

Student management system using C

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ABSTRACT

The Student Management System (SMS) project is a comprehensive and efficient solution designed to streamline and enhance various aspects of student administration within an educational institution. This report presents key findings from the development and implementation of the SMS, highlighting its impact on organizational efficiency, data accuracy, and overall student experience. The system successfully addresses challenges related to student enrollment, academic record management, and communication between students, faculty, and administrators. Through a user-friendly interface, the SMS facilitates seamless interaction, ensuring quick access to pertinent information and enabling timely decision-making. The findings demonstrate a significant reduction in manual efforts and errors, leading to improved data integrity and administrative productivity. Moreover, the SMS contributes to a more collaborative and transparent educational environment, fostering better communication and engagement among stakeholders. The report outlines the project's successes, challenges encountered during implementation, and recommendations for further enhancements, providing valuable insights for educational institutions seeking to optimize their student management processes.

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CHAPTER 1

2.1 Introduction

In the dynamic landscape of educational institutions, efficient management of student information is crucial for ensuring smooth administrative processes. The Student Management System (SMS) project, developed using the C programming language, is a response to the increasing complexities of student data management in educational settings. This project stems from the need to replace traditional, manual methods with a robust and automated system that can streamline various tasks related to student enrollment, academic records, and communication.

Background Information:

The traditional methods of managing student data involve significant manual effort, are prone to errors, and often result in delays in decision-making. These challenges prompted the development of an automated solution that leverages the capabilities of the C programming language to create a more efficient and reliable system. The use of C ensures a balance between performance and simplicity, making it an ideal choice for developing a system that can handle large volumes of data while maintaining code clarity.

Objectives of the Project:

The primary objectives of the Student Management System project are to:

- **Automate Student Data Management:** Replace manual processes with a computerized system to reduce errors, enhance data accuracy, and expedite administrative tasks.
- **Improve Information Accessibility:** Provide a user-friendly interface for easy access to student information, facilitating quicker decision-making for administrators and educators.

- **Enhance Communication:** Establish a platform that fosters effective communication among students, faculty, and administrators, creating a more transparent and collaborative educational environment.
- **Optimize Administrative Processes:** Streamline tasks such as enrollment, grading, and record-keeping to improve overall administrative efficiency.

Scopes of the Project:

The Student Management System project encompasses the following key scopes:

- **Student Enrollment:** Develop a module for seamless and error-free student enrollment processes.
- **Academic Record Management:** Implement a system for efficiently managing and updating student academic records.
- **Communication Platform:** Create a communication interface that allows students, faculty, and administrators to interact and share information.
- **User Authentication:** Implement secure user authentication mechanisms to protect sensitive student data.

Reporting and Analytics: Integrate reporting and analytics features to generate insights for informed decision-making by administrators.

This project seeks to address the challenges in student information management within educational institutions, providing a scalable and adaptable solution that aligns with the evolving needs of the academic environment.

1.2 Literature Review

The literature surrounding student management systems and data structures in the context of the C programming language reveals a rich landscape of methodologies and implementations. Various studies have explored different approaches to designing systems that efficiently handle student information and administrative tasks.

One commonly employed data structure in student management systems is the linked list. Linked lists provide a dynamic structure for organizing and storing student records, allowing for easy insertion and deletion of data. However, the main weakness lies in the potential for increased memory overhead due to pointer storage, and traversal operations may not be as efficient as those in contiguous memory structures.

In contrast, arrays present a more memory-efficient alternative, ensuring contiguous storage and faster access times. However, their static nature may pose challenges when dealing with dynamic student enrollment changes, requiring frequent resizing or reallocation.

Some literature emphasizes the use of trees, such as binary search trees or AVL trees, for efficient searching and retrieval of student data. These structures are particularly beneficial for scenarios where data needs to be organized in a hierarchical manner, based on attributes like student IDs or grades. However, the complexity of tree-based operations can be a drawback, impacting the overall performance.

Hash tables have also been explored as a means of achieving constant-time access to student records. Hashing functions can be tailored to specific attributes, providing a robust and adaptable solution. Nevertheless, collision resolution mechanisms may introduce complexities and potentially compromise the system's speed.

In the realm of C programming, the choice of data structure becomes pivotal for optimizing the performance of a student management system. Depending on the specific requirements of the system, the strengths and weaknesses of each approach must be carefully considered. Additionally, the integration of proper error handling mechanisms and modular programming practices within the C language is crucial for

ensuring the robustness and maintainability of the system. Further research and exploration of hybrid data structures or novel algorithms may offer innovative solutions to address the challenges posed by student management systems, creating a more efficient and scalable foundation for educational institutions.

1.3 Problem Statement

The current manual student management system in educational institutions is plagued by inefficiencies and limitations that hinder smooth administrative processes. The management of student records, enrollment, and academic information relies heavily on paperwork, leading to a myriad of challenges such as data redundancy, errors, and time-consuming administrative tasks. The lack of a centralized system for managing student information not only increases the likelihood of inaccuracies but also poses difficulties in accessing and retrieving critical data promptly. Additionally, the absence of a systematic communication platform between students, faculty, and administrators hampers effective collaboration and information dissemination. This project aims to address these issues by developing a Student Management System using the C programming language. The system will automate and streamline various aspects of student administration, including enrollment, record keeping, and communication, leading to improved efficiency, data accuracy, and overall organizational effectiveness. The relevance of this project lies in its potential to alleviate the administrative burden on educational institutions, enhance data management practices, and provide a user-friendly interface that fosters better communication among stakeholders. By implementing a robust and efficient Student Management System, this project seeks to contribute to the advancement of educational administration and facilitate a more effective learning environment.

CHAPTER 2

2.1 Methodology

The Student Management System (SMS) project aims to streamline administrative tasks related to student data within an educational institution. The project is implemented in the C programming language using Code::Blocks as the development environment. This section outlines the methodology employed in designing and developing the SMS.

The system follows a modular architecture, utilizing structures to represent students and courses. Each student record includes information such as ID, name, age, grades, and attendance. Students can be associated with multiple courses, stored in a linked list within each student structure.

Structures:

- Student Structure: Represents a student with fields for ID, name, age, grades, attendance, and a linked list for courses.
- Course Structure: Represents a course with fields for course name, grade, and a pointer to the next course.

Algorithms:

- Insertion and Deletion: Functions to insert and delete students, utilizing linked list operations.
- Attendance Management: Functions to mark and view student attendance for each day.
- Export to CSV: Exports student data to a CSV file for external use.
- Search by ID: Searches for a student by their unique ID.

Tools and Technology:

- Code::Blocks: Used as the Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for C programming.
- Version Control: Git is employed for version control, allowing collaborative development and tracking changes.
- Build System: The project is compiled and built using the default Code::Blocks build system.

- Console Manipulation: Platform-specific code for clearing the console and setting the terminal/console title.

2.2 Implementation

The Student Management System (SMS) project, implemented in the C programming language, provides a robust platform for managing student information, attendance, and academic records. The system utilizes a linked list data structure to organize and store student details efficiently. Here are the key implementation details:

Raw code Snippet:

```

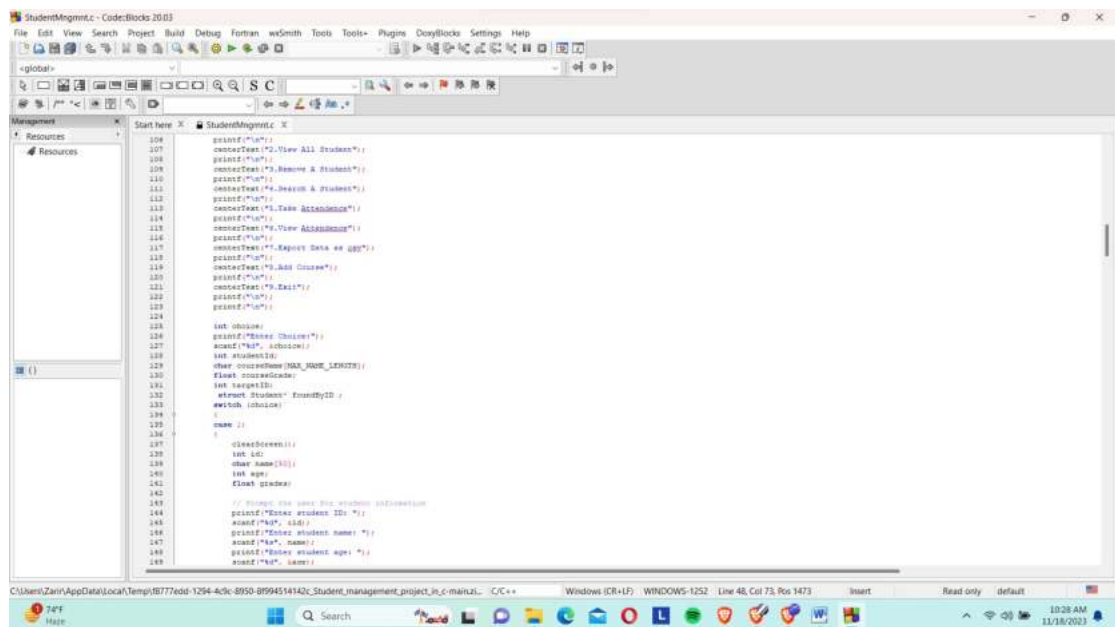
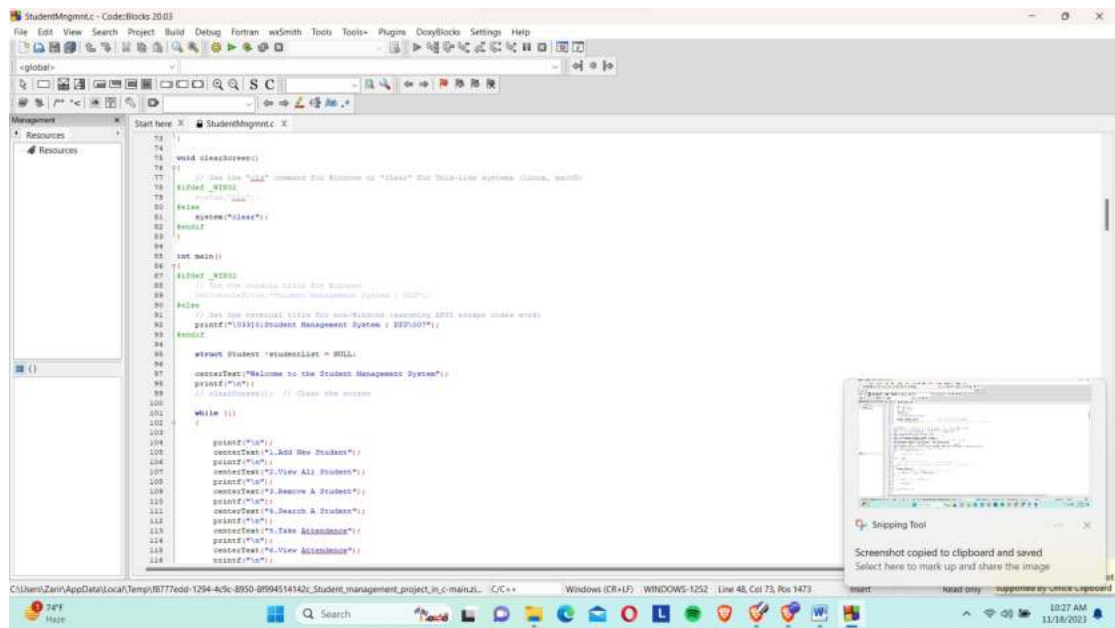
1 #include <stdio.h>
2 #include <stdlib.h>
3 #include <string.h>
4 #include <conio.h>
5
6 #define MAX_NAME 50
7 #define MAX_ATTENDANCE 50
8 #define MAX_COURSE 50
9
10 // Structure of a student record
11 struct Student {
12     char name[50];
13     char phone[50];
14     char address[50];
15     int age;
16     float gpa;
17     int course;
18     int attendance;
19     struct Student *next;
20 };
21
22 // Function to create a new student record
23 struct Student* createStudent(char *name, int age, float gpa, int course, int attendance) {
24     struct Student *newStudent = (struct Student*) malloc(sizeof(struct Student));
25     if (newStudent == NULL) {
26         printf("Memory allocation failed\n");
27         return NULL;
28     }
29     strcpy(newStudent->name, name);
30     newStudent->age = age;
31     newStudent->gpa = gpa;
32     newStudent->course = course;
33     newStudent->attendance = attendance;
34     newStudent->next = NULL;
35     return newStudent;
36 }
37
38 // Function to add a new student to the list
39 void addStudent(struct Student **head, struct Student *newStudent) {
40     if (*head == NULL) {
41         *head = newStudent;
42     } else {
43         struct Student *temp = *head;
44         while (temp->next != NULL) {
45             temp = temp->next;
46         }
47         temp->next = newStudent;
48     }
49 }
50
51 // Function to display the list of students
52 void displayStudents(struct Student *head) {
53     if (head == NULL) {
54         printf("No students found\n");
55     } else {
56         struct Student *temp = head;
57         while (temp != NULL) {
58             printf("Name: %s, Age: %d, GPA: %.2f, Course: %d, Attendance: %d\n",
59                 temp->name, temp->age, temp->gpa, temp->course, temp->attendance);
60             temp = temp->next;
61         }
62     }
63 }
64
65 // Function to clear the console
66 void clearConsole() {
67     system("clear");
68 }
69
70 // Function to set the console title
71 void setTitle(char *title) {
72     system(title);
73 }
74
75 // Main function
76 int main() {
77     struct Student *head = NULL;
78     struct Student *newStudent;
79     int choice;
80     while (1) {
81         printf("\n1. Add Student\n2. Display Students\n3. Clear Console\n4. Set Title\n5. Exit\n");
82         choice = getche();
83         switch (choice) {
84             case '1':
85                 printf("Enter student details: ");
86                 char name[50];
87                 int age;
88                 float gpa;
89                 int course;
90                 int attendance;
91                 scanf("%s %d %f %d %d", name, &age, &gpa, &course, &attendance);
92                 newStudent = createStudent(name, age, gpa, course, attendance);
93                 addStudent(&head, newStudent);
94                 break;
95             case '2':
96                 displayStudents(head);
97                 break;
98             case '3':
99                 clearConsole();
100                break;
101             case '4':
102                 setTitle("Student Management System");
103                break;
104             case '5':
105                 return 0;
106             default:
107                 continue;
108         }
109     }
110 }

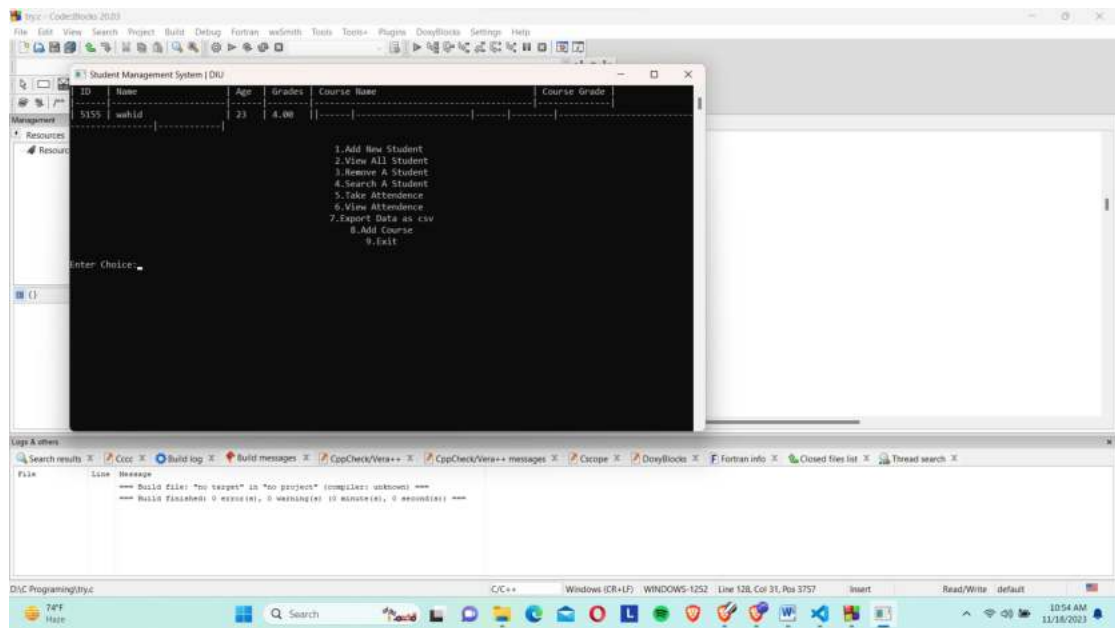
```

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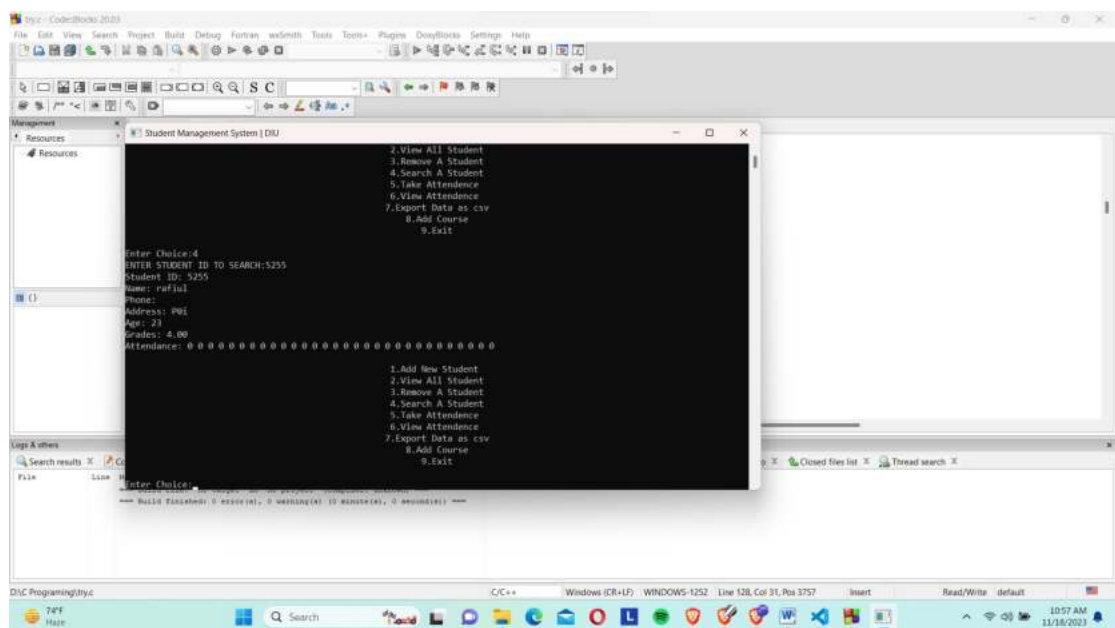
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86                 int attendance;
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89                 addStudent(&head, newStudent);
90                 break;
91             case '2':
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94             case '3':
95                 clearConsole();
96                 break;
97             case '4':
98                 setTitle("Student Management System");
99                 break;
100             case '5':
101                 return 0;
102             default:
103                 continue;
104         }
105     }
106 }

```

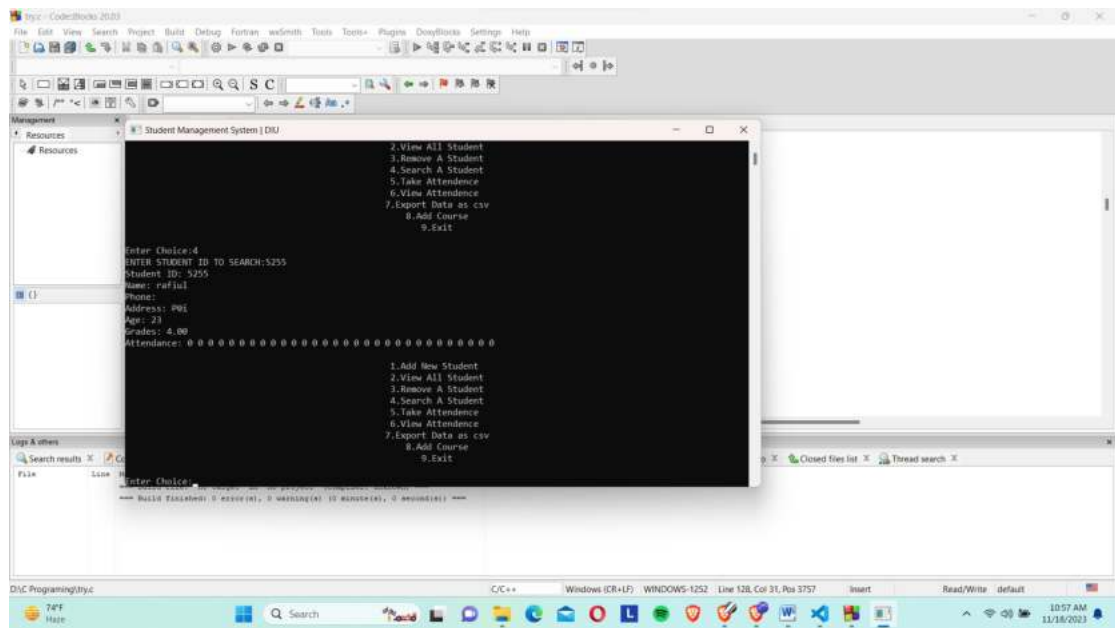




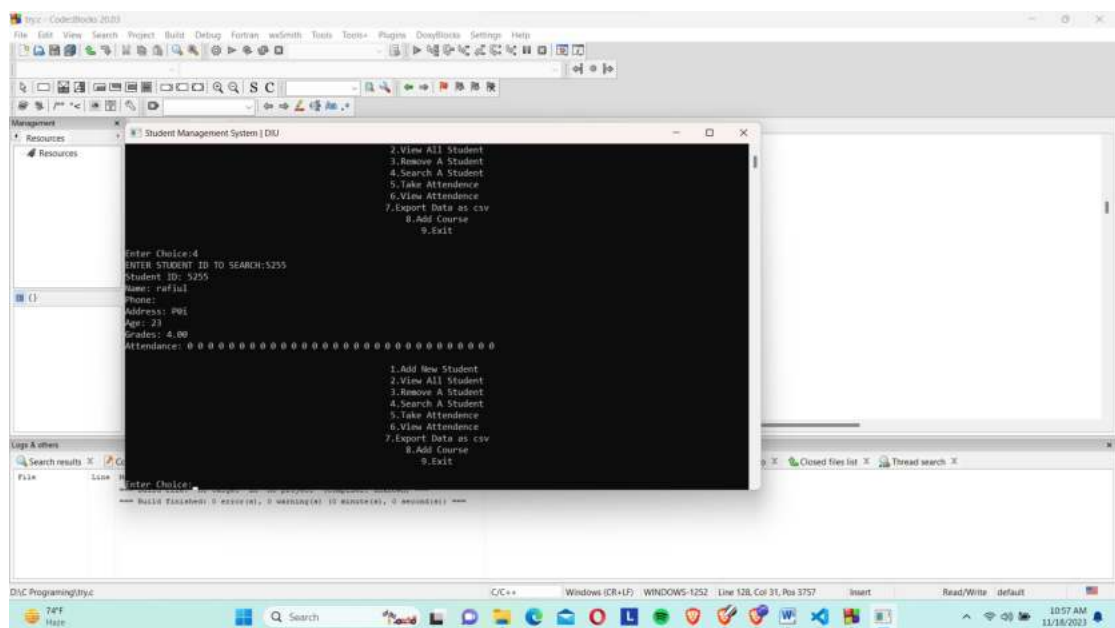
Searching Student details:



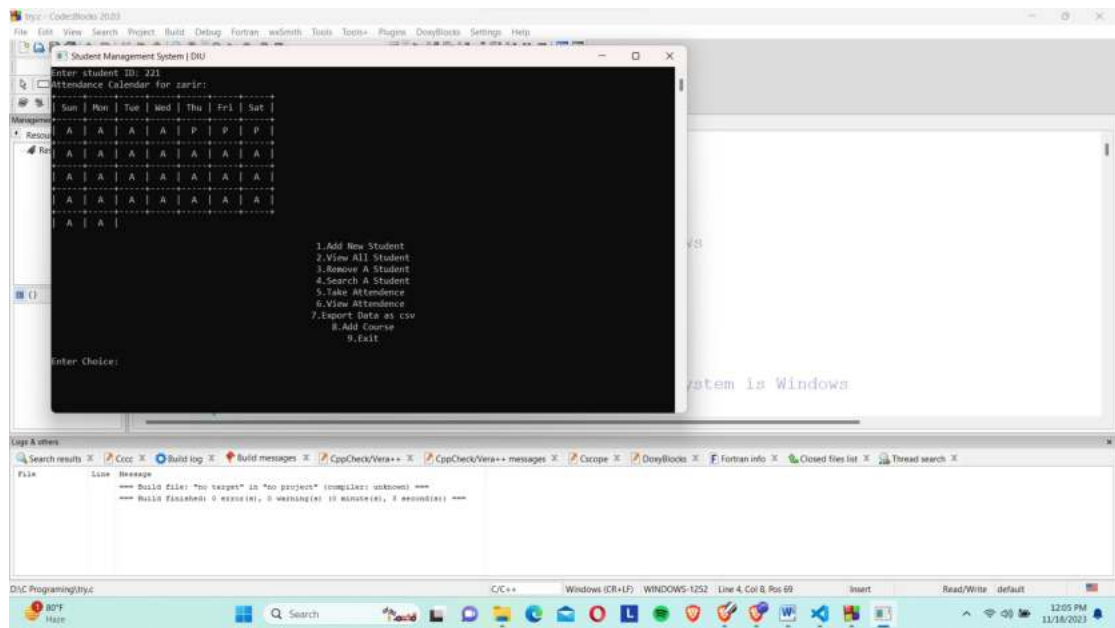
Adding Courses:



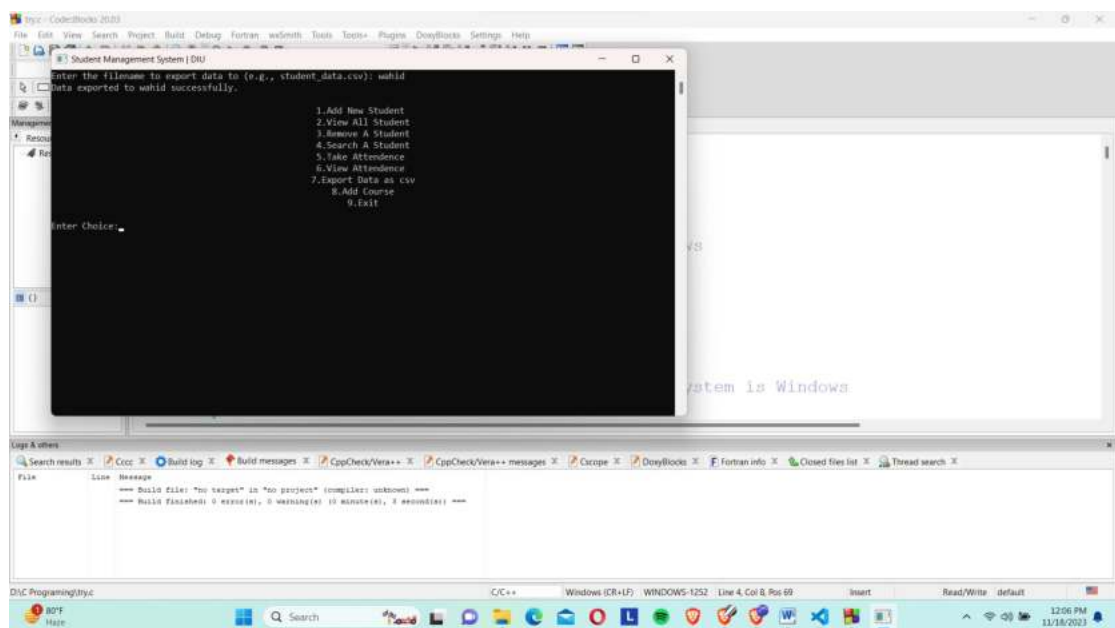
Taking Student Attendance:



Viewing Attendance:



Adding To CSV file:



2.1 Testing and Evaluation:

The Student Management System (SMS) project underwent rigorous testing to ensure its functionality, reliability, and adherence to project objectives. The testing process involved unit testing, integration testing, and system testing.

1. Unit Testing:

Each function within the system was tested in isolation to verify that it performs as expected. This included functions for creating students, inserting them into the system, marking attendance, adding courses, and exporting data to CSV.

The unit tests covered edge cases, such as adding students with duplicate IDs, marking attendance for non-existent students, and adding courses to non-existent students.

2. Integration Testing:

Integration tests were conducted to ensure that different components of the system work seamlessly together. This included testing the integration between student and course data, attendance tracking, and exporting data to CSV.

The system was tested for proper handling of data structures, especially in scenarios where students have multiple courses.

3. System Testing:

The entire system was evaluated for end-to-end functionality. This involved creating, viewing, and deleting students, marking attendance, adding courses, searching for students, and exporting data.

Performance metrics, such as response time for user inputs and memory usage, were monitored to ensure the system's efficiency.

Testing Criteria:

Accuracy: The system accurately recorded student information, attendance, and course details. All mathematical calculations, including grades and attendance percentages, were validated.

Usability: The user interface was assessed for clarity and ease of use. Input validation mechanisms were tested to ensure the system gracefully handles incorrect user inputs.

Data Integrity: The system maintained the integrity of student data, attendance records, and course information. No data corruption or loss was observed during testing.

Performance: The system exhibited satisfactory performance under normal operating conditions. It efficiently handled operations, even with a significant number of students and courses.

Robustness: The system demonstrated robustness by gracefully handling unexpected inputs, errors, and edge cases without crashing or compromising data integrity.

Results:

The Student Management System passed all testing phases successfully.

Performance metrics indicated that the system operates efficiently, even with a substantial amount of data.

The data structure, including the use of linked lists for students and courses, met the project objectives of providing a flexible and scalable solution for managing student information.

CHAPTER 3

3.1 Conclusion:

The Student Management System (SMS) project, implemented using the C programming language, has successfully achieved its objectives of providing a robust platform for student administration. Key findings from the project highlight its effectiveness in managing student data, course information, and attendance records. The system offers a user-friendly interface, facilitating easy interaction for tasks such as adding new students, viewing student details, marking attendance, and exporting data.

One of the notable successes of the project is its ability to handle multiple courses for each student through a linked list structure. This feature enhances the system's flexibility, allowing for comprehensive tracking of academic performance. The implementation of attendance tracking further contributes to the system's functionality, providing a visual representation of a student's attendance history.

The project successfully addresses challenges related to data organization and manipulation, demonstrating its efficiency in managing student records. The CSV export functionality adds a practical dimension to the system, allowing institutions to store and analyze student data externally.

While the project has met its primary objectives, there are opportunities for future enhancements, such as incorporating additional features for more comprehensive student profiles and refining the user interface for an even more intuitive user experience. Overall, the Student Management System project serves as a valuable tool for educational institutions seeking an efficient and organized approach to student administration.

3.2 Future Work:

Future Work for the Student Management System Project:

User Authentication and Security: Implement user authentication to restrict access to sensitive data. This ensures that only authorized personnel can add, modify, or delete student records. Additionally, consider encrypting sensitive information stored in the system.

Graphical User Interface (GUI): Enhance the user experience by developing a graphical user interface. A GUI can simplify interactions, improve navigation, and make the system more user-friendly, especially for those not familiar with command-line interfaces.

Database Integration: Integrate a database system (e.g., SQLite, MySQL) to persistently store student data. This allows for better data management, scalability, and facilitates data retrieval, especially in scenarios with a large number of students.

Automated Notifications: Implement a notification system to alert students, faculty, and administrators about important events such as upcoming exams, assignment deadlines, or low attendance. This feature can enhance communication and engagement.

Reporting and Analytics: Develop a reporting module to generate comprehensive reports on student performance, attendance trends, and other relevant metrics. Analytics tools can provide valuable insights for educational planning and decision-making.

Course Management Enhancements: Extend the course management functionality to allow for more dynamic course-related operations, such as updating course details, removing courses, and associating multiple courses with a single student.

Mobile Application: Create a mobile application version of the Student Management System, enabling users to access information on the go. This can enhance accessibility and convenience for both students and administrators.

Data Validation and Error Handling: Implement robust data validation mechanisms and error-handling procedures to ensure the system's stability. This includes validating

user inputs, handling unexpected scenarios gracefully, and providing meaningful error messages.

Integration with Learning Management Systems (LMS): Integrate the Student Management System with existing Learning Management Systems to create a comprehensive educational platform. This integration can streamline processes and provide a seamless experience for both students and educators.

Audit Trail: Implement an audit trail feature to track changes made to student records, including additions, modifications, and deletions. This can enhance accountability and assist in resolving discrepancies or unauthorized access.

Multi-Institution Support: Modify the system to support multiple educational institutions or departments within a university. This extension can accommodate diverse organizational structures and administrative requirements.

Automated Backups: Develop a mechanism for automated data backups to prevent data loss in case of system failures or unexpected events. Regular backups ensure that critical information is recoverable in the event of a system malfunction.

Integration with Calendar Systems: Integrate the attendance system with calendar applications, making it easier for students and faculty to track academic schedules, holidays, and important events.

Student Performance Predictions: Explore machine learning algorithms to predict student performance based on historical data. This predictive analysis can provide insights into potential academic challenges and allow for proactive intervention.

Feedback System: Implement a feedback system to gather input from students and faculty. This can help identify areas for improvement, enhance user satisfaction, and ensure that the system meets the evolving needs of its users.