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PROJECT: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A BIOMETRIC STUDENT'S
ATTENDANCE MOBILE APPLICATION

TASK TWO : REQUIREMENT GATHERING

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ABSTRACT

The Biometric Class Attendance Register app revolutionizes the traditional method of tracking student attendance in educational institutions through the seamless integration of advanced biometric technology. This innovative application aims to modernize attendance management, offering educators and administrators a powerful tool to streamline processes, enhance accuracy, and ensure data security. At its core, the app automates attendance tracking by employing sophisticated biometric modalities such as fingerprint or facial recognition. Students' unique biometric data serve as their digital identity, eliminating the need for cumbersome manual attendance sheets or barcode scanning. With a simple touch of their fingertip or a glance at the camera, students can swiftly register their attendance, ensuring a frictionless experience that maximizes class time. Designed with accessibility in mind, the app is compatible across various devices, including smartphones and tablets. Whether in a traditional classroom setting or a remote learning environment, educators can effortlessly track attendance, ensuring accountability regardless of the teaching modality. The user-friendly interface of the app further enhances its appeal. Intuitive navigation and clear prompts guide both educators and students through the attendance registration process, minimizing learning curves and maximizing efficiency. Accessibility features are also integrated to accommodate users with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and equal access to the attendance system.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the modern educational landscape, the need for efficient and accurate attendance tracking systems has become increasingly evident. Traditional methods of attendance taking, such as manual paper-based systems or basic digital solutions, often suffer from inaccuracies, delays, and inefficiencies. To address these challenges, there is a growing interest in implementing biometric class attendance registers, leveraging biometric technologies such as fingerprint or facial recognition for automated and real-time attendance tracking.

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the requirement gathering process for developing a biometric class attendance register. Through an in-depth analysis of stakeholder needs, current processes, pain points, and areas for improvement, this report aims to provide valuable insights for designing an effective and user-friendly biometric attendance solution.

1.1 Overview

The Biometric Class Attendance Register project aims to modernize and streamline the process of tracking student attendance in educational institutions using biometric technology. By implementing a biometric attendance system, the project seeks to improve accuracy, efficiency, and security while reducing administrative burden and potential errors associated with manual attendance tracking methods.

1.2 Objectives

- **Automate Attendance Tracking:** Implement a biometric attendance system that automates the process of capturing and recording student attendance using biometric modalities such as fingerprint or facial recognition.
- **Enhance Accuracy and Reliability:** Improve the accuracy and reliability of attendance records by eliminating errors associated with manual data entry and verification.
- **Improve Efficiency:** Streamline the attendance tracking process for teachers and students, reducing the time and effort required for attendance management tasks.
- **Ensure Data Security and Privacy:** Implement robust security measures to protect biometric data and ensure compliance with privacy regulations, such as obtaining informed consent from users and encrypting sensitive data.
- **Facilitate Integration:** Develop APIs or integration protocols to enable seamless data exchange with existing school systems, including student information systems (SIS) and learning management systems (LMS), ensuring interoperability and data consistency.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS AND ROLES

2.1 Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder analysis is a crucial step in understanding the needs, requirements, and expectations of those who will be affected by or involved in the development and implementation of a biometric class attendance register. Let's explore each stakeholder group in detail:

2.1.1 Teachers

Role: Teachers are the primary users responsible for taking attendance during classes. They play a pivotal role in ensuring the accurate and timely recording of student attendance.

Responsibilities:

- **Taking attendance:** Teachers are tasked with the responsibility of recording student attendance at the beginning of each class session.
- **Monitoring attendance patterns:** They need to track students' attendance trends over time to identify patterns of absenteeism or tardiness.
- **Reporting:** Teachers may be required to generate attendance reports for administrative purposes or to provide feedback to students.

Needs and Expectations:

- **Efficiency:** Teachers require a streamlined and efficient attendance tracking process that minimizes disruptions to instructional time.
- **Accuracy:** They expect the attendance system to provide accurate and reliable data to support decision-making and reporting.
- **Integration:** Integration with other systems, such as grading or student information systems, can streamline administrative tasks for teachers.

2.1.2 Students

Role: Students are the end-users who interact with the attendance system to register their presence in class.

Responsibilities:

- **Registering attendance:** Students need to actively participate in the attendance tracking process by verifying their presence using biometric authentication.
- **Compliance:** It is the responsibility of students to comply with attendance policies established by their educational institution.

Needs and Expectations:

- **Ease of use:** Students expect the attendance system to be user-friendly and intuitive, with minimal barriers to entry.
- **Privacy:** They have concerns about the security and privacy of their biometric data and expect safeguards to protect their personal information.
- **Transparency:** Students may seek transparency regarding how their attendance data is collected, stored, and used by the institution.

2.1.3 Administrators

Role: Administrators oversee data management, reporting, and system administration related to attendance tracking.

Responsibilities:

- **Data management:** Administrators are responsible for maintaining accurate attendance records and ensuring data integrity.
- **Reporting:** They may need to generate attendance reports for various stakeholders, including faculty, parents, and accreditation bodies.
- **System administration:** Administrators manage the technical aspects of the attendance system, including configuration, updates, and user permissions.

Needs and Expectations:

- **Data accuracy:** Administrators require accurate and reliable attendance data to support decision-making and compliance with institutional policies.

- **Customization:** They may need the ability to customize attendance tracking parameters and generate reports tailored to specific requirements.
- **Compliance and security:** Administrators expect the attendance system to comply with data protection regulations and implement robust security measures to safeguard sensitive information.

3. RESEARCH AND BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

3.1 Assessing Biometric Technology

Assessing biometric technology involves evaluating different biometric modalities based on their accuracy, reliability, scalability, and user acceptance, as well as considering practicality and suitability within the classroom environment. By carefully weighing these factors and conducting thorough evaluations, educational institutions can select the most appropriate biometric solution to meet their attendance tracking needs while ensuring user satisfaction and data security.

3.1.1 Evaluation of Biometric Modalities

Objective: Assess biometric modalities based on accuracy, reliability, scalability, and user acceptance.

Explanation:

- Biometric modalities are the methods used to capture and verify individuals' unique physiological or behavioral characteristics for identification or authentication purposes.
- Common biometric modalities include fingerprint recognition, facial recognition, iris scanning, voice recognition, and palm vein recognition.
- Evaluation criteria for biometric modalities:
- Accuracy: Measure of how reliably the biometric system can distinguish between different individuals and correctly identify or authenticate users. Accuracy is typically expressed as a false acceptance rate (FAR) and false rejection rate (FRR).
- Reliability: Consistency and stability of biometric measurements over time and across different conditions (e.g., variations in lighting, environmental factors).
- Scalability: Ability of the biometric system to accommodate varying numbers of users and handle increased workloads without significant degradation in performance or accuracy.
- User Acceptance: Perception of users towards the biometric modality, including ease of use, comfort, and willingness to adopt the technology.

- Biometric modalities should be evaluated under real-world conditions to assess their performance in the intended deployment environment, including factors such as lighting conditions, user demographics, and usage scenarios.
- Pilot testing and usability studies can provide valuable insights into user acceptance and practical considerations, allowing stakeholders to make informed decisions about which biometric modality is most suitable for the classroom environment.

3.1.2 Consideration of Practicality and Suitability

Objective: Consider practicality and suitability within the classroom environment, including device compatibility and ease of use.

Explanation:

- Practicality and suitability factors determine the feasibility and effectiveness of deploying biometric technology in educational settings, particularly classrooms.
- Considerations for practicality and suitability:
- Device Compatibility: Biometric devices should be compatible with existing hardware infrastructure, such as computers, tablets, or smartphones, commonly used in classrooms. Compatibility ensures seamless integration and ease of deployment.
- Ease of Use: Biometric devices should be intuitive and easy to use for both teachers and students. User-friendly interfaces and clear instructions can help minimize user errors and facilitate adoption.
- Cost-Effectiveness: Consideration of cost implications, including initial investment, maintenance, and operational expenses, is critical. The chosen biometric solution should offer a balance between performance and affordability.
- Privacy and Security: Biometric technology should incorporate privacy-enhancing features, such as data encryption, secure storage, and access controls, to protect individuals' privacy and prevent unauthorized access or misuse of biometric data.
- Pilot deployments and user feedback sessions can help validate the practicality and suitability of biometric solutions in real-world classroom environments. Feedback from teachers, students, and administrators can inform adjustments and refinements to optimize usability and effectiveness.

4. USER EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

User experience requirements for the biometric class attendance system encompass intuitive interface design, mobile compatibility, and accessibility features. By prioritizing user satisfaction, accessibility, and inclusivity, educational institutions can ensure that the

attendance system is user-friendly, accessible, and accommodating to the diverse needs of teachers and students.

4.1 Intuitive Interface

Objective: Designing a user-friendly interface that simplifies attendance registration for teachers and students.

Explanation:

- An intuitive interface is crucial for ensuring that the attendance registration process is straightforward and effortless for both teachers and students.
- Design principles such as simplicity, consistency, and clarity should guide the development of the user interface (UI), minimizing complexity and cognitive load.

For teachers:

- The interface should provide clear prompts and instructions for taking attendance, guiding them through the process step by step.
- Intuitive controls and navigation options should allow teachers to easily access attendance functions, such as marking present, absent, or tardy, and viewing attendance summaries.

For students:

- The interface should be visually appealing and engaging, encouraging active participation in the attendance registration process.
- Students should be able to verify their attendance quickly and easily, with minimal effort required to navigate through the system.
- User testing and feedback sessions can help identify usability issues and refine the interface design to optimize user satisfaction and efficiency.

4.2 Mobile Compatibility

Objective: Ensuring accessibility across various devices, including smartphones and tablets.

Explanation:

- Mobile compatibility is essential for ensuring that the attendance system is accessible to users across different devices and platforms, including smartphones and tablets.
- Many teachers and students may prefer to use mobile devices for attendance tracking, especially in classrooms where desktop computers or laptops may not be readily available.
- The attendance system should be responsive and adaptable to different screen sizes and resolutions, providing a consistent user experience across devices.

- Mobile-specific features, such as touch-friendly controls, gesture-based interactions, and offline functionality, can enhance usability and convenience for users on mobile devices.
- Compatibility testing should be conducted across a range of devices, operating systems, and browsers to identify and address any compatibility issues or inconsistencies, Scalability and Integration.

5. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS GATHERING

5.1 Hardware Requirements

5.1.1 Biometric Devices

Compatible biometric devices such as fingerprint scanners, facial recognition cameras, iris scanners, etc., depending on the chosen biometric modality.

5.1.2 Server Infrastructure

Sufficient server resources to host the application and manage user authentication requests, database operations, and data storage. This includes adequate processing power, memory, and storage capacity.

5.1.3 Network Infrastructure

Reliable network connectivity to facilitate communication between the biometric devices, client applications, and server infrastructure.

5.2 Software Requirements

5.2.1 Operating System

The application will be Compatible with Android and iOS operating systems.

5.2.2 Database Management System (DBMS)

Support for a specific DBMS for storing user data, attendance records, and system configurations.

6. FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS GATHERING

6.1 Biometric Data Capture

Objective: Implement biometric modalities such as fingerprint or facial recognition for secure and accurate attendance verification.

Explanation:

- Biometric data capture involves the use of unique physical characteristics, such as fingerprints or facial features, to verify the identity of individuals.
- Fingerprint recognition systems capture and analyze fingerprint patterns, while facial recognition systems identify individuals based on facial features.
- These biometric modalities provide a high level of security and accuracy in attendance verification, as they are difficult to forge or duplicate.
- The system should include mechanisms for enrolling biometric data from students and teachers securely, ensuring privacy and compliance with data protection regulations.
- Biometric data capture devices, such as fingerprint scanners or facial recognition cameras, should be integrated into the attendance system's hardware infrastructure.

6.2 Real-time Tracking

Objective: Ensure attendance records are updated instantly upon biometric verification to provide timely and accurate data.

Explanation:

- Real-time tracking ensures that attendance records are updated immediately after biometric verification, providing instant visibility into students' attendance status.
- This allows teachers to monitor attendance in real-time during class sessions, identify absent students promptly, and take appropriate actions as needed.
- Real-time tracking also enhances data accuracy by eliminating delays and discrepancies associated with manual or batch processing of attendance data.
- The attendance system should have the capability to communicate with biometric data capture devices and update attendance records in real-time, either locally or through a network connection.

6.3 Integration

Objective: Ensure seamless integration with existing school systems, including student information systems (SIS) and learning management systems (LMS), for data synchronization and reporting.

- **Explanation:**
- Integration with SIS and LMS platforms enables seamless data exchange and synchronization between the attendance system and other critical school systems.
- Integration with the SIS allows for the automatic synchronization of student demographic data, class schedules, and enrollment status, ensuring accurate attendance tracking.
- Integration with the LMS facilitates the exchange of attendance data with online course materials, grades, and assignments, providing a holistic view of student engagement and performance.
- The attendance system should support standard integration protocols and APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) to enable interoperability with a wide range of SIS and LMS platforms.
- Data synchronization should be bidirectional, allowing changes made in one system to be reflected automatically in the other systems, minimizing data discrepancies and manual data entry.

6.4 Reporting

Objective: Generate comprehensive attendance reports for teachers and administrators, enabling data-driven decision-making.

Explanation:

- Attendance reports provide valuable insights into student attendance patterns, trends, and compliance with attendance policies.
- The attendance system should support the generation of customizable reports, allowing users to select specific criteria, such as date ranges, classes, or student groups.
- Reports should include detailed attendance summaries, individual student attendance records, and trend analysis reports, enabling teachers and administrators to identify patterns and make informed decisions.
- Reporting features should be user-friendly, with options for exporting reports in various formats (e.g., PDF, Excel) and scheduling automated report generation and distribution.
- The system should also support role-based access control, ensuring that only authorized users can access and generate attendance reports, maintaining data privacy and security.

7. NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS GATHERING

7.1 Considering Compliance and Security

Ensuring compliance with data protection regulations such as GDPR and implementing robust security measures are essential considerations when developing a biometric class attendance register. By incorporating features for GDPR compliance and secure storage of biometric data, educational institutions can protect individuals' privacy and security while effectively managing attendance tracking processes.

7.1.1 GDPR Compliance

Objective: Ensure adherence to data protection regulations, especially regarding the collection and processing of biometric data.

Explanation:

- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a comprehensive data protection regulation that governs the collection, processing, and storage of personal data of individuals within the European Union (EU).
- Biometric data, such as fingerprints or facial recognition data, is considered sensitive personal data under the GDPR due to its unique and identifiable nature.
- Educational institutions must comply with GDPR requirements when collecting and processing biometric data for attendance tracking purposes.
- Compliance with GDPR involves obtaining explicit consent from individuals for the collection and processing of their biometric data, providing transparency about how the data will be used, and ensuring data subjects' rights, such as the right to access, rectify, or delete their data.
- The biometric class attendance register should incorporate features to obtain informed consent from students and teachers for the collection and processing of their biometric data. This may include providing clear and transparent privacy notices and obtaining explicit consent through consent forms or digital consent mechanisms.
- Additionally, the system should implement data protection measures to ensure the security and integrity of biometric data, such as encryption, pseudonymization, and data minimization.

7.1.2 Secure Storage

Objective: Implement encryption and access control mechanisms to safeguard biometric data from unauthorized access or breaches.

Explanation:

- Secure storage of biometric data is essential to prevent unauthorized access, tampering, or breaches that could compromise individuals' privacy and security.
- Encryption is a fundamental security measure that protects biometric data by converting it into a coded format that can only be decrypted with the appropriate cryptographic key. All biometric data stored in the system should be encrypted both in transit and at rest to prevent unauthorized interception or access.
- Access control mechanisms should be implemented to restrict access to biometric data to authorized users only. This involves assigning unique user accounts with specific permissions and roles, such as administrators, teachers, and students, and enforcing strong authentication methods, such as passwords or multi-factor authentication.
- Audit logs should be maintained to track access to biometric data and detect any unauthorized or suspicious activities. Administrators should have the ability to monitor access logs and investigate any security incidents promptly.
- Regular security assessments and vulnerability scans should be conducted to identify and address potential security vulnerabilities in the system. This may involve penetration testing, code reviews, and security audits conducted by qualified security professionals.
- In the event of a data breach or security incident, the system should have protocols in place for incident response, including notifying affected individuals, regulatory authorities, and implementing remediation measures to mitigate the impact of the breach.

7.2 Scalability

7.2.1 Designing the system to handle varying class sizes and accommodate future growth without compromising performance

Objective: Ensure that the system can effectively manage attendance tracking for classes of different sizes and accommodate future growth without experiencing performance degradation.

Explanation:

- Educational institutions vary widely in terms of class sizes, ranging from small seminar groups to large lecture halls with hundreds of students. The attendance system must be capable of handling this variability without sacrificing performance.
- Scalability involves designing the system architecture and infrastructure to accommodate increasing data loads and user volumes as the institution grows or as class sizes fluctuate.
- Key considerations for scalability include:
- Scalable Architecture: Designing a modular and scalable architecture that can easily scale up or down based on demand. This may involve adopting cloud-based

infrastructure or containerization technologies to dynamically allocate resources as needed.

- **Load Balancing:** Implementing load balancing mechanisms to distribute incoming traffic evenly across multiple servers or instances, ensuring optimal performance and resource utilization.
- **Database Scalability:** Employing scalable database solutions, such as NoSQL databases or sharding techniques, to handle large volumes of attendance data efficiently and prevent database bottlenecks.
- **Caching and Optimization:** Utilizing caching mechanisms and performance optimization techniques to reduce latency and improve response times, particularly during peak usage periods.
- **Monitoring and Capacity Planning:** Implementing monitoring tools and conducting regular capacity planning exercises to identify performance bottlenecks and proactively scale resources to meet growing demands.
- By designing the system with scalability in mind, educational institutions can ensure that the attendance system remains responsive, reliable, and performant even as class sizes and user volumes increase over time.

7.3 Legal and Ethical Considerations

Legal and ethical considerations related to biometric data collection and processing involve obtaining informed consent from users and implementing robust security measures to protect biometric data and ensure compliance with privacy regulations. By addressing these considerations, educational institutions can demonstrate a commitment to protecting individuals' privacy rights and maintaining the security and integrity of biometric data collected for attendance tracking purposes.

7.3.1 Obtaining Informed Consent

Objective: Ensure that users provide informed consent for the collection and processing of their biometric data.

Explanation:

- Informed consent is a fundamental principle of data protection and privacy regulations, requiring individuals to understand and voluntarily agree to the collection and processing of their personal data, including biometric data.
- Obtaining informed consent involves providing users with clear and transparent information about the purpose of collecting biometric data, how it will be used, who will have access to it, and any potential risks or implications.
- Key considerations for obtaining informed consent include:

- **Transparency:** Providing clear and easily understandable explanations of the biometric data collection process, its purpose, and its potential impact on users' privacy.
- **Choice:** Giving users the option to consent or withhold consent for the collection and processing of their biometric data. Consent should be freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous.
- **Consent Forms:** Using consent forms or digital consent mechanisms to document users' consent to the collection and processing of their biometric data. Consent forms should be written in clear and concise language and include information about users' rights regarding their data.
- **Withdrawal of Consent:** Informing users of their right to withdraw consent at any time and providing mechanisms for them to do so easily.
- **Educational institutions** should establish processes and procedures for obtaining and managing informed consent from students, teachers, and other stakeholders involved in the biometric attendance system. This may include developing privacy policies, consent forms, and educational materials to inform users about their rights and responsibilities regarding biometric data.

7.3.2 Implementation of Robust Security Measures

Objective: Protect biometric data and ensure compliance with privacy regulations through the implementation of robust security measures.

Explanation:

- Biometric data is sensitive personal information that requires special protection due to its unique and identifiable nature. Educational institutions have a legal and ethical obligation to safeguard biometric data from unauthorized access, disclosure, or misuse.
- Implementation of robust security measures involves adopting a multi-layered approach to protect biometric data at rest, in transit, and during processing.
- Key security measures for protecting biometric data include:
- **Encryption:** Encrypting biometric data both in transit and at rest to prevent unauthorized access or interception. Strong encryption algorithms and key management practices should be implemented to ensure data confidentiality.
- **Access Control:** Implementing access controls and authentication mechanisms to restrict access to biometric data to authorized users only. Role-based access control (RBAC) and least privilege principles should be applied to limit access to sensitive data based on users' roles and responsibilities.
- **Secure Storage:** Storing biometric data in secure and tamper-proof storage systems, such as encrypted databases or secure hardware modules. Data storage systems should be regularly monitored and audited to detect and respond to any unauthorized access attempts or security breaches.

- **Audit Trails:** Maintaining detailed audit trails and logs of all activities related to biometric data access, modification, or deletion. Audit logs should be securely stored and regularly reviewed to identify and investigate suspicious or unauthorized activities.
- **Security Awareness Training:** Providing security awareness training to employees, contractors, and other stakeholders involved in the handling of biometric data. Training should cover best practices for data security, privacy compliance, and incident response.
- Compliance with privacy regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), requires educational institutions to implement appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect biometric data and ensure compliance with data protection principles.
- Regular security assessments, penetration testing, and vulnerability scanning should be conducted to identify and address potential security vulnerabilities in the biometric attendance system. Security controls should be periodically reviewed and updated to mitigate emerging threats and maintain data security.

7.4 Performance Objectives

This refers to the system's ability to operate efficiently and effectively under varying conditions while maintaining optimal speed, responsiveness, and reliability.

7.4.1 Primary Goals

- **Automate Attendance Tracking:** Implement a system that automates the process of capturing and recording attendance, reducing the reliance on manual data entry.
 - **Reduce Errors:** Minimize errors in attendance tracking to improve data accuracy and reliability.
- Improve Efficiency:** Streamline the attendance tracking process to save time for teachers and students, allowing them to focus more on teaching and learning.

CONCLUSION

The requirement gathering process for a biometric class attendance register involves a comprehensive analysis of stakeholder needs, current processes, and technological considerations. By addressing these aspects systematically, educational institutions can develop an effective and user-friendly attendance solution that enhances accuracy, efficiency, and data security. The insights provided in this report serve as a foundation for the design and implementation of a robust biometric attendance system tailored to the unique requirements of educational environments.

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