

Employee Performance Classification and Monitoring using Machine Learning Models

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Abstract

The growing adoption of remote and hybrid work models has highlighted the need for intelligent systems that can accurately evaluate employee productivity without continuous manual supervision. Traditional methods, such as attendance records and manual time tracking, often lack efficiency, accuracy, and transparency. To address these limitations, this study presents an AI-powered Employee Attention Monitoring System that integrates computer vision and machine learning for real-time assessment of employee engagement and activity. The system utilizes webcam-based facial landmark detection to determine presence and attentiveness while simultaneously collecting behavioral metrics, including typing speed, idle time, session duration, and application usage. These inputs are analyzed using a trained machine learning classifier to categorize employee states as Working, Idle, or Distracted, with results transmitted to a Flask-based back-end for secure storage and productivity score computation. An interactive web dashboard provides real-time analytical summaries, and an integrated alert mechanism notifies administrators when prolonged distraction exceeds predefined thresholds. Overall, the framework delivers a scalable, cost-effective, and automated solution for productivity monitoring, with future scope for fatigue detection and predictive performance analytics.

1. Introduction

The shift from conventional office settings to digitally connected and remote work environments has fundamentally transformed how organizations supervise productivity and

employee engagement. The large-scale adoption of remote work, particularly following global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, has introduced new challenges related to maintaining employee concentration, responsibility, and operational efficiency. Traditional supervision techniques, including manual attendance tracking, direct managerial observation, and occasional performance evaluations, are increasingly inadequate in fast-paced digital ecosystems.

Consequently, there is a growing demand for intelligent, automated systems capable of monitoring employee activity and attention in a manner that is both effective and minimally intrusive.

Monitoring employee attention requires evaluating behavioral interactions, system usage patterns, and physical presence indicators to estimate productivity levels. Relying on human supervision is not only resource-intensive but also impractical at scale, while highly invasive surveillance mechanisms may raise significant ethical and privacy concerns. Modern solutions must therefore strike a balance between automation, transparency, and respect for user privacy. In this context, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and computer vision technologies offer practical and scalable alternatives. By examining facial landmarks, head positioning, and subtle visual cues, AI-driven systems can infer attentiveness and presence without retaining sensitive biometric information.

Advancements in frameworks such as Media-pipe have facilitated the development of efficient real-time facial landmark detection systems. Media-pipe provides optimized pre-trained models capable of accurately identifying facial features under varying lighting and environmental conditions. When this visual analysis is integrated with behavioral indicators such as keyboard and mouse interaction frequency, application usage duration, and idle intervals a more comprehensive understanding of employee engagement can be achieved. Machine learning further strengthens the system by enabling intelligent classification of activity patterns. Rather than depending exclusively on predefined threshold rules, a trained model can learn from historical behavioral data to categorize work states with greater precision and adaptability. This enhances the robustness of the system across diverse working habits and environments. Additionally, a web-based dashboard improves accessibility and interpretability by offering real-time visual representations of productivity metrics, thereby promoting transparency and informed decision-making.

The central aim of this project is to develop and deploy a unified Employee Attention Monitoring System that integrates Media-pipe based facial analysis, machine learning-driven state classification, and interactive web visualization within a cohesive framework. The proposed solution is designed to deliver real-time monitoring, automated behavioral categorization, and meaningful analytical insights while ensuring scalability and operational efficiency. Through this implementation, the study illustrates the practical application of AI technologies in optimizing productivity management within contemporary workplace settings.

2. Literature Survey

The rapid progress of Artificial Intelligence (AI), computer vision, and machine learning has significantly reshaped approaches to workplace productivity monitoring. Traditional supervision methods such as attendance registers, manual observation, and periodic performance reviews often lacked real-time insights and objective evaluation. As digital work environments expanded, researchers began developing automated systems capable of analyzing behavioral patterns and user interaction data to assess engagement more accurately. Early monitoring tools primarily relied on time-tracking software, keystroke logging, and application usage statistics. Although these methods provided measurable activity data, they failed to capture contextual indicators of genuine attention, prompting the need for more intelligent and comprehensive solutions.

The advancement of computer vision introduced new possibilities for attention detection through facial analysis and head pose estimation. Techniques such as eye tracking, blink detection, and orientation analysis were shown to be effective indicators of attentiveness. Frameworks like Media-pipe enabled efficient real-time facial landmark detection using lightweight deep learning models, making attention tracking feasible on standard hardware without intensive computational requirements. By integrating visual cues with behavioral metrics such as keyboard activity, mouse interaction frequency, and idle duration researchers achieved improved accuracy in distinguishing active engagement from passive system presence.

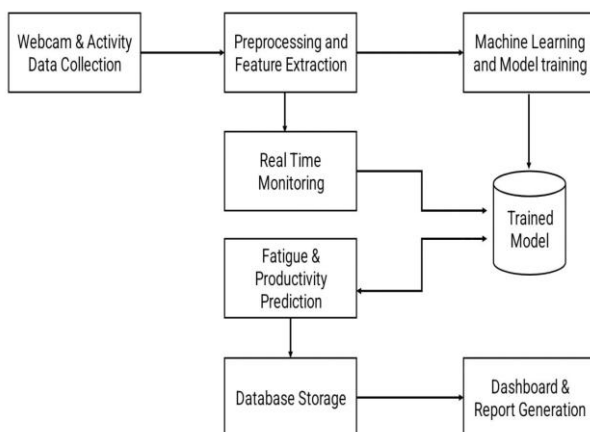
Machine learning models, including Decision Trees, Support Vector Machines, Random Forests, and Logistic Regression, have been widely applied to classify user states into categories such as Working, Idle, and Distracted. Studies demonstrate that combining multiple input features enhances classification reliability compared to single-metric systems. Modern

implementations commonly adopt client–server architectures, where the client gathers user data and the server processes and stores structured logs. Web-based dashboards provide real-time visualization through charts and session summaries, supporting better managerial decision-making.

Privacy has also emerged as a central research focus. To address ethical concerns, many systems avoid storing raw video streams and instead transmit only processed numerical indicators, thereby reducing the risk of sensitive data exposure. Additionally, intelligent alert mechanisms have been developed to trigger notifications only after sustained distraction patterns are detected, minimizing false positives and unnecessary interruptions.

Overall, research highlights a transition from basic time-based tracking tools to advanced AI-driven attention monitoring systems that combine computer vision, machine learning, and interactive analytics platforms. While challenges such as computational overhead and privacy considerations remain, integrated frameworks that merge visual detection, behavioral tracking, and real-time dashboards offer scalable and practical solutions. Building upon these advancements, the proposed system delivers a unified, privacy-aware, and efficient approach to employee attention monitoring suitable for contemporary organizational environments.

3. Proposed System



The proposed framework follows a client–server architecture that combines computer vision, machine learning, and web technologies to enable real-time employee attention monitoring. The architecture is composed of three primary components: a client-side module, a backend server module, and a web-based dashboard interface, each performing distinct but interconnected functions.

The client-side module operates on the employee’s workstation and is responsible for capturing live data. It employs Media-pipe

Face Mesh to perform facial landmark detection through webcam input. By analyzing facial structures, head posture, and eye alignment, the system determines whether the employee is present and oriented toward the screen. Unlike conventional webcam surveillance systems, this approach does not store or transmit raw video footage. Instead, only derived status indicators such as “Present” or “Absent” are sent to the backend, thereby preserving user privacy and ensuring efficient resource utilization.

Beyond visual monitoring, the client module also gathers behavioral metrics, including keyboard and mouse activity frequency, idle duration, session length, and details of the currently active application. These parameters offer measurable indicators of engagement and work patterns. The collected data is formatted in JSON structure and periodically transmitted to the server using HTTP POST communication.

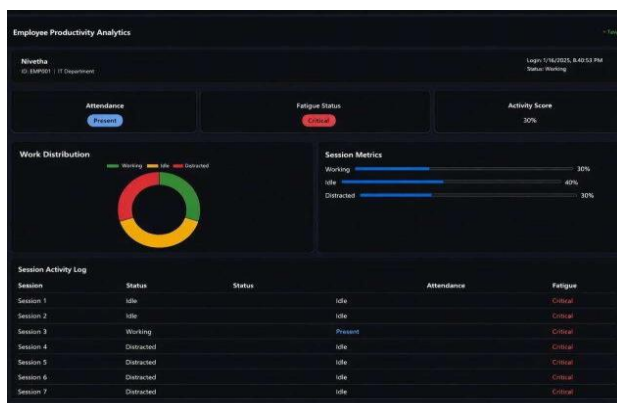
The backend component is implemented using the Flask framework and functions as the system’s processing unit. Once data is received from the client, it is evaluated through a decision-making layer that incorporates a pre-trained machine learning model. This classifier interprets behavioral inputs such as interaction rate and inactivity periods to assign the

employee's status as Working, Idle, or Distracted. The evaluated results are stored in a JSON based database to maintain persistent records. Additionally, the server computes a cumulative activity score derived from session-level data, representing an overall productivity metric.

The visualization layer is developed using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to create an interactive dashboard environment. It periodically retrieves updated records from the backend and dynamically refreshes visual components, including charts and data tables. A pie chart illustrates the proportion of different work states, while tabular summaries provide historical session insights. When repeated distracted states exceed predefined limits, an automated alert mechanism sends email notifications to the administrator.

The overall architectural design emphasizes modularity, scalability, and ease of maintenance. By clearly separating the responsibilities of the client, server, and dashboard layers, the system allows independent updates and future enhancements. The incorporation of Media-pipe supports efficient real-time facial analysis, and the use of machine learning enables intelligent state classification beyond basic rule-based logic. In summary, the proposed architecture delivers an integrated, privacy-conscious, and automated solution for monitoring employee attention in modern digital workplaces.

4. Result and Discussion



The developed system was evaluated under varied operating conditions to assess its efficiency, precision, and overall robustness. Experimental results indicated that the Media-pipe based facial detection component accurately recognized facial landmarks in real time with very low processing delay. The presence identification mechanism functioned consistently under normal lighting variations and typical webcam quality. When facial features were not detected for a specified time interval, the system appropriately marked the user as Absent, confirming the reliability of the timeout-based detection strategy.

The integrated machine learning model demonstrated effective classification of user activity by analyzing parameters such as interaction frequency and inactivity duration. Test cases involving continuous keyboard and mouse usage were correctly labeled as Working, while extended inactivity periods were classified as Idle or Distracted according to defined criteria. These classifications remained stable across repeated testing sessions, highlighting the consistency and dependability of the trained model.

The web-based dashboard performed as intended, presenting real-time updates without requiring manual page refresh. Activity records were retrieved at regular intervals, ensuring uninterrupted visualization of user data. The graphical representation dynamically adjusted to reflect the distribution of different work states, and session logs provided detailed insights into recent activity. The calculated productivity score offered a clear numerical indicator of overall performance trends.

The alert mechanism was verified by deliberately generating consecutive distracted states. Once the predefined limit was

exceeded, the system successfully issued an automated email notification, confirming the proper functioning of the alert process. This targeted notification approach ensures that administrators receive updates only when meaningful attention drops occur, thereby minimizing unnecessary alerts.

Some limitations were identified during testing. Under extreme lighting conditions, facial detection accuracy slightly decreased. Prolonged webcam operation also led to increased CPU utilization. These issues can be mitigated in future improvements through optimization strategies such as selective frame processing and hardware acceleration techniques. Despite these minor constraints, the system demonstrated stable and reliable performance, validating the practical applicability of the proposed solution.

Conclusion

The Employee Attention Monitoring System designed in this study effectively combines computer vision, machine learning, and web-based technologies to deliver a real-time platform for productivity assessment. Utilizing Media-pipe for facial landmark recognition, the system determines employee presence accurately while avoiding the storage of sensitive visual data. By incorporating behavioral indicators such as keyboard and mouse interaction rates along with idle duration, the framework enhances reliability through the fusion of visual and activity-based metrics.

The implementation of a machine learning classifier provides greater adaptability and precision compared to conventional rule-based threshold systems, allowing more intelligent and data-driven state determination. The Flask-powered backend manages incoming client data efficiently, maintains activity logs, and computes productivity scores, whereas the interactive dashboard offers clear, real-time visualization for administrative monitoring. Additionally, the integrated alert mechanism supports proactive oversight by notifying administrators when sustained distraction patterns are detected.

This work highlights the practical utilization of AI-driven methods in workplace analytics and productivity management. The modular and scalable architecture enables future enhancements, including emotion recognition, fatigue monitoring, predictive performance analysis, and potential cloud integration. By addressing the complexities associated with supervising remote and hybrid workforces, the proposed solution advances the development of intelligent productivity management systems.

In summary, the system fulfills its intended goals of automated attention tracking, real-time activity classification, and dynamic data visualization. It presents a well-balanced framework that emphasizes operational efficiency, scalability, and privacy preservation. With continued refinement and expansion, the solution demonstrates strong potential for implementation across corporate, educational, and hybrid professional settings.

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