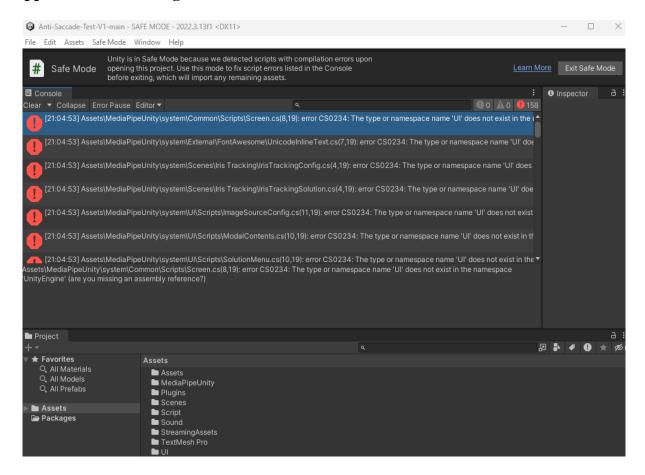


Figure D1: Compilation Errors caused by MediaPipe not being recognized.

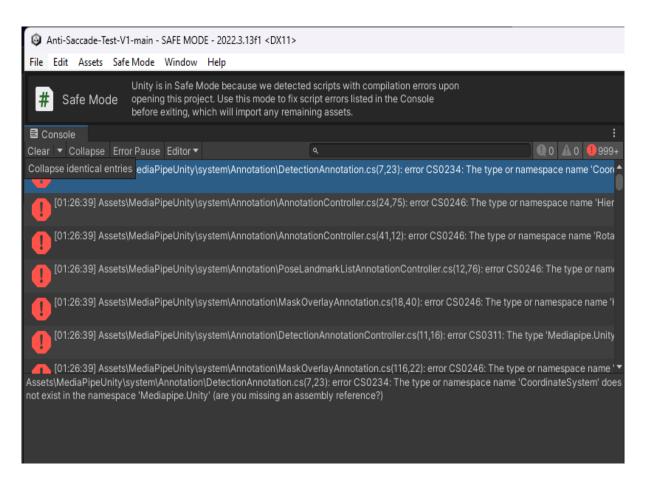


Figure D3: Compilation Errors due to duplicated files.

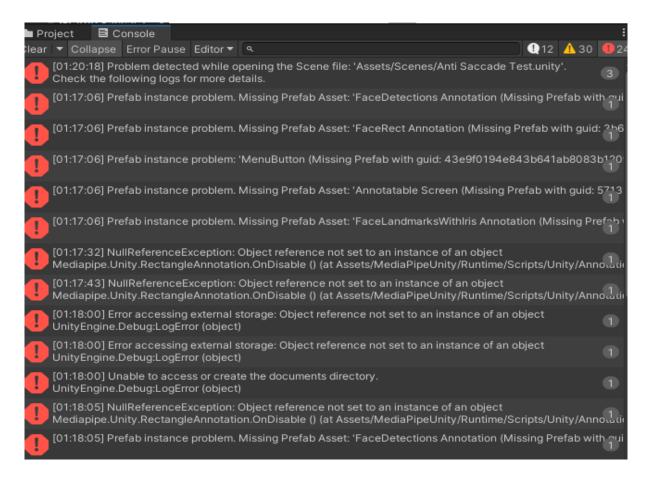


Figure D3: Compilation Errors during Prefab Initialization