iJRASET
International Journal For Research in Applied Science and Engineering Technology



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 14 **Issue:** X **Month of publication:** October 2026

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2026.85524

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International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)
ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538
Volume 14 Issue X Oct 2026- Available at www.ijraset.com

Smart Portfolio and Career Assistant

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[1]*Academic Year 2026–27*

Abstract: ***Students often keep their portfolio, resume, job applications and other career information in different places. This can make career preparation repetitive and difficult to manage. Smart Portfolio and Career Assistant was developed as a web-based platform to bring the main activities together. The system provides student registration and login, profile and portfolio management, resume creation and upload, resume analysis, ATS-style scoring and job application features. A separate recruiter side is provided for company information, job posting, applicant review and application-status management.***
The application uses PHP as the backend technology and MySQL for database storage. The project database contains records related to users, student profiles, portfolios, resumes, uploaded resumes, recruiters, jobs and applications. The screenshots included in this paper show the major application screens and the overall student and recruiter workflow.
The project is designed as a practical base for further career assistance. Features such as job recommendation, skill-gap analysis, AI mock interviews and voice assistance are included in the proposed workflow as future extensions. The present paper focuses on the platform and workflows supported by the project material.
Keywords: Smart Portfolio; Career Assistant; Resume Builder; Resume Analysis; ATS Score; PHP; MySQL; Recruiter; Job Application; Digital Portfolio

I. INTRODUCTION

Getting ready for a first job involves more than preparing a resume. Students also need to present their education, technical skills, projects, certifications and other achievements in a clear way. In practice, this information is often spread across documents, portfolio websites and job portals. Whenever something changes, the same information may have to be updated again.
A digital portfolio can make this process easier because it gives a student one place to present professional information. A resume can then be prepared from structured information instead of being treated as a completely separate document. Adding resume analysis and an ATS-style score gives the student another step before applying for a job.
Smart Portfolio and Career Assistant follows this approach. The system has two main users: students and recruiters. Students can manage their professional information and apply for jobs, while recruiters can post jobs and review applications. The project uses a database-backed design so that information can be stored and reused across different parts of the application.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The main problem addressed by the project is the separation of career preparation and recruitment activities. A student may create a portfolio in one place, prepare a resume in another place and apply for jobs through a separate portal. This creates repeated work and can result in inconsistent information. There is also a gap between preparing a resume and knowing whether it is ready for application. A student may not know which parts of the resume need improvement or how well it fits common screening requirements. From the recruiter side, candidate information and application status also need to be organized. The project therefore combines student career management with a basic recruitment workflow in one web application.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1) To provide a digital portfolio for students.
2) To maintain student academic and career information in one place.
3) To provide a structured resume builder and resume upload facility.
4) To analyze resumes and provide an ATS-style score for improvement.
5) To allow recruiters to create job postings and review applicants.
6) To maintain job applications and their status through a database.
7) To provide a foundation for future AI-based career assistance.
8) To keep the main student and recruiter workflow simple enough for practical use.

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IV. LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH GAP

Digital portfolio systems are commonly used to present a person's professional identity online. For students, a portfolio is useful because it can contain project details, skills and certifications that may not fit comfortably into a short resume.

Resume parsing and Applicant Tracking System (ATS) concepts focus on organizing information from resumes and using structured fields or keywords during screening. Resume analysis can therefore help a candidate notice missing information before submitting an application. An ATS-style score is useful as an indication for improvement, but it should not be treated as a guarantee of selection.

AI-based career systems have also been explored for job recommendation, skill matching and interview preparation. These ideas are relevant to the project because the student's profile, resume and job information can be stored in structured form.

The research gap considered here is mainly one of integration. Portfolio management, resume preparation, resume analysis and recruitment are often available as separate services. The proposed system brings the core parts together and leaves more advanced AI services as future extensions.

V. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system is divided into two connected sides.

The student side begins with registration or login. After authentication, the student can create a smart portfolio, upload or prepare a resume, check resume analysis and view the ATS-style score. The student can then browse available jobs and submit applications.

The recruiter side starts with recruiter registration or login and company-profile creation. A recruiter can post a job, view applications and see candidate information. Candidate details can include the portfolio, resume, ATS-style score and other available information. The recruiter can then shortlist candidates and manage the next stage of the recruitment process.

A central database connects both sides. User records, resume information, job records and application records are stored in related tables. This allows information to move through the workflow without requiring the student or recruiter to maintain separate manual lists.

VI. SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND METHODOLOGY

The project follows a module-based development approach. The application was divided into account management, student profile and portfolio, resume management, resume analysis, ATS scoring, jobs, applications and recruiter functions. Building the system in modules makes it easier to test individual features before checking the complete workflow.

The main software stack uses a web interface, PHP and MySQL. The browser provides the user interface, PHP handles application requests and business rules, and MySQL stores persistent data. Resume files are handled through the application's upload workflow, while related metadata is associated with the appropriate user.

The database is named smartportfolio. It contains separate entities for users, student profiles, portfolios, resumes, resume components, uploaded resumes, recruiters, jobs and applications. Foreign-key relationships are used where records depend on another record. Controlled status values are used for job and application workflows.

The system also includes basic security considerations such as password hashing, server-side validation, controlled status values and file metadata tracking. Production deployment would require further security testing and privacy controls.

VII. SYSTEM WORKFLOW AND FLOW CHART

Figure 1 presents the overall student and recruiter workflow. The student path covers account access, portfolio creation, resume upload and analysis, ATS-style scoring and job application. The recruiter path covers company-profile creation, job posting, application review and candidate selection.

The supplied flow chart also includes skill-gap analysis, AI mock interviews, interview feedback, job recommendations and an HR chatbot or voice assistant. These items are treated as proposed or future extensions in this paper rather than being presented as fully implemented features. This distinction keeps the paper consistent with the available project material.

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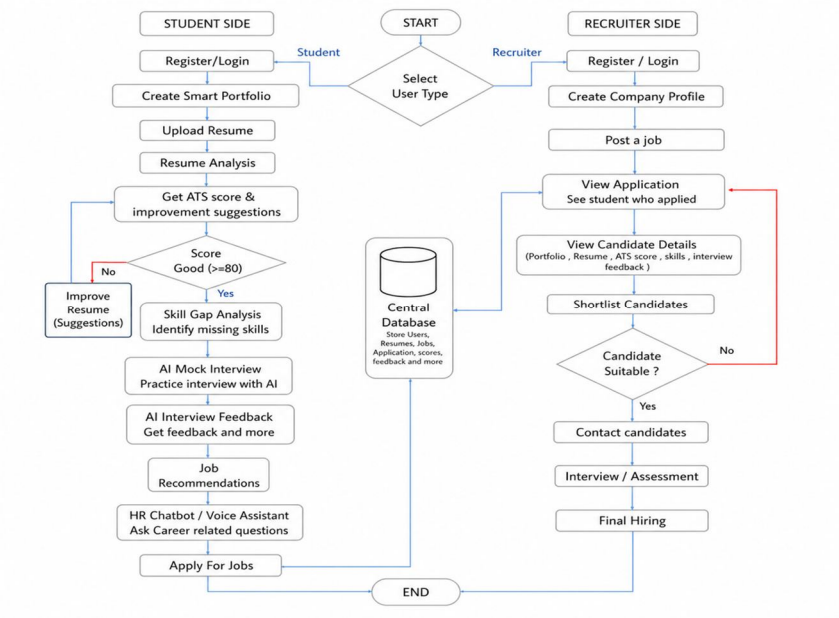


Fig 1. Overall student and recruiter workflow

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERFACE

The developed interface follows the same sequence as the system workflow. The screenshots below document the actual screens supplied with the project. They are included as implementation evidence and are not treated as performance measurements.

The student side starts with login and the dashboard. Portfolio and resume screens support preparation of career information. Resume analysis shows the ATS-style result. The recruiter side contains the recruiter dashboard, job creation, applications, shortlisted candidates and job-management screens. Together, the screenshots show how the different modules connect to the overall workflow.

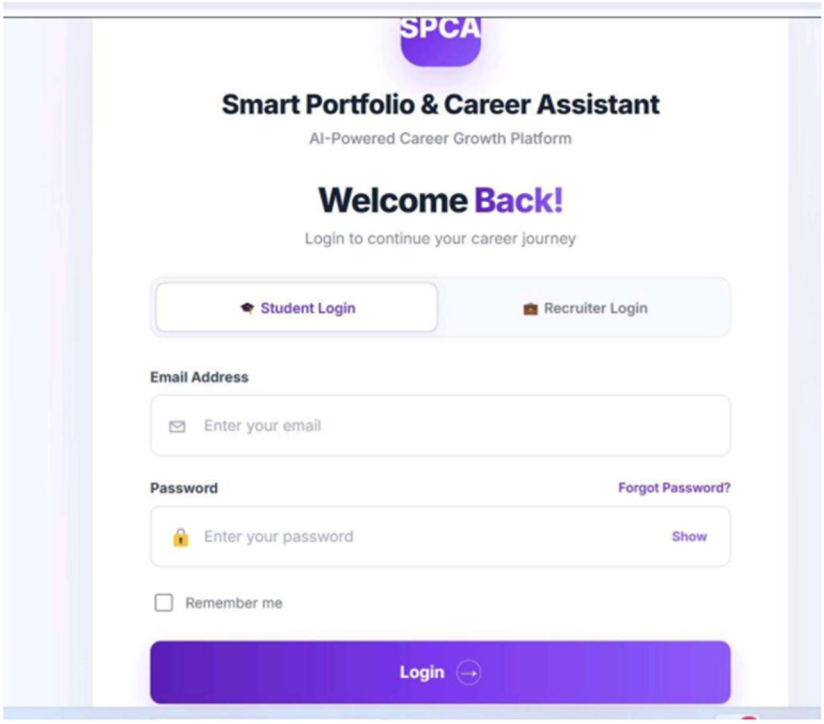


Fig 2. Student and recruiter login screen

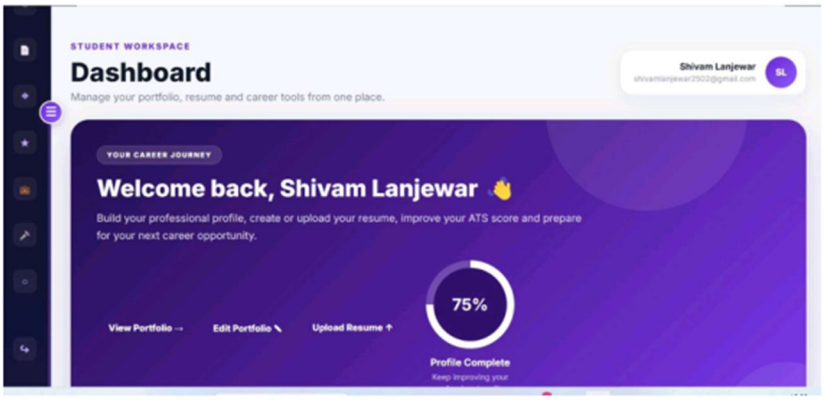


Fig 3. Student dashboard

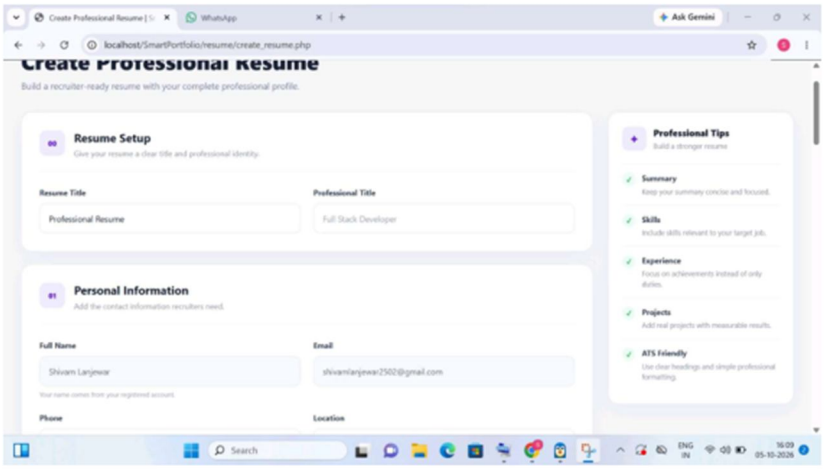


Fig 4. Create professional resume screen

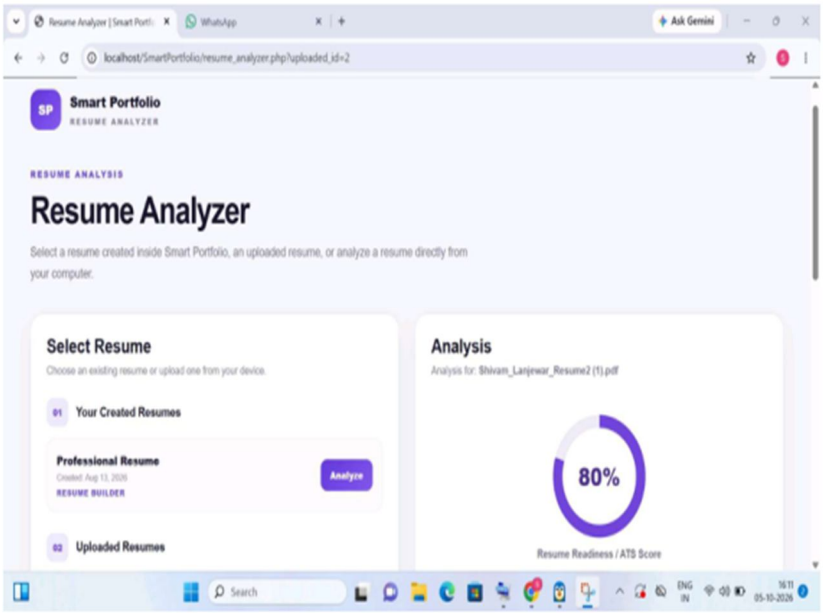


Fig 5. Resume analyzer screen

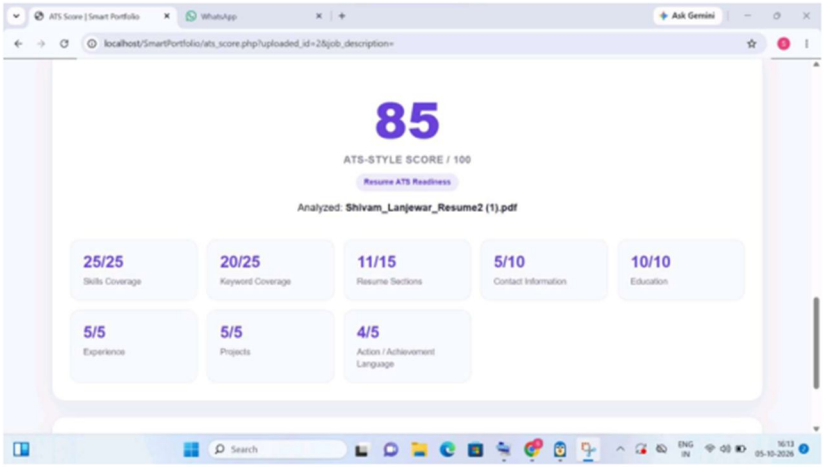


Fig 6. ATS-style score and resume analysis result

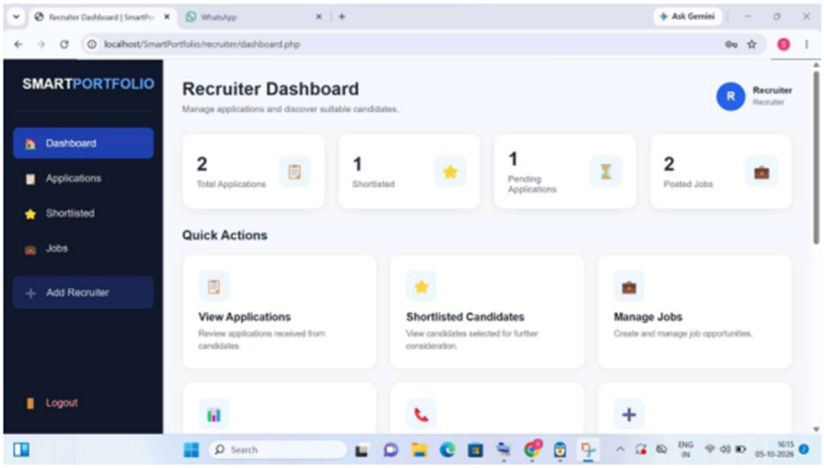


Fig 7. Recruiter dashboard

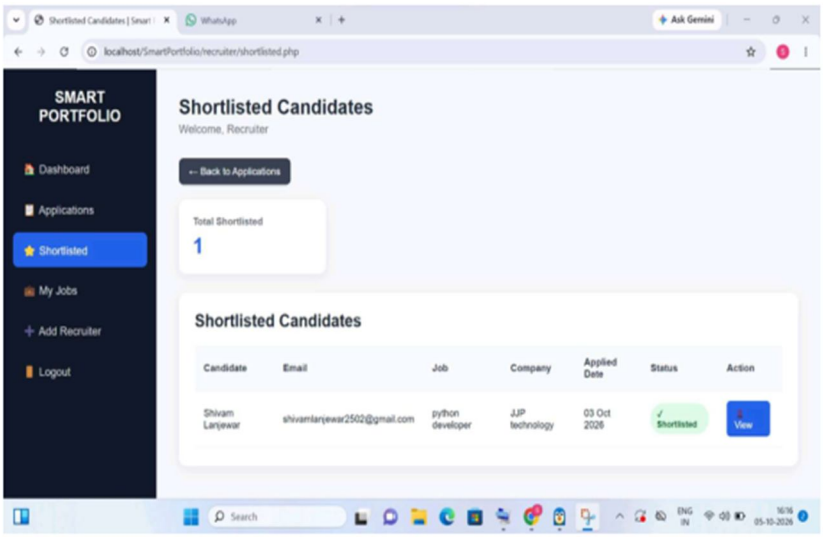


Fig 8. Shortlisted candidates screen

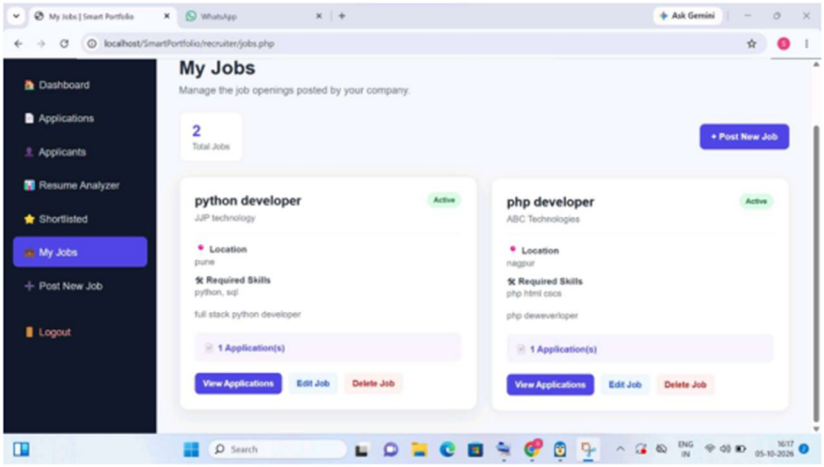


Fig 9. Recruiter job-management screen

IX. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implemented system provides the main career-management workflow expected from the project. On the student side, the application brings profile information, portfolio management, resume handling, resume analysis and job applications into one platform. On the recruiter side, it provides a structured way to create jobs and handle applications.

The database-backed design is useful because information can be reused between modules. For example, student information can be associated with resumes and applications, while recruiter information can be associated with jobs and candidate records.

The current project should be viewed as a working foundation for career assistance. Advanced AI features shown in the future workflow are not treated as measured results because the available project material does not provide experimental accuracy or user-study results for them.

X. TESTING AND VERIFICATION

Testing was organized around the actual application functions. Registration and login, profile updates, portfolio creation, resume creation, resume upload, resume analysis, ATS scoring, recruiter login, job creation, application viewing and application-status changes were considered important test cases.

Database verification checks whether records are created and retrieved correctly and whether relationships between tables behave as expected. Basic security checks include password hashing, unique email constraints, server-side validation, controlled status values and file-related validation.

No unsupported performance percentages are reported here. The paper therefore describes the implemented workflow and verification approach rather than presenting invented accuracy values.

XI. LIMITATIONS

The current project has some limitations. Advanced AI job recommendation, skill-gap analysis, AI mock interviews, voice assistance and intelligent candidate ranking are future extensions. They should not be considered completed features simply because they appear in the proposed flow chart.

The ATS-style score is an assistance feature and is not a guarantee of selection. Real-world deployment would also require stronger production security, privacy controls, scalable hosting, careful file handling and broader testing with real users.

XII. FUTURE SCOPE

The project can be extended in several useful directions. Future work can include AI-based job recommendations, skill-gap analysis, AI mock interviews, interview feedback, voice-based assistance, ATS-score history, comparison between resume versions, recruiter-side candidate ranking, improved resume parsing, analytics dashboards and cloud deployment.

These additions can be developed gradually because the current system already provides structured information about students, resumes, jobs and applications.

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XIII. CONCLUSION

Smart Portfolio and Career Assistant brings important career-preparation and recruitment activities into one web-based platform. Students can maintain their professional profile and portfolio, create or upload a resume, review resume analysis, check an ATS-style score and apply for jobs. Recruiters can create jobs, review applications and manage candidate status.

The PHP and MySQL implementation provides a clear and persistent structure for the system. The project also creates a useful base for future intelligent services because student skills, resume information and job requirements can be stored in an organized way.

Overall, the system addresses the problem of fragmented career preparation while keeping the current scope practical. The proposed AI features can be added step by step in future versions.

XIV. DETAILED MODULE DESCRIPTION

The project can be understood more easily by looking at the modules separately. The login module is the entry point for both types of users. After authentication, the system sends the user to the correct side of the application.

The student module is centered on career information. It provides the dashboard, profile and portfolio functions. The portfolio is useful for storing details that may not fit into a short resume, such as projects, certifications and professional links.

The resume module provides two practical routes. A student can prepare a structured resume using information entered in the application, or an existing resume can be uploaded. The analyzer then gives a result that can be reviewed before the student applies for jobs.

The job module connects the student and recruiter sides. Recruiters create job records with information such as title, company, description, required skills and location. Students can see suitable job records and submit applications.

The application module keeps track of the relationship between a candidate and a job. Recruiters can see applications and move them through the available status flow. This is useful because it keeps the recruitment process organized rather than relying on separate spreadsheets or notes.

The recruiter module provides the recruiter dashboard, company information, job posting, application review, candidate details and shortlisted-candidate views. These functions complete the second half of the platform.

XV. DATABASE, SECURITY AND DATA FLOW

The database is an important part of the project because almost every major module depends on stored information. The smartportfolio database separates user information from profile, portfolio, resume, recruiter, job and application data. This separation makes the relationships easier to maintain.

A simplified data flow starts when a user registers. The account information is stored first, after which the related profile or recruiter information can be connected to that account. When a student creates a portfolio or resume, the records are linked to the appropriate user. When the student applies for a job, the application connects the student and the selected job.

The same principle works on the recruiter side. A recruiter account is connected to the company profile and the jobs created by that recruiter. Applications received for those jobs can then be viewed through the recruiter interface.

The project material also includes basic security measures. Passwords are handled using hashing rather than storing them as plain text. Email uniqueness helps prevent duplicate accounts. Server-side validation is important because data submitted through a browser should not be trusted automatically. Controlled status values also reduce accidental invalid application states.

File uploads need particular attention because a resume is supplied by the user. The application records file-related information and should restrict accepted formats and validate files on the server. For production use, additional measures such as stronger access control, secure storage, logging, rate limiting and privacy policies would be appropriate.

XVI. TEST CASES, DISCUSSION AND PRACTICAL USE

The following test cases represent the main workflow that should be checked during demonstration and verification:

- Registration and login — confirm that valid users can enter the correct side of the application and invalid credentials are rejected.
- Profile and portfolio — confirm that student information can be added and displayed again after saving.
- Resume creation — confirm that entered resume information is stored and shown correctly.
- Resume upload — confirm that an accepted resume file can be uploaded and associated with the correct student.
- Resume analysis — confirm that a selected resume can be sent through the analysis screen and that the result is displayed.

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- ATS-style score — confirm that the score and its component information are shown to the student.
- Job creation — confirm that a recruiter can create and view a job posting.
- Job application — confirm that a student can submit an application for an available job.
- Application review — confirm that the recruiter can see submitted applications and candidate information.
- Shortlisting and status — confirm that the recruiter can update the application according to the available workflow.

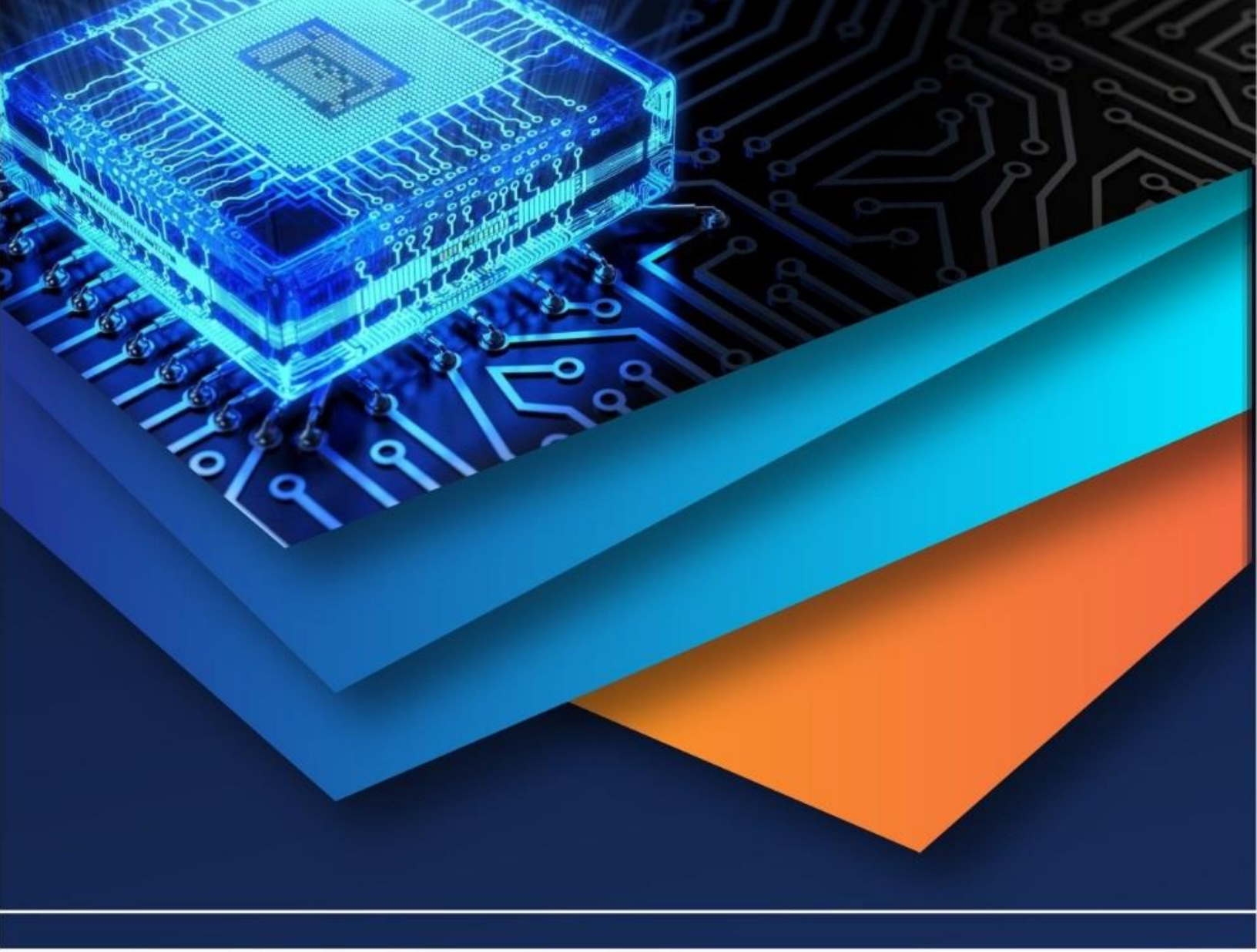
From a student point of view, the main benefit is convenience. Career information is kept together and can be reused while preparing a resume or applying for a job. From a recruiter point of view, the benefit is organization because job records and applications are maintained in the same system.

The interface screenshots supplied with the project also show that the system is not limited to a database design. There are separate screens for login, student dashboard, resume creation, uploaded resumes, resume analysis, recruiter dashboard, job posting, applications, shortlisted candidates and job management.

The project can therefore be demonstrated as a complete basic workflow: a user enters the platform, maintains career information, prepares a resume, checks the resume, applies for a job and reaches the recruiter-side application review. The advanced AI services remain suitable as the next stage of development.

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