BillForge KUET Teachers' Edition (An Automatic Bill Generator from Doc file)

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Authors

Abstract

A desktop application called "BillForge KUET Teachers' Edition" was created especially for the office executives of the several departments at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET). Its main goal is to make the process of creating bills for each teacher at the conclusion of each semester or term as efficient as possible. Users, the main controllers in this system, log in with their specific user ID and password. After logging in, users can choose the necessary doc file, which is the primary data source for the system and contains charts or tables with teacher information. Teachers engaged in academic activities for a certain year or semester are listed in a doc file that is typically prepared by the department office at KUET at the end of each semester. The main difficulty is creating separate bills for every teacher using this document; this is a process that takes a lot of time. Executives in charge of offices have had to devote a lot of time on gathering and mapping instructor data to the appropriate Excel files. The bill creator also has to manually enter data into the Excel sheets before sending emails to every teacher, which is a time-consuming and error-prone operation. By automating the billing system and the emailing process that follows, this project seeks to eliminate these inefficiencies and drastically reduce manual labor and error-proneness.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The application is a desktop-based, cross-platform tool capable of running on both UNIX and Windows operating systems. To achieve this cross-platform functionality, we have utilized Python, a robust and object-oriented programming language. Python is known for its simplicity, readability, dynamic integration capabilities, being open-source, and free to use. It supports a wide range of frameworks and libraries, which are crucial for this project's implementation.

The design of this system leverages the principles of object-oriented programming (OOP). We have utilized various Python libraries to fulfill the project's requirements, including 'python-docx' for reading data from DOC files, 'openpyxl' for reading and writing Excel files, 'smtplib' for email functionalities, and 'Tkinter' for Graphical User Interface (GUI) related tasks. Additionally, the Google Translator API is employed for translating text from English to Bangla.

To successfully implement this project, a strong understanding of object-oriented programming concepts is essential. Knowledge of API usage and integration of various libraries and modules is also crucial to ensure seamless design and functionality of the project.

1.2 Objectives

- To facilitates the work of office executives of different departments of KUET
- To save work hours of different offices of KUET
- To automate the process of creating bills and sending emails
- To reduce the chance of human errors
- To increase the efficiency of executives thus they can do more work in the limited time scope

- To take a step forward towards automating KUET
- To develop a system that can automate the work culture of departments to some extent

1.3 Scope

The 'BillForge' application is a desktop tool designed to automate the process of bill creation for the teachers at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET) and facilitate the sending of these bills via email. At the end of each semester, the administrative offices of various departments at KUET are tasked with generating bills for teachers who have participated in academic activities related to specific batches of students. These bills, formatted in Excel, incorporate pre-designed rules for calculating dues based on various factors, such as the number of answer scripts evaluated by a teacher for a particular year or the number of credits taught in sessional courses etc.

The primary users of this application are the administrative offices of KUET's respective departments. With the aid of 'BillForge,' these offices can efficiently generate individualized bills for each teacher in Excel format and then directly email these bills to the respective teachers.

1.4 Unfamiliarity of the problem

As of till now, there is no automation solution to the creation of billing process of teachers. Rather there are some tweaks to help the biller to create bills. This system properly addresses this issue of automation and fulfills the need of automation of the billing process. The idea is drawn from observing the workflow the different offices in Khulna University of Engineering & Technology.

1.5 Project Planning

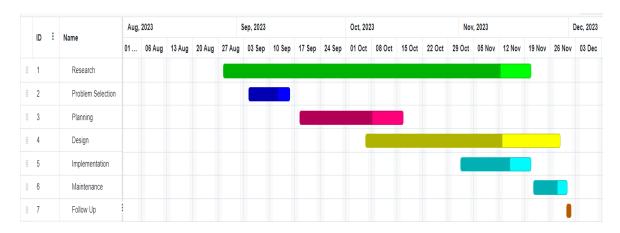


Fig-1.5 Gantt Chart of System Development Project

2 Related Works

2.1 Related Works

University of California, Irvine (UCI):

UCI has implemented a system called "eCampus" that automates a variety of tasks, including student registration, grading, and financial aid processing. The system has saved the university an estimated \$10 million per year in labor costs.

University of Cambridge:

The University of Cambridge has developed a system called "CamSIS" that provides a single platform for managing all aspects of student administration. The system has been credited with improving the efficiency and accuracy of student records

National University of Singapore (NUS):

NUS has implemented a system called "**ERPNext**" that automates a variety of tasks, including procurement, inventory management, and human resources. The system has been credited with improving the efficiency of NUS's administrative operations.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems:

ERP systems like SAP, Oracle, and Microsoft Dynamics are used by many organizations to integrate and automate various business processes, including finance, human resources, and procurement

Document Management Systems:

Systems like SharePoint, Documentum, and Alfresco help organizations manage, organize, and automate document-related processes.

Email Automation Tools:

Tools such as Microsoft Power Automate, Zapier, and Integromat enable automation of email workflows, including sending emails triggered by specific events or conditions.

Workflow Automation Platforms:

Workflow automation tools like Nintex, and Appian are designed to automate and streamline business processes, reducing manual intervention and improving overall efficiency.

2.2 Limitation of Existing Solutions

The main problem of existing solution is that they are mostly university or institution centric rather than a general solution. Billing systems of different institutions vary from each other. This prevents programmers or inventors to develop a general open for all system solution. To work on a particular and scoped field gives more room for customization and edit ability.

3 System Design

The primary objective of this project is to enhance the efficiency of administrative tasks at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET). By implementing an automated system for bill generation and payment processing, we aim to facilitate streamlined operations and effective communication within the university's administrative framework. This system is equipped with features such as automated data validation to minimize errors, along with secure data storage and access control for authorized personnel only.

Such advancements are expected to result in substantial time and resource savings across KUET's various departments, boosting staff productivity and efficiency. This aligns with KUET's strategic goal of transitioning into a digitally-advanced and modern educational institution.

Tailored to meet the specific needs of executives in different departments, with an initial implementation in the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) department, the system is designed to enhance clarity and transparency in bill processing. The deployment of this project promises an environment with reduced errors, thereby supporting KUET staff in achieving a more efficient and effective administrative workflow.

3.1 System Overview

The "BillForge KUET Teachers' Edition" system is developed using the spiral software development life cycle model. It is also referred to as a risk handling model. In the diagrammatic representation it looks like a spiral with many loops. The exact number of loops of the spiral is unknown and can vary from project to project. Each loop of the spiral is called a Phase of software development process. The exact number of phases needed to develop the product can varied by the project manager depending upon the risk. As the project manager has an important role to develop a product using the spiral model.

The spiral model of a Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) model that provides a systematic and iterative approach to software development. It is based on the idea of a

spiral, with each iteration of the spiral representing a complete software development cycle, from requirement gathering and analysis to design, implementation, testing & maintenance.

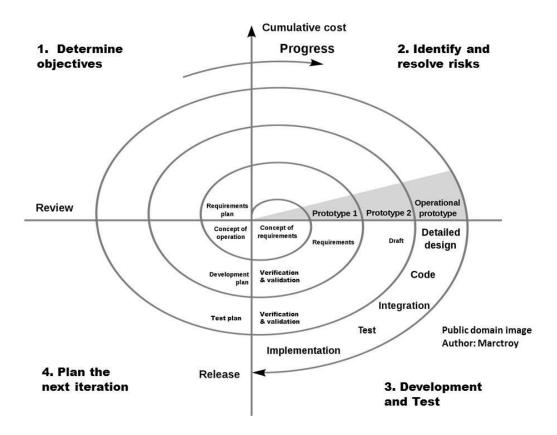


Fig-3.1: Spiral Model SDLC

3.2 Requirement Analysis

The Requirement Analysis for the 'BillForge KUET Teachers' Edition' project entails a thorough examination of the specific needs of office executives across various departments at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET). This process begins with gaining a comprehensive understanding of the bill creation procedures, which vary across different departments. The analysis also includes a detailed review of email communication processes and the existing workflow in each department.

It is crucial to identify and clearly document the essential functionalities needed for automation, ensuring the system operates seamlessly and efficiently. The analysis should establish measurable criteria for success, illustrating how the system will contribute to saving work hours, enhancing efficiency, and minimizing the likelihood of errors. Factors such as compatibility with current systems and technologies, as well as the implementation of robust security measures to safeguard sensitive data during bill creation and transmission, are vital considerations.

Furthermore, the Requirement Analysis must consider the system's adaptability to the 'Smart Digital KUET' vision, ensuring it aligns with the broader objective of improving the work culture and efficiency across departments.

3.3 System Analysis

There are two types of people who will be using this software.

- 1. The User or office staff
- 2. The programmer who will maintain it

User: The office staff will be the prime user of this program who will use the system to generate the billing for the teacher, selecting the docs, selecting the excel files and sending emails.

Programmer: The one who designed the system and in time of need maintains them and do modification and upgradation work.

As illustrated in Figure 3.4, the user initiates the system by double-tapping the application icon. This action leads to the system's start flow. The user is then directed to a login screen, where they can access the system using a unique user ID and password. Successful authentication recognizes the user as an authenticated member, granting access to the control screen. To calculate the value of every teacher's bill there is a custom developed API (Application Programming Interface) which is responsible for translating the value of taka amount in Bengali corresponding words. The user info and password will be saved in the database. Besides the total summary of a semester's expense for teachers' bill is calculated separately into an excel file and saved on the database.

On the control screen, users have the ability to select the source file, which contains the exam bill information in a document format. Additionally, users can specify the destination

location for the output files. Another critical feature allows the user to choose the email file, which contains the mailing addresses of the teachers. Following the generation of individualized Excel sheets for each teacher, the user has the capability to send emails to the respective teachers directly from the system. This process streamlines the task of distributing the generated bills, ensuring efficiency and accuracy.

The illustration in Figure 3.5, is the use case diagram. Where the actor is the use case. The user's first action is login. After login, the user will navigate to the bill generator screen, there the user will get 3 options:

- 1. Select the Destination Folder where the data will be stored.
- 2. The email picker xlsx file which will contain the email list of the teachers
- 3. The doc picker which will contain the doc of bill of the teachers of a semester or term.

In order to complete the task, the user have to select the 3 options. The main goal is to generate the bill, the user has to perform option 2 & 3. After the generation of bill, the user can check the email file and write the email addresses of the respective teachers. Then at the end, the user can send mail or right after the generation of bills the user can terminate the window and close the program. This send and check email feature is optional here.

The illustrated figure-3.6 is data flow diagram, This depicts how the data is passed between different modules and features of the system. The user can signup on the system and login to the system. The user id and password are saved on the database. Any wrong input can generate error message. After successful login, the system user selects the path of the necessary files and pick files through windows default file picker. After the clicking of generate bill button, the program creates bill for every individual teacher. When the user press email send button a mail request is sent to the email sending protocol which will be responsible for email sending request handling. Then the user can repeat the process if he/she wants.

3.4 System Flow Diagram

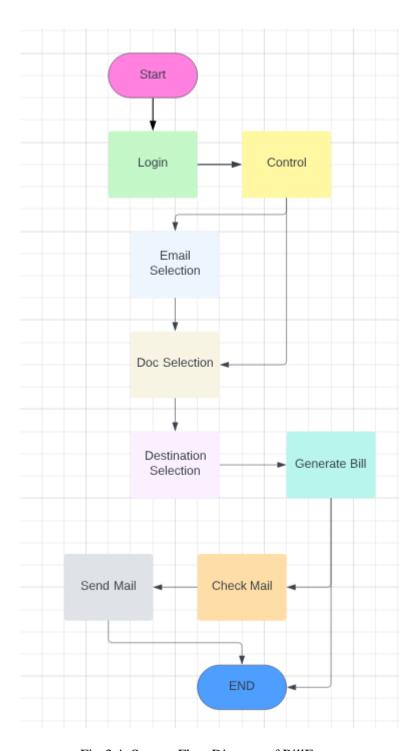


Fig-3.4: System Flow Diagram of BillForge

3.5 Use Case Diagram

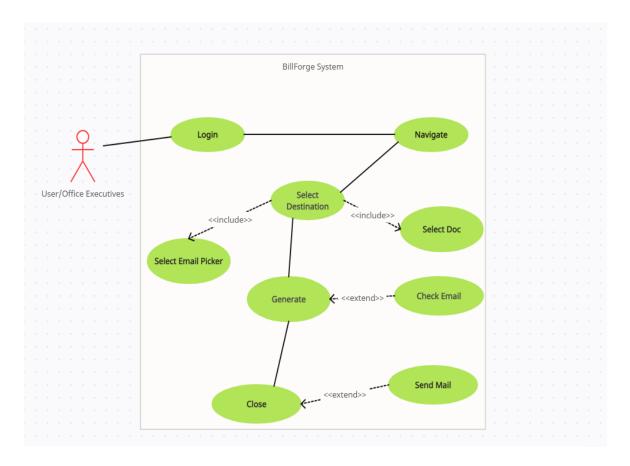


Fig-3.5: Use Case Diagram of BillForge

3.6 Data Flow Diagram

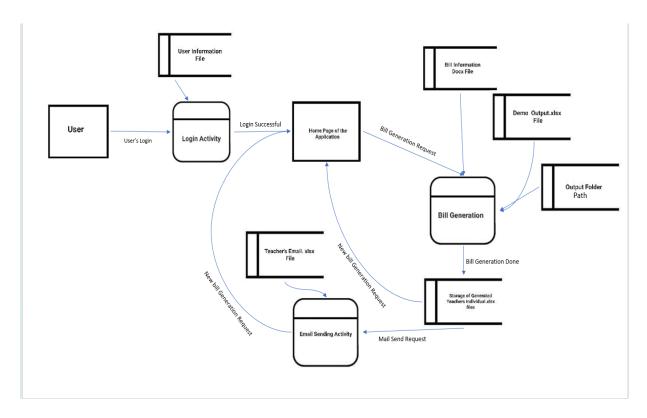


Fig-3.6: Data Flow Diagram of BillForge

3.7 Description of Necessary Tools for this system

To develop this application, we an authentication system and database to store user id and password such that any unauthorized user cannot get access into the system and does any unwanted job to the system. To give the user a good experience we added a GUI application on top of our system. GUI can generally give more good navigation & usability. This system works on a document file with a common billing layout for the teachers of the KUET and thus produces excel file sheet for any individual teacher generating their bill summary for a corresponding term or semester. As this system reads information from docx file, we need some sort of libraries which can work & extract values from doc files and as we are putting the values back into a excel sheet we need some libraries to work on excel file as well. To convert the Bangla taka to corresponding words we have created a Flask API and it is hosted

online and as it is a public API so anyone can use it for their purpose. For many different features implementation of this system, we need some more libraries and Api calls.

3.7.1 Custom build generalized Flask API for public use:



Fig-3.7.2 Flask API

Flask is a lightweight web application framework for Python. It is designed to be simple, easy to use, and flexible. Flask is part of the microframework category, which means it doesn't come with a lot of built-in features like some larger frameworks such as Django. Instead, Flask provides the essentials for building web applications and allows developers to choose and integrate the components they need. The custom build API will take input a string corresponding the Bangla Taka to Bangla written words.

Features of Flask Framework:

- Routing
- HTTP Request Handling
- Extensions
- Development Server
- Microframework etc.

3.7.2 SQLite Database:



Fig-3.7.2: SQLite Database

SQLite is an embedded, server-less relational database management system. It is an inmemory open-source library with zero configuration and does not require any installation. Also, it is very convenient as it's less than in size, which is significantly lesser than other database management systems. In this database, the user id, password and summary result of a term is stored.

Features of SQLite Database:

- Serverless & Self-contained
- Zero Configuration
- Cross-Platform
- ACID Compliance
- Community Support

3.7.3 Python-docx Library

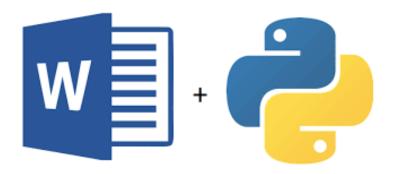


Fig-3.7: Python Docx

Python-docx is a Python library for creating and updating Microsoft Word (.docx) files. It allows you to work with Word documents, including creating new documents, modifying existing ones, and extracting information from them. The library provides a simple and convenient way to generate Word documents programmatically.

Key Features of python-docx library:

- Document Creation
- Document Modification
- Text Formatting
- Paragraph & Run Styles
- Tables
- Headers & Footers

3.7.4 Figma



Figma is a cloud-based design and prototyping tool used in user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) design. It enables designers to collaborate in real-time on the creation of digital designs for websites, mobile applications, and other interactive interfaces. Figma is popular for its collaborative features, accessibility from any device with an internet connection, and the ability to streamline the design-to-development workflow.

Features of Figma:

- Cloud Based Collaboration
- Vector Editing
- Component Based Design
- Prototyping and Interaction Design etc.

3.7.5 Tkinter Library



Fig-3.7.5 Tkinter Library

Tkinter is the standard GUI (Graphical User Interface) toolkit that comes with Python. It is used to create desktop applications with graphical interfaces. Tkinter is a thin object-oriented layer on top of the Tcl/Tk GUI toolkit. It's simple to use and allows developers to create windows, dialogs, buttons, textboxes, and other GUI elements.

Key features of Tkinter library are:

- Simple & Lightweight
- Integration with Python
- Even-Driven Programming
- Cross-Platform

3.7.6 Figma API

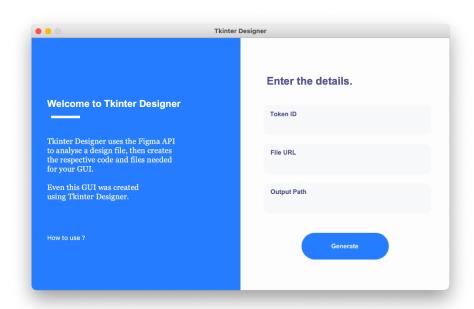


Fig-3.7.6: Tkinter Designer

We have used **Tkinter Designer** as Figma API caller to translate Figma design to corresponding tkinter python code. It will receive the Figma token ID, Figma file URL and destination path of where the data will be saved.

3.7.7 OpenPyXL Library



Fig-3.7.7: OpenPyXL Library

Openpyxl is a Python library for reading and writing Excel (xlsx) files. It allows you to work with Excel files (both reading from and writing to) using Python. This library is particularly useful for tasks such as data analysis, data manipulation, and automating Excel-related processes.

Key features of openPyXL libraries are:

- Reading & Writing Excel Files
- Support For Excel Worksheets & Cells
- Cell Formatting
- Charts & Images
- Data Validation
- Formula Support

3.7.8 Google Translator



Fig-3.7.8 Google Translator

Google Translator, or Google Translate, is a free online language translation service developed by Google. It allows users to translate text, documents, web pages, and even spoken words or phrases between different languages. Google Translate supports a wide range of languages, making it a versatile tool for communication and information exchange across language barriers.

Key features of Google Translator are:

- Text Translation
- Document Translation
- Auto Detection of Language
- Synonyms & Definitions

3.7.8 SMTP lib Module



Fig-3.7.8 SMTP lib Module

Smtplib is a module in Python that defines an SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) client session object used to send email to any internet machine with an SMTP or ESMTP listener daemon process running. SMTP is a protocol used for sending emails between servers, and smtplib provides a way for Python scripts to communicate with an SMTP server for sending email messages.

Key Features of STMP lib module:

- Sending Emails
- Support for SSL/TLS
- Authentication
- Integration with Email Message

4 Project Implementation

4.1 System Implementation

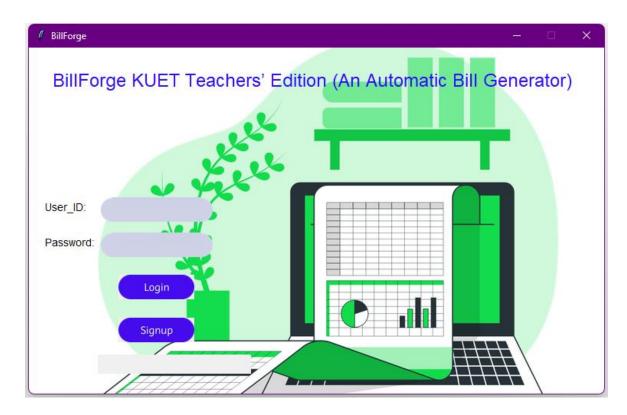


Fig-4.1: Welcome GUI

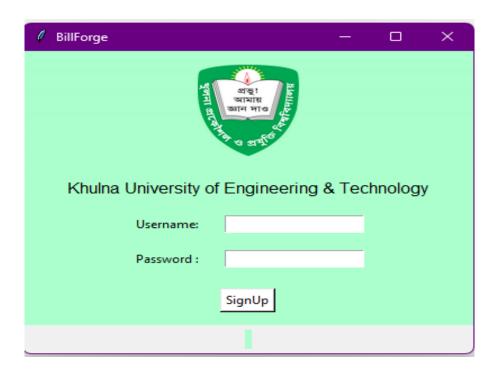


Fig-4.2 Signup UI

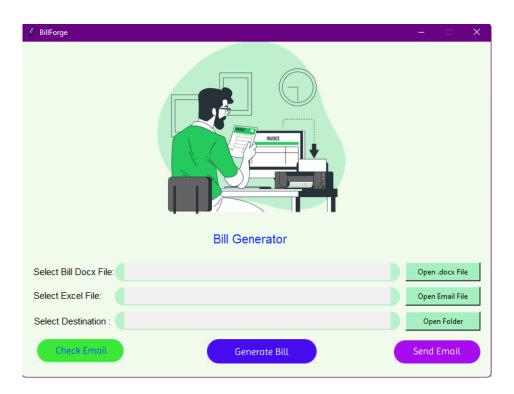


Fig-4.3: Bill Generator Screen

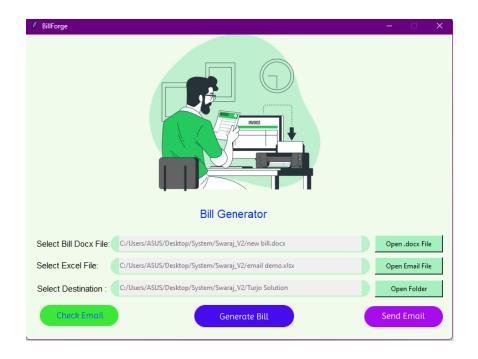


Fig-4.3: Bill Generator Screen after filling all details

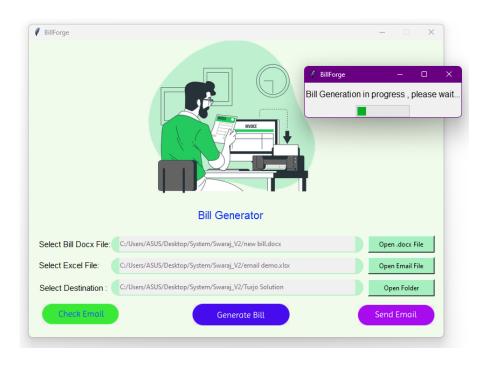


Fig-4.4: Bill Generator in progress

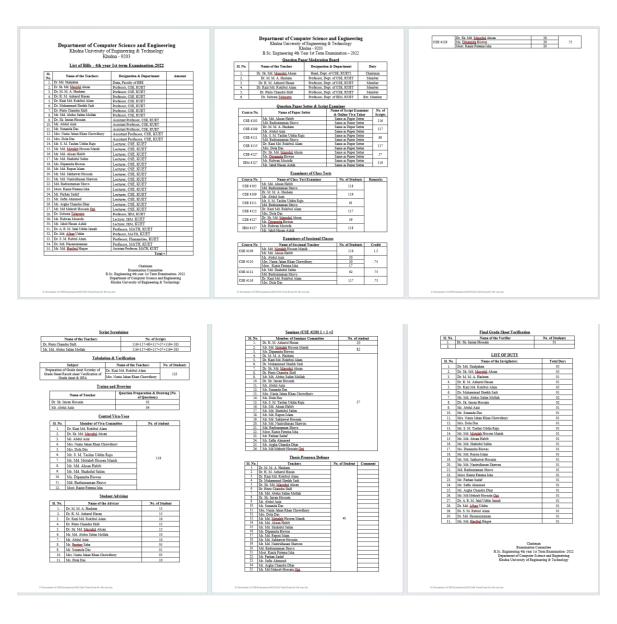


Fig-4.5: New Bill Doc

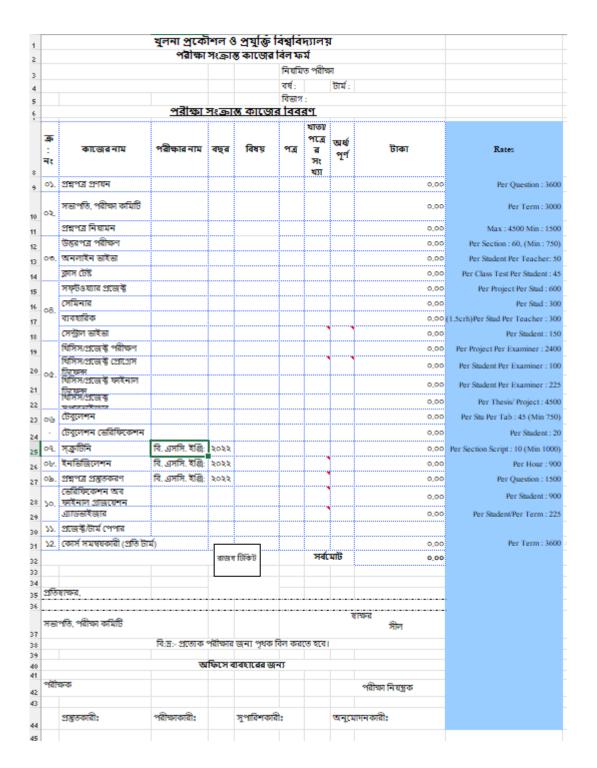


Fig-4.6: Copy Excel File Before Running BillForge

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	ইনভিজলেশন	বি.এসসি. ইঞ্জি:				3		£800,00	
à.	প্রশ্নপত্র প্রস্তুতকরণ	বি.এসসি. ইঞ্জি:	•			3		9000,00	Per Question: 1500
<u>ه</u>	ভেরিফিকেশন অব ফাইনাল্ গ্রাজয়েশন	বি.এসসি.ইঞ্জি:	-			١		00,00%	
	ঞাডভাইজার	বি.এসসি. ইঞ্জি:				٥		0,00	Per Student/Per Term : 225
	প্রজেক্ট/টার্ম পেপার	বি. এসসি. যৈঞ্জ:	•						
۵2.	কোর্স সমন্বয়কারী (প্রতি টা	4)			ļ	,		0.00	Per Term: 3600
(P)	য: তেরো যাজার ত্ব গ ত চকি	শ টাকা মাত্র				সৰ	4115	\$ 9 %\\$8.00	
1তি	शक्ति,								
							7	राखान	
দভা'	পতি, পরীক্ষা কমিটি	_						जी ल	
		বি:ম্র:-প্রত্যেক '	পরীক্ষনর	জন্য পৃথক ি	বঁল কর	তে হবে।			
		অ	ফিসে বা	বহারের জ	ন্য				
প্রাণ	চক							পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক	
								শরাক্ষা শেখন্ত্রক	
	প্রস্তুতকারী:	পরীক্ষাকারী:		সুপারিশকার				गम्नकात्री:	

Fig-4.7: After Generating Bill



Fig-4.8: Empty Check Email Sheet

	А	В	C	D	Е	
1	Teachers' Name			Teachers' Email		
2	Dr. Md. Shahjahan			jahan@eee.kuet.ac.bd		
3	Dr. Sk. Md. Masudul Ahsan			smahsan@cse.kuet.ac.bd		
4	Dr. M. M. A. Hashem			hashem@cse.kuet.ac.bd		
5	Dr. K. M. Azharul Hasan			az@cse.kuet.ac.bd		
6	Dr. Kazi Md. Rokibul Alam			rokib@cse.kuet.ac.bd		
7	Dr. Muhammad Sheikh Sadi			sadi@cse.kuet.ac.bd		
8	Dr. Pintu Chandra Shill			pintu@cse.kuet.ac.bd		
9	Mr. Md. Abdus Salim Mollah			salim9326@cse.kuet.ac.bd		
10	Dr. Sk. Imran Hossain			imran@cse.kuet.ac.bd		

Fig-4.9: After Filling Email Address

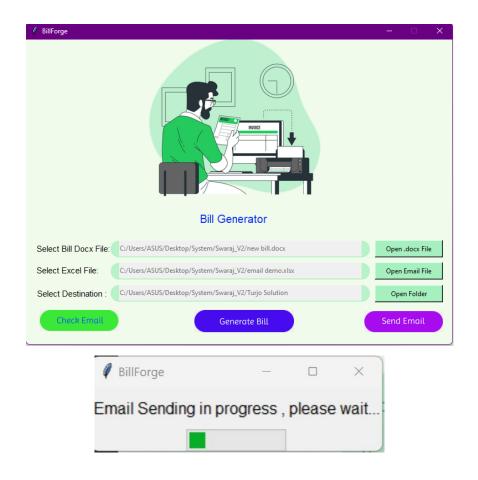


Fig-4.10: Email Sending in Progress



Fig-4.11: Email Successfully Received

Teacher's Name	Teacher's Bill
Dr. Md. Shahjahan	13500.00
Dr. Sk. Md. Masudul Ahsan	51968.09
Dr. M. M. A. Hashem	34384.00
Dr. K. M. Azharul Hasan	14695.00
Dr. Kazi Md. Rokibul Alam	75158.09
Dr. Muhammad Sheikh Sadi	7024.00
Dr. Pintu Chandra Shill	18029.00
Mr. Md. Abdus Salim Mollah	17804.00
Dr. Sk. Imran Hossain	13624.00
Mr. Abdul Aziz	47618.09
Mr. Sunanda Das	7249.00
Mrs. Nazia Jahan Khan Chowdhury	22238.09
Mrs. Dola Das	54029.09
Mr. S. M. Taslim Uddin Raju	16378.09
Mr. Md. Motaleb Hossen Manik	62393.09
Mr. Md. Ahsan Habib	81083.09
Mr. Md. Shahidul Salim	22583.09
Ms. Dipannita Biswas	33953.09
Mr. Md. Repon Islam	7024.00
Mr. Md. Sakhawat Hossain	7024.00
Mr. Md. Nazirulhasan Shawon	7024.00
Md. Badiuzzaman Shuvo	34328.09
Most. Kaniz Fatema Isha	13133.09
Mr. Farhan Sadaf	7024.00
Mr. Safin Ahmmed	7024.00
Mr. Argha Chandra Dhar	7024.00
Mr. Md Mehrab Hossain Opi	7024.00
Dr. Subrata Talapatra	4500.00
Mr. Ridwan Mustofa	19350.00
Mr. Jahid Hasan Ashik	19350.00
Dr. A. R. M. Jalal Uddin Jamali	2700.00
Dr. Md. Alhaz Uddin	2700.00
Dr. S. M. Rabiul Alam	2700.00
Dr. Md. Hasanuzzaman	2700.00
Mr. Md. Hasibul Haque	2700.00
Total Bill For Teachers:	747040.0

Fig-4.12: Bill Summary

4.2 Deployment

This "BillForge" application is not deployed online or any server or anything rather it is locally hosted and offline application which is in focus to the prime users of this system. However, the custom build API is hosted on pythonanywhere.com Anyone who has the login id and password can access this system from any office computers.

4.3 Ethical & Moral Issues

The 'BillForge' application adheres to stringent ethical standards, particularly in prioritizing user privacy by ensuring the confidentiality of user data. The demo billing chart sheet provided with the system is classified and non-disclosable. Therefore, individuals without authorized access are unable to locate or access the file. As there is no exe file the program to security issue remains. Any unauthorized access to the computer can be a threat to that program. Moreover, the teachers receiving emails through this system will only receive data pertaining to themselves, safeguarding their privacy and upholding the commitment to ethical standards.

4.4 Financial Analyses and Budget

This project is designed to operate locally on individual computers, necessitating a compatible system for execution. Given that the system interfaces with Word and Excel documents, and considering that Microsoft Office applications are the standard at Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), the procurement of enterprise licenses for these products is required. This is a factor in the overall system cost. Transitioning the project to an online platform would incur additional expenses, potentially elevating costs beyond initial estimates. Such a move would require web hosting services and the acquisition of a domain name, contributing further to the financial outlay. Additionally, to maintain system efficiency, a high-speed internet connection is advisable. The investment in the necessary internet infrastructure would thus be a significant component of the project's total cost. Estimated Cost Figure

- System Design Analyst 40,000 Tk
- System Programmer 50,000 Tk
- Database Management and Server Handling- 30,000 Tk
- Security Specialist- 30,000 Tk

5 Conclusion

5.1 Conclusion & Challenges Faced

During the development of this system, we encountered several challenges, such as recognizing name patterns and extracting information from DOCX files. Initially, our attempts to extract names and information faced difficulties, particularly when dealing with tables containing various data. The inconsistent naming conventions of teachers in the demo DOCX file further complicated matters, leading to inaccuracies in the algorithm or program results.

To address these issues, we implemented a solution by standardizing the naming conventions. This adjustment significantly improved the accuracy of the algorithm. Subsequently, our focus shifted to the task of reading and writing values from and to Excel sheets, presenting its own set of challenges. One notable obstacle was encountered when attempting to write values to specific cells. To overcome this challenge, we opted to split the sheets, enhancing the efficiency of the process. Additionally, when attempting to send emails from a designated email address using Python code, we faced constraints due to default permission limitations. To resolve this, we generated an application key from Google, granting the necessary permissions and enabling the successful sending of emails through our Python code.

The primary objective of this project is to enhance the efficiency and workflow of office executives across various departments at KUET. This is achieved by automating the process of creating bills for individual teachers in any given semester and subsequently dispatching these bills to the respective teachers. The implementation of this system contributes significantly to the automation of creating and disseminating email notifications regarding teacher bills, streamlining administrative tasks and improving overall efficiency.

5.2 Future Study

The automation process of billing system in KUET can be 100% automated when every department and teachers of respective departments are connected together. The use of machine learning technology can be applied to this field to sense the information of different attributes of the teachers and info regarding billing information. Machine learning or artificial intelligence can be applied for recognizing teachers' name, their information and smart algorithm to manage the excel file creation and sending relevant information to the relevant teachers or any different body regarding as per need. The use of personalized database will be added to the system to create a separated user such as teachers who can logged into the system and thus generate the total bill summary or any past history of bill summary. The system can be deployed on the servers to be more dynamic and robust. We will add more features to ensure security such as database encryption and executable file format, flexible document structure and more user-friendly UI and UX.

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