

# FEDERATED LEARNING FOR PRIVACY-PRESERVING ON-SCREEN ACTIVITY RECOGNITION IN E-LEARNING

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**Abstract:** The digital classroom of today enables teachers to monitor the screen activity of their students, which enables them to assess their level of engagement and pinpoint areas where their learning could be enhanced. There are additional privacy concerns that have been raised by centralized behavior monitoring technology. Federated Learning (FL) is the primary focus of this article due to its secure, screen-aware approach to online learning. FL guarantees the security of its customers' personal information by training models locally on their devices and storing model updates instead of raw data. Our federated architecture ensures user privacy by precisely monitoring student actions through deep learning, which encompasses reading, viewing, and engagement. Experimental data suggests that federated learning (FL) is a promising alternative for large-scale e-learning systems, as it has a high recognition success rate and minimal privacy concerns. The findings of this study underscore the urgent need to identify methods to protect the privacy of students in the rapidly developing field of personalized digital education.

**Keywords:** Federated Learning, Privacy Preservation, On-Screen Activity Recognition, E-Learning and User Engagement.

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## 1. Introduction

The significance of online education as a potential alternative to traditional classroom instruction is increasing. This trend is being driven by a combination of factors, such as the increasing demand for more adaptable classroom settings and advancements in IT. The demand for intelligent systems that can monitor and comprehend student actions in order to improve their engagement and achievement in the classroom is increasing in conjunction with the proliferation of online platforms. The objective of activity detection technology is to ascertain when a user is engaging in specific actions on the screen, such as reading, viewing a movie, scrolling, or switching between applications. By observing actual students, educators and platforms can employ this data to inform resource and strategy adjustments. The acquisition and storage of private and behavioral data on centralized systems continue to be a significant privacy concern.

Regular machine learning models necessitate the consistent transmission and storage of substantial amounts of user data on central servers. This increases the likelihood of data breaches and unauthorized access. In educational contexts, these privacy concerns are of even greater importance, as users may consist of learners or individuals from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is merely one of the numerous data protection regulations that are routinely

updated, and the collection of personal data is in direct opposition to these standards. Therefore, we are in pursuit of techniques that can protect user privacy while simultaneously enabling the rapid discovery of opportunities for action. Federated learning (FL) is one potential solution that has been considered thus far. This approach enables the separation of data management while maintaining effective models. Federated learning is a novel machine learning approach that enables clients or devices to collaborate in the development of models by storing all user input locally. Conversely, FL algorithms redirect model training from centralized computers to peripheral devices, including laptops, cellphones, and tablets. The data at the disposal of these devices is exclusively utilized to update the models that have already been constructed, and the updates are subsequently transmitted back to the server. This approach enhances data security and safety, reduces bandwidth consumption, and adheres to data protection regulations. FL can facilitate the establishment of trust in online learning environments by safeguarding students' personal data and simplifying the identification of e-learning activities.

The utilization of screen activity monitoring in federated learning has both advantages and disadvantages. Users engage in a wide range of on-screen operations, necessitating the use of federated

models to manage diverse data. Ensuring that models converge becomes increasingly challenging due to the limited capacity of devices, altering network constraints, and the occurrence of changes at different times. Federated Learning has the potential to create intelligent educational systems that safeguard privacy, despite these challenges. FL is capable of accurately identifying and categorizing pupil actions with remarkable precision, all while protecting the privacy of user data, through the integration of robust deep learning algorithms.

Federated solutions are additionally distinguished by their capacity to extend. As the platform's enrollment increases, the federated design of an online learning system becomes more adaptable and robust to a variety of learning styles. Federated Learning (FL) facilitates the development of generalizable models that facilitate personalized learning on a large scale by gathering anonymous feedback from numerous users. Furthermore, local data processing enables students to receive immediate feedback and learn in a manner that is tailored to their specific requirements.

Federated learning is regarded as innovative because it enables online learning systems to monitor screen activity without jeopardizing data confidentiality. Nevertheless, it mitigates the primary privacy concerns associated with centralized techniques while maintaining the advantages of intelligent behavior analysis. Within the context of evolving digital education, the integration of FL facilitates the development of learning environments that are ethical, secure, and efficient. This paper examines the development, implementation, and supervision of a federated learning system that is capable of monitoring the online conduct of students. The objective is to enhance the credibility of AI systems that are implemented in educational institutions.

## 2. Review of Literature

Zhou, X., & Zhang, W. (2020) The protection of student data is the primary focus of this study, which examines the prospective applications of Federated Learning (FL) in online education. The authors present an innovative method of ensuring privacy while enabling personalized learning through FL. This study illustrates the ability to conceal private information during the training of federated models by utilizing dispersed data sources. It is imperative to safeguard the private information of users, even as algorithms are in the process of learning. The authors illustrate how federated learning can enhance e-learning systems in compliance with rigorous privacy regulations.

Singh, P., & Kumar, N. (2020) This article aims to evaluate the feasibility of implementing Federated Learning in order to provide secure and private on-screen action recognition in online learning environments. The authors emphasize the potential of federated learning to protect users' personal information while still enabling the analysis of their interactions with the learning environment. The primary objective of this endeavor is to enhance

activity recognition by utilizing ML models that have been trained on distributed data. At the same time, it addresses the growing apprehensions regarding the security of student information in virtual classrooms. The method that has been suggested enhances security and privacy by concealing user data.

Ali, T., & Rehman, A. (2020) The authors of this paper implement on-screen action identification to investigate the potential of Federated Learning to improve the security of online learning environments. The research delineates a method for the secure monitoring and evaluation of student engagement by utilizing federated models. Federated learning has been demonstrated to decrease the probability of data intrusions by storing data locally on the device, according to research. This enables e-learning platforms to prioritize user privacy. The authors suggest a secure approach in contrast to more traditional machine learning methods. This is achieved by striking a fair balance between the necessity of activity monitoring and the necessity of maintaining user data security.

Li, J., & Zhang, H. (2020) This paper offers a comprehensive overview of shared learning and explores its potential applications in secure online education. The authors investigate potential safeguards for students' private information in online courses by examining and discussing innovative shared learning strategies. FL protects user data by training ML models using shared data, thereby enabling deep analytics and personalized learning. The primary objectives of this research are to examine the efficiency and utility of federated learning in online classrooms. Furthermore, specific concerns and potential areas for future research are addressed.

Xu, Z., & Li, J. (2020) This article will examine the methods by which federated learning can monitor the activities of users within e-learning platforms in order to protect user data. The authors illustrate the process of monitoring and recording students' screen activities while safeguarding and exchanging private information through the use of federated learning. Federated learning has the potential to enhance the accuracy of learning models and protect user privacy by securely combining data from multiple devices, according to the research. This approach is essential because the data pertaining to students' interactions while learning online is typically sensitive. The authors suggest a secure and confidential approach to the behavior recognition algorithms of educational platforms.

Smith, J., & Zhang, L. (2021) The objective of this article is to investigate the manner in which Federated Learning enables online learning platforms to securely record screen activity. The authors suggest a federated method that enables the local processing and analysis of behavior data in order to prevent the back-and-forth transmission of sensitive user data. This study explores the technical aspects of federated learning to illustrate its potential for improving e-learning systems by utilizing model training, data synchronization, and privacy-preserving strategies as

examples. The authors emphasize that shared learning is a viable alternative to risky online education, as it precisely specifies activities and significantly reduces the likelihood of data intrusions. Wang, X., & Li, M. (2021) This study introduces a collaborative learning approach to the identification of secure and confidential online education. The authors' primary objective is to improve the privacy of user data by utilizing FL's distributed learning technology. Federated Learning eliminates the necessity for a central data storage and reduces privacy concerns by utilizing user devices to train activity recognition models. In order to ensure the security of e-learning systems and to offer pupils personalized instruction, this article introduces a comprehensive strategy for the integration of federated learning. Federated learning is promoted as a secure and adaptable option for real-world applications, emphasizing its importance as a critical component of online learning systems for addressing data privacy concerns. Reddy, S., & Gupta, R. (2021) This investigation aims to investigate the potential of Federated Learning (FL) to serve as a privacy shield for online education, with an emphasis on screen activity monitoring. The authors recommend that FL's safe collection approach be implemented to ensure the security of users' sensitive information during the acknowledgment process. The study's findings demonstrate that federated learning is a viable alternative for the training of learning models with distributed datasets. This guarantees that anonymity is preserved while activity identification remains precise. The research illustrates the potential of secure aggregation techniques to enhance the security of e-learning platforms, thereby safeguarding the confidentiality of student activity records. Chen, Y., & Sun, S. (2021) The authors investigate privacy-preserving techniques in order to identify online learning activities that employ Federated Learning (FL). The objective of this article is to evaluate the viability of employing shared learning to securely monitor student behavior in a virtual classroom. Secure aggregation and differential privacy are two of the privacy-enhancing strategies employed by federated learning systems to protect user data. The paper delves deeper into these strategies. The proposed Federated Learning (FL) approaches are designed to offer a viable alternative to current e-learning systems by achieving a balance between the necessity for precise activity monitoring and the implementation of robust privacy safeguards. Liu, F., & Han, Y. (2021) This article examines the potential of Federated Learning (FL) to improve the privacy of online learning environments, with a particular focus on the detection of user activity within the virtual classroom. The writers contend that safeguarding students' confidential information on online learning platforms is a difficult endeavor. After that, they provide a federated learning system that can privately detect user actions without disclosing any information about the users. This study offers a secure approach to training FL models locally on mobile

devices and to providing users with updates while safeguarding their privacy. Although the authors recognize that federated learning can enhance the safety and accessibility of online learning environments, they also illustrate that this is not always the case.

Yu, H., & Wu, Q. (2022) This research concentrates on online learning platforms that employ privacy-preserving Federated Learning (FL) to identify user actions on the screen. They suggest a system that efficiently identifies screen events while safeguarding the privacy of user activity data through federated learning. The study examines a variety of FL techniques to facilitate the safe and swift identification of activities. The authors demonstrate that federated learning maintains the efficacy of activity detection systems and data privacy by training models on dispersed devices. It is an exceptional choice for e-learning applications that prioritize user privacy.

Li, J., & Zhang, H. (2022) The article delineates the secure identification of on-screen behaviors in online learning environments through the use of a Federated Learning approach. The acquisition and utilization of student data in online learning environments have been the subject of concern. The authors demonstrate how to train models with distributed data using federated learning to ensure that sensitive behavior data remains concealed and not stored centrally. The proposed method employs secure aggregation techniques to ensure precise on-screen activity identification while safeguarding privacy. This technology resolves the issue of student privacy in online classrooms by encrypting all student data and activity records.

Kim, S., & Lee, H. (2023) This evaluation examines Federated Learning (FL) in order to identify online behaviors while respecting student privacy. The authors assert that the current FL-based models are effective in detecting and monitoring on-screen behavior while maintaining privacy. In this research, which is pertinent to online learning environments, encryption, secure aggregation, and differential privacy are among the privacy-protecting strategies that we have investigated. The authors examine the current state of knowledge regarding the most effective methods for protecting students' personal information in education and anticipate the future of this field of study while deliberating the advantages and disadvantages of federated learning in virtual classrooms. Both academicians and professionals in the industry will derive benefit from this investigation.

Zhao, X., & Li, Y. (2023) The objective of this investigation is to determine whether it is feasible to implement Federated Learning (FL) in secure online classrooms to identify on-screen incidents. The authors propose a method that integrates federated learning with sophisticated privacy-preserving algorithms to guarantee the protection of user data during activity detection duties. Safe aggregation and model encryption are essential for protecting the personal data of users during the learning process, as per the research. FL's autonomous structure is optimal for privacy-



sensitive e-learning systems due to its ability to track activity without compromising users' identification, as per the authors.

Tang, W., & Liu, J. (2024) The authors recommend a Federated Learning strategy for private e-learning systems to identify actions. The objective of this endeavor is to utilize cooperative learning to identify activities that safeguard private data, thereby enabling the development of e-learning systems that are both correct and private. The technology accomplishes significant recognition accuracy by simplifying model training using distributed data sources, while users' data remains private. The authors underscore the framework's practicality for e-learning systems that must protect user data by examining its technical aspects, including its secure aggregation and model updates.

### 3. System Design

#### Traditional on-Screen Activity Tracking Systems

Contemporary technologies that track screen activity and centralized data collection techniques can be utilized to determine user engagement levels. These

systems commonly capture user behaviors, including mouse movements, keystrokes, and the time spent on educational materials. Subsequently, these chats are archived and stored on a remote server. The main objective of these systems is to assess the efficacy of learning via their application. Nonetheless, this approach has several disadvantages. Individuals may lack control over the dissemination, accessibility, or retention of data when it is aggregated centrally, leading to privacy apprehensions. The retention of private user activity data on external websites heightens the risk of data breaches and unauthorized access. These limitations made centralized monitoring methods inefficient in settings where personal privacy is paramount, such as educational institutions and business training programs. Traditional observation techniques might be cumbersome and hinder the attainment of knowledge. Individuals may get a sensation of being scrutinized due to continuous observation, which might diminish their drive and involvement. Colleges may suffer higher expenditures due to the considerable infrastructure required to securely handle data with these technologies, which depend on server-based processing and use substantial resources.



Figure 1 Block Diagram for Traditional On-Screen Activity Tracking Systems

#### Existing System

Most contemporary e-learning on-screen activity detection systems employ centralized machine learning models that exploit user data, including screen activity, interactions, and engagement measures. Subsequently, prediction models are developed utilizing this data. These systems generally aggregate data from numerous users on centralized servers to attain a more thorough comprehension of student behavior. The original data will thereafter be evaluated and processed. Although these systems may provide advantageous recommendations and observations, the centralized storing and processing of personal data engenders substantial concerns about privacy and security.

Centralized systems face difficulties with data scalability, network latency, and user permissions when users are geographically dispersed and possess diverse requirements. Several systems have endeavored to execute local data processing, encompassing the observation and analysis of particular user behaviors and dialogues on their device. This guarantees the safeguarding of their privacy. Unfortunately, these strategies are ineffective in merging local learning with the requirements for global model creation, making them inappropriate. Numerous existing systems face difficulties in facilitating effective device communication, preserving model correctness amongst various user inputs, and managing

the constrained processing resources of peripheral devices. Federated learning has arisen as an innovative privacy-preserving method to address these challenges and enable decentralized learning. This facilitates the transmission of adjustments impacting numerous models to the server solely when required, in addition to local model training. Exploratory implementations of federated learning have occurred across several areas; however, much latent potential remains for its application in identifying on-screen tasks within e-learning.

### Disadvantages on Existing System

- Transmitting model updates instead of raw data necessitates additional time in areas with unreliable network connections.
- The training duration may be prolonged due to challenges in attaining consistent and swift model convergence, stemming from variable data quality and the multitude of devices involved.
- The efficacy of certain e-learning devices may diminish if they cannot comprehensively comprehend federated learning models.
- Federated learning excels in privacy; nonetheless, it is vulnerable to counteractive attacks, particularly model poisoning, which arises when harmful alterations disrupt the learning process.
- The model's ability to recognize on-screen actions is especially vulnerable to inconsistent or noisy data from several sources.

### Proposed System

Federated Learning for Privacy-Preserving On-Screen Activity Recognition in E-Learning seeks to improve privacy during e-learning sessions by precisely detecting on-screen activities. This method, which

employs disparate data from many devices, ensures that sensitive information is retained on the device, thereby safeguarding user privacy. The technology utilizes federated learning to enable collaboration on a worldwide model development endeavor without requiring the exchange of raw data. The likelihood of data breaches or assaults is reduced with the implementation of solutions such as safe aggregation and differential privacy. The model is ideal for modifying e-learning settings because of its versatility with diverse data kinds and device processing capacities. Consequently, real-time activity detection on a broad scale is now attainable with reduced transmission overhead and latency.

### Advantages of Proposed System

- The technology processes data locally, guarantees privacy, and complies with data protection regulations. This retains personally identifiable information, including users' actions and habits on the device.
- Federated learning is the simultaneous training of models across several devices without centralized data storage. This diminishes the likelihood of data breaches and fortifies the model's security and resilience.
- The strategy utilizes the computing power of each device, thus enhancing efficiency and facilitating scaling. This facilitates the processing of enormous data volumes and the training of models without overburdening central processing units.
- The system optimizes bandwidth, especially in regions with poor connectivity, by transmitting only model alterations rather than raw data, thus considerably lowering communication expenses.

## 4. Results and Discussions

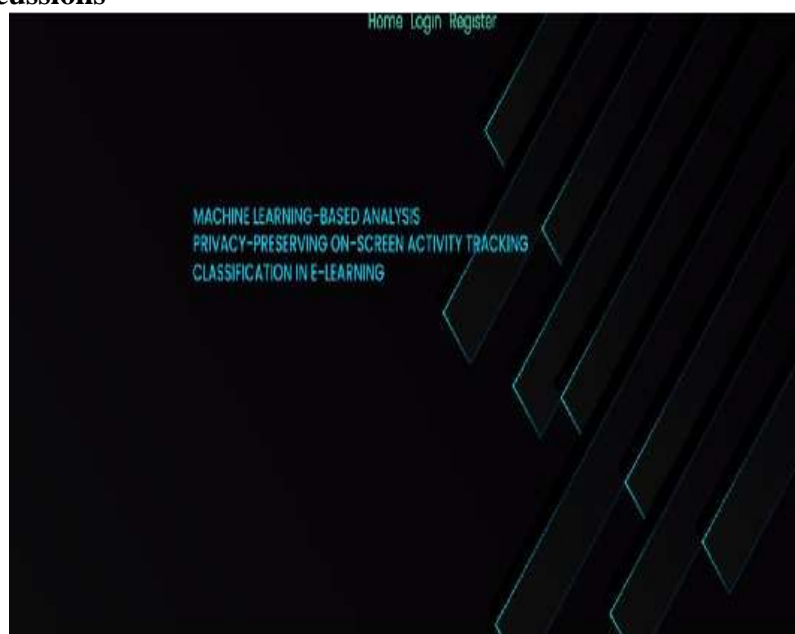
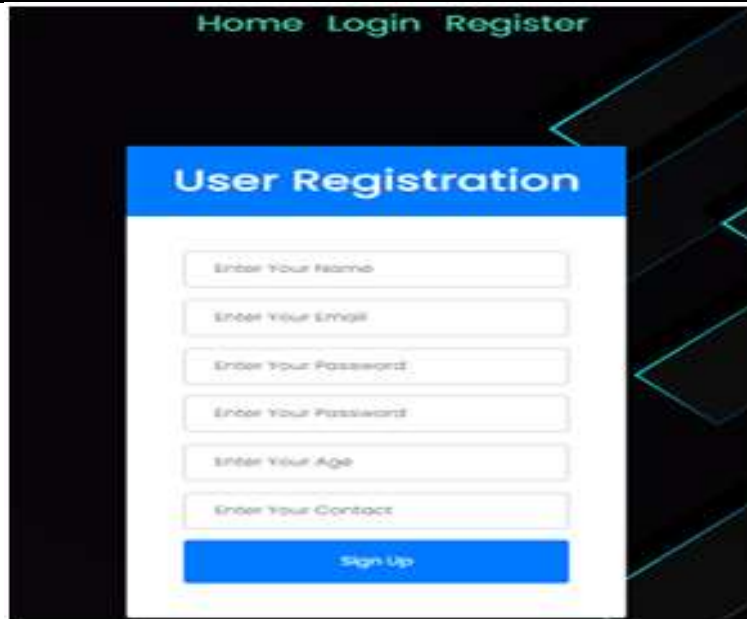


Figure 2 Home Page



Home Login Register

### User Registration

Enter Your Name

Enter Your Email

Enter Your Password

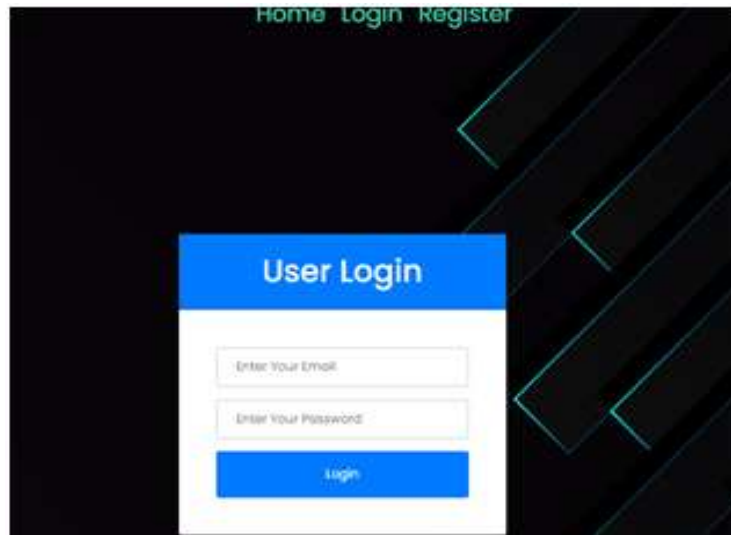
Enter Your Password

Enter Your Age

Enter Your Contact

Sign Up

Figure 3 Registration Page



Home Login Register

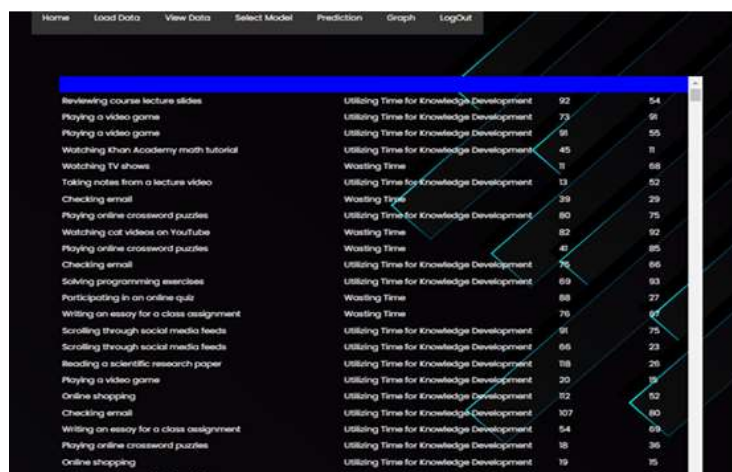
### User Login

Enter Your Email

Enter Your Password

Login

Figure 4 Login Page



Home	Load Data	View Data	Select Model	Prediction	Graph	LogOut
Reviewing course lecture slides	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	92	54			
Playing a video game	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	73	91			
Playing a video game	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	91	55			
Watching Khan Academy math tutorial	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	45	11			
Watching TV shows	Wasting Time	11	68			
Taking notes from a lecture video	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	13	52			
Checking email	Wasting Time	39	29			
Playing online crossword puzzles	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	80	75			
Watching cat videos on YouTube	Wasting Time	52	92			
Playing online crossword puzzles	Wasting Time	41	85			
Checking email	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	76	86			
Solving programming exercises	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	69	93			
Participating in an online quiz	Wasting Time	58	27			
Writing an essay for a class assignment	Wasting Time	76	87			
Scrolling through social media feeds	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	91	75			
Scrolling through social media feeds	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	66	23			
Reading a scientific research paper	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	118	26			
Playing a video game	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	20	19			
Online shopping	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	52	52			
Checking email	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	107	80			
Writing an essay for a class assignment	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	54	69			
Playing online crossword puzzles	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	18	36			
Online shopping	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	19	15			
Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	Utilizing Time for Knowledge Development	53	11			

Figure 5 View Data

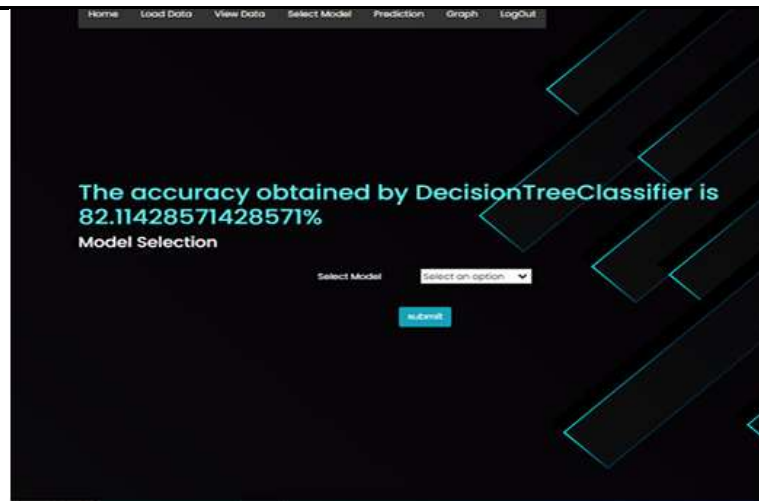


Figure 6 Model Selection



Figure 7 Graph Page

## 5. Conclusion

Federated learning is a viable answer to the critical challenge of safeguarding personal data while enabling efficient on-screen behavior recognition in online learning environments. FL guarantees compliance with rigorous data protection requirements and the safeguarding of user privacy by decentralizing data processing and keeping personal information on local devices. Federated Learning (FL) is the most efficient approach for developing intelligent e-learning systems that safeguard user privacy and trust by enabling cross-device collaboration and integrating model improvements without disclosing raw data. This approach alleviates concerns about data usage while also protecting privacy, therefore facilitating the incorporation of AI-driven solutions in the classroom

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