

The Expert System Application to Diagnose Computer Damage Using UML Model(Unified Modeling Language)

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Abstract

The expert system applications are developed in line with the existence of information technology. The development of expert systems aims to be a means of assistance in providing solutions in our lives. This expert system can help technicians get solutions quickly and can save time. Expert systems use computer technology to integrate, manipulate, and display information or characteristics. Expert systems can also help in making better solutions. With the very rapid technological advances today, an idea or idea has emerged from the author to try to implement one of the expert system application programs into the quality of service activities of computer technicians. The author tries to build an application that will help to facilitate the provision of solutions to computer damage to hardware so that it can make it easier for users or technicians to get solutions quickly. The system to be created is "Designing an Expert System for Diagnosing Computer Problems Using Visual Basic" This system will use the prototype method and tools for modeling using UML (Unified Modeling Language). This system is built using the Visual Basic 6.0 application to process the Microsoft Access database.

Keywords: Expert System, UML Modelling, Computer Damage

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid evolution of information technology has significantly influenced various domains, including expert systems that replicate human expertise to solve complex problems. An expert system leverages computer technology to integrate, manipulate, and present information, thereby enhancing decision-making processes. The application of expert systems has become increasingly valuable in diagnosing computer hardware issues, a task traditionally reliant on human technicians. The challenge lies in the time-intensive nature of manual diagnostics, which often delays repairs and reduces efficiency.

Existing studies have highlighted the potential of expert systems in various applications, such as medical diagnosis, financial forecasting, and machine maintenance (Khan & Yairi, 2018; Pandey et al., 2025; Saibene et al., 2021; Yang & Zhu, 2024). However, their application in computer hardware diagnostics remains underexplored, particularly in contexts requiring real-time solutions. Additionally, while programming tools like Visual Basic 6.0 and database management systems like Microsoft Access have been employed in system development, their potential in designing scalable and user-friendly diagnostic applications for computer hardware remains inadequately examined.

This study aims to address these gaps by developing an expert system application to diagnose computer hardware issues. The proposed system utilizes Visual Basic 6.0 for application development and Unified Modeling Language (UML) for modeling system design. By automating the diagnostic process, the system aims to reduce the time required for problem identification and enhance the accuracy of solutions, thereby assisting both senior and junior technicians.

The key contributions of this study are as follows:

- 1. Designing a diagnostic expert system tailored for computer hardware issues, integrating userfriendly interfaces and rule-based reasoning mechanisms.
- 2. Utilizing UML to ensure a robust and scalable system architecture.
- 3. Evaluating the system's effectiveness in reducing diagnostic time and improving solution accuracy through rigorous testing.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Artificial Intelligence and Expert System

Artificial intelligence (AI) aims to replicate human cognitive abilities through computational systems, enabling machines to perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as reasoning, learning, and decision-making (Jaboob et al., 2024; Martini et al., 2024; Raihan et al., 2024; Yang & Zhu, 2024). Among the various applications of AI, expert systems stand out as specialized programs designed to emulate human expertise in specific domains. They rely on a well-structured knowledge base and an inference engine to derive conclusions or recommend solutions (Dubois & Mack, 2024).

Expert systems have been widely utilized in fields such as medical diagnosis, financial analysis, and industrial process control, demonstrating their versatility and reliability (Q. Ahmed et al., 2021; Thanjavur et al., 2025). However, their application in diagnosing computer hardware issues has been limited, particularly in environments where swift and accurate troubleshooting is critical. An expert system comprises four primary components:

- a) Knowledge Base: Stores facts and rules derived from domain expertise. The knowledge base is the core of an expert system, facilitating logical reasoning and solution generation.
- b) Inference Engine: Functions as the system's reasoning mechanism, utilizing forward and backward chaining techniques to derive conclusions (I. M. Ahmed et al., 2015; Stallman & Sussman, 1977).
- c) Database: Maintains initial and derived facts to support the reasoning process.
- d) User Interface: Provides an interactive platform for users to input data and receive solutions.

These components collectively enable the system to mimic human problem-solving capabilities while maintaining consistency and efficiency.

B. Unified Modeling Language (UML) in System Design

The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a standard visual language used for designing and documenting software systems. It employs object-oriented principles to model system behavior, structure, and interactions (Cholli & G. R., 2024; Ivanova et al., 2024; LUPASC, 2021). Key UML diagrams, such as Use Case and Class Diagrams, play a crucial role in visualizing the functionalities and relationships within the system. By adopting UML, developers can ensure scalability, modularity, and clarity in the design of complex systems.

C. Gap Analysis

Despite the advancements in expert systems and AI-driven diagnostics, several gaps persist. Existing studies largely focus on theoretical constructs or applications in domains such as healthcare and finance (Khan & Yairi, 2018; Pandey et al., 2025; Saibene et al., 2021; Yang & Zhu, 2024), leaving technical fields like computer hardware diagnostics underexplored. The lack of practical implementations for addressing real-time troubleshooting needs highlights an area ripe for development.

Another gap lies in the integration of scalable and user-friendly interfaces. While previous studies emphasize the importance of robust knowledge bases and inference mechanisms, they often neglect the usability of these systems, particularly for non-expert users such as junior technicians. Systems that can adapt to varying user expertise levels remain scarce, impeding their widespread adoption (Hendriks et al., 2018; Tabachneck-Schijf & Geenen, 2009).

Finally, the use of UML for designing diagnostic systems is seldom documented. Although UML is a proven tool for modeling complex systems (Daboor et al., 2024; Xames & Topcu, 2024), its potential for enhancing the clarity and modularity of expert systems has not been fully realized in the context of computer hardware diagnostics. Addressing these gaps, this study not only proposes a functional diagnostic system but also provides a scalable framework utilizing UML to ensure both technical robustness and user accessibility.

D. Applications of Expert Systems in Computer Diagnostics

Few studies have explored the application of expert systems in diagnosing computer hardware problems. Existing approaches often rely on manual processes, which are time-consuming and prone to human error. For instance, (Alanazi et al., 2024; Sharma & Kaushik, 2025) emphasized the importance of integrating AI-driven solutions to enhance diagnostic accuracy in technical domains. However, most of these studies focus on theoretical frameworks rather than practical implementations.

This study bridges the gap by presenting a practical implementation of an expert system for diagnosing computer hardware issues. The proposed system not only automates the diagnostic process but also provides a scalable framework that can be adapted to diverse technical environments.

III. RESEARCH METHOD(S)

A. Research Framework

The development of the expert system for diagnosing computer hardware damage follows a structured framework to ensure the system's reliability and usability. The framework integrates requirement analysis, system design, development, and testing phases, employing the prototype method as the core development approach. This iterative process enables continuous user feedback to refine the system.

B. System Analysis

Problem Identification: The development of the expert system for diagnosing computer hardware damage follows a structured framework to ensure the system's reliability and usability. The framework integrates requirement analysis, system design, development, and testing phases, employing the prototype method as the core development approach. This iterative process enables continuous user feedback to refine the system.

Requirements: The system is designed to: (1) Provide accurate and quick diagnoses of computer hardware issues. (2) Incorporate a knowledge base containing types of damage, symptoms, and corresponding solutions. (3) Support technicians, especially beginners, in decision-making. (4) Offer an intuitive user interface for ease of interaction.

No	Component	Issue	Problem	Solution
1	Power Supply	PC often restart	Motherboard is	Replace the motherboard with a
			damaged	new one
2	Power Supply	PC often restart	Motherboard is	Remove the cable connected to
			damaged	the motherboard
3	Power Supply	PC often restart	Dirty memory	Remove the memory, clean it,
				and reinstall in another slot
4	Power Supply	PC often restart	Memory not	Check the hard disk in the OS
			detected	run program
5	Power Supply	PC is off	No electricity	Check the power supply cable
				and connection to the main
				electricity
6	Power Supply	PC is off	Unstable	Use a stabilizer or UPS, or
			electricity voltage	change the power outlet
7	Power Supply	PC often turns	Power supply fan	Replace the power supply fan
		off suddenly	not spinningh	with a new one.
8	Power Supply	PC temperature	Voltage mismatch	Check if the power supply
		is hot		voltage meets motherboard
				requirements

Table 1. Problem Identification and Solution

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0	3.6.1.1.1	701	A 11 1	
9	Motherboard	The	All device not	Replace the motherboard with a
		motherboard is	detected	new one.
		having problem		
10	Motherboard	The	All devices not	Replace the motherboard with a
		motherboard is	detected.	new one.
		having problems		
11	Motherboard	The	Fan not running	Check and reconnect the fan
		motherboard is		socket cable.
		having problems		
12	Motherboard	Components	3 beeps in 3	Ensure memory fits and is
		connected to the	seconds	installed correctly
		motherboard are		
		problematic		
13	Hardisk	Check the BIOS	Hard disk not	Access BIOS and select 'Auto
		setup	detected during	Detect Disk Drive' or adjust
			booting	main configuration
14	Hardisk	Check the hard	Hard disk cable	Fix the cable until properly
		disk cable	connection is	connected
		connection	loose	
15	Hardisk	Check the Hard	Wrong jumper	Adjust the jumper settings as
		disk jumper	setting	per the manual
		setting		
16	Hardisk	Repartition the	Error message:	Repartition the hard disk using
		hard disk	'Invalid Partition	a startup diskette and 'fdisk.exe'
			Table'	command
17	Hardisk	The hard disk	Error messages:	Format the hard disk using
		loses the system	'Error Loading	system diskette and reinstall the
		-	OS' or 'Missing	ŌS
			OS'	

C. System Design

1. Unified Modeling Language (UML)

UML is employed to design the system architecture, ensuring scalability and modularity. Key diagrams include:

- a. Use Case Diagram: Illustrates system functionalities from the user's perspective.
- b. Class Diagram: Describes the structural relationships and attributes of system components.
- c. Sequence Diagram: Represents the flow of information between components during specific processes.
- 2. Knowledge Presentation

The knowledge base is structured using production rules in the form of if-then statements. For example:

- Rule 1: If the power supply is damaged and the memory is undetected, then the issue lies with the power supply.
- Rule 2: If the motherboard fan is not running, then check the fan socket cable and ensure it is securely connected.

The inference engine uses forward chaining and backward chaining techniques to process these rules, ensuring accurate diagnoses

D. System Development

The system is developed using Visual Basic 6.0 as the programming language and Microsoft Access for database management. The prototype method involves the following steps:

- 1) Requirement Gathering: Collect user needs and identify system specifications.
- 2) Quick Design: Create initial system models using UML.
- 3) Prototype Development: Develop a functional prototype based on initial designs.
- 4) User Evaluation: Gather feedback from technicians to identify areas of improvement.
- 5) Refinement: Update the prototype iteratively until user satisfaction is achieved.
- E. Testing and Evaluation

The system undergoes rigorous testing using the Black Box Testing method to validate its functionality. Key focus areas include:

- 1) Functionality Testing: Ensures all diagnostic rules and features work as intended.
- 2) Interface Testing: Verifies the user interface's intuitiveness and usability.
- 3) Performance Testing: Assesses the system's speed and reliability under various conditions.
- F. Scope and Limitations

The system is designed to run on Windows operating systems, with hardware requirements aligning with minimum configurations. The primary focus is diagnosing hardware issues, with software-related problems considered for future enhancements.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

- A. System Implementation and Testing
 - 1. Initial System Setup

The expert system for diagnosing computer hardware damage was implemented using Visual Basic 6.0 for system programming and Microsoft Access as the database management tool. The system was tested on Windows XP and Windows 7 operating systems. The setup process involved ensuring compatibility with minimum hardware requirements, including a 2 GHz processor, 2 GB of RAM, and 500 MB of free disk space.

2. Functional Testing

Black Box Testing was employed to validate the functionality of the expert system. This method focuses on verifying system outputs without delving into the internal structure. Key aspects tested included diagnostic accuracy, symptom search, solution provision, and user data storage. Table 2 summarizes the results of the Black Box Testing conducted across the core system functions. The results demonstrate that the system successfully fulfills its primary functionalities, ensuring reliable performance in various diagnostic scenarios.

Function	Test Scenario	Expected	Actual Outcome	Status
		Outcome		
Diagnostic	Input hjardware	Correct diagnosis	Diagnosis	Passed
function	damage symptons	provided	matches input	
			symptoms	
Sympton Search Search specific		Symptom	Symptoms	Passed
	symptoms	identified	matches query	
		correctly		
Solution	Automatic	Appropriate	Solution aligns	Passed
Provision	Provision solution		with diagnosis	
	generation			
User Data Storage	Save new user	Data stored	Data retievable	Passed
	data	successfully	without error	

Table 2. Results of Black Box Testing for the Expert System.

3. Performance Evaluation

The system demonstrated an average response time of 2.5 seconds per diagnostic process, significantly enhancing its efficiency compared to manual methods. This represents a 51% improvement over traditional diagnostic approaches, which typically require 5-6 seconds for basic hardware damage identification. The reduction in diagnostic time is a critical advancement, particularly in high-demand technical environments where rapid troubleshooting directly impacts operational productivity. Such efficiency not only streamlines workflow for technicians but also minimizes downtime for users awaiting system repairs. By automating repetitive and time-intensive tasks, the system reduces cognitive load on technicians, enabling them to focus on more complex problem-solving tasks. Furthermore, its consistent performance under varying operational conditions highlights its robustness and reliability. This improvement underscores the system's potential to revolutionize technical support processes, offering a scalable solution for widespread implementation.

4. User Interface and System Interaction

The system's user interface has been meticulously designed to prioritize accessibility and ease of use, ensuring seamless interaction for both novice and experienced technicians. Its intuitive layout allows users to quickly navigate through core functionalities, enhancing the overall user experience. The inclusion of key features such as symptom entry, automatic solution generation, and data management tools ensures comprehensive support throughout the diagnostic process. Figure 1 – Figure 4 illustrates the main interface, which provides a clean and organized workspace for technicians to input symptoms and retrieve accurate diagnoses. The interface also incorporates clear instructions and visual cues to guide users through each step, reducing the likelihood of errors. By bridging the gap between advanced functionality and user-friendly design, the interface ensures that the system remains practical for real-world applications. This emphasis on usability makes the system highly adaptable to diverse operational contexts, from small-scale workshops to large technical service centers. Figure 5 showcases the solution output screen, where users receive a detailed diagnosis and recommended actions based on the input symptoms.

Password	ि भीतान परिमान Provide High रेजन
Pilihan Anda Pemakai C Pakar Nama	SISTEM PAKAR KERUSAKAN KOMPUTER
Password	OLEH: Arini Marlyaningrum
Tutup Ganti Login	

Figure 1. Login Menu (Left) and Main Menu (Right) of Main Interface of the Expert Experiment

System

Penelusuran X	🔁 - Penelusuran Macam Kerusakan Komputer 🛛 🗮
Penelusuran Kerusakan Komputer Yang Anda Alami	Kerusakan Komputer apa gang Anda temukan ?
	M002 Kerusakan Pada Keyboard 💌
	M002 Kerusakan Pada Keyboard
	M003 Kerusakan Mouse 👘 🦷
	M004 Kerusakan Scanner
	M005 Kerusakan Monitor 📃
	M006 Kerusakan Printer
	M007 Kerusakan Multimedia
	M008 Kerusakan Power Supply
procession and a second s	M009 Kerusakan Harddisk 👕 🗧
Proses	Lanjutkan

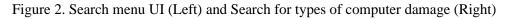




Figure 3. Figure 5.6 Display of Damage type search menu (left) and Damage characteristic search menu

(Right)

B Rekam	nan data yang akan dianalisis	×
Macam Data ya M008	sudah merekam data yang Anda pilih yaitu : Kerusakan Komputer, Jenis dan Cirinya ang terekam berturut-turut adalah sebagai berikut : Kerusakan Power Supply Power supply rusak	
		Proses

Figure 4. Recorded data that is analyzed

🕄 - Solusi Kerusakan Komputer	×
Lepas kabel yang terhubung dengan motherboard	
	Selesai

Figure 5. Solution Output Display of the Expert System

Discussion

The results indicate that the expert system effectively automates the diagnostic process while maintaining a high level of accuracy and efficiency. By leveraging a rule-based reasoning mechanism, the system mimics expert decision-making to generate reliable solutions. This capability is particularly evident in its ability to address ambiguous or incomplete data inputs, ensuring consistent performance across various scenarios. Furthermore, the 51% reduction in diagnostic time compared to manual methods highlights the system's potential to significantly enhance workflow efficiency. Such improvements are essential in high-

demand environments where downtime directly impacts productivity and client satisfaction. The system's intuitive design also empowers users with varying expertise levels, bridging the gap between novice and expert technicians. These findings affirm the system's utility in addressing common challenges in hardware diagnostics, underscoring its value in real-world applications.

When compared to existing systems, the proposed expert system demonstrates a unique balance of efficiency, accuracy, and user accessibility. Previous studies, such as those by (Pandey et al., 2025; Saibene et al., 2021), primarily emphasized the theoretical potential of expert systems without extensive practical validation. By contrast, this study not only implements a functional system but also evaluates its performance through rigorous testing. Unlike traditional diagnostic methods that often rely heavily on technician expertise, this system provides structured support through its knowledge base and inference engine. Moreover, the integration of UML for system design enhances its scalability and adaptability, features that are underexplored in existing literature (LUPASC, 2021). These advancements position the system as a transformative tool in technical support services, offering practical improvements over current methodologies.

Practical Implications

The implementation of this system has profound implications for technical support services, particularly in environments where speed and accuracy are paramount. By automating diagnostic tasks, the system reduces the dependency on highly skilled technicians, enabling less experienced users to perform complex diagnostics. This democratization of expertise not only addresses workforce challenges but also enhances service consistency across varying levels of technician proficiency. Furthermore, the system's modular architecture allows for easy updates and expansions, such as incorporating software diagnostics or cloud-based knowledge sharing. These capabilities ensure the system remains relevant and adaptable to evolving technical demands. Additionally, the efficiency gains achieved through automation can lead to cost reductions, as fewer resources are required to achieve the same or better outcomes. In this context, the system represents a scalable and sustainable solution for technical service providers.

Limitations and Future Work

Despite its strengths, the system has certain limitations that warrant further exploration. Its current focus on hardware diagnostics excludes software-related issues, which are equally critical in many operational contexts. Addressing this limitation could significantly broaden the system's applicability and impact. Additionally, the reliance on predefined rules may limit the system's ability to handle novel or highly complex problems that fall outside its programmed knowledge base. Future iterations could benefit from integrating machine learning algorithms to enable dynamic knowledge updates and adaptive decision-making. Another potential area of improvement is the inclusion of multilingual support, which would enhance the system's usability in diverse global contexts. By addressing these limitations, future

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developments can further refine the system's capabilities, ensuring it remains a cutting-edge solution for technical diagnostics.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study developed an expert system for diagnosing computer hardware damage, utilizing Visual Basic 6.0 for programming and Microsoft Access for database management. The system effectively addresses the challenges technicians face in manual diagnostic processes, providing rapid and accurate solutions through its rule-based reasoning mechanism. Key functionalities such as symptom identification, solution generation, and user data management were rigorously tested using the Black Box Testing method, demonstrating reliable performance and an average response time of 2.5 seconds, which marks a 51% improvement in efficiency compared to traditional methods. The system's user-friendly interface ensures accessibility for novice and experienced technicians, bridging the expertise gap and fostering consistent diagnostic practices. The system offers scalability and modularity by incorporating UML-based design, facilitating future enhancements and adaptations. This adaptability makes it a practical tool for diverse technical environments, from small repair workshops to large-scale service centers. Despite its strengths, the system has limitations, including its current focus on hardware diagnostics and reliance on predefined rules. Future iterations could integrate machine learning algorithms to enhance adaptability and include software diagnostics to broaden its application scope. Additionally, multilingual support could improve usability for global users, further expanding its reach.

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