



# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science Engineering and Technology (IJIRSET)

*(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)*



**Impact Factor: 8.699**

**Volume 14, Issue 4, April 2025**

# Kaizen Idea Submission Digitization

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**ABSTRACT:** This research paper explores the application of the Kaizen methodology in software development, integrated within a scalable microservices architecture using modern technologies like Node.js, Docker, and React. The Kaizen approach fosters continuous improvement and feedback integration, enhancing team collaboration and system reliability. We present the design and implementation of a backend system that manages a Kaizen idea submission and approval workflow, including features like employee verification, dynamic configuration for different plant units, and file upload constraints. The system's architecture leverages RESTful APIs, containerization for deployment, and robust user authentication and role management. This paper aims to contribute a practical perspective on how traditional process improvement methodologies can synergize with scalable cloud-native software architectures.

**KEYWORDS:** Kaizen, Microservices, Node.js, Docker, React, Continuous Improvement, Scalable Architecture

## I. INTRODUCTION

Kaizen, a Japanese philosophy of continuous improvement, has found its relevance in software development processes, where adaptability and responsiveness are essential. This paper investigates the practical implementation of Kaizen within a Node.js-based microservice architecture designed for employee idea submissions, verification, and approval workflows. The system supports scalability, configuration management across multiple plants, and efficient process handling through automated workflows.

## II. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The system is built using a microservices architecture based on Node.js for the backend and React for the frontend. Each microservice is responsible for a single aspect of the system such as authentication, approval workflows, and employee management. Docker is used to containerize each service, ensuring portability and consistency across different environments. The use of RESTful APIs allows different services to communicate asynchronously while maintaining independence.

## III. IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Backend Services:** Built on Node.js and Express, with separate controllers for approval workflow, employee verification, and configuration management.
2. **Authentication & Authorization:** JWT-based authentication supports multi-plant configuration using unique plant tokens.
3. **Approval Workflow:** A modular, event-driven mechanism with defined roles and trigger points to manage multiple stages of idea approval.
4. **Frontend:** Developed in React, supports real-time feedback and user-friendly submission forms.
5. **Containerization:** Docker ensures that all services run in isolated, reproducible environments with docker-compose managing the orchestration.

## IV. KAIZEN IDEA SUBMISSION OVERTIME

Over time, the submission of Kaizen ideas undergoes significant evolution. Initially, submissions may be sparse or inconsistent due to unfamiliarity or hesitation among employees. With the introduction of intuitive user interfaces, clear

guidelines, and transparent approval processes, participation tends to increase. Data-driven monitoring and recognition of valuable ideas play a crucial role in sustaining engagement. The system integrates analytics to observe submission trends, user participation, and time-to-approval metrics, enabling targeted interventions. Ultimately, the continuous feedback loop leads to a more mature, streamlined, and impactful idea submission culture.

## V. CONCLUSION

This research underscores the viability of blending Kaizen methodologies with modern, scalable software architecture. By leveraging microservices and cloud-native principles, organizations can enhance their capacity for continuous improvement, maintain agility, and foster a collaborative innovation culture. The implementation presented in this paper is a reference model for digital Kaizen systems across industries.

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