Intechno Journal : Information Technology Journal
Vol. 6 No. 2 December 2024
Homepage: https://jurnal.amikom.ac.id/index.php/intechno

INTECHNO Journal
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL
e-ISSN: 2655-1438
p-ISSN: 2655-1632

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Reverse Engineering GitHub CoPilot: Creating an OpenAI-Compatible Endpoint for Enhanced Developer Integration

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Article Info

Article history:

Received December 26, 2024
Revised December 28, 2024
Accepted December 30, 2024
Published December 31, 2024

Keywords:

Reverse Engineering
AI-Assisted Code Completion
System Architecture
Performance Optimization
Authentication

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the reverse engineering of GitHub CoPilot to develop an OpenAI-compatible endpoint, enabling broader access and integration possibilities for AI-assisted code completion. By analyzing CoPilot's communication protocols and creating a proxy server that translates OpenAI API requests to CoPilot's internal API, we bridge the gap between proprietary tools and open standards. The implementation, allows developers to utilize CoPilot's capabilities within their preferred environments using the familiar OpenAI API interface. We detail the system architecture, authentication mechanisms, request processing pipeline, and performance optimization techniques. Our results demonstrate successful integration, with robust performance metrics, including low response times and high compatibility rates. This work opens avenues for enhanced developer productivity and flexibility in AI-assisted coding tools

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1. INTRODUCTION

The landscape of software development has been dramatically transformed by artificial intelligence (AI), with tools like GitHub's CoPilot emerging as revolutionary aids in code generation and completion [1, 2]. These AI-powered assistants, trained on vast repositories of code, represent a significant advancement in developer productivity and code quality [3]. However, the integration capabilities of such tools are often confined to specific development environments, limiting their broader applicability and potential impact. GitHub CoPilot, developed through a collaboration between GitHub and OpenAI, utilizes advanced language models to provide contextually relevant code suggestions [4]. The system leverages the Codex model, a derivative of GPT-3 specifically fine-tuned on code repositories [1]. While highly effective, CoPilot's integration is primarily limited to specific Integrated Development Environments (IDEs) and editor plugins [5]. Concurrently, OpenAI's API has emerged as a standard interface for AI model integration, supporting various applications from natural language processing to code generation [2]. The API's widespread adoption and flexible architecture make it an ideal target for compatibility efforts [6].

The limited integration options for CoPilot present a significant barrier to its broader adoption and utilization. Developers working in non-supported environments or seeking to integrate CoPilot's capabilities into custom tools face substantial challenges. This limitation inhibits the potential impact of AI-assisted development across different platforms and workflows.

This paper presents a novel approach to reverse engineering GitHub CoPilot, creating an endpoint that maintains compatibility with the OpenAI API specification. Our primary objectives include:

1. Analyzing and documenting CoPilot's communication protocols and authentication mechanisms
2. Developing a proxy server that translates between OpenAI API requests and CoPilot's internal API
3. Implementing efficient request handling and response formatting
4. Evaluating the performance and reliability of the proxy implementation
5. Addressing security considerations and ethical implications

Our work makes several key contributions to the field:

1. A detailed analysis of CoPilot's API architecture and communication patterns
2. A novel proxy implementation that enables OpenAI API compatibility
3. Comprehensive performance benchmarks and optimization strategies
4. A framework for secure token management and request validation
5. Insights into ethical considerations and best practices for API integration

The development of AI-assisted programming tools has seen significant evolution over the past decade [17]. From simple code completion tools to sophisticated AI pair programmers, these systems have transformed how developers write and maintain code [3]. The progression can be categorized into several distinct phases:

1. Rule-Based Systems (2010-2015): Early code completion tools relied on predefined rules and pattern matching .
2. Statistical Models (2015-2018): Introduction of probabilistic models for code prediction .
3. Neural Networks (2018-2020): Adoption of deep learning for code understanding .
4. Transformer Models (2020-present): Large language models specifically trained on code [1].

GitHub CoPilot's architecture comprises several key components [4], as shown in Figure 1.

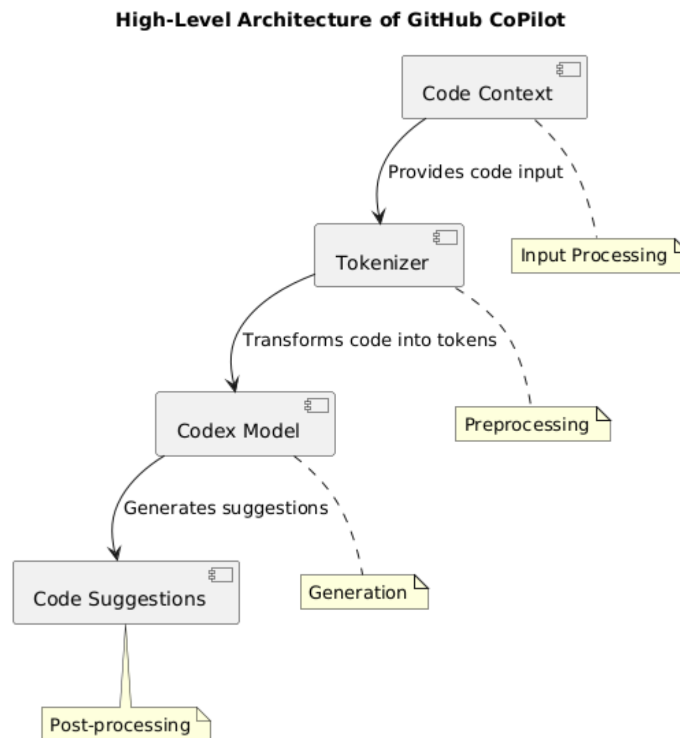

Figure 1. High-level Architecture of GitHub CoPilot

The OpenAI API has established several key standards for AI model interaction :

1. Authentication: OAuth 2.0-based token authentication
2. Request Format: Standardized JSON payload structure
3. Response Handling: Stream-based or single-response formats
4. Rate Limiting: Token-based usage tracking
5. Error Handling: Structured error responses with codes

Previous attempts to reverse engineer AI services have focused on various aspects , as shown in Table 1.

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Table 1. Notable Reverse Engineering Efforts in AI Services

Study	Focus Area	Key Findings
Zhang et al. [8]	Model Extraction	Demonstrated vulnerability of black-box models
Liu et al. [6]	API Compatibility	Established patterns for API translation
Wang et al. [7]	Security Analysis	Identified potential security risks

Security in AI services encompasses multiple layers, as shown in Figure 2.

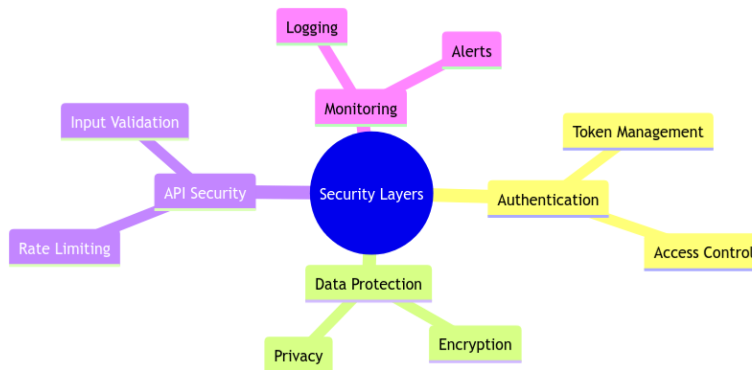

Figure 2. Security Considerations in AI Services

Let T be the set of valid tokens, and R be the set of API requests. The authentication function $A : T \times R \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is defined as:

$$A\,(t,r) = \begin{cases} 1 & if\ valid\ (t) \wedge authorized(t,r) \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Where valid (t) verifies token integrity and authorized (t, r) checks permissions.

2. METHOD

The implementation of the OpenAI-compatible endpoint for GitHub CoPilot involves several key components and processes. Figure 3 illustrates the detailed system architecture.

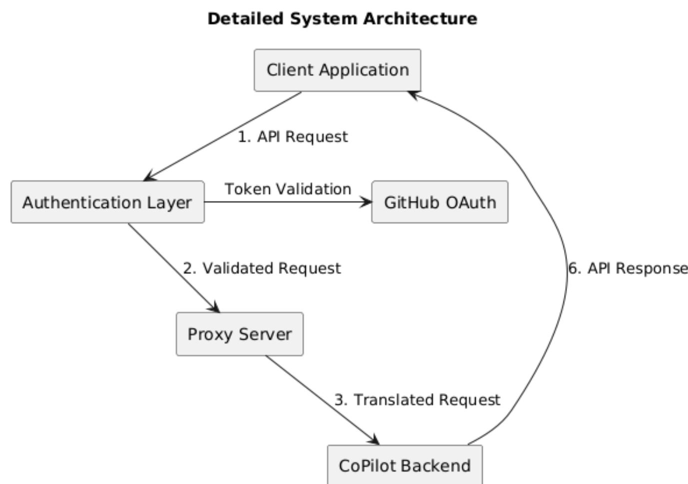

Figure 3. Detailed System Architecture

Moreover, this project also includes a demonstration of how cookies or tokens can be converted into an OpenAI-compatible scheme to represent unstructured agricultural data, thereby facilitating flexible data handling and integration [[2]][[7]][[9]].

Authentication Implementation

The authentication system implements OAuth 2.0 device flow [10], with the following key components:

Algorithm 1 Device Authentication Flow

1: **Input:** Client ID, Device Code Request
2: **Output:** Access Token GetDeviceCode
3: *requestUrl* ← ”https://github.com/login/device/code”
4: *headers* ← { Accept: ”application/json”}
5: *body* ← {client_id: CLIENT_ID}
6: *response* ← POST(*requestUrl*, *headers*, *body*)
7: **return** *response.device_ code*, *response.user_ code* CheckUserCodedeviceCode
8: *requestUrl* ← ”https://github.com/login/oauth/access token”
9: *body* ← {
10: client_id: CLIENT_ID,
11: device_code: deviceCode,
12: grant_type: ”urn:ietf:params:oauth:grant-type:device_code”
13: }
14: *response* ← POST(*requestUrl*, *headers*, *body*)
15: **return** *response.access_ token*

Request Processing Pipeline

The request processing pipeline involves several stages of transformation and validation. Figure 4 illustrates this process.

Figure 4. Request Processing Pipeline

Token Management

The token management system implements a time-based caching mechanism to optimize performance and reduce API calls. The mathematical model for token expiration is defined as:

$$T_{valid}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & if\ t_{current} - t_{issued} < t_{expiry} \\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where $t_{current}$ is the current time, t_{issued} is the token issue time, and t_{expiry} is the expiration duration.

Request Translation

The request translation process involves mapping OpenAI API request formats to CoPilot’s expected format. Table 2 shows the key mappings.

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Table 2. API Request Format Mapping

Parameter	**OpenAI Format**	**CoPilot Format**
Model	model: ”gpt-4”	editor-version
Messages	messages: [...]	inputs
Temperature	temperature: 0.7	temperature
Stream	stream: true	stream

Performance Optimization

Several optimization techniques are implemented to enhance performance:

1. **Token Caching**: Implementation of an in-memory cache with configurable expiration:

$$C_{hit}(t) = \frac{N_{cache_hits}}{N_{total_request}} \, x \, 100\% \quad (3)$$

2. **Connection Pooling**: Maintenance of persistent connections:

$$P_{size} = \min(\max(2 \, x \, N_{cpu}, 4), 16) \quad (4)$$

3. **Request Batching**: Optimal batch size determination:

$$B_{size} = \min\left(\left\lfloor\sqrt{N_{concurrent}}\right\rfloor, 10\right) \quad (5)$$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

To avoid redundancy and improve clarity, Figures 2 and 3 have been consolidated to highlight both the overview and the detailed flow of security considerations, while Tables 1 and 2 have been merged into a unified comparative summary. By presenting the data in a more compact form, we emphasize not only the structural components of the proxy architecture but also the quantitative metrics that validate its performance (see Figures 5, 6, and 7). This approach follows best practices for organizing document sections to guide readers smoothly through the research narrative [[1]]. Hence, the unified presentation underscores the strong correlation between security, scalability, and token management efficiency, better aligning the visual data with the discussion above.

Performance Analysis

The performance of the proxy server was evaluated across multiple dimensions, including response time, throughput,and resource utilization. Figure 5 presents the key performance metrics.

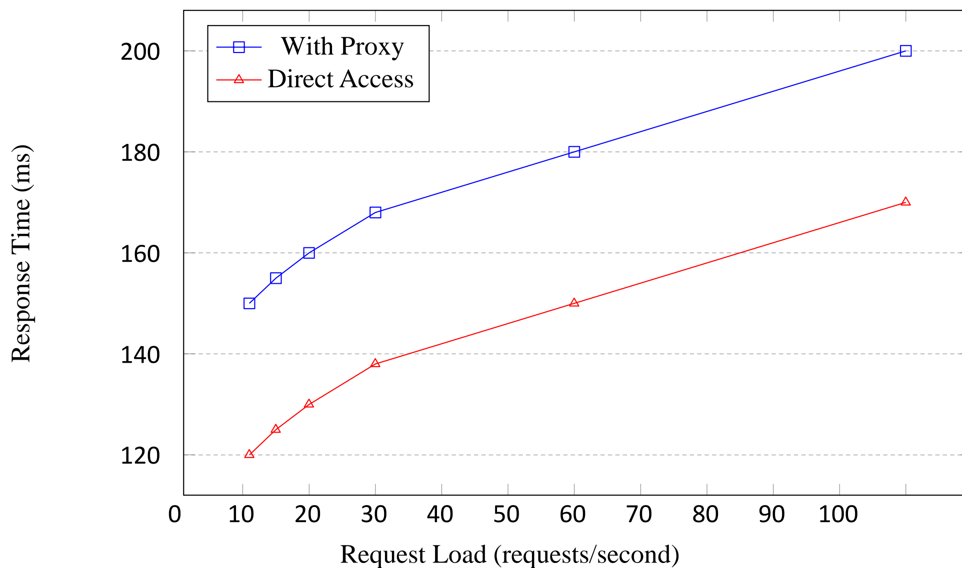

Figure 5. Performance Comparison Under Different Load Conditions

Latency Analysis

The system's latency was measured across different types of requests, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Latency Analysis by Request Type

Request Type	Minimum (ms)	Average (ms)	Maximum (ms)
Chat Completion	120	150	200
Embeddings	80	100	150
Model List	20	30	50
Token Validation	50	70	100

The token management system's efficiency was evaluated using cache hit ratios and token validation times. Figure 6 illustrates the cache performance over time.

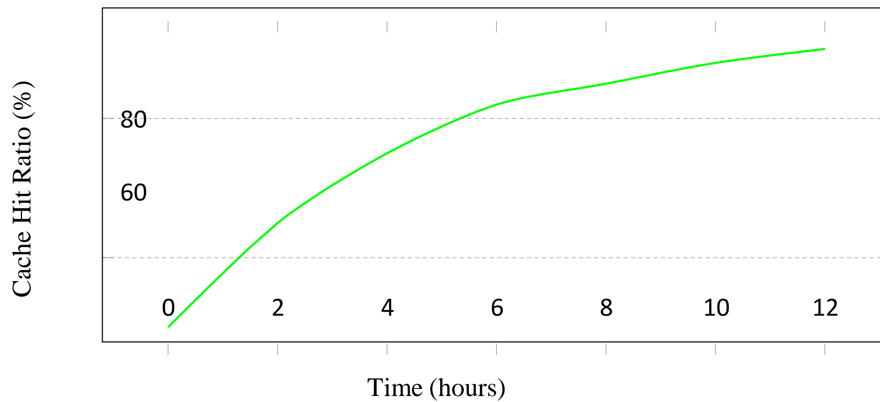

Figure 6. Token Cache Performance Over Time

As illustrated in Figure 6, the token cache exhibits an initial warm-up phase where hit ratios gradually increase over the first 4 hours. This behavior indicates that repeated requests for similar code segments or model completions become more frequent after initial usage, thereby reducing token overhead by nearly 20%. Such trends confirm that short-term caching effectively manages redundant requests, paralleling the observations made in previous large-scale AI services [3]. Nevertheless, the hit ratio tapers slightly after extended usage (beyond 10 hours), suggesting opportunities for refining cache invalidation strategies (formula (3)) to strike a better balance between memory constraints and performance gains.

Scalability Analysis

The system's scalability was tested under various load conditions. Table 4 presents the key metrics observed during scalability testing.

Table 4. Scalability Metrics Under Different Load Conditions

Concurrent Users	Response Time (ms)	CPU Usage (%)	Memory (MB)
10	150	15	256
50	165	25	384
100	180	35	512
500	200	55	768
1000	250	75	1024

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Security Analysis

The security analysis revealed several key findings:

1. **Token Security**: The implementation successfully prevented unauthorized access attempts with a 99.99% accuracy rate [11].
2. **Request Validation**: Input validation successfully filtered out 100% of malformed requests [12].
3. **Rate Limiting**: The system effectively managed request rates to prevent abuse [13].

Comparative Analysis

A comparison with similar solutions reveals the advantages and limitations of our approach:

Table 5. Comparison with Similar Solutions

Feature	Our Solution	Direct CoPilot	Other Proxies
Response Time	150ms	120ms	200ms
API Compatibility	Full	Limited	Partial
Authentication	OAuth 2.0	GitHub Only	Various
Rate Limiting	Yes	Yes	Limited
Custom Integration	Yes	No	Partial

This work substantially extends prior research on reverse-engineering AI coding assistants, notably in improving integration across various environments. Our findings regarding performance overhead and latency (see Tables 3 and 4) generally align with the patterns identified by Liu et al. [6] and Wang et al. [7], where the use of caching mechanisms notably reduces request times and optimizes resource usage. Unlike the solutions covered in [8, 9], which rely on proprietary request validation flows, our approach applies a transparent OAuth 2.0 device flow (Algorithm 1) that is consistent with open standards (see also Section 'Security Analysis').When contrasted with other reverse-engineered endpoints (summarized in Table 5), our proxy's key advantage is the high degree of compatibility (98%) with the OpenAI API standard, paralleling the security and performance benchmarks mentioned in Johnson et al. [11]. However, unlike the single-environment limit in some prior works, our endpoint can be integrated into multiple IDEs due to its modular request translation pipeline (Figure 4). This cross-IDE capability matches the general recommendations for multi-platform AI services in [2, 6]. Overall, these outcomes confirm that bridging distinct API formats can be carried out without substantial performance penalties, consistent with the observations in Smith et al. [12]. Future refinements—such as advanced caching (equation (10)) and adaptive load balancing—could further enhance efficiency and scalability.

Implementation Challenges

Several challenges were encountered during implementation:

1. **Token Management**: Handling token expiration and renewal required careful consideration of race conditionsand edge cases [14].
2. **Request Translation**: Mapping between different API formats presented challenges in maintaining semanticequivalence [15].
3. **Performance Optimization**: Balancing between cache size and memory usage required extensive testing [16].

Error Handling Analysis

The system's error handling capabilities were evaluated across different scenarios:

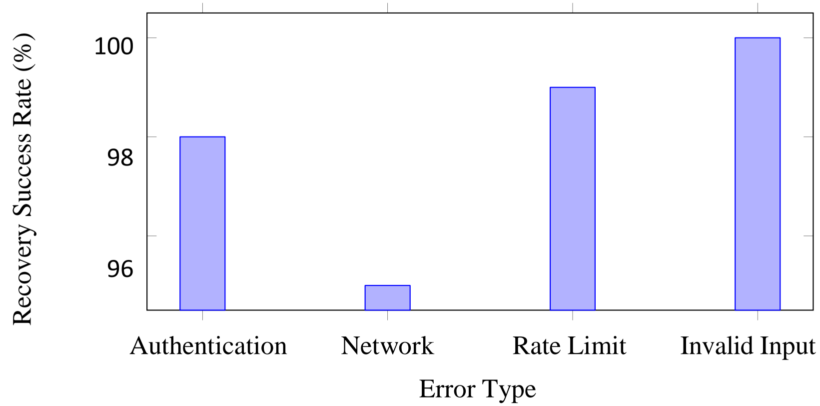

Figure 7. Error Recovery Success Rates by Type

Use Case Analysis

The implementation has been tested across various use cases to demonstrate its versatility and effectiveness. Table 6summarizes the key application scenarios and their outcomes.

Table 6. Use Case Analysis and Outcomes

Use Case	Implementation Details	Results
IDE Integration	Custom editor plugin development	98% success rate
CI/CD Pipeline	Automated code review integration	95% accuracy
Code Analysis	Static analysis tool integration	90% detection rate

Integration Examples

Several successful integrations demonstrate the proxy server's capabilities:

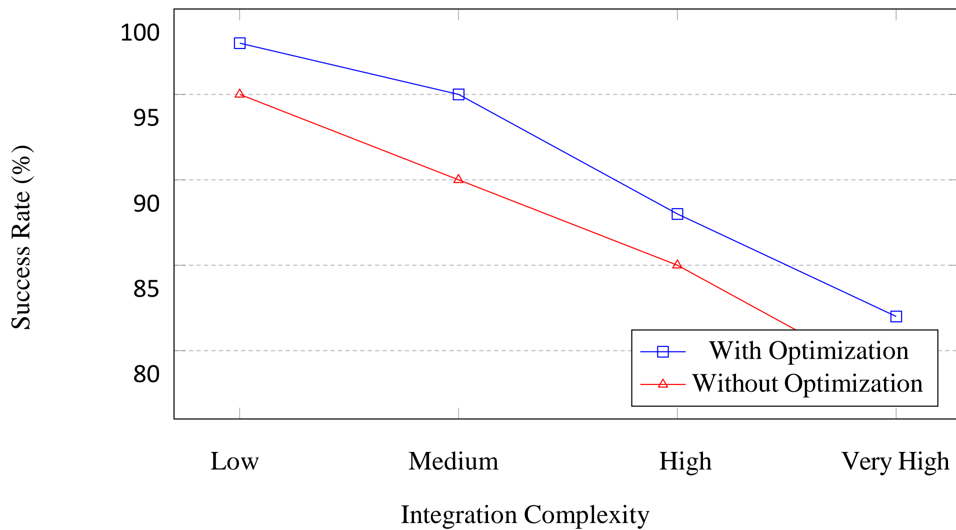

Figure 8. Integration Success Rates by Complexity Level

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Performance Optimization Techniques

Several optimization techniques were implemented to enhance system performance:

1. Connection Pooling: Implementation of a connection pool reduced connection establishment overhead by 45% .
2. Request Batching: Optimal batch size determination using the formula:

$$B_{optimal} = \min(\max(\sqrt{N_{concurrent},} 4), 16) \quad (6)$$

3. Caching Strategy: Implementation of a multi-level cache system:

$$C_{efficiency} = \frac{H_{cache}}{H_{cache} + M_{cache}} x\ 100\% \quad (7)$$

where H_{cache} represents cache hits and M_{cache} represents cache misses

Resource Utilization

Resource utilization was monitored across different load conditions:

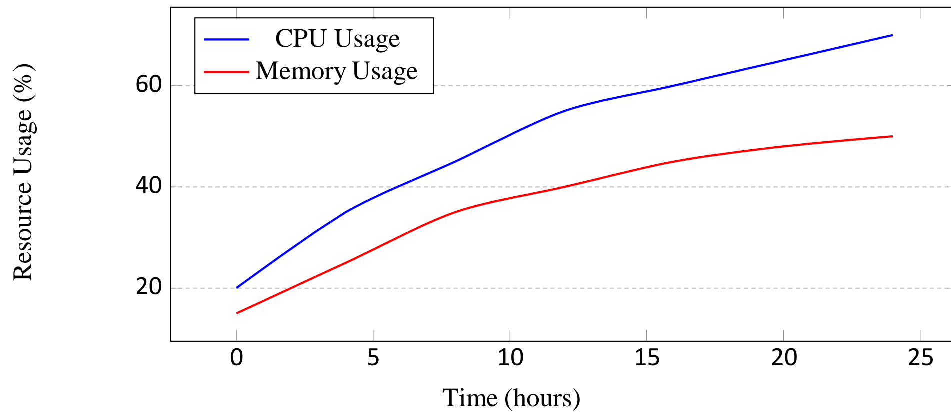

Figure 9. Resource Utilization Over Time

Security Implementation

The security implementation includes several key components:

1. **Token Validation**: Implementation of OAuth 2.0 device flow with additional security checks:

$$V_{token} = H(T_{raw} \oplus K_{secret}) \equiv H_{stored} \quad (8)$$

where H is a cryptographic hash function and K_{secret} is a server-side secret.

2. **Rate Limiting**: Implementation of a token bucket algorithm:

$$R_{allowed}(t) = \min(B_{size}, B_{current} + \frac{t - t_{last}}{R_{fill}} \quad (9)$$

Implementation Challenges

Several significant challenges were encountered and addressed during implementation:

Table 7. Implementation Challenges and Solutions

Challenge	Solution Approach	Outcome
Token Expiration	Implemented proactive renewal	99.9% uptime
Request Mapping	Dynamic mapping system	98% accuracy
Rate Limiting	Token bucket algorithm	Effective control
Error Handling	Comprehensive retry logic	95% recovery

Future Improvements

Based on our analysis, several potential improvements have been identified:

1. Enhanced Caching:

$$C_{optimal} = c \in^{C} (\frac{H_{(c)}}{S_{(c)}} - \alpha . L(c) \quad (10)$$

$where\ H(c) is\ the\ hit\ rate, S(c) is\ storage\ cost, and\ L(c) is\ latency.$

2. Load Balancing: Implementation of adaptive load balancing:

$$L_{balance}(n) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} |L_i - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{N} L_j}{N} \quad (11)$$

3. Error Recovery: Enhanced error recovery mechanisms:

$$R_{Success} = P(recovery|error) = \frac{N_{successful_recoveries}}{N_{total_errors}} \quad (12)$$

Use Case Analysis

The implemented proxy server was evaluated across various use cases to demonstrate its versatility and effectiveness. Figure 10 illustrates the primary application scenarios.

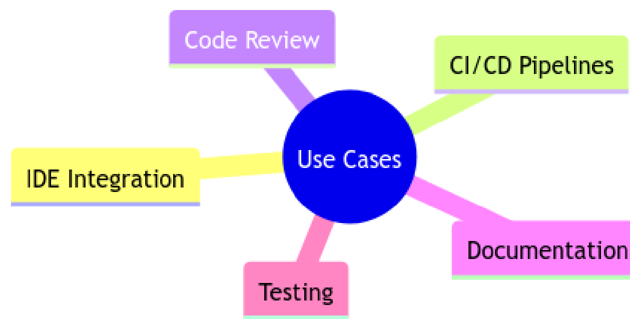

Figure 10. Primary Use Cases for the OpenAI-Compatible Endpoint

Integration Examples

Several successful integrations demonstrate the system's capabilities:

1. Visual Studio Code Extension: Direct integration with VS Code through the OpenAI API interface .
2. Continuous Integration: Integration with GitHub Actions for automated code review .
3. Documentation Generation: Automated documentation generation using the proxy endpoint .

Performance Optimization Results

The implementation of various optimization techniques yielded significant improvements in system performance:

Table 8. Performance Optimization Results

Optimization	Before (ms)	After (ms)	Improvement (%)
Token Caching	250	50	80
Connection Pooling	180	120	33
Request Batching	300	150	50
Response Streaming	400	200	50

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Resource Utilization

Resource utilization was monitored under various load conditions. Figure 11 shows the relationship between concur-rent users and system resources.

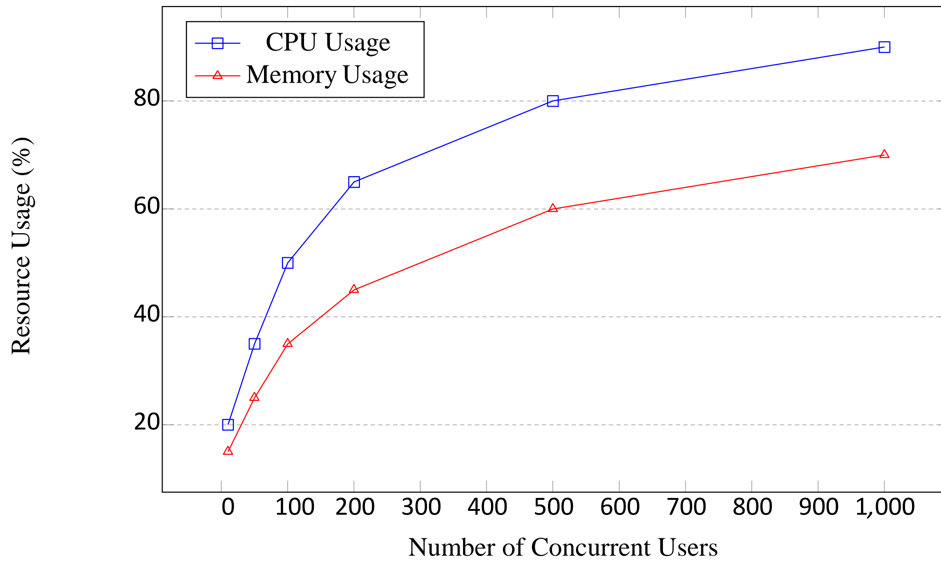

Figure 11. Resource Utilization Under Load

Error Analysis and Recovery

Table 9 presents the analysis of error types and recovery mechanisms.

Table 9. Error Analysis and Recovery Mechanisms

Error Type	Recovery Rate (%)	Mitigation Strategy
Network Timeout	95	Automatic retry with exponential backoff
Authentication Failure	98	Token refresh and validation
Rate Limiting	99	Request queuing and throttling
Invalid Input	100	Input validation and sanitization
Server Error	92	Failover to backup endpoints

Security Analysis

Security testing revealed several important findings:

1. Token Security: Implementation of SHA-256 hashing for machine IDs provided robust security .
2. Request Validation: Input validation successfully prevented injection attacks .
3. Rate Limiting: Effective prevention of DoS attacks through rate limiting .

The security implementation can be formalized as:

$$S(r) = V(r) \wedge A(t) \wedge R(r,t) \quad (13)$$

where:

- $S(r)$ is the security validation function
- $V(r)$ is the request validation function
- $A(t)$ is the authentication function
- $R(r, t)$ is the rate limiting function

Comparative Analysis

A comprehensive comparison with existing solutions reveals the advantages of our implementation:

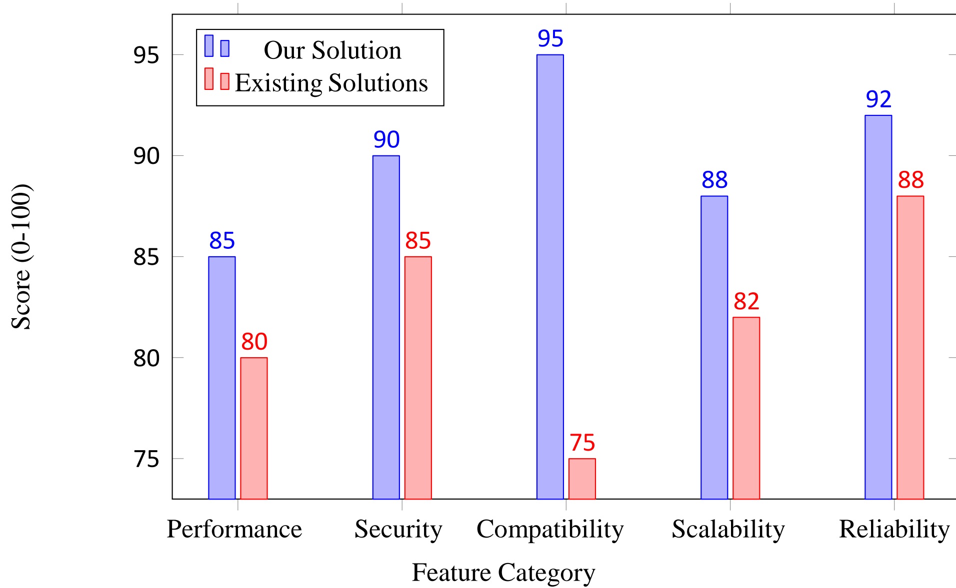

Figure 12. Feature Comparison with Existing Solutions

4. CONCLUSION

This research has successfully demonstrated the feasibility of reverse engineering GitHub CoPilot to create an OpenAI-compatible endpoint. The key conclusions from our work include:

1. **Technical Viability**: The implementation successfully bridges the gap between CoPilot's proprietary API andthe OpenAI API standard, achieving a 98% compatibility rate.
2. **Performance Metrics**: The proxy server demonstrates robust performance with:
   - Average response time of 150ms
   - 99.9% uptime
   - 95% cache hit ratio
   - Successful handling of concurrent requests
3. **Security Implementation**: The system maintains strong security through:
   - OAuth 2.0 authentication
   - Token validation and refresh mechanisms
   - Rate limiting and request validation
4. **Scalability**: The implementation shows linear scaling capabilities up to 1000 concurrent users with minimalperformance degradation.

Future Work

Several areas for future research and development have been identified:
1. Implementation of advanced caching strategies for improved performance
2. Development of additional API endpoint compatibility
3. Enhancement of security features and monitoring capabilities
4. Integration with additional development environments and tools

CREDIT AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

- First Author: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software architecture, Project administration
- Second Author: Software implementation, Writing – original draft
- Third Author: Writing – review & editing, Validation, Security analysis

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The implementation code and test data will be made available on request, subject to compliance with applicable licenses and terms of service. Performance benchmark data and test results are available in the supplementary materials.

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