

IOT BASED HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT: This work presents the overall design of Home Automation System (HAS) with low cost and wireless system. It specifically focuses on the development of an IOT based home automation system that is able to control various components via internet or be automatically programmed to operate from ambient conditions. In this project, we design the development of a firmware for smart control which can successfully be automated minimizing human interaction to preserve the integrity within whole electrical devices in the home. We used Node MCU, a popular open source IOT platform, to execute the process of automation. Different components of the system will use different transmission mode that will be implemented to communicate the control of the devices by the user through Node MCU to the actual appliance. The main control system implements wireless technology to provide remote access from smart phone. We are using a cloud server-based communication that would add to the practicality of the project by enabling unrestricted access of the appliances to the user irrespective of the distance factor. We provided a data transmission network to create a stronger automation. The system intended to control electrical appliances and devices in house with relatively low cost design, user-friendly interface and ease of installation. The status of the appliance would be available, along with the control on an android platform. This system is designed to assist and provide support in order to fulfil the needs of elderly and disabled in home. Also, the smart home concept in the system improves the standard living at home.

1. INTRODUCTION

Internet of Things (IOT) is a concept where each device is assign to an IP address and through that IP address anyone makes that device identifiable on internet. The mechanical and digital machines are provided with unique identifiers (UIDs) and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction. Basically, it started as the “Internet of Computers.” Research studies have forecast an explosive growth in the number of “things” or devices that will be connected to the Internet. The resulting network is called the “Internet of Things” (IoT). The recent developments in technology which permit the use of wireless controlling environments like, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi that have enabled different devices to have capabilities of connecting with each other. Using a WIFI shield to act as a Micro web server for the Arduino which eliminates the need for wired connections between the Arduino board and computer which reduces cost and enables it to work as a standalone device. The Wi-Fi shield needs connection to the internet from a wireless router or wireless hotspot and this would act as the gateway for the Arduino to communicate with the internet. With this in

mind, an internet based home automation system for remote control and observing the status of home appliances is designed.

Due to the advancement of wireless technology, there are several different type of connections are introduced such as GSM, WIFI, and BT. Each of the connection has their own unique specifications and applications. Among the four popular wireless connections that often implemented in HAS project, WIFI is being chosen with its suitable capability. The capabilities of WIFI are more than enough to be implemented in the design. Also, most of the current laptop/notebook or Smartphone come with built-in WIFI adapter. It will indirectly reduce the cost of this system. The concept of “Home Automation” has been in existence for several years. “Smart Home”, “Intelligent Home” are terms that followed and is been used to introduce the concept of networking appliance within the house. Home Automation Systems (HASs) includes centralized control and distance status monitoring of lighting, security system, and other appliances and systems within a house. HASs enables energy efficiency, improves the security systems, and certainly the comfort and ease of users. In the present emerging market, HASs is gaining popularity and has attracted the interests of many users. HASs comes with its own challenges. Mainly being, in the present day, end users especially elderly and disabled, even though hugely benefited, aren’t seen to accept the system due to the complexity and cost factors

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Design of an independent HAS

To formulate the design of an interconnected network of home appliance to be integrated into the HAS. The objective to account for every appliance and its control to be automated and integrated into the network further formulated into the HAS.

B. Wireless control of home appliances (Switch and Voice mode)

To develop the application that would include features of switch and/or voice modes to control the applications.

C. Monitoring status of appliance

Being able to view the status of home appliances on the application, in order have a better HAS.

D. Secure connection channels between application and Node MCU

Use of secure protocols over Wi-Fi so that other devices are prevented to achieve control over the HAS. Secure connections are obtained by SSL over TCP, SSH.

E. Controlled by any device capable of Wi-Fi (Android, iOS, PC)

To achieve flexibility in control of the home appliances, and device capable of Wi-Fi connectivity will be able to obtain a secure control on the HAS.

F. Extensible platform for future enhancement: With a strong existing possibility of adding and integrating more features and appliances to the system, the designed system needs to be highly extensible in nature.

The aim is to design a prototype that establishes wireless remote control over a network of home appliances. The application is designed to run on android device providing features like, switch mode control, voice command control and a provision to view the status of the devices on the application itself. Considering its wide range of application, following are the scope of this prototype. The system can be implemented in homes, small offices and malls as well, being in-charge of control of the electrical appliances. For remote access of appliances in internet or intranet. The appliances in the above mentioned environment can be controlled in intra-network or can be accessed via internet. The development of technology friendly environment. The system incorporates the use of technology and making HAS. By the use of day to day gadgets we can utilize them for a different perspective.

Management of any project can be briefly disintegrated into several phases. Our project has been decomposed into the following phases:

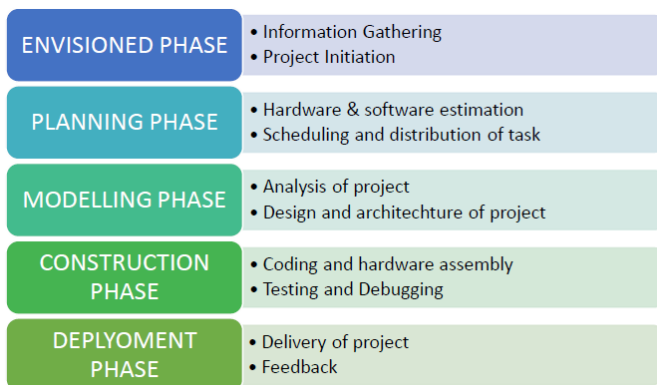


Figure 1. Model of phases in project management.

This phase involved discussions regarding necessary equipment regarding the project. The study of related already existing projects, gathering required theoretical learning. It also included figuring out the coding part, by developing simple algorithms and flowcharts to design the whole process.

3.RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. IOT Technologies and Protocols

Several communication protocols and technologies cater to and meet the specific functional requirements of IOT system.

(i). Bluetooth

Bluetooth is a short range IOT communication protocol/technology that is profound in many consumer product markets and computing. It is expected to be key for wearable products in particular, again connecting to the IOT albeit probably via a smart phone in many cases. The new Bluetooth Low-Energy (BLE) – or Bluetooth Smart, as it is now branded – is a significant protocol for IOT applications. Importantly, while it offers a similar range to Bluetooth it has been designed to offer significantly reduced power consumption.

(ii). Zigbee

ZigBee is similar to Bluetooth and is majorly used in industrial settings. It has some significant advantages in complex systems offering low-power operation, high security, robustness and high and is well positioned to take advantage of wireless control and sensor networks in IOT applications. The latest version of ZigBee is the recently launched 3.0, which is essentially the unification of the various ZigBee wireless standards into a single standard.

(iii). Z-Wave

Z-Wave is a low-power RF communications IOT technology that primarily design for home automation for products such as lamp controllers and sensors among many other devices. A Z-Wave uses a simpler protocol than some others, which can enable faster and simpler development, but the only maker of chips is Sigma Designs compared to multiple sources for other wireless technologies such as ZigBee and others.

(iv). Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi connectivity is one of the most popular IOT communication protocol, often an obvious choice for many developers, especially given the availability of Wi-Fi within the home environment within LANs. There is a wide existing infrastructure as well as offering fast data transfer and the ability to handle high quantities of data.

(v). LoRaWAN

LoRaWAN is one of popular IOT Technology, targets wide-area network (WAN) applications. The LoRaWAN design to provide low-power WANs with features specifically needed to support low-cost mobile secure communication in IOT, smart city, and industrial applications. Specifically meets requirements for low-power consumption and supports large networks with millions and millions of devices, data rates range from 0.3 kbps to 50 kbps.

B. Device Integration

Software supporting integration binds (dependent relationships) all system devices to create the body of the IOT system. It ensures the necessary cooperation and stable networking between devices. These applications are the defining software technology of the IOT network because without them, it is not

an IOT system. They manage the various applications, protocols, and limitations of each device to allow communication.

C. NODEMCU

NodeMCU (Node Microcontroller Unit) is a low-cost open source IOT platform. It initially included firmware which runs on the ESP8266 Wi-Fi SoC from Espressif Systems, and hardware which was based on the ESP-12 module. Later, support for the ESP32 32-bit MCU was added.

NodeMCU is an open source firmware for which open source prototyping board designs are available. The name “NodeMCU” combines “node” and “MCU” (micro-controller unit). The term “NodeMCU” strictly speaking refers to the firmware rather than the associated development kits.

Both the firmware and prototyping board designs are open source.

The firmware uses the Lua scripting language. The firmware is based on the eLua project, and built on the Espressif Non-OS SDK for ESP8266. It uses many open source projects, such as lua-cjson and SPIFFS. Due to resource constraints, users need to select the modules relevant for their project and build a firmware tailored to their needs. Support for the 32-bit ESP32 has also been implemented.

The prototyping hardware typically used is a circuit board functioning as a dual in-line package (DIP) which integrates a USB controller with a smaller surface-mounted board containing the MCU and antenna. The choice of the DIP format allows for easy prototyping on breadboards. The design was initially based on the ESP-12 module of the ESP8266, which is a Wi-Fi SoC integrated with a Tensilica Xtensa LX106 core, widely used in IOT applications.

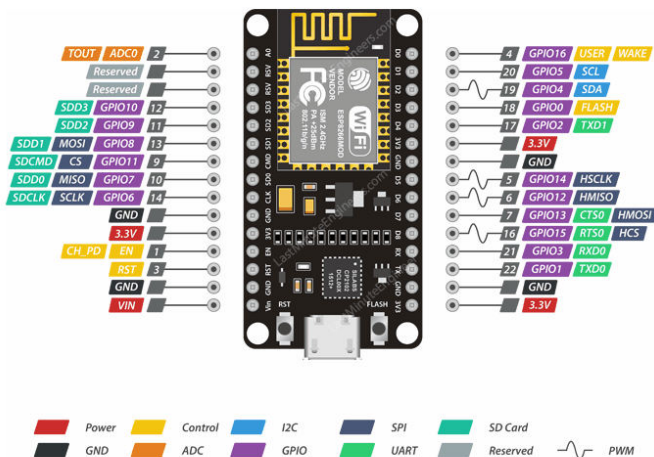


Figure 3.1. ESP8266 Node MCU pinout.

Parts of Node MCU Development Board

ESP 12-E Module

The development board equips the ESP-12E module containing ESP8266 chip having Tensilica Xtensa® 32-bit LX106 RISC microprocessor which operates at 80 to 160 MHz adjustable clock frequency and supports RTOS.

There's also 128 KB RAM and 4MB of Flash memory (for program and data storage) just enough to cope with the large strings that make up web pages, JSON/XML data, and everything we throw at IOT devices nowadays.

Installation of Node MCU

Mostly these days devices download and install drivers on their own, automatically. Windows doesn't know how to talk to the USB driver on the Node MCU so it can't figure out that the board is a Node MCU and proceed normally. Node MCU Amica is an ESP8266 Wi-Fi module based development board. It has got Micro USB slot that can directly be connected to the computer or other USB host devices. It has got 15X2 header pins and a Micro USB slot, the headers can be mounted on a breadboard and Micro USB slot is to establish connection to USB host device. It has CP2120 USB to serial converter. In order to install CP2120 (USB to serial converter), user is needed to download the driver for the same. Once user downloads drivers as per its respective operating system, the system establishes connection to Node MCU. The user needs to note down the COM port allotted to newly connected USB device (Node MCU) from device manager of the system. This com port number will be required while using Node MCU Amica. As the CP2120 driver is been installed, the Node MCU can be programmed using Arduino IDE software by coding in embedded C. this requires ESP8266 board installation in Arduino IDE from board manager, and assigning communication port

4. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

It is evident from this project work that an individual control home automation system can be cheaply made from low-cost locally available components and can be used to control multifarious home appliances ranging from the security lamps, the television to the air conditioning system and even the entire house lighting system. And better still, the components required are so small and few that they can be packaged into a small inconspicuous container. The designed home automation system was tested a number of times and certified to control different home appliances used in the lighting system, air conditioning system, home entertainment system and many more . Hence, this system is scalable and flexible.

Looking at the current situation we can build cross platform system that can be deployed on various platforms like iOS, Windows. Limitation to control only several devices can be removed by extending automation of all other home appliances. The prototype can include sensors to implement automatic control of the home appliances like; an LDR that can sense daylight and switch lamp accordingly, a PIR to detect motion and be used for security purposes making an alarm buzz, or a DHT11 sensor that's senses ambient temperature and humidity of atmosphere and switch fan/air conditioner accordingly. Scope of this project can be expanded to many areas by not restricting to only home, but to small offices