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## FOREWORD

I warmly welcome all and sundry to the volume 3 issue 1 of Federal Polytechnic – Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences (FEPI-JOPAS) which is a peer reviewed multi-disciplinary accredited Journal of international repute. FEPI-JOPAS publishes full length research work, short communications, critical reviews and other review articles. In this issue, readers will find a diverse group of manuscripts of top-rated relevance in pure and applied science, engineering and built environment. Many of the features that you will see in the Journal are result of highly valuable articles from the authors as well as the collective excellent work of our managing editor, publishing editors, our valuable reviewers and editorial board members.

In this particular issue, you will find that Joseph and Adebanji provided innovative technology on light traffic control system. Ogunkoya and Sholotan engaged standard method for microbiological assessment of shawarma from Igbesa metropolis for possible microbial contamination. Ilelaboye and Kumoye unveiled the effect of inclusion of different nitrogen source on growth performance of mushroom. Ogunyinka et al utilized Fletcher Reeves conjugate gradient method as a robust prediction model for candidates' admission to higher institutions. Omotola and Fatunmbi examined the impact of thermal radiation with convective heating on magnetohydrodynamic (MHD), incompressible and viscous motion of non-Newtonian Casson fluid. Aako and Are meticulously investigated factors affecting mode of delivery using binary dummy dependent models. Abiaziem and Ojelade successfully synthesized biologically active silver nanoparticles using *Terminalia catappa* bark as the eco-friendly source.

In addition, Olowosebioba et al. assessed the rectifying effects of various diodes in power supply units using multisim circuit design software programme. Olujimi et al. successfully accomplished the use of fingerprint based biometric attendance system for eliminating examination malpractices with enhanced notification. Alaba reported the nutritional status assessment of school age children (6-12 years) in private primary school in Ilaro. Muhammedlawal et. al. assessed the execution and effect of corporate social responsibilities and return to marketing. Awolola and Sanni's research was about achieving quality of engineering education and training in Nigeria using Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro as the case study. Oladejo and Ebisin expatiated on virtual laboratory as an alternative laboratory for science teaching and learning. Finally, Aneke and Folalu investigated the prospect and problems of the hotels in Ilaro, Ogun State.

I would like to thank and extend my gratitude to my co-editors, editorial board members, reviewers, members of FEPI-JOPAS, especially the Managing Editor, as well as the contributing authors for creating this volume 3 issue 1. The authors are solely responsible for the information, date and authenticity of data provided in their articles submitted for publication in the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro – Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences (FEPI-JOPAS). I am looking forward to receiving your manuscripts for the subsequent publications.

You can visit our website (https://www.fepi-jopas.federalpolyilaro.edu.ng) for more information, or contact us via e-mail us at <u>fepi.jopas@federalpolyilaro.edu.ng</u>.

Thank you and best regards.

E-Signed Prof. Olayinka O. AJANI

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**Experimental** 

## A Fingerprint Based Biometric Attendance System for Eliminating Examination Malpractices with Enhanced Notification

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#### Abstract

The role of attendance in the integrity of examinations in higher institutions of learning cannot be overemphasized. Also, attendance lays more credence to the authenticity of the conduct of examination. The traditional attendance is limited in a number of ways due to its non-interactivity and it is subject to manipulation. This paper presents a Fingerprint Based Biometric Attendance System for Eliminating Examination Malpractices with Enhanced Notification (BASEMEN). BASEMEN uses biometric technology based on students' fingerprints that ensures dynamic updates of legitimate students' records. This means that only qualified students would be allowed to sit and write the examination. The notification subsystem reports match/mismatch of the registered students' fingerprints appropriately. BASEMEN was implemented in Framework7.css (for interface design) using HTML/CSS and PHP/MYSQL. jQuery Ajax was used to send request to PHP using Cross Domain. A combination of PHP/MYSQL (to process the request sent by jQuery Ajax and serves as the backend that communicate with database). The proposed system was tested in a tertiary institution. The result showed that BASEMEN effectively reduced the case of examination malpractices vis-à-vis impersonation, masquerading etc and eliminated the stress of manual examination attendance and record keeping.

Keywords: Fingerprint, Biometric, Attendance System, Classification, Notification, Examination Malpractice.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In tertiary institutions, attendance taking or marking is one of the sure ways to keep as well as tracks the records of students (Ojuawo & Arowolo, 2018). Attendance can also be used to confirm students' identity for taking part in classes or examinations. Hence, the role of attendance in higher institutions of learning cannot be overemphasized. According to Marriam Webster Dictionary, attendance can be defined as the persons or number of persons attending an event. It could also mean the number of times a student attends a class or is present at an examination (Ikuomola, 2018). So, attendance lays more credence to the authenticity of the conduct of examination. Rufai et al. (2012) defined examination as an assessment of learners' knowledge in a given course of study. Examination must be devoid of any form of malpractice in order to be credible. One of the instruments to achieve the credibility of an examination, is the use of attendance. This is why institutions of higher learning consider attendance of the students in an examination very important (Adetiba et al., 2013; Ugwoke & Anyakorah, 2015).

Attendance for examination has been implemented in a number of ways. For instance, the use of paper and pencil in which only accredited students are verified manually into the examination hall by examiners who ensure that only authenticated students sit for preregistered examinations. The second

electromechanical type is using device for authentication of students during examination (Yadav et al., 2018). Thirdly, biometric based attendance is a new paradigm that has just been gaining acceptance in research community. The biometric approach include the use of fingerprint, face recognition, DNA, hand geometry, iris recognition, retina etc (Rufai et al., 2012). Meanwhile, this method has previously been applied to authenticate systems using different physiological traits such as automated teller machine (Coventry et al., 2013), mobile access control (Wójtowicz & Joachimiak, 2016). However, for examination attendance, the use of fingerprints is now prominent (Rufai et al., 2012; Talaviya et al., 2013; Chitresh & Amit 2013), as researchers have studied this methodology passionately.

Traditional paper and pencil form of examination attendance has been observed to be very stressful, time consuming, unreliable (Ugwoke & Anyakorah, 2015), inaccurate and inefficient (Adetiba et al., 2013; Rufai *et al.*, 2012) due to its noninteractivity and errors prone or easily manipulated (Ojuawo & Arowolo, 2018). Electromechanical type is also limited in that it can give false report when malfunctioning and does not give prompt verification of data. Biometric based attendance for examination on the other hand, is fast and convenient but despite its effectiveness, it has not been fully explored and deployed in most institutions in the developing

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## A Fingerprint Based Biometric Attendance System for Eliminating Examination Malpractices with Enhanced Notification

countries (Adeoye, 2014). However, the identification and verification process of biometric methodology is simple, particularly with the use of fingerprints (Soyemi & Isinkaye, 2020). In the identification stage, students' fingerprints are captured as images with the aid of fingerprint scanner, and processed using some sets of rules and stored in a database as templates, while in verification stage, new fingerprints are captured and compared with those stored in the database (Oloruntoba &Akinode, 2020).

One of the main reasons for using attendance in an examination is to curb examination malpractice, which is the undue advantage a student could have over others due to sharp practices during examination (Isinkaye et al., 2020). In fact, the biometric form of attendance has been said to deter various fraudulent activities of the students during examinations such as impersonation, masquerading and so on (Isinkaye et al., 2020). The punishment for examination malpractice is determine by the weight of its offence. For example, impersonation is writing examination on behalf of someone else (Ikuomola, 2018). This is a very serious offence in examination since underserved students may eventually record best performance if unchecked. Impersonation is unintended permissible especially in the traditional paper and pencil-based attendance system due to fatigue and carelessness on the part of invigilators who are responsible to make sure that only accredited candidates sit for examination. Masquerading is similar to impersonation. The impostor here does not intend to write examination or someone else but pretends to be one of the legitimate candidates for examination.

In order to stamp out examination malpractice, presented in this work is a secured fingerprints based biometric system for eliminating examination malpractice with enhanced notification (BASEMEN). BASEMEN presents a biometric technologies for measuring and analyzing biological trait of fingerprints to authenticate students for examination. The structure of this new design is such that students' status can be verified both automatically and manually using their biometric features. The notification subsystem ensures that status of only registered students when verified for a particular examination are reported appropriately. Also, the reports give the administrator adequate information about the registered students based on the verification of their fingerprints stored in the database. This will help to uniquely identify the students for the examination.

#### **Related Work**

Attendance can lay credence to the integrity of examinations in higher institutions of learning. Also, attendance can be used to prevent many known examination malpractices. It is an active research area and researchers have studied this area with various proposed systems and methodologies. For instance, a mobile system running on the Android Operating System was developed by Isinkaye et al., 2020. The system uses Viola-Jones object detection framework and Eigen faces to carry out Facial Recognition of students and take record of attendance in classes in a user-friendly and secure manner. The accuracy of the facial recognition and facial detection abilities of the system were reported as 95% and 78% respectively. Meanwhile, examination malpractice was not the focus of their work.

In Chitresh and Amit (2013), an automatic attendance system using Fingerprint Verification Technique was developed. This work focused on attendance management and the specification of accuracy of the time consumed during enrolment and verification process. Talaviya et al. (2013) developed wireless fingerprint-based attendance system which can send report of the attendance to each student, parents, head of department and lecturers through email and also show updated attendance. The weakness of these works is that their real life application was not demonstrated. In Ojuawo & Arowolo (2018), a mobile based application was developed to reduce the time spent on manual operations, curb loosing of attendance records and curb manipulation of attendance records. Their system was designed only to be operated or used by the lecturer (user), and the system accepts input of course data, such as course code and course title, as well as students' data like student name and student matriculation number. The authors sampled the through lecturers' opinion administration of questionnaire in order to validate it. They further utilized SPSS application to analyze the data from questionnaire.

Shoewu et al., 2018 proposed Smart Attendance Management System (SAMSYS) for an Academic Institution. Their system maintains the attendance records of students adequately and automatically by creating an efficient module that comprises a fingerprint sensor to manage the attendance records of students at all levels in an academic institution. The module enrolls the students at the beginning of each semester with adequate semester course registration. Soyemi & Isinkaye, 2020 developed a Biometric Fingerprint-based Attendance System for Staff Management (BFASSM) to monitor the staff of higher institution using the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Nigeria as case study. The proposed application was designed using C# programming language, Macromedia fireworks and Microsoft Visio. The authors used Microsoft SQL Server for database management at the back end with Windows 7 as the minimum operating system. They claimed that the implementation of this system in any other institution of higher learning will eradicate manual attendance

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taking, curb the problem of infringement and manipulation of staff attendance, create an avenue to make staff resume work punctually and also sign out at the appropriate time. It will also enhance proper documentation of attendance record and bypass the manipulations experienced in the manual process and with the expectation of improved service delivery. These systems may not be able to deter examination malpractices as they lack appropriate notification scheme to report status of legitimate and illegitimate students that are supposed to sit for an examination.

Ikuomola (2015) developed an educational time and attendance management system (EduTAMS) that records and manages the time and attendance of students in a university community. EduTAMS uses fingerprint technology to authenticate every student. The author reported that the result of average time taken per student using fingerprint-based attendance and manual attendance register were 6.65 and 23.66 seconds respectively. The performance of the EduTAMS shows that it provides robust, secured and automatic time and attendance management system for students. However, key features that can stamp out examination malpractices were not considered in the system.

Oloruntoba & Akinode (2020) designed a students' attendance monitoring system that could efficiently monitor student attendance in their various classes in the Department of Computer Science, Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State. Student attendance is marked after a student's biometric identification has been stored in the database. The study developed an electronic class attendance monitoring system using a feature extraction algorithm for matching a fingerprint template and questionnaire was also prepared and administered to sample the opinion of lecturers and students involved. The result from the analysis showed that the electronic method is better. Authors believed that the system would help students not to skip their classes and thereby improves performance. On the flip side, this work did not report the use of notification and the system was for students' class attendance only.

## Architecture for the Fingerprint Based Biometric System for Eliminating Examination Malpractice with Enhanced Notification

The architecture for the fingerprint based biometric system for eliminating examination malpractice with enhanced notification (BASEMEN) is shown in Figure 1. The main task of BASEMEN is to authenticate the candidates for examination by verifying their legitimacy using the fingerprints feature while granting them access to examination hall. The system is based on biometric access control techniques, which is designed with extended graphical user interface using Framework7.css with a combination of HTML/CSS and PHP/MySQL integrated with Microsoft fingerprint reader. The student information is stored by MySQL, which serves as database located in the user's computer or server. The access point is through the use of fingerprint scanner as an input device.

BASEMEN adopted a modular design that is made up of phases namely; registration phase, configuration phase, and authentication phase explain as follows:

## **Registration Phase**

This stage involves pre-registration of candidates by administrator using the biometric features of the students updated on the school portal. At this stage also, the system is pre-registered based on the context aware and personalization using the particulars of lecturer who took the course, the number of students eligible for examination and the venue for the examination are recorded here. The reason for preregistration and storing of information in the database is to be able to recall them for verification of students' status.

#### **Configuration Phase**

For effective usage of the system, it will have to be configured firstly before it can be used for any examination. This is the stage at which the relevant inputs are supply to the system for proper authentication and verification of students. Firstly, the students' data must have been loaded at the registration phase before any configuration can be done. From the configuration interface, the administrator selects the school, the department, level and the particular course that the students will sit for and automatically all information of the pre-registered students are loaded into authentication phase where verification of legitimate students are conducted for the proposed examination.



Figure 1: Architecture for context aware and personalization based biometric examination attendance system.

#### **Authentication Phase**

This phase being the last phase of the proposed system entails two major functions. First, biometric based verification of students' records and reporting. In the biometric based verification, students' records are called from the database once there is a match from the input fingerprint of a particular student and that of the pre-registered fingerprint stored in the database collected during course registration of students. Aside this automated verification, the system also has the ability of verifying the students manually by supplying the Matriculation Number of the student into the allotted portion which will fetch the data of the student as well from the database. However, it should be noted that here that only accredited personnel are given the right to do manual verification, in order to maintain the sanctity of the system. The second part,

which is the reporting system presents the data of the student being verify along with his or her Matriculation Number, photograph and other detail for proper identification. This is to ensure that only legitimate students are allowed to sit for examination and to foreclose all forms of examination malpractices.

## **Interface Design**

The Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the proposed system was designed to be very attractive and easy to use. The user may form the home page select test attendance or examination attendance. The two options lead to a similar interface accept the inscription (label) indicating the page which show either the user open and examination attendance or test attendance. The following screenshorts demonstrate the use of the proposed system.

File View Verific	ation Attendance				System Setup		Biometric Ventication
Schools Courses Courses Courses Course Reg Course Reg Course Tritles Attendance Biodata Setup will download Setup Attendance	d and update selec Unselect All	Time Table Sessions Sensaters Parameters PingerPrint Images LGA Cted records. Pleas	e ensure there is int	Programme Modee Programme Typee Programme Typee School Peee School Peee Statee Statee Programme Statee Programme Statee Programme School Peeee Programme School Peeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee	Proceed	MM	Conviload Records
Current Action: Records Downloaded:	Roady 0			IJ.	•••	/ V V	

Figure 2: shows that the administrator is selecting the appropriate fields for during configuration stage to put the system to use.

	Exam Setup	Biometric Verific
		Download Reco
APPLICATION SETTINGS	FILTERS	Exam Records
Session	Department	Exam Attendan
2017/2018 .	SELECT DEPARTMENT ·	E Test Attendance
Semester	Level Mode	Exam Setup
FIRST ·	SELECT LEVEL - SELECT MODE -	System Setur
SAVE		
534, V 15	OPDATE ////////////////////////////////////	

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Figure 3 shows the examination attendance page where all parameters for the examination are key into the system for effectiveness.

	EType: Examination Attendance	
	ETID Matricnum Signin SignOut	
	355 15010211099 Left Thumb Right	Thumb
	355 10010211059	
	355 1/00210001	
	355 17010311004	
	355 17010211005 FIFTEDS	
	355 17010211006	
	355 17010211007 Department	
	355 17010211008	<u> </u>
	355 17010211000 Lavel	
	355 17010211010 ND 1	~
STUDENT DETAILS	355 F/ORDERING	
	PULL TIME	~
Manufa Ma	355 17010211014 Course	
Matric 140.	355 17010211015 FC UPGRADE AND N	AIN: ~
17010211010	255 17010211016	DED AND

Figure 4 shows the authentication page in automated examination attendance where a student was disapproved when his parameters did not match the information in the database.

	EType: Examination Altendance	-
	ETID Matricnum Signin SignOut	
	355 15010211099 Ceft Thumb Right Thumb	1
	355 16010211059	-
	355 17010311001	
	355 17010211004	-
	355 17010211005 FILTERS	
	355 17010211006	1000
	355 17010211007 COMPUTER SCIENCE	~
	355 17010211008	
	355 1/00/0009 ND I	-
	355 17010211011 Mada	
STUDENT DETAILS	355 17010211012 FULL TIME	~
	355 17010211013	
Matric No.	355 17010211014 Course	
	355 17010211015	
	355 17010211010 UPDAT	TE I

Figure 5: Manual authentication page for examination attendance

Figure 5 shows the manual authentication page for examination attendance when a particular student who had already been rejected by the system can be verify manually by accredited personnel

## **Database Design**

The database is responsible for storing data of students which include the fingerprints sample, students' biodata and course information. Different relational database tables were constructed for these specific assignments. The tables are subjected to

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normalization so as to avoid data redundancies and duplication.

Records of students and course registrations are downloaded to enable the system function optimally in such places where network connectivity is not available once records downloaded and saved onto the local database of the system. The records become available for use, for this purpose, some of the local data tables were created with same schema with online ones.

## Implementation Procedure

The fingerprint verification is performed once a finger is placed on the fingerprint sensor. The fingerprint sensor raises different invent to notify when finger is placed or removed from the fingerprint sensor. The event handler for finger placed rapidly capture finger print sample and compare with the list of fingerprint templates of students in the examination list. If a match is found, sign in time is updated if the sign in switch button is active or sign out time if sign out switch button is active and student had already signed in. A print table report is also available so as to allow hard copy prints of the attendance generated. All examination records are also viewable in a table listing all the course, department, date etc. Finally, all acquired records where expected to be uploaded online, so as to have the record kept, available and retrievable at any time. Each upload record was also included with the system unique MAC address so as to identify from which system records were uploaded.

## System Testing and Validation

Simple comparison of examination malpractice data was adopted to validate the effectiveness of the proposed system. To this end, the number of students involved in examination malpractice in the previous section was collected from Examination Malpractice Committee (EMC) of the Polytechnic so as to check whether the system was able to achieve part of the objectives for which is was designed as depicted in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Students who sat for Examinations in three consecutive 2016/2017, 2	2017/2018 and 2018/2019
Academic Sessions	

Session/Semester	No of Students not involved in	No of Students involved in	Total
	Malpractice	Malpractice	
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 2016/2017	3,145	53	3198
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 2016/2017	3,157	61	3218
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 2017/2018	4,562	42	4604
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 2017/2018	4,538	27	4565
1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 2018/2019	5,872	23	5,895
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 2018/2019	5,865	16	5,881

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The design was tested and run with real life data of National Diploma I (ND I) and Higher National Diploma I (HND I) students' records who sat for First and Second Semester Examinations of 2016/2017, 2017/2018, and 2018/2019 Academic Sessions in Gateway Polytechnic, Saapade.

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Figure 6 Graph showing the sum of no of students involved against those that were not involved in malpractice

TThe data from the testing and validation procedure of the system in the preceding section showed that the number of students involved in examination malpractice drastically reduced as shown in Table 1 when compared to the previous section. For instance, in Table 1, about 1.9% of the students were involved in examination malpractice during the second semester 2016/2017 academic session compare with a fragment of 0.59% of students involved in examination malpractice during the similar second semester of 2017/2018 academic session (Fig. 6). This could be due to the fact that many of them are now aware of the possibility of been detected and caught for fraudulent activities such as impersonation.

## CONCLUSION

This work presents a fingerprint based biometric attendance system for eliminating examination malpractices with enhanced notification (BASEMEN). The system uses biometric methodology that captured fingerprints of registered students in the identification stage and compare them with new feature of their fingerprints during verification stage in order to authenticate students for examination. This reduces the time taken for matching of records and thereby reduces computational cost. To sum up, it is intended to curb the problems of impersonation and masquerading as noticed in the traditional paper and pencil based attendance system. The benefits of BASEMEN include: (1). The use of relational database system ensures that data are stored without the problems of data errors, redundancy and data duplication; (2). The software is very efficient in terms of speed of processing without delaying the students for examinations and modifications are made faster; (3). The system is very flexible to operate and personnel can easily be trained to handle it while file operations are automatically maintained.

The secondary data obtained from EMC of the Polytechnic during the periods under observation showed that BASEMEN is effective and as such achieved the objectives of its design. In future, the authors would like to investigate biometric based student attendance performance especially when different physical traits are combined.

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