WWW.IJRPR.COM

International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Smart Attendance Management System Using Face Recognition And Fingerprint Authentication

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ABSTRACT :

This paper presents a Smart Attendance Management System Using Face Recognition that automates attendance marking using a camera and OpenCV. The system captures and matches faces against a local SQLite database, recording attendance in real time. Developed using Java, Python, and OpenCV, it features a user-friendly interface and communicates status updates to a Python-based dashboard. A QR code module is included as a backup for cases where face recognition fails. The system auto-starts on boot, reducing manual effort and improving accuracy. Future upgrades may include AI-based emotion detection and cloud integration for scalability.

Keywords: Face Recognition, Smart Attendance System, OpenCV, Real-Time Monitoring, Automation

1.INTRODUCTION

Accurate attendance monitoring is vital in both educational and corporate settings. Traditional approaches—such as manual registers or RFID card systems—can be inefficient, susceptible to errors, and vulnerable to manipulation. These shortcomings underline the necessity for a more dependable, contactless, and automated alternative. In response, face recognition-based attendance systems have gained popularity, offering improved accuracy, security, and efficiency.

This paper introduces a Smart Attendance Management System that leverages facial recognition technology to automate attendance marking. The system integrates computer vision, IoT, and automation principles to provide a real-time, user-friendly solution for managing attendance.

The core of the system consists of an Android device or camera module powered by OpenCV, which handles real-time face detection and recognition. Captured images are matched against a pre-existing database stored in SQLite. Upon successful identification, the system records the individual's attendance along with a timestamp.

To ensure reliable performance, the system utilizes the following key components:

1. Camera Module: Captures live facial images for processing.
2. OpenCV: Handles facial feature detection and comparison.
3. SQLite Database: Stores encoded face data and user information.
4. QR Code Scanner: Serves as a backup method in scenarios where facial recognition is not feasible (e.g., low light, partial obstructions).

The backend is implemented using Java and Python to manage the interface, system logic, and data processing. A Python-based desktop UI displays real-time recognition feedback, attendance logs, and alerts in case of system errors. The recognition engine runs concurrently, and data is synchronized over a local network using MQTT or similar protocols to ensure secure and responsive performance.

To support continuous operation, the system is configured to launch automatically on device startup. This feature makes it suitable for deployment in environments requiring consistent attendance tracking, such as classrooms and workplaces.

By automating the process, this solution reduces manual workload, prevents fraudulent entries, and significantly improves the accuracy of attendance records. Planned future enhancements include integrating cloud-based data storage for centralized access, incorporating AI-driven analytics for behavior tracking, and enabling scalability for large-scale deployments.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

1. Face Recognition Based Attendance System using Machine Learning

Authors: Shaik Nayab Rasool, V. Surendra
Journal: *International Journal of Advanced Research in Electrical, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering*
Year: 2022
Summary: This study presents a facial recognition-based attendance system that uses Haar Cascade and LBPH algorithms for face detection and recognition. The system is implemented using OpenCV and Python, with a local database for storing attendance logs. It emphasizes accuracy in realtime

face detection and efficient time tracking in classroom environments. ijareeie.com

2. Real-Time Face Recognition for Attendance System Using Python and OpenCV

Authors: A.V. Chandrawanshi, M. Balani, H. Jain
Journal: *International Journal of Computer Science and Mobile Computing*
Year: 2021
Summary: This paper proposes a smart attendance system that captures student images using a webcam and matches them against a trained dataset using the OpenCV library in Python. The system automatically marks attendance upon successful recognition and updates a CSV log. It is a costeffective solution for small to medium-scale institutions. ijcsmc.com

3. IoT-Based Smart Attendance System Using Facial

Recognition

Authors: H. Saha, P. Bera, A. Mondal
Journal: *International Journal of Engineering Research & Technology (IJERT)*
Year: 2020
Summary: The authors propose an IoT-enabled face recognition system for attendance that uses Raspberry Pi, Pi camera, and a cloud database. Face data is processed using OpenCV and stored in Firebase. The system also features realtime alerts and attendance monitoring from remote locations. ijert.org

4. Automatic Attendance System Using Face Recognition and Deep Learning

Authors: V. S. Patil, S. B. Kshirsagar
Journal: *IEEE Xplore (Conference Paper)*
Year: 2019
Summary: This study implements a deep learning-based attendance system using convolutional neural networks (CNNs) to improve face recognition accuracy. The system operates in real time and is optimized for classroom environments with varying lighting and angles. It emphasizes high detection accuracy and low false recognition rates. ieeexplore.ieee.org

5. Smart Attendance Monitoring System Using Face Recognition and RFID

Authors: V. Shyam, M. Divya, S. Monisha
Journal: *International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)*
Year: 2023
Summary: This hybrid model integrates face recognition and RFID scanning to enhance reliability. Face data is processed using Haar cascades and stored in a local server. RFID is used as a fallback in the event of recognition failure. The dualsystem improves system flexibility and minimizes errors. ijsrem.com

3. METHODOLOGY

The proposed Smart Attendance Management System Using Face Recognition employs an integrated approach combining computer vision, database management, wireless communication, and real-time monitoring. The methodology consists of several stages, including system architecture design, hardware and software integration, face detection and recognition flow, and user interface communication.

3.1 System Architecture

The system architecture includes the following key components:

- Camera Module – Captures live images of individuals for attendance verification.
- Raspberry Pi / Android Device – Acts as the central processing unit, running face detection and recognition algorithms using OpenCV.
- OpenCV Library – Used for real-time face detection and recognition.

- SQLite Database – Stores registered face encodings and corresponding student or employee information.
- QR Code Scanner (Backup) – Used when face recognition fails due to low lighting or occlusion.
- Python-based UI – Displays real-time attendance updates, recognition status, and logs on a connected laptop or desktop.
- MQTT Protocol / Local Server – Handles communication between the recognition module and the monitoring interface.

3.2 Hardware Design and Integration

The system's hardware is assembled in the following steps:

- Face Registration and Dataset Creation :
  - Users are registered by capturing multiple face images using the camera.
  - Face encodings are generated and stored in the SQLite database alongside user details.
- Live Face Detection and Recognition:
  - A live video stream is processed using OpenCV.
  - Detected faces are compared with registered encodings using algorithms such as LBPH (Local Binary Patterns Histograms) or EigenFaces.
- QR Code Module Integration:
  - A fallback QR code scanner is included for backup attendance marking if facial recognition fails.
  - The system prioritizes facial data but switches to QR scanning when needed.
- Data Logging and Real-Time Display:
  - Recognized faces are logged with time stamps.
  - The system sends data via MQTT protocol or API to the Python-based UI, which visually tracks attendance.

3.3 Working Procedure

The complete system follows a sequential workflow:

Step 1: Face Detection and Matching

- The system captures a live frame using the camera.
- The OpenCV module detects faces and encodes the image.
- The encoded image is compared to the stored dataset.
- If a match is found, the attendance is recorded with the user's name, ID, and timestamp.

Step 2: Attendance Marking and Fallback

- If the face is unrecognized or detection fails:
- The user is prompted to scan their QR code.

Step 3: Data Logging and Monitoring

- Attendance data is transmitted to the Python UI using MQTT or a local network.
- The UI displays real-time recognition status, recorded entries, and alerts.
- Logs are saved in a structured format (CSV or SQL) for future analysis or report generation.

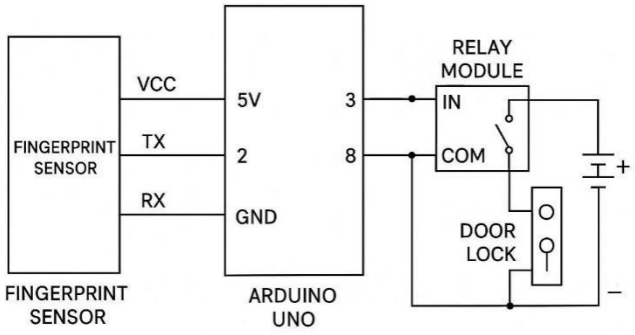

Fig 1. Block Diagram

5. ALGORITHM & PROTOCOL

The system's decision-making logic is implemented using the following algorithms:

1. Face Recognition Algorithm:

- Continuously activates the camera to scan for a face.
- If a face is detected, extract facial features using OpenCV.
- Compare the detected face against the stored face encodings in the SQLite database.
- If a match is found:
- Mark attendance with the user's ID and timestamp. end attendance confirmation to the UI via MQTT.
- If no match is found, proceed to fingerprint verification.

2. Fingerprint Authentication Algorithm:

- Activate fingerprint sensor as a backup method.
- Prompt the user to place their finger on the scanner.
- Compare the fingerprint data with the stored templates.
- If a match is found:
- Mark attendance and log the entry. Send the data to the UI for display.
- If no match is found:
- Display an alert indicating authentication failure.

Advantages

- Automated attendance marking improves accuracy and saves time.
- Dual authentication (face & fingerprint) enhances security and reliability.
- Reduces manual errors and eliminates proxy or fraudulent entries.
- Real-time monitoring and data logging increase administrative transparency.
- Compact and scalable design suitable for classrooms, offices, and enterprises.

Limitations

Face Recognition Accuracy:

Performance may vary based on lighting conditions, facial angle, and quality of the captured image.
Users with facial features that change over time (e.g., due to aging, makeup, or facial hair changes) may experience inaccuracies.

Fingerprint Authentication:

Fingerprint scanners may struggle with dirty, wet, or damaged fingers.
Scanning accuracy can vary based on the quality of the fingerprint sensor and skin conditions (e.g., calluses, scars)

Environmental Factors:

The system's performance can be affected by the environment (e.g., poor lighting, extreme temperatures) during face or fingerprint capture.

Hardware Maintenance:

Periodic cleaning and maintenance of fingerprint scanners and camera hardware are required to ensure accurate readings.

Recalibration and Updates:

The system may require recalibration after long-term use or when there are updates to the recognition algorithms.

Privacy Concerns:

Storing biometric data (facial images or fingerprints) requires proper security measures to avoid unauthorized access or misuse of sensitive personal information.

User Enrollment and Management:

Initial enrollment of users may take time and require multiple attempts for accurate capture of face and fingerprint data.

6. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The Smart Attendance Management System leverages face recognition and fingerprint authentication to streamline and automate the process of recording attendance. This innovative approach minimizes manual effort while enhancing accuracy and security.
The system incorporates technologies like OpenCV for facial detection and recognition, along with a high-precision fingerprint scanner to verify student identities. This two-factor authentication ensures a higher level of reliability and prevents unauthorized access or proxy attendance. All attendance records are securely maintained in a database, enabling real-time tracking and easy access to historical data.
An intuitive Android or web-based application allows administrators and users to manage and monitor attendance effortlessly. The interface is designed for ease of use and can be integrated with existing school or college management systems for smooth operation.
By automating the attendance process, the system significantly reduces human error, increases efficiency, and ensures that records are updated in real time. It also replaces outdated manual methods that are often inaccurate and time-consuming, offering a modern, reliable alternative.

Future Scope:

- Integration with Mobile Applications: The system could be enhanced with a mobile app for real-time notifications and reports, allowing teachers and administrators to track attendance on the go.
- AI and Machine Learning: Future advancements could incorporate AI/ML algorithms for continuous improvement of face recognition accuracy, even in varied lighting conditions and with minor changes in user appearance.
- Multi-factor Authentication: Adding additional layers of authentication, such as voice recognition or NFC card access, could further enhance security and flexibility.
- Cloud Integration: Cloud storage could be implemented for centralized data management, making it easier for institutions to access and manage large amounts of attendance data.
- Biometric Data Encryption: Future versions could focus on improving the security of biometric data by implementing advanced encryption techniques, ensuring better data privacy.

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