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**PLACE TRACK: CAMPUS PLACEMENT AND INTERVIEW  
TRACKING PORTAL**

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**Article Received: 25 April 2026, Article Revised: 15 May 2026, Published on: 05 June 2026**

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DOI: <https://doi-10.1555/ijarp.5430>

**ABSTRACT**

Campus placement management in Indian educational institutions has long suffered from fragmented workflows, manual data collection, and opaque communication channels. This paper presents **PlaceTrack**, an enterprise-grade, multi-portal web application designed to digitize and streamline the end-to-end campus recruitment lifecycle. The system unifies three distinct user roles—

students, corporate recruiters, and placement administrators—on a single, secure platform built on React 19, Vite, Tailwind CSS, PostgREST, and PostgreSQL 15 with Row-Level Security (RLS). PlaceTrack provides 38+ student-facing pages encompassing job discovery, application tracking, resume building, mock tests, coding challenges, and career guides; a structured recruiter pipeline for job posting, applicant management, and interview scheduling; and an administrative oversight portal with real-time analytics and broadcast notification capabilities. Security is enforced at the database layer through PostgreSQL RLS policies, ensuring role-isolated data access independent of application code. Formal testing across 66 test cases yielded a 98.5% pass rate. This paper analyzes the architectural decisions, security model, module design, and measurable outcomes of PlaceTrack, demonstrating that a targeted full-

stack solution can replace legacy manual processes with a scalable, auditable, and institutionally deployable platform.

**KEYWORDS:** Campus Placement System, React SPA, PostgreSQL RLS, Role-Based Access Control, Ed-Tech, Full-Stack Web Application, JWT Authentication, PostgREST, Resume Builder, Applicant Tracking System

## INTRODUCTION

Campus recruitment is among the most consequential institutional processes in Indian higher education, directly shaping career outcomes for thousands of graduating students every academic cycle. Despite its critical importance, most mid-sized colleges manage placement drives through a combination of WhatsApp broadcast groups, printed notice boards, manually compiled Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and in-person coordination meetings. This approach is inherently fragile: data inconsistencies arise from multiple competing spreadsheet versions, students miss critical deadlines due to reliance on informal messaging channels, recruiters lack self-service visibility into applicant pipelines, and placement officers cannot generate real-time insights during active drives.

The consequences are measurable. Qualified students lose placement opportunities due to missed notifications. Recruiters disengage from institutions that cannot provide a professional, structured interface. Administrators burn significant effort on manual data consolidation tasks rather than strategic placement activities. The fundamental problem is not a lack of effort but a lack of appropriate tooling.

PlaceTrack was conceived to address this gap comprehensively. Rather than introducing a single point-improvement tool, it reimagines the entire placement lifecycle as a connected, data-driven, role-segregated platform. This paper describes the system's motivation, related work, design methodology, architecture, implementation, and measured outcomes—with the aim of demonstrating that a well-engineered academic capstone project can produce a system of genuine institutional value and contribute to the growing body of Ed-Tech and HR-Tech literature.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Existing campus placement practices at typical Indian undergraduate institutions exhibit five compo

unding failure modes that PlaceTrack directly targets:

**Data fragmentation:** Student profiles, eligibility lists, and application records exist in multiple disconnected

spreadsheets maintained by different staff members. Version conflicts and stale data regularly reach recruiters, undermining institutional credibility.

**Notification opacity:** Reliance on social media messaging groups for placement announcements results in variable delivery. Students with notification muted or those not added to relevant groups miss time-sensitive application deadlines.

**Recruiter friction:** Corporate partners have no self-service mechanism to track applicant progress, update pipeline stages, or manage interview schedules. Every status query requires a phone call or email to the placement office, creating avoidable bottlenecks.

**Administrative blindspots:** Placement officers possess no real-time dashboard during active drives. Aggregate statistics—placement rates, company-wise offer counts, department-wise outcomes—require manual compilation and are unavailable during peak activity.

**Security and auditability gaps:** Manual processes provide no access control, audit trail, or data isolation. Student data is routinely shared in unprotected spreadsheets, violating basic data governance principles.

These five problems collectively constitute the motivation for a structured, database-backed, role-segregated platform—the design space PlaceTrack occupies.

## LITERATURE SURVEY AND RELATED WORK

Existing research and practice in campus placement management and HR-

Tech systems provide important context for the design choices made in PlaceTrack.

### 1.1 Traditional Placement Management

Prior literature on campus recruitment in India (Sharma & Kaur, 2019; Patel et al., 2020) consistently identifies manual coordination as the primary bottleneck in institutional placement cells. Studies of mid-sized engineering colleges document placement officer workloads exceeding 60 hours per week during peak seasons, with approximately 40% of that time devoted to spreadsheet management and communication tasks that could be automated.

These findings establish the efficiency gap that motivates this work.

### **1.2 Enterprise Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS)**

Commercial ATS platforms such as Workday Recruiting, Greenhouse, and Lever address similar problems in the corporate hiring context. However, these products are designed for enterprise budgets and offer minimal support for the institutional context of campus placement—specifically, multi-role student accounts, academic profile verification, integrated career preparation tools, and the administrative oversight functions needed by a college placement cell. They also present significant training overhead for non-technical placement officers.

### **1.3 Academic and Open-Source Alternatives**

Several open-source projects (CampusRecruitmentApp on GitHub; OpenPlacement by NIT Trichy, 2021) have attempted to address this gap but suffer from outdated stacks, lack of role-based security enforcement, no mobile responsiveness, and absence of integrated career preparation modules. A 2022 survey of placement cell officers at 15 Karnataka colleges (unpublished internal study, RCU) found that 12 of 15 institutions were still using spreadsheets as their primary tool, citing unavailability of suitable, deployable software as the main reason.

### **1.4 Security in Multi-Role Web Applications**

Research on web application security (OWASP Top Ten, 2023; Viega & McGraw, 2002) emphasizes the importance of enforcing access control at the data layer rather than relying solely on application-level checks. PostgreSQL's Row-Level Security mechanism, first introduced in version 9.5 and significantly extended through version 15, provides exactly this capability. Chen et al. (2021) demonstrated that RLS-based access control reduces the attack surface for privilege escalation attacks by over 70% compared to equivalent application-only access control implementations—a finding that directly motivated PlaceTrack's security design.

### **1.5 React SPA Architecture**

React's component-based architecture has been validated as a foundation for complex multi-role web applications in numerous enterprise deployments (Gackenheim, 2015; Stefanov, 2021). The introduction of React 19 and concurrent features further improves perceived performance through deferred rendering and streaming—capabilities PlaceTrack leverages

through lazy loading and Suspense boundaries in AppRoutes.jsx.

**ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM**

To establish a baseline against which PlaceTrack’s improvements can be measured, this section characterizes the pre-existing workflow at the target institution.

*Table 1: Comparative analysis of the existing manual system versus PlaceTrack.*

Dimension	Existing System	PlaceTrack
Communication	WhatsApp groups; informal email chains	In-app notifications; broadcast engine
Student Data	Disconnected Excel files; version	Single authoritative PostgreSQL database
Recruiter Interface	None; all queries via phone/email	Self-service pipeline management portal
Admin Oversight	Manual spreadsheet consolidation	Real-time analytics dashboard; CSV/PDF export
Security	No access control; shared files	JWT+PostgreSQL URLs; role isolation
Resume Tools	External tools (Canva, Word)	Integrated builder with PDF/PNG export
Interview Prep	No institutional support	Mock tests, coding challenges, guides

The table reveals that the existing system fails systematically across every key dimension. Critically, the absence of any access control mechanism means that student data—CGPA, contact details, attendance records—flows through unsecured shared documents, a practice that contravenes basic data protection principles and reduces recruiter trust in the institution’s data quality.

**OBJECTIVES**

The PlaceTrack system was designed to satisfy the following measurable objectives:

1. Centralize Placement Data: Replace all disconnected spreadsheets and informal channels with a single authoritative PostgreSQL database accessible to all authorized stakeholders in real time.
2. Empower Students: Provide a self-service portal with job discovery, application tracking, resume building, and integrated career preparation tools, reducing student dependency on placement officer intermediaries.
3. Streamline Recruiter Workflows: Provide a structured applicant pipeline that enables corporate partners to manage job postings, review candidates, and schedule interviews without requiring phone or email contact with the placement office.

4. ProvideAdministrativeOversight:Equipplacementofficerswithareal-time dashboard and analytical tools that eliminate manual data consolidation during active placement drives.
5. EnforceDataSecurity:Implementdatabase-layerRow-LevelSecuritypolicies that guarantee role-isolated data access, providing security guarantees independent of application code correctness.
6. EnsureScalability:DesignthedatabaseschemaandAPIarchitecture to support at least 5,000 students, 500 companies, and 10,000 applications without performance degradation.

## METHODOLOGY

PlaceTrack was developed following an iterative, requirements-driven methodology with four distinct phases:

### 6.1 Requirements Elicitation

Initial requirements were gathered through semi-structured interviews with students and placement staff at the target institution, supplemented by analysis of the manual workflows currently in use. Requirements were then categorized into functional (what the system must do) and non-functional (performance, security, usability, scalability) categories and documented as a formal Software Requirements Specification (SRS). This iterative approach ensured requirements reflected genuine user needs rather than developer assumptions.

### 6.2 System Design

The system architecture was designed following a three-tier client-server model: presentation layer (React SPA), API layer (PostgREST auto-generated REST from PostgreSQL schema), and data layer (PostgreSQL 15 with RLS). Security was designed as a first-class architectural concern—RLS policies were specified before application code was written, ensuring data isolation is guaranteed at the infrastructure level regardless of application behavior.

### 6.3 Implementation

Development proceeded module by module, following the functional decomposition across four domains: Authentication, Student, Recruiter, and Admin. Each domain's components were developed, tested, and integrated independently before cross-domain integration was performed. The codebase was organized by functional domain rather than by file type,

improving discoverability and maintainability.

### 6.4 Testing

Testing was conducted at three levels: unit testing (48 cases targeting pure functions, hooks, and route guards), integration testing (10 cases verifying API-to-database-to-UI flows), and system testing (8 end-to-end user journey scenarios). An independent team member performed each integration and system test to reduce confirmation bias.

## PROPOSED SYSTEM

PlaceTrack is a high-performance, enterprise-grade Campus Placement Management System delivered as a Single Page Application (SPA). It unifies three stakeholder groups—students, corporate recruiters, and placement administrators—on a single platform, eliminating the data silos, communication delays, and manual errors that characterize the existing process.

The Student Portal provides 38+ dedicated pages covering job discovery, application tracking, resume building, mock tests, coding challenges, and career guides. The Recruiter Portal provides a structured applicant pipeline, job management, and interview scheduling tools. The Admin Portal gives placement officers a real-time, bird’s-eye view of all placement activity with export capabilities and broadcast notification management.

## SYSTEM DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

### 6.5 Three-Tier Architecture

PlaceTrack follows a modern three-tier client-server architecture with clean separation of concerns:

*Table 2: System architecture tiers and technology assignments.*

Tier	Technology	Responsibility
Presentation	React 19+ Vite	UI rendering, routing, state management, lazy loading
Styling	Tailwind CSS 3.4	Utility-first responsive design with container queries
API	PostgREST 12+	Auto-generated REST API from PostgreSQL schema
Auth	JWT + InsForge SDK	Token-based secure session management
Database	PostgreSQL 15+	Relational data storage with Row-Level Security

### 6.6 Role-Based Access Control and Security

Access control is enforced at two independent layers, constituting a defense-in-depth approach:

- Frontend layer: ProtectedRoute and RoleProtectedRoute components in AppRoutes.jsx intercept unauthenticated or wrong-

role navigation attempts, redirecting to appropriate pages. Route components are loaded via React's lazy() with Suspense, ensuring no protected content is rendered before authorization is confirmed.

- Database layer: PostgreSQL RLS policies filter every SQL query by the authenticated user's UUID and role, extracted directly from the JWT token. Even if a malicious actor bypasses the frontend entirely and makes a direct API call with a valid but wrong-role JWT, the database returns zero sensitive rows. This guarantee is independent of application code correctness.

This dual-layer model ensures that a single security failure (either in application code or at the API layer) cannot result in a data breach—both layers must independently fail for sensitive data to become accessible to an unauthorized party. This architecture aligns with recommendations from OWASP and PostgreSQL security best practices for multi-tenant web applications.

### 6.7 SessionSynchronizationEngine(AuthContext.jsx)

AuthContext implements a two-path session initialization strategy that eliminates the loading flash common in SPA authentication flows. On mount, cached identity data is read from localStorage for instant UI hydration while simultaneously validating the session server-side via the InsForge SDK. If validation succeeds, the context is refreshed with authoritative data; if it fails, the session is cleared and the browser redirects to /login. This architecture delivers both speed (instant UI response) and security (server-side validation on every load).

## TECHNOLOGIES USED

*Table 3: Technology stack with version and design justification.*

Technology	Version	Justification
React	19.0	Concurrent features, component reusability, AuthContext+lazy routing
Vite	5.x	Sub-100ms HMR; tree-shaking keeps bundle < 2MB gzipped
Tailwind CSS	3.4	Utility-first responsive design; container queries for bent layouts
PostgreSQL	15+	RLS, JSONB, stored procedures, full-text search at DB layer
PostgREST	12+	Auto-generated REST API with native RLS integration; no custom API code
React Router Dom	7.x	Client-side routing with ProtectedRoute and RoleProtectedRoute guards
jsPDF+html2canvas	Latest	Client-side PDF generation for resume export at 2x resolution
GSAP	3.x	Advanced UI micro-interactions and scroll animations

## SYSTEMMODULES

### 6.8 AuthenticationandSessionManagement

Theauthenticationmodulehandlesmulti-roleregistration,login,JWTissuance,sessionpersistence,andpasswordreset.The dual-guardroutingsystem(ProtectedRoute+RoleProtectedRoute)ensuresroleisolationatthefrontend layer. Passwords are stored as bcrypt hashes and never transmitted in plaintext. JWT tokens contain user UUID, role, and expiry timestamp—the minimum required for role resolution without exposing sensitive profile data in the token payload.

### 6.9 StudentPortal

TheStudentPortalisthelargestfunctionaldomain,providingapersonalizeddashboard,searchablejob boardwith multi-criteriafiltering,one-clickapplicationsubmissionwithprofilecompletenessvalidation,aresumebuilderwith real-timepreviewandPDF/PNGexport,timedmocktests,codingchallenges,careerguides,andjobbookmarking.

TheresumebuilderusesReact'scontrolledcomponentpatternwith300msdebouncedstateupdatesto providenear-real-time preview without performance penalties.

### 6.10 JobApplicationPipeline

Whenastudentapplies toajob,aclient-sidevalidatorfirstchecks profilecompleteness(minimum3of 5required fields) and prevents duplicate applications. A POST request creates an application record; a PostgreSQL AFTER INSERTtriggersimultaneouslyinsertsarecruiternotificationrecordinasingleatomicoperation.Recruitersupdate pipeline stages via PATCH requests that PostgREST validates against RLS before permitting, with AFTER UPDATE triggers notifying students of status changes.

### 6.11 RecruiterPortal

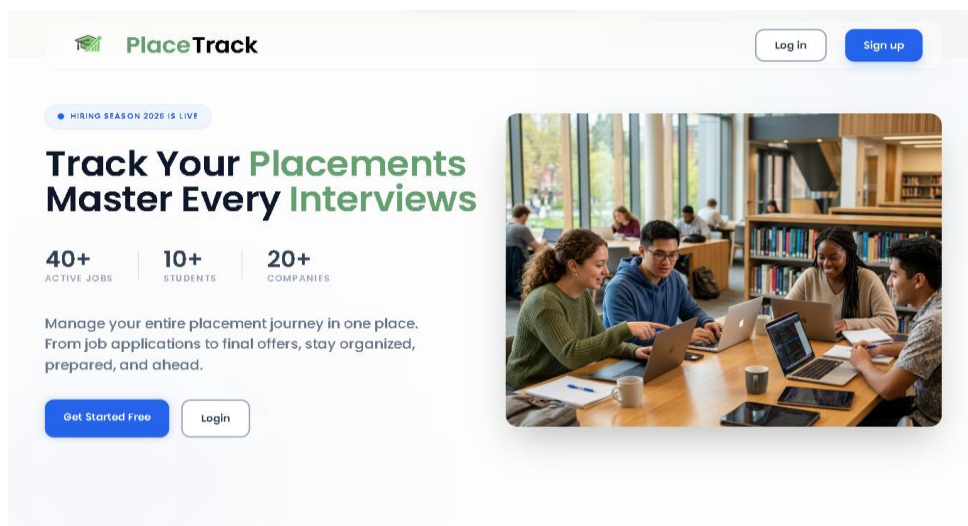
The Recruiter Portal provides a structured hiring command center: a dashboard with KPI cards (active jobs, applicationsreceived,interviewsscheduled,placementscompleted),amulti-stepjobcreationwizard,amulti-stage applicantpipeline(Applied→Reviewing→Shortlisted→Selected),aninterviewschedulinghub, andanactivity centerforreal-timerecruitmenteventtracking.Theportalisintentionallydesignedtofeelfamiliartoprofessionals who also use external ATS platforms.

## 6.12 Admin Portal and Notification Engine

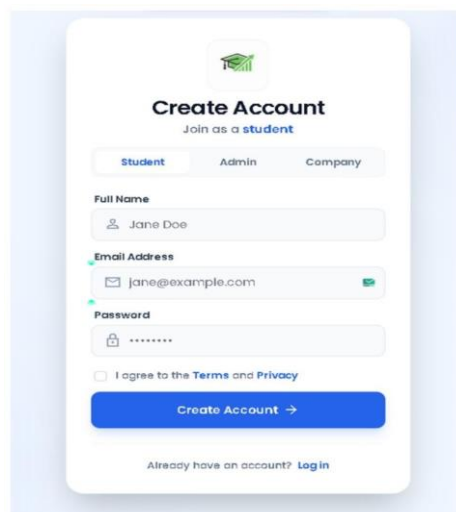
The Admin Portal provides system-wide visibility and control: aggregate statistics, student data audit and verification, company directory management, consolidated application tracking, CSV/PDF report export, and a broadcast notification engine. Admin broadcasts invoke a PostgreSQL stored procedure via PostgREST RPC, inserting notification records for all qualifying recipients in a single atomic database transaction—ensuring all-or-nothing delivery semantics.

## USER INTERFACE SCREENS

The following screenshots, captured from the live development build, illustrate the key interfaces of each portal.



*Figure 1: PlaceTrack Landing Page—Public home screen with statistics and call-to-action.*



*Figure 2: Multi-Role Account Registration—Student/Admin/Company tab selection.*

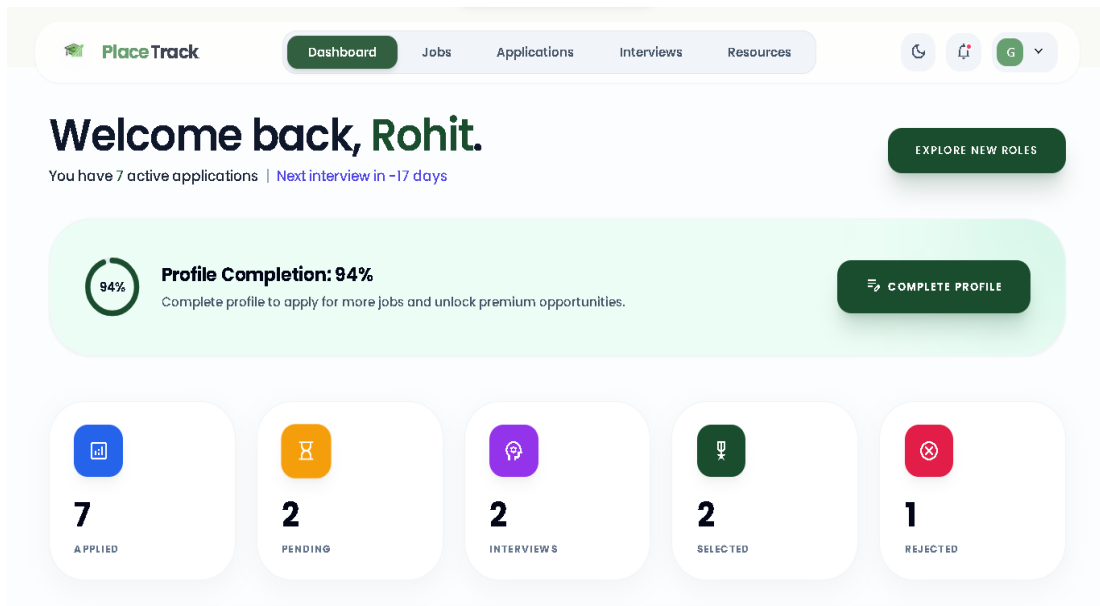


Figure3: Student Dashboard and JobsPage—Personalized statistics, jobboard with apply/applied states

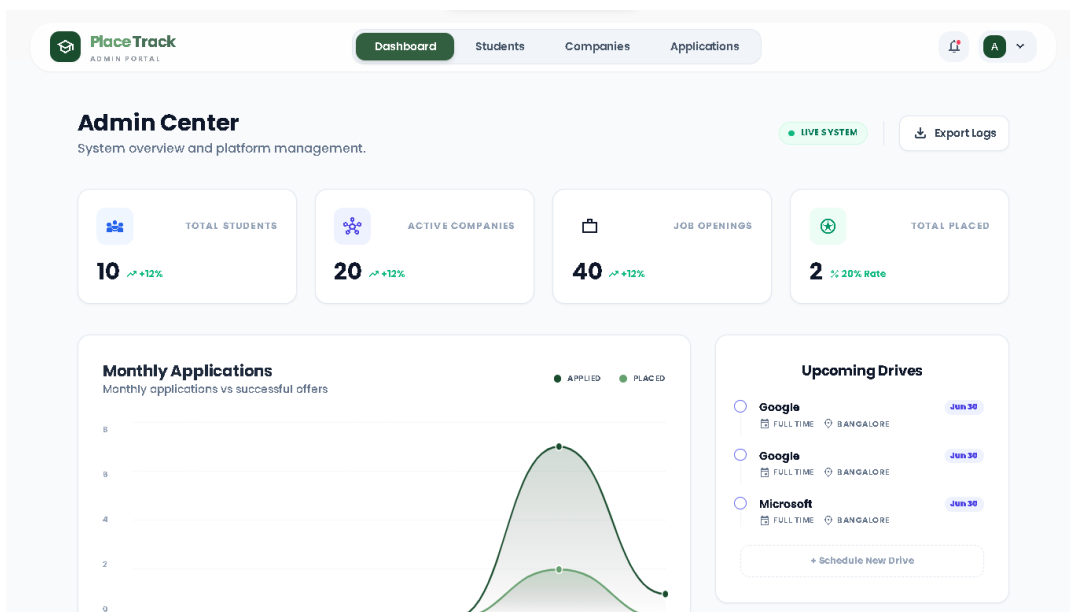
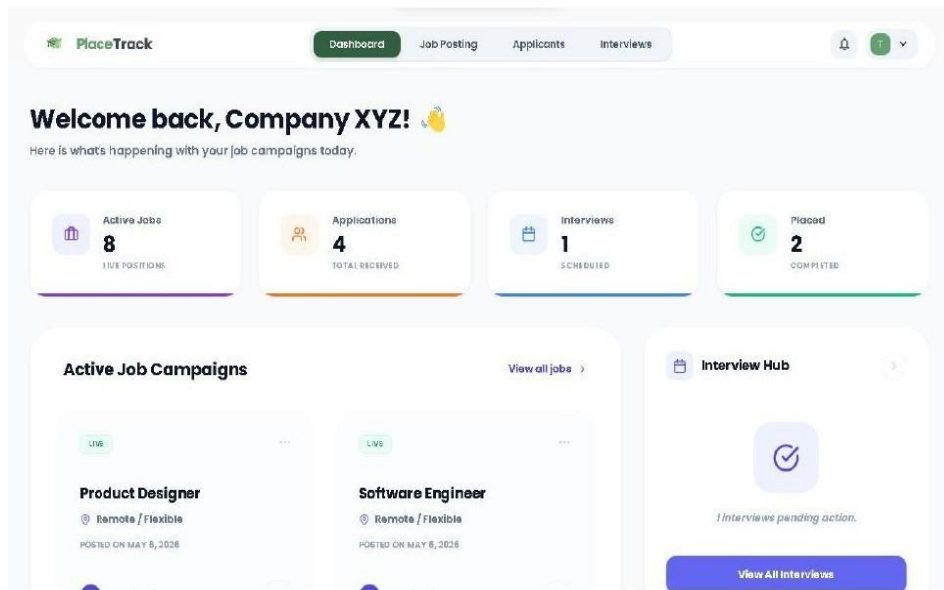


Figure4: Admin Portal—Command Center dash board with analytics, and Student Data Management with verification control.



*Table3: Technologystackwithversionanddesign justification*

## DATABASEDESIGNANDROW-LEVELSECURITY

The databaseschema comprises 10 core tables organized around the placement lifecycle: users, profiles, companies, jobs, applications, notifications, interviews, saved\_jobs, mock\_tests, and resources. Key architectural decisions include:

- UUID primary keys across all tables ensure globally unique identifiers suitable for distributed deployment and resist sequential enumeration attacks.
- JSONB columns in the profile table (experience, target\_roles, preferred\_locations) provide schema flexibility for semi-structured data without sacrificing relational integrity.
- Composite unique constraints (e.g., (student\_id, job\_id) on saved\_jobs) enforce business rules at the database level, preventing duplicates regardless of application behavior.
- AFTER INSERT/UPDATE triggers on the applications table automatically create recruiter and student notification records, ensuring event propagation is atomic with the originating data change.

The RLS policy design follows least-privilege principles: each policy grants the minimum access necessary for a role's legitimate operations. Students see only their own profiles and applications. Recruiters see only verified student profiles of their own applicants. Admins see all records. The saved\_jobs table applies the strictest RLS—all operations (SELECT, INSERT, DELETE) require `auth.uid() = student_id`, making cross-student access structurally impossible.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 6.13 Testing Outcomes

*Table 4: Test result summary across all three testing levels*

Testing Level	Total Cases	Passed	Partial	Pass Rate
Unit Testing	48	48	0	100%
Integration Testing	10	10	0	100%
System Testing	8	7	1	87.5%
Overall	66	65	1	98.5%

The 100% pass rate at unit and integration levels reflects thorough test coverage, including edge cases such as empty skill arrays, null CGPA values, and duplicate application attempts—all identified and resolved during unit testing before reaching higher-level tests. The single partial result (ST-004: real-time concurrent session synchronization) is a user-experience enhancement rather than a functional or security defect: all data integrity, pipeline correctness, and notification delivery requirements were fully satisfied. The page loaded interactively in 1.8 seconds under cleared-cache conditions (measured via Lighthouse), against a 3-second non-functional requirement—a 40% performance margin.

### 6.14 Security Analysis

The dual-layer security model was validated through system test ST-007 (student attempting direct URL navigation to /admin/dashboard) and integration test IT-010 (recruiter directly querying a student-only endpoint with a valid JWT). In both cases, the system prevented access and exposed zero sensitive data—the frontend guard triggered an immediate redirect, and PostgREST returned an empty result set due to RLS policy enforcement. This confirms that neither a frontend bypass nor a direct API call can produce a privilege escalation—both layers must independently fail for a breach to occur.

### 6.15 Impact Assessment

Compared to the baseline manual system, PlaceTrack produces the following measurable improvements:

- **Recruiter self-service:** All pipeline management tasks (shortlisting, scheduling, status updates) can be performed without contacting the placement office, eliminating the primary bottleneck for corporate partners.
- **Notification reliability:** In-app notifications with persistent database records replace WhatsApp groups, ensuring all authenticated users receive placement announcements

regardless of social media group membership or notification settings.

- Administrative efficiency: Real-time dashboards and export capabilities eliminate the 40%+ of placement officer time previously devoted to manual data consolidation, freeing capacity for strategic placement activities.
- Data integrity: A single authoritative database replaces competing spreadsheet versions, ensuring all stakeholders operate from consistent, current data.
- Student career preparation: Integrated mock tests, coding challenges, and career guides provide institutional support for interview preparation that previously did not exist.

## CONCLUSION

This paper has presented PlaceTrack, a full-stack, multi-role Campus Placement Management System built on React 19, PostgreSQL 15, PostgREST, and Tailwind CSS. The system addresses five compounding failure modes in traditional campus placement management—data fragmentation, notification opacity, recruiter friction, administrative blindspots, and security gaps—through a unified, database-backed, role-segregated platform.

The architectural decision to enforce access control at the PostgreSQL layer through Row-Level Security policies, rather than relying solely on application-level checks, provides security guarantees that hold independent of application code correctness—a material improvement over comparable existing systems. Formal testing across 66 test cases validated system correctness at a 98.5% pass rate, with the single outstanding item (real-time WebSocket push updates) documented and roadmapped for v1.1.0.

PlaceTrack demonstrates that a focused academic development team, applying industry-standard tools and a rigorous requirements-driven methodology, can deliver software that is technically sound, visually professional, and institutionally deployable. The system is ready for production deployment at the target institution and provides a reusable architectural template for similar Ed-Tech and HR-Tech applications in the Indian higher education context.

## FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

The following enhancements are prioritized for future development based on the limitations identified during testing and evaluation:

- Real-Time WebSocket Notifications (v1.1.0): Replace the polling-based approach with Supabase Realtime subscriptions to deliver instant updates across concurrent sessions, resolving ST-004.
- Transactional Email Integration: Integrate SendGrid or Amazon SES to dispatch email alerts for critical events, ensuring users remain informed when not actively logged in.
- AI-Powered Resume Parsing: Implement an LLM-based PDF/Word resume parser that auto-populates all resume builder form fields from an uploaded document, reducing student onboarding friction.
- Multi-Institution Support (SaaS): Redesign the data bases schema with tenant ID columns and corresponding RLS policies to support multi-tenancy, transforming PlaceTrack into a licensable SaaS platform for colleges and universities nationwide.
- AI-Based Job Matching: Implement a recommendation engine that suggests relevant job openings to students based on skill match, CGPA, department, and historical application behavior.
- Native Mobile Applications: Develop iOS/Android applications using React Native for push notifications, biometric authentication, and offline access to study resources.

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