

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

AUTOMATED OBJECTIVE AND SINGLE-WORD ANSWER QUESTIONS MARKING USING HANDWRITTEN TEXT RECOGNITION

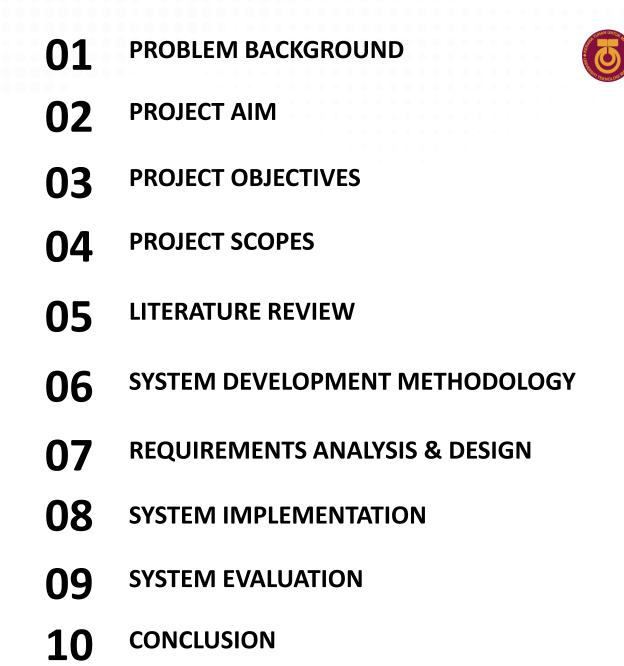
Presented By: Wai Jia Wen (A21EC0139)

Supervisor: Dr. Pang Yee Yong

SECV4134-01 Graphics and Multimedia Software Project II | Session 2024/2025 2

Presentation Video: https://youtu.be/LQQbpeWKRio

Demo Video: https://youtu.be/DVBZ6BLH1Ag





PROBLEM BACKGROUND

- Manual marking is time-consuming and tiring, leading to delays in student feedback (Rowtula et al., 2019).
- Poor handwriting or unclear answers can distract educators and lead to marking mistakes (Oche, 2014).
- Objective and single-word answers are easier to mark than open-ended responses (Süzen et al., 2020).
- Automating these simple formats helps educators focus on complex parts like essays.
- Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) can mark objective answers only, but not handwritten words.
- The SPM English Listening Test includes:
 - o Parts 1–3: Multiple choice
 - Part 4: Single-word answers

OMR alone cannot fully mark this paper.



PROJECT AIM

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Develop an automated objective and single-word answer questions marking mobile application using Handwritten Text Recognition.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES



To identify the requirement of the SPM English Listening Test assessments marking by secondary school English teachers and tutors.



To design and develop
a marking mobile
application that can
mark handwritten
objective and singleword answer questions
for the SPM English
Listening Test.



To **evaluate** the usability and perceived effectiveness of the developed marking mobile application using heuristic evaluation with domain experts.



PROJECT SCOPES

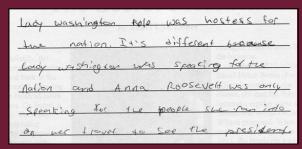
- The application is single-user based and uses computer vision to recognize handwritten answers to simulate the human marking process.
- The application is restricted to mark objective and single-word answer questions only.
- The single-word answer must match the answer scheme provided by the educators.
- The target users for this application are educators, especially secondary school English teachers and tutors.
- The application will use the smartphone camera to scan the students' answer sheets and generate marks.

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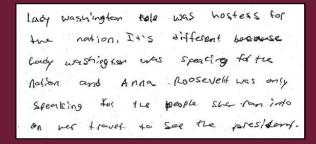
LITERATURE REVIEW



IMAGE PRE-PROCESSING



Scanned Gray-scale Image (Srihari et al., 2008)



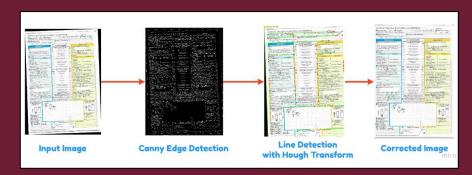
Rule–lines Detected Using the Hough Transform and Removed (Srihari et al., 2008)

01 RULE-LINE REMOVAL

The guidelines on answer sheets are intended to ensure neat handwriting but can hinder text recognition, so need to be removed.

02 DE-SKEW

In some cases, the image acquired might skew slightly. Deskewing is applied to straighten the skewed text lines.



De-skewed Image (Benchekroun, 2022)

03 BINARIZATION

Binarization divides an image into foreground (black) and background (white) pixels, aiding document analysis by simplifying complex backgrounds, varying font colors and sizes, and handling stains and wrinkles.

LITERATURE REVIEW (COMPARISON BETWEEN TEXT DETECTION AND

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SEGMENTATION METHODS)

Text Detection / Segmentation Models	Strengths	Limitations			
Corner Point Detection	Simple step.	Struggle with text in large fonts.			
	Accurately locate text regions in	Trouble with illustrations with highlighted			
	documents.	corners.			
	Works well with various image conditions.	No layout information like paragraphs and lines.			
	High performance.				
CNN-based Approach	Works well with multi-oriented Computational complexity for training.				
	handwritten text detection.				
	Precisely locate text regions using				
	bounding box and pixel links.				
	Efficiently segment text into text-lines.				
Projection Profile (Used)	Efficiently segment text into lines, words	More complex than corner point detection.			
	and characters.	Sensitive to noise.			
	Involved pre-processing steps for better	Potential inaccuracy with overlapped and			
	enhancement.	connected characters.			

LITERATURE REVIEW (COMPARISON BETWEEN OCR MODELS (Google, n.d.;



Gribomont, 2023; Tesseract-Ocr, n.d.; Thammarak et al., 2022))

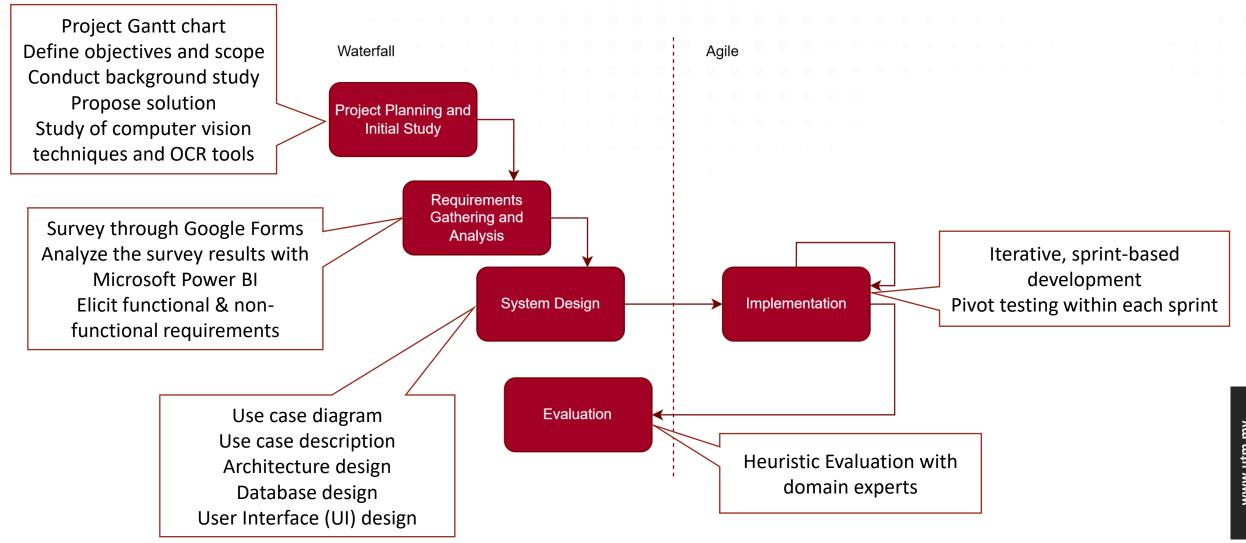
Features	Google Cloud Vision API (🔽 Used)	Tesseract OCR		
Advantages	More accurate text recognition.	Free.		
No need extra development or training.		More accurate layout detection.		
	Support more programming languages.	Can be used in command-line.		
Support more input format.		Only need to download the software and no initial		
		set up.		
Disadvantages	Cost required if exceeds 1000 pages monthly.	Less accurate text recognition.		
Layout detection issues.		Support lesser programming languages.		
Need to follow a series of steps to set up the		Support lesser input format.		
	project and access API key.	Need extra development or training for better		
		accuracy.		





SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGY







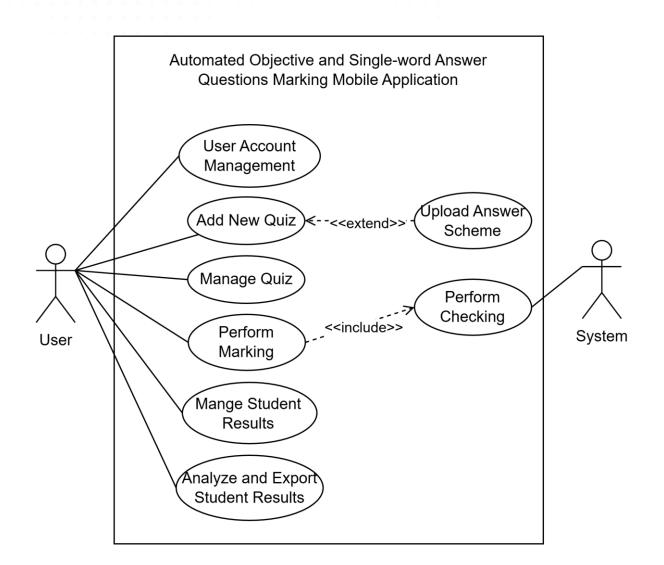
Functional Requirements

- The user must be able to register, log in, logout, reset passwords,
 change email or password, update profile, and delete accounts.
- The user must be able to create, view, update, or delete quizzes.
- The user must be able to upload answer schemes in the required format (.xlsx).
- The user must be able to perform marking by capturing or uploading handwritten answer sheet images.
- The user must be able to view, update, delete, analyze and export student results.
- The application must recognize answers written on blank paper and check them against the uploaded answer scheme.
- The application must store the answer sheet details of each student after checking.

Non-functional Requirements

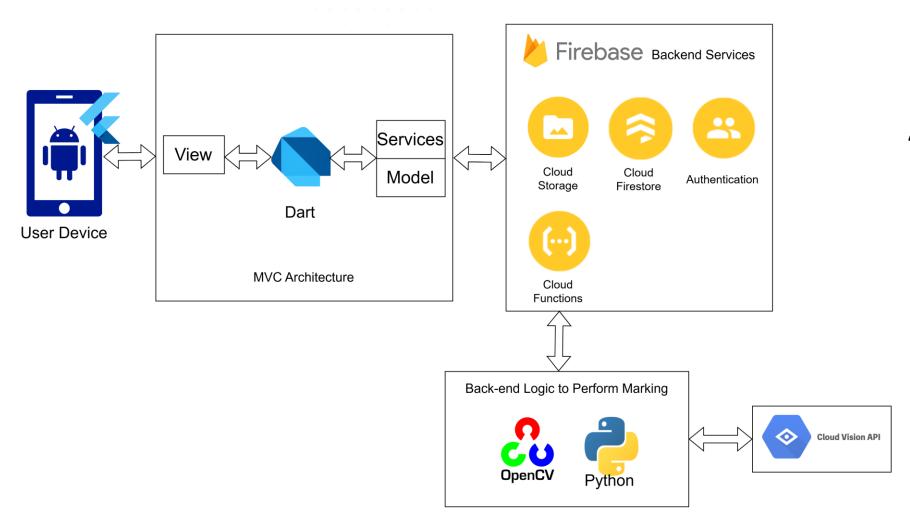
- The application shall have an intuitive UI.
- The application shall recognize handwritten answers using an integrated OCR engine and check them against the uploaded answer scheme.
- The application shall produce consistent results when marking the same answer sheet image.





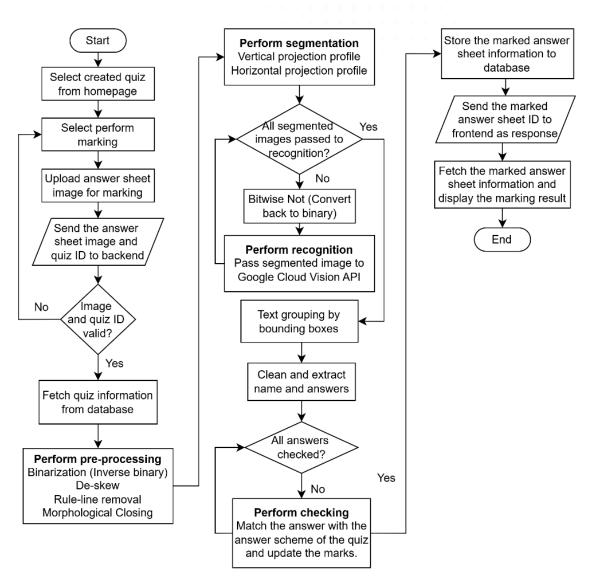
USE CASE DIAGRAM





SYSTEM
ARCHITECTURE
DESIGN





SYSTEM FLOW FOR AUTOMATED MARKING & EXAMPLE ANSWER SHEET

Name : Ali	
1. A	16. B
2. A	17. A
3. B	18. A
4. D	[9. B
\$. C	20. C
6. C	21. Baceball
1. D	22. Football
1. 0	23. Badminton
9. B	24. Bashetball
To. A	20 Swimming
(1. A	26 - Secure
(2. C	27. Interest
(3. D	B. Pressure
14. 0	29. Shopping
15. B	30. Auditions



DATABASE DESIGN

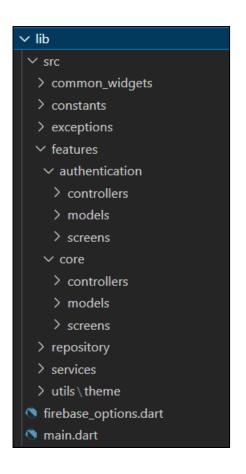
(Firestore - NoSQL)

```
User Document
                               Quiz Document
                                                              AnswerSheet Document
"fullName": string,
                           "quizName": string,
                                                            "studentName": string,
"email": string,
                           "numOfQuestion": number,
                                                            "numOfAnswer": number,
"createdAt":
                           "createdAt": timestamp,
                                                            "marks": number,
                           "answerkey": [
                                                            "sheetImage": string,
   timestamp
                                                            "createdAt": timestamp,
                                "ansID": number,
                                                            "answers": [
                                "ans": [string]
                                                                 "ansID": number,
                                                                 "ans": string,
                                                                 "bbx": {
                                                                     "bottom": double,
                                                                     "left": double.
                                                                     "right": double,
                                                                     "top": double,
                                                                 "correct": boolean,
                                                                 "forceCorrect": boolean
```



ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW

- Based on Model-View-Controller (MVC) architecture
- Uses Flutter for frontend, Firebase for backend
- GetX (get package) for routing and reactive state
- Repositories for Firebase logic
- Services for exports, HTTP, file parsing (independent of Firebase)
- Models for quizzes, users, and answer sheets
- Network checks (internet_connection_checker package) to ensure stable operations





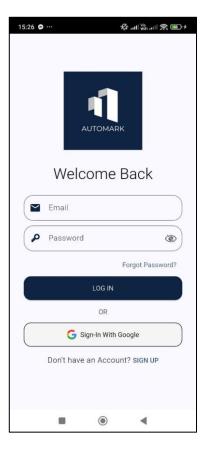
USER ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

- Firebase Authentication with Firestore
- Supports Email/Password & Google SSO (google_sign_in package)
- o Features: Register, Login, Reset Password, Edit Profile, Change Email/Password, Delete Account
- Reauthentication for sensitive actions (Change Email/Password, Delete Account)
- Custom Cloud Function: delete_user_data for full cleanup

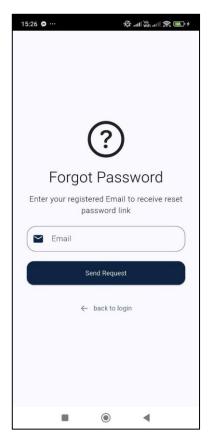
USER ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT - FINAL UI



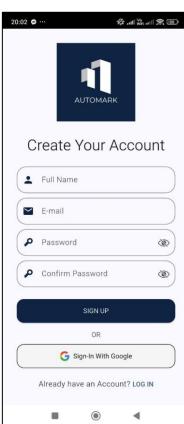
Welcome Page



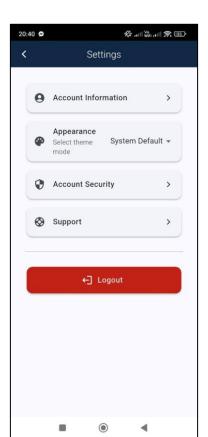
Login Page



Forgot Password Page



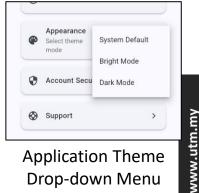
Register Page



Settings Page



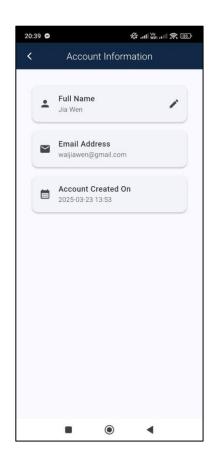
Logout Modal



Drop-down Menu

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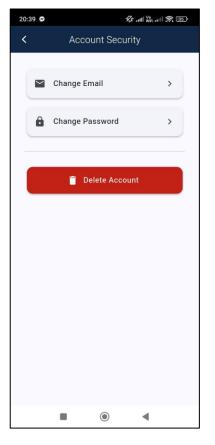
USER ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT - FINAL UI



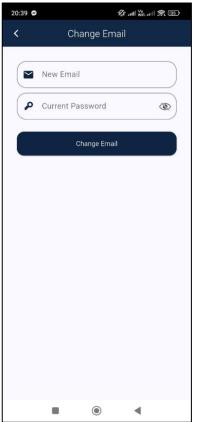
Account Information Page



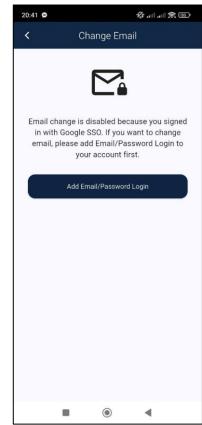
Edit Full Name Modal



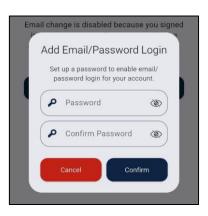
Account Security Page



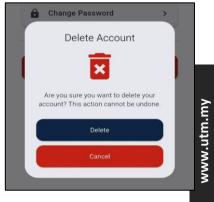
Change Email Page



Change Email Disabled Page



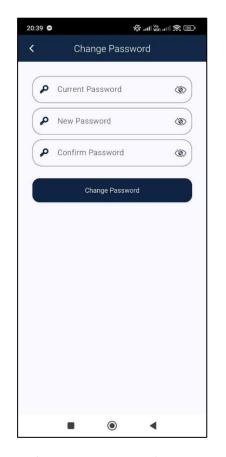
Add Email/Password Login Modal



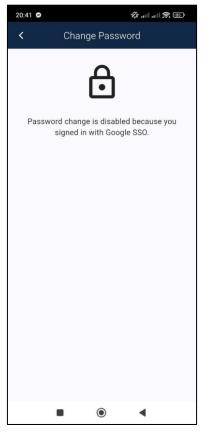
Delete Account Modal



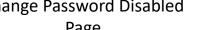
USER ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT - FINAL UI



Change Password Page



Change Password Disabled Page





20:39 👄

Support

Contact Us

Reach support through

waiwen@graduate.utm.my

Guidelines





QUIZ CREATION AND MANAGEMENT

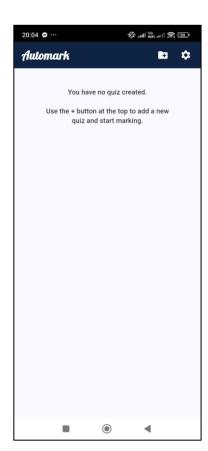
- Form-based quiz creation with validation
- Answer key upload via Excel (.xlsx)
- Parsed using excel package (only Microsoft Excel supported)
- Firebase Firestore for CRUD via QuizRepository
- o Custom Cloud Functions:
 - remark_answer_sheet to re-mark answer sheets on key update
 - delete_quiz_data Cloud Function for full quiz deletion

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SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION



QUIZ CREATION AND MANAGEMENT - FINAL UI





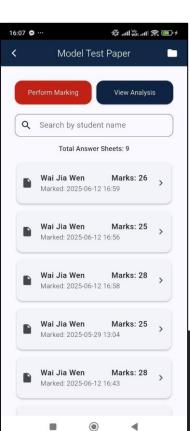




Upload Answer Scheme Modal



Created Quiz Page (No Marked Answer Sheet)



Homepage (No Created Quiz)

Homepage (With Created Quiz)

Create New Quiz Page

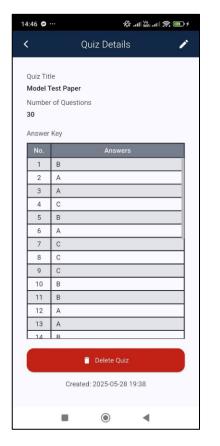
Created Quiz Page (With Marked Answer Sheet)

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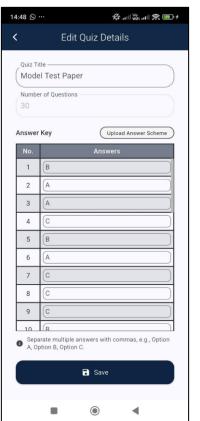
SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION



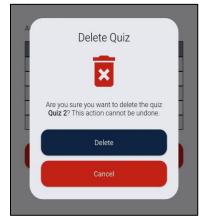
QUIZ CREATION AND MANAGEMENT - FINAL UI



Quiz Details Page



Edit Quiz Details Page



Delete Quiz Modal



PERFORM MARKING

- Upload image from camera or gallery (image_picker package)
- Supports batch upload for upload from gallery with parallel processing (pool package)
- Compresses images before upload for better recognition results
- Custom Cloud Function: perform_marking using OpenCV, Python, Vision API
- Saves answer sheet in Firestore and Firebase Storage



PERFORM MARKING - FINAL UI



Perform Marking Modal



Marking Result Modal



MANAGE RESULTS & EXPORT REPORTS

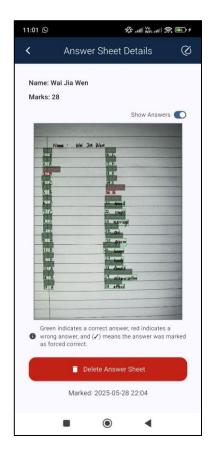
- View and edit answer sheets (zoom, bounding boxes)
- Edit student name, answers, or override correctness
- fl_chart package used for analysis (accuracy, mark distribution)
- Export PDF (pdf package) & Excel (excel package) reports
- Preview and open files using open_file package

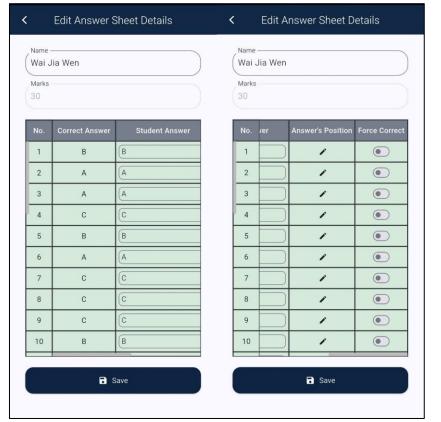
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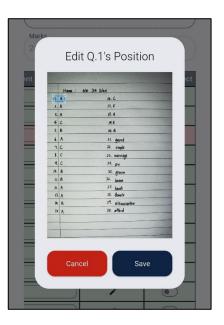
SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION



MANAGE RESULTS & EXPORT REPORTS - FINAL UI







Edit Answer Position Modal



Delete Answer Sheet Modal

Answer Sheet Details Page

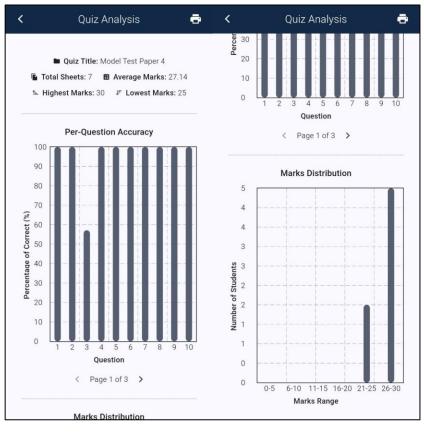
Edit Answer Sheet Details Page

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SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION



MANAGE RESULTS & EXPORT REPORTS - FINAL UI



Quiz Analysis Page



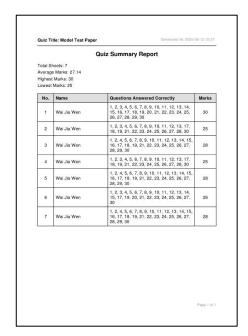
Export Student Results Modal

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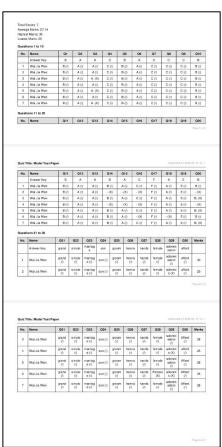
SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION



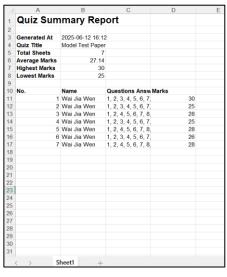
MANAGE RESULTS & EXPORT REPORTS - EXAMPLE REPORT OUTPUT



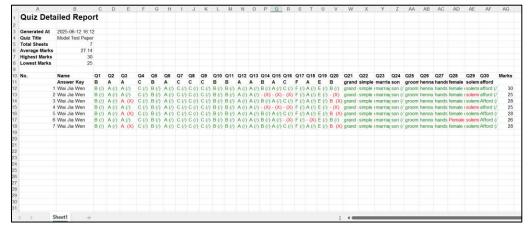
Example of Summary PDF Report



Example of Detailed PDF Report



Example of Summary Excel Report



Example of Detailed Excel Report

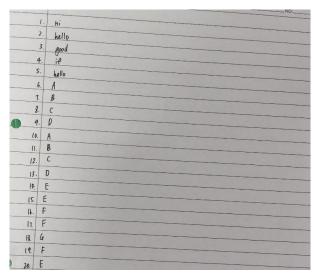
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PERFROM CHECKING (BACKEND MARKING LOGIC)

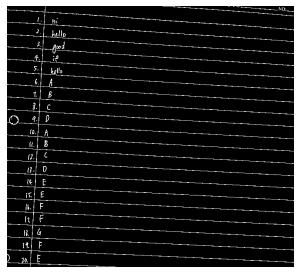
- Deployed as perform_marking Cloud Function (Python, OpenCV)
- o Steps:
 - 1. Inverse Binarization enhance contrast, suppress noise
 - 2. De-skew correct tilt
 - 3. Rule-line Removal remove printed lines
 - 4. Morphological Closing restore broken characters
 - 5. Segmentation vertical & horizontal projection profiles
 - 6. Re-invert to Binary prep for OCR
 - 7. OCR Google Cloud Vision API
 - 8. Custom Logic group & clean text, extract answers
 - 9. Scoring match to Firestore key, save results
 - 10. Return Result send back document ID to app



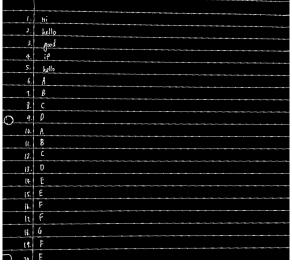
PERFROM CHECKING (BACKEND MARKING LOGIC) - DEBUG OUTPUT



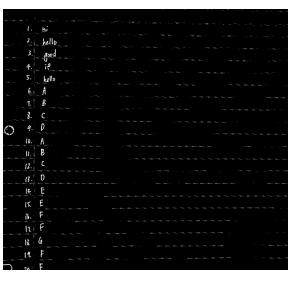
Input Image



Inverse Binary Image



De-skewed Image



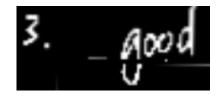
Rule-line Removed Image

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SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION



PERFROM CHECKING (BACKEND MARKING LOGIC) - DEBUG OUTPUT



Before Morphological Closing (Zoomed View)

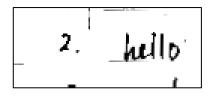


After Morphological Closing (Zoomed View)





A Line Segment Segmented Using Horizontal Projection Profiling



Binary Image (After Bitwise NOT) Before Sending to OCR

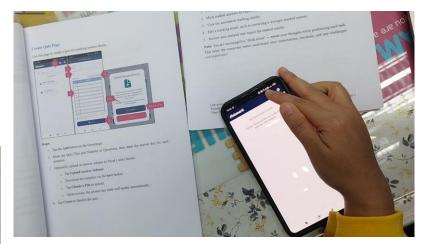
Image Segmented Using Vertical Projection Profiling

SYSTEM EVALUATION



HEURISTIC EVALUATION (Nielsen's 10 heuristic principles)

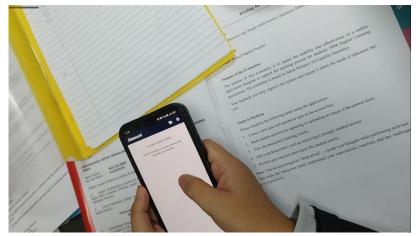
No.	Key Tasks				
1	Create a new quiz and upload or				
	type in the answer key.				
2	Mark student answers by				
	capturing or uploading an image				
	of the answer sheet.				
3	View the automated marking				
	results.				
4	Edit a marking result, such as				
	correcting a wrongly marked				
	answer.				
5	Review quiz analysis and export				
	the student results.				





Evaluator 1

Evaluator 3



Evaluator 2

SYSTEM EVALUATION (Compiled Heuristic Evaluation Results)



No.	Issue Description	Heuristic Violated	Severity (0-4)	Suggested Improvement
1	Teacher who captured images did not	Recognition Rather	2	Clarify the label to "Upload
	realize multiple answer sheets could be	Than Recall		Multiple from Gallery".
	uploaded from the gallery and asked for			
	clarification.			
2	Font size felt small for one teacher.	Aesthetic & Minimalist	1	Rather than follow the device's
		Design		display settings size, maybe can
				offer in-app font scaling option.
3	"Show Answers" toggle was hard to tap	Aesthetic & Minimalist	2	Make toggle larger or ensure both
	and the teacher only succeeded after	Design		toggle and label are clickable.
	multiple tries.			
4	Report layout did not follow the section	Aesthetic & Minimalist	3	Collect quiz section information
	format of the English listening paper.	Design		during creation and organize the
				report accordingly.
5	One teacher relied heavily on the manual	Help and	1	Add an onboarding walkthrough
	to complete tasks as a first-time user.	Documentation		or quick-start tips for new users.
6	Teacher asked if the app is mobile-only	Flexibility and	0	Consider future expansion to
	and suggested desktop would ease	Efficiency of Use		desktop or web platform for
	analysis and reporting.			better viewing or reporting.



CONCLUSION

Project Achievements

- Requirements identified through teacher survey & background research.
- Designed and developed the mobile app for marking handwritten objective/singleword answers.
- Usability and effectiveness
 evaluated with domain experts
 using Nielsen's heuristics.

Project Constraints

- Conventional image processing struggles with handwriting variations & poor scans.
- OCR needs multiple API calls, slower processing.
- Report format lacks sectionbased structure like SPM English Listening format answers.

Future Work

- Adopt machine learning for better handwriting recognition.
- o Optimize speed with ondevice/backend improvements.
- Redesign report layout to follow SPM structure.
- o Add desktop/web support.
- Support phrase/sentence answers in future.

THANK YOU







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