AI-Powered Real Time Attendance System

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Abstract— This project presents a software-based AI-powered real-time attendance system that leverages facial recognition technology to automate attendance marking in educational environments. The system captures student faces via camera and processes them using advanced computer vision and deep learning algorithms to accurately recognize individuals. Each recognized student's attendance is recorded automatically in a database with precise timestamps, eliminating manual entry, reducing errors, and saving valuable time. The system provides an intuitive web interface to view comprehensive attendance reports and can generate automated summaries for administrative review.

I. INTRODUCTION

Attendance management is an essential routine in academic institutions; however, traditional methods such as manual roll calls, biometric scanners, or ID cards are slow, error-prone, and susceptible to manipulation. Proxy attendance, lost cards, and hardware maintenance issues reduce reliability and add administrative burden. To overcome these limitations, artificial intelligence and computer vision techniques are increasingly adopted. Facial recognition provides a non-contact, automated, secure, and highly accurate way to identify individuals. The proposed AI-Powered Real-Time Attendance System uses advanced software-based facial recognition to streamline attendance tracking. The system requires only a camera and a standard computing device, making it cost-effective while delivering real-time detection, verification, and report generation.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Image Capture ModuleLive frames are captured from the system webcam using OpenCV. Continuous video streams are read and prepared for face detection.
2. Face Detection ModuleHaar Cascade or MTCNN algorithms detect faces in each frame. The detected faces are cropped and preprocessed to maintain recognition accuracy.
3. Face Recognition ModuleA CNN or FaceNet-based deep learning model compares detected faces with stored database images. Each student is uniquely identified using encoded features.
4. Attendance Logging ModuleRecognized students are automatically logged into a MySQL/SQLite database with name, date, and timestamp. Duplicate entries are prevented.
5. Report Generation ModuleA Flask-based web interface displays daily and historical attendance. Admins can filter, export, and review summaries instantly.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Recognition Accuracy: Above 95% in controlled environmentsProcessing Time: Less than 2 seconds per studentAutomation: Fully automated, no manual interventionScalability: Works smoothly using only a webcam and basic hardware

The system successfully recorded attendance in real time and produced accurate datasets ready for academic use.

Discussion

AI-driven attendance reduces administrative workload and eliminates issues such as proxy attendance and manual errors. CNN/FaceNet ensures reliable face matching, while OpenCV provides fast detection. The system is fully software-based, requiring no costly biometric devices, making it practical for institutions.

IV. HELPFUL HINTS

- Use a well-lit environment for reliable detection.
- Ensure students' faces are front-facing.
- Maintain a clean dataset of student images.

- Use GPU support for large student groups.
- Clean the database regularly.
- Use a stable webcam (minimum 720p).
- Run the system in a Python virtual environment to avoid conflicts.

V. CONCLUSION

The AI-Powered Real-Time Attendance System efficiently automates attendance tracking using facial recognition, increasing accuracy, speed, and transparency. The software-only model makes the solution accessible, cost-effective, and highly scalable for schools and colleges. This project demonstrates how AI can modernize educational administration with improved reliability and operational efficiency.

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