Universidad Politécnica de Valencia

ESCUELA TÉCNICA SUPERIOR DE INGENIERÍA INFORMÁTICA

RFID-RC522 KEY READING

Internet of Things

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1 Introduction

This project involves developing an access control system using RFID technology (RFID-RC522 reader). The system will allow user registration and access control using RFID keys and cards. To switch the reader mode between registration and access, Bluetooth communication will be used. Registered users and accesses will be stored in a database accessible via a REST API within a container. For visualization, Ubidots will be used. The entire project is available in a GitHub repository RFID-RC522 Key Reading [1].

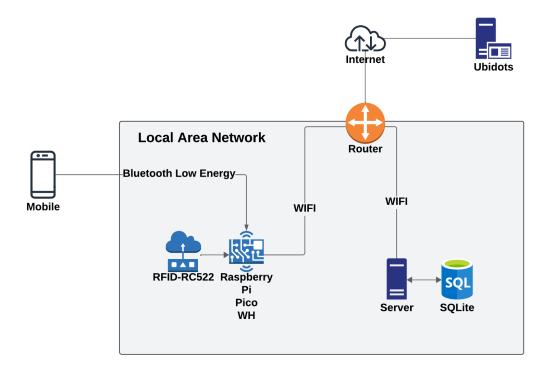
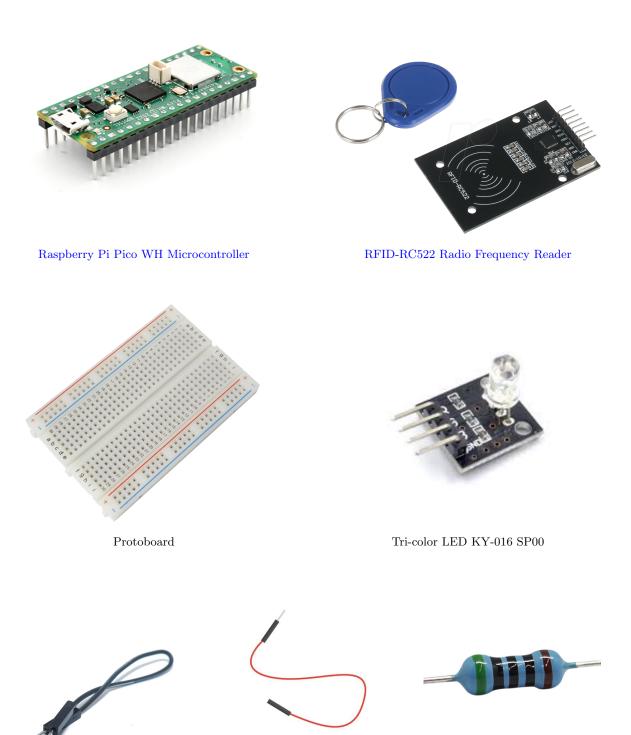


Figure 1: Project diagram.

2 Hardware Used

The following hardware was used for the project:



3 Software Used

Dupont Male-Male Cable x3

The following software was used for the project.

Dupont Female-Male Cable x5

 500Ω Resistor x2

3.1 Microcontroller

MicroPython was used as the programming language for the Raspberry Pi Pico WH microcontroller. To establish and manage Bluetooth communication on the microcontroller, the BLE (Bluetooth Low Energy) libraries [3] were utilized. For the mobile device, the Serial Bluetooth Terminal app [5] available on Play Store was used. For reading RFID keys and cards, the MFRC522 library [4] was employed. In communication with the server, a REST API was implemented to enable structured data exchange. Finally, the standard machine library was used to turn LEDs on and off.

3.2 Server

For the server implementation, a Docker container with the base image of Ubuntu was used. Python was installed on the image along with the Flask package to manage server logic through HTTP requests. For data persistence, a Docker volume was used along with an SQLite database. For server development, the code from the Lab 6 - REST [2] was modified.

3.3 Ubidots

The Ubidots platform was used for visualization through a STEM account. Ubidots allows real-time data visualization with a request rate of 1 req/s.

4 Steps to Complete the Project

The following steps should be followed to complete the project.

4.1 Step 1: Pre-installation of Necessary Software

Server Application Installations:

- 1. Install Thonny.
- 2. Install Visual Studio Code.
- 3. Install Docker.
- 4. Install Python interpreter.

File Installation on Raspberry Pi Pico WH:

- 1. Install MicroPython firmware:
 - (a) Insert the USB into the computer while pressing the BOOTSEL button.
 - (b) Open Thonny and follow these steps:

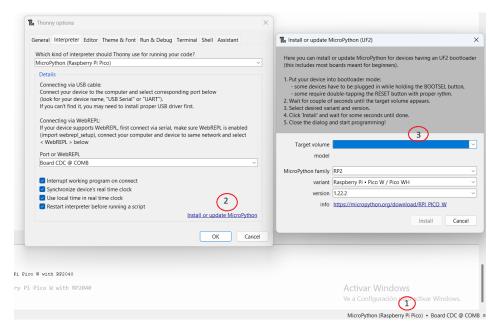


Figure 5: Steps to install the firmware.

- 2. Copy the contents of the ''microcontroller'' folder from the project to the Raspberry Pi Pico WH.
- 3. Configure the ''ssid'' and ''password'' variables inside the ''microcontroller/wifi_connect.py'' file with your network's ssid and password.

Ubidots Registration and Configuration:

- 1. Create an account on Ubidots Stem.
- 2. Create a new device.

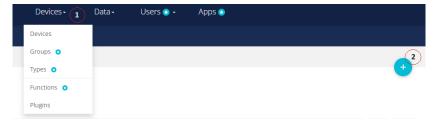


Figure 6: Creating a new device on Ubidots.

- 3. Add the device name to the ''DISPOSITIVE_NAME'' variable inside the ''api/ubidots_conf.py'' file.
- 4. Within the device, create two ''raw variable'', one for user registration ''add_user_register'' and another for user access registration ''add_time_registry''.



Figure 7: Creating a variable on Ubidots.

5. Obtain the API token.

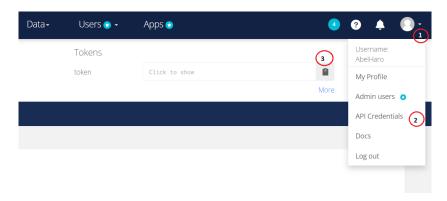


Figure 8: Obtaining the API token on Ubidots.

6. Copy the API token to the ''TOKEN_UBIDOTS'' variable inside the ''api/ubidots_conf.py'' file.

4.2 Step 2: Circuit Assembly

For circuit assembly, the following video was used as a reference 'RFID RC522 with Raspberry Pi Pico and MicroPython Codes for Simple Access Control' [6].

Connect the RFID-RC522 reader to the Raspberry Pi Pico WH following this table:

RFID-RC522 Reader	Raspberry Pi Pico WH
VCC	3.3V
RST	GP0
GND	GND
IRQ	Not connected
MISO	GP4
MOSI	GP3
SCK	GP2
SDA	GP1

Table 1: Connections between the RFID-RC522 reader and the Raspberry Pi Pico WH.

Connect the KY-016 SP00 tri-color LED to the Raspberry Pi Pico WH following this table:

KY-016 SP00	Raspberry Pi Pico WH
R	GP13
G	GP12
В	Not connected
-	GND

Table 2: Connections between the KY-016 SP00 tri-color LED and the Raspberry Pi Pico WH.

The circuit assembly should look like the following figure:

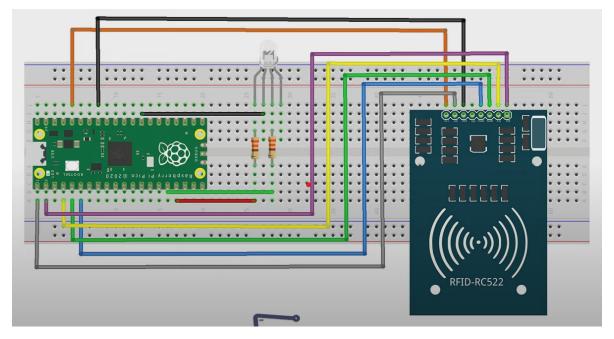


Figure 9: Project circuit diagram.

4.3 Step 3: Project Execution

To execute the project, follow these steps:

- 1. Connect the Raspberry Pi Pico WH to the computer.
- 2. Open Thonny and run the ''microcontroller/main.py'' file on the Raspberry Pi Pico WH.
- 3. Start the Docker daemon.
- 4. Run the "'build.bat", file on the server.
- 5. Open Ubidots and visualize the data.
- 6. Perform registration and access tests.

This is how it's shown in Ubidots:

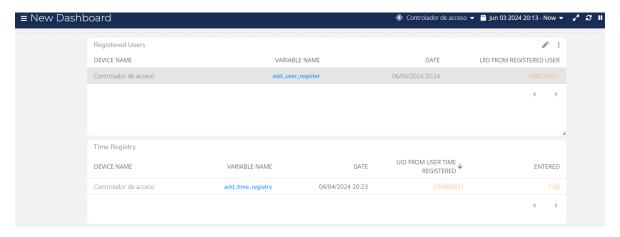


Figure 10: Ubidots data visualization.

5 Project Programming

In this section, the code of the main project files is detailed.

5.1 Microcontroller

The microcontroller code is divided into several files:

5.1.1 main.py

This file is the main script for the microcontroller. It contains the configuration for Bluetooth communication and the function ''on_rx(data)', where the Bluetooth message is received to change the reading mode. In the ''main()', function, ''wifi.connect()', is called to connect to the WiFi network, and the main loop of the program is started. In the loop, the ''sensor.read_sensor()', function is called to get the UID of the RFID key or card. If the mode is registration, the ''sender.add_user_register(uid)', function is called, and if the mode is entry registration, the ''sender.add_time_registry(uid)', function is called. Finally, the ''led.blink_led(response['api_status'])', function is called to turn on the tricolor LED based on the API response.

```
import bluetooth # Bluetooth module
  from ble.ble_simple_peripheral import BLESimplePeripheral # BLE module
 import time
  import wifi_connect as wifi
  import data_sending_api as sender
  import sensor
  import led_control as led
  import ubidots
10 # Initialize Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) interface and Simple Peripheral
ble = bluetooth.BLE()
sp = BLESimplePeripheral(ble, name="Pico WH")
13
_{14} # Default mode for RFID sensor operation
MODE = 'ADD_USER_REGISTER' # Default mode is to add user registration
16
  def on_rx(data):
17
18
      Callback function for receiving data from BLE.
19
20
      Parameters:
          data (bytes): Received data as bytes.
22
23
```

```
Global Variables Modified:
24
          MODE (str): Updated mode based on received data.
26
      global MODE # Access global variable MODE within the function
27
28
      print("Data received:", data)
29
      # Update mode based on received data
30
      if data == b'ADD_USER_REGISTER\r\n':
          MODE = 'ADD_USER_REGISTER'
32
      elif data == b'ADD_TIME_REGISTRY\r\n':
          MODE = 'ADD_TIME_REGISTRY'
34
35
36
  if __name__ == '__main__':
37
      # Connect to WiFi
38
      wifi.connect()
39
40
41
      try:
           while True:
42
               if sp.is_connected():
43
                   sp.on_write(on_rx) # Register callback for BLE data reception
44
               # Read UID from sensor
45
               uid = sensor.read_sensor()
46
47
               # Determine mode and call appropriate API
48
               if MODE == 'ADD_USER_REGISTER':
49
                   response = sender.add_user_register(uid) # Call API to add
50
                       user registration
               elif MODE == 'ADD_TIME_REGISTRY':
51
                   response = sender.add_time_registry(uid) # Call API to add
                       time registry
               else:
                   print('Error: Invalid mode')
54
                   raise Exception('Invalid mode detected') # Raise an exception
                        for invalid mode
               # Blink LED based on API response status
              led.blink_led(response['api_status'])
58
               time.sleep(1)
59
      except KeyboardInterrupt:
60
          print('Programa abortado con CTRL+C desde main.py') # Handle keyboard
61
               interrupt
```

Figure 11: Code for the ''microcontroller/main.py'' file of the microcontroller.

5.1.2 sensor.py

This file contains the ''read_sensor()'' function which reads the RFID sensor and returns the UID of the read RFID key or card.

```
from lib.mfrc522.mfrc522 import MFRC522  # RFID reader module
import time  # Time-related functions
import data_sending_api as sender  # Custom API module for data sending

def read_sensor() -> str:
    """
    Function to read RFID sensor and perform actions based on the received data.

Returns:
```

```
str: UID from card or key readed.
      11 11 11
11
      # Initialize the MFRC522 RFID reader
12
      reader = MFRC522(spi_id=0, sck=2, miso=4, mosi=3, cs=1, rst=0)
13
14
      print("RFID sensor active...\n")
16
17
      trv:
          while True:
18
               reader.init() # Initialize the RFID reader
19
               (stat, tag_type) = reader.request(reader.REQIDL) # Request tag
                  detection
21
              if stat == reader.OK:
                   (stat, uid) = reader.SelectTagSN() # Select detected tag
23
                   if stat == reader.OK:
24
                       # Convert UID bytes to integer for identification
25
                       identifier = int.from_bytes(bytes(uid), "little", False)
26
27
                       print("UID: " + str(identifier)) # Print detected UID
28
                       return str(identifier) # Convert UID to string
29
30
               time.sleep(1) # Sleep for 1 second between iterations
32
      except KeyboardInterrupt:
33
          print("Program terminated with CTRL+C from sensor.py") # Handle
34
              keyboard interrupt
```

Figure 12: Code of the file ''microcontroller/sensor.py'' of the microcontroller.

5.1.3 data_sending_api.py

This file contains the functions to send data using the server's REST API. It includes the functions ''add_user_register(uid)'' and ''add_time_registry(uid)'' to send user registration and access data respectively.

```
import time # Standard Python time module
      import ujson # Module for handling JSON data
      import urequests as requests # Module for making HTTP requests (alias for
           urequests)
      URL = 'http://192.168.1.2:8888/api/'
      URL_add_user_register = URL + 'user_register/add'
      URL_add_time_registry = URL + 'time_registry/add'
      URL_get_user_registered_by_uid = URL + 'user_register'
      def get_local_time() -> str:
          Returns the timestamp formatted.
12
13
          local_time = time.localtime()
14
          formatted_time = "\{:04d\}-\{:02d\}-\{:02d\} : \{:02d\}: \{:02d\}: \{:02d\}".format(
          local_time[0], # year
16
          local_time[1], # month
17
          local_time[2], # day
18
          local_time[3], # hour
19
          local_time[4], # minute
20
          local_time[5]
                           # second
21
          )
22
          return str(formatted_time)
23
```

```
24
      def add_user_register(uid):
26
          Adds the user to the database using a POST request.
27
28
          Parameters:
29
              uid (str): The UID (Unique ID) of the user to be registered.
30
32
          Returns:
               dict: A dictionary containing the response message from the server
34
          data_sending = {
36
               "UID": uid,
37
               "user_creation_tstamp": get_local_time()
38
          }
39
40
          response = requests.post(URL_add_user_register, headers={'Content-Type
41
              ': 'application/json'}, data=ujson.dumps(data_sending))
          return ujson.loads(response.content)
42
43
      def add_time_registry(uid):
44
          Adds the time registry to the database using a POST request.
46
47
          Parameters:
48
              uid (str): The UID (Unique ID) of the user to be registered.
49
50
          Returns:
              dict: A dictionary containing the response message from the server
52
          data_sending = {
54
               "UID": uid,
               "user_registry_tstamp": get_local_time()
57
58
          response = requests.post(URL_add_time_registry, headers={'Content-Type
59
              ': 'application/json'}, data=ujson.dumps(data_sending))
          return ujson.loads(response.content)
60
61
      def get_user_registered_by_uid(uid):
62
          Retrieves user registration details from the server based on UID using
64
               a GET request.
          Parameters:
              uid (str): The UID (Unique ID) of the user to be registered.
67
68
69
              dict: A dictionary containing the response message from the server
70
71
          response = requests.get(URL_get_user_registered_by_uid + '/%s'.format(
72
              uid))
          return ujson.loads(response.content)
```

Figure 13: Code of the file "microcontroller/data_sending_api.py" of the microcontroller.

5.2 Server

5.2.1 api.py

This file contains the REST API of the server. It includes functions to connect to the database, add users and access records, retrieve users and access records based on UID, and send user and access records to Ubidots. Only the functions for user registration ''insert_user_register()'', ''get_user_register_by_uid(uid)'', and ''add_user_ubidots(uid)'' are shown in the following figure.

```
import sqlite3
      from flask import Flask, request, jsonify
      import requests
      from api.ubidots_conf import URL_UBIDOTS, TOKEN_UBIDOTS
      def insert_user_register(user):
          Inserts a new user registration record into the 'user_register' table
              and send it to Ubidots.
11
          Parameters:
12
              user (dict): Dictionary containing user information with keys:
                            - 'UID': Unique ID of the user.
14
                            - 'user_creation_tstamp': Timestamp of user creation.
15
          Returns:
              dict: Dictionary containing the status of the operation and error
18
                  message (if any).
                    Keys:
19
                     - 'api_status': Boolean indicating the success of the
                        operation.
                     - 'error': Error message if an error occurred during the
                     - 'ubidots_status': HTTP status code of the request to
22
                        Ubidots.
                     - 'UID': Unique ID of the user.
23
                     - 'user_creation_tstamp': Timestamp of user creation.
24
          inserted_user = {'api_status': False, 'error': None, 'ubidots_status':
               False, 'UID': None, 'user_creation_tstamp': None}
          try:
              conn = connect_to_db()
28
              conn.row_factory = sqlite3.Row
29
              cur = conn.cursor()
30
              cur.execute("SELECT * FROM user_register WHERE UID = ?", (user['
31
                  ((,['dIU
              rows = cur.fetchall()
32
              if len(rows) > 0:
                   inserted_user['error'] = "User already exists"
34
                   return inserted_user
36
              cur.execute("INSERT INTO user_register (UID, user_creation_tstamp)
                   VALUES (?, ?)",
                           (user['UID'], user['user_creation_tstamp']) )
38
              conn.commit()
              inserted_user.update(get_user_register_by_uid(user['UID']))
40
              ubidots_status = add_user_ubidots(user['UID'])
41
42
              if ubidots_status == 200:
43
                   inserted_user['api_status'] = True
44
              else :
```

```
inserted_user['error'] = "Error adding user to Ubidots"
45
46
               inserted_user['ubidots_status'] = ubidots_status
47
           except:
               conn.rollback()
49
           finally:
50
               conn.close()
           return inserted_user
           def get_user_register_by_uid(uid):
54
           Retrieves a user record from the 'user_register' table based on the
56
               provided UID.
           Parameters:
58
               uid (str): The UID (Unique ID) of the user to retrieve.
59
60
61
               dict: A dictionary representing the user record if found,
62
                   otherwise an empty dictionary.
                      The dictionary contains keys 'UID' and 'user_creation_tstamp
63
                          ' with corresponding values.
           11 11 11
           user = {}
65
           try:
               conn = connect_to_db()
67
               conn.row_factory = sqlite3.Row
68
               cur = conn.cursor()
69
               cur.execute("SELECT * FROM user_register WHERE UID = ?", (uid,))
70
               rows = cur.fetchall()
71
72
73
               # convert row objects to dictionary
               for i in rows:
74
                    user["UID"] = i["UID"]
                    user["user_creation_tstamp"] = i["user_creation_tstamp"]
76
           except:
78
               user = \{\}
79
           return user
80
81
           def add_user_ubidots(uid):
82
83
           Sends an HTTP POST request to Ubidots API to add a user registration.
86
               uid (str): The UID (User ID) of the user to register.
87
88
           Returns:
89
               int: HTTP status code of the request.
90
91
           data = {
92
               'add_user_register': {
93
                    'value': 1,
94
                    'context': {
95
                        'UID': uid
96
                    }
97
               }
           }
99
           request = requests.post(
               URL_UBIDOTS,
101
               headers={'X-Auth-Token': TOKEN_UBIDOTS, 'Content-Type': '
                   application/json'},
```

```
json=data
           )
104
105
           return request.status_code
           @app.route('/api/user_register/<uid>', methods=['GET'])
107
           def api_get_user_register_by_id(uid):
108
                return jsonify(get_user_register_by_uid(uid))
           @app.route('/api/user_register/add', methods=['POST'])
111
           def api_add_user_register():
112
113
               user = request.get_json()
               return jsonify(insert_user_register(user))
114
115
           app.run(host="0.0.0.0")
116
```

Figure 14: Code of the file 'api/api.py' of the server.

5.2.2 initdb.py

This file contains the initialization of the database. It creates the ''database'' directory if it does not exist and the ''database.db'' file if it does not exist. It creates the ''user_register'' and ''time_registry'' tables if they do not exist.

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints
UID	TEXT	PRIMARY KEY, NOT NULL
user_creation_tstamp	TEXT	NOT NULL

Table 3: Table user_register schema.

Column Name	Data Type	Constraints
id	INTEGER	PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT
user_registry_tstamp	TEXT	NOT NULL
UID	TEXT	NOT NULL, REFERENCES user_register(UID)

Table 4: Table time_registry schema.

"

```
import sqlite3
  import os
  if __name__ == '__main__':
      try:
          # Create the directory if it doesn't exist
          os.makedirs('database', exist_ok=True)
          print("Database directory created successfully.")
          # Create the database file if it doesn't exist
          open('database/database.db', 'a').close()
11
          print("Database file created successfully.")
12
          # Establish connection to the database
14
          conn = sqlite3.connect('database/database.db')
15
          print("Connection to the database established successfully.")
16
          # Create user_register table
18
          conn.execute('''
```

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS user_register (
20
                           UID TEXT PRIMARY KEY NOT NULL,
                            user_creation_tstamp TEXT NOT NULL
22
           , , , )
24
           print("Table 'user_register' created successfully.")
25
26
           # Create time_registry table
           conn.execute(,,,
28
                        CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS time_registry (
29
                            id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
30
                            user_registry_tstamp TEXT NOT NULL,
31
                            UID TEXT NOT NULL REFERENCES user_register(UID)
32
33
            ,,,)
34
35
           print("Table 'time_registry' created successfully.")
37
           # Commit changes
38
           conn.commit()
39
           print("Changes committed successfully.")
40
      except Exception as e:
41
           print(e)
           print("Table creation failed")
43
      finally:
44
           conn.close()
45
```

Figure 15: Code of the file 'api/initdb.py' of the server.

5.2.3 build.bat, Dockerfile, and start.sh

These files are necessary for creating the Docker container for the server. The file ''build.bat'' contains the commands for building the image and starting the container. The file ''api/Dockerfile'' contains the instructions for building the container image. The file ''api/start.sh'' contains the instructions for initializing the database and running the API.

```
REM Change directory to the location of the Dockerfile
cd ./api

REM Build Docker image
docker build -t server_rfid .

REM Run Docker container
docker run --rm -it -v database:/home/database -p 8888:5000 --name
server_rfid server_rfid
```

Figure 16: Code of the file ''build.bat'' of the server.

```
FROM ubuntu

# Instalar Python 3 y Flask

RUN apt update
RUN apt install python3 python3-pip -y
RUN apt install python3-flask -y
RUN apt install python3-requests -y

# Establecer el directorio de trabajo y copiar los archivos
```

```
WORKDIR /home/
COPY initdb.py .

COPY api.py .

COPY start.sh .

COPY ubidots.py .

# Dar permisos para ejecutar el script
RUN chmod +x start.sh

# Exponer el puerto
EXPOSE 5000

# Ejecutar los scripts
CMD ["./start.sh"]
```

Figure 17: Code of the file 'api/Dockerfile' of the server.

```
#!/bin/sh

# Check if the database directory exists, if not, create it (Only for the first run)

if [ ! -d "database" ]; then
    mkdir database

fi

# Initialize the database

python3 initdb.py

# Start the API
python3 api.py
```

Figure 18: Code of the file ''api/start.sh'' of the server.

5.2.4 ubidots_conf.py

This file contains the configuration of Ubidots. It includes the Ubidots URL, device, and API token.

Figure 19: Code from the file ''api/ubidots_conf.py'' on the server.

6 Issues Encountered

The following sections describe the issues encountered during the project and the proposed solutions:

6.1 Problem 1: Static Server Address

In order to access the server from the Raspberry Pi Pico WH consistently without having to modify the code, a static IP address must be set for the server. This can be achieved by configuring the router's DHCP settings.

Access the router's configuration page using a web browser. Typically, this can be done by entering the router's IP address, in my case 192.168.1.1, in the address bar and logging in with the username ''admin'' and the password. Once logged in, navigate to the advanced configuration or DHCP settings section to assign a static IP address to the server. In my case, as shown in Figure 20, the router dynamically assigns IP addresses to devices connected in the range of 192.168.1.10 - 192.168.1.150. Therefore, the IP address 192.168.1.2 was assigned to the server to ensure it always has the same IP address and does not collide with other devices.

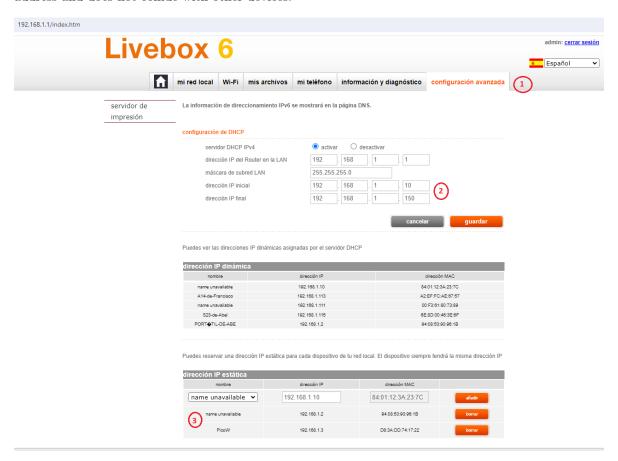


Figure 20: Router network configuration.

6.2 Problem 2: Docker Volume

To maintain database data persistently, a Docker volume must be created. In the Docker Desktop application, navigate to the ''Volumes'' option and create a volume named ''database'' as shown in Figure 21.

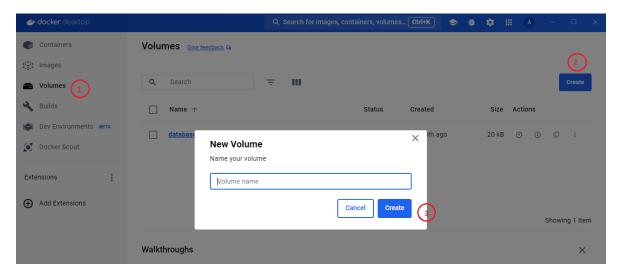


Figure 21: Creating a Docker volume.

In the ''build.bat'' file, the volume is linked to the container using the command ''-v database:/home/database''.

6.3 Problem 3: Sending Data to Ubidots

To send data to Ubidots, the device must be configured in Ubidots and the API token must be obtained. The API token must be sent in the HTTP request header. To do this, refer to the Ubidots documentation to find the request format and send the data in the correct format with the ''X-Auth-Token'' header.

Figure 22: Code for sending data to Ubidots from the file 'api/api.py'.

7 Results Obtained

A access control system using RFID keys and cards has been successfully implemented with a Raspberry Pi Pico WH microcontroller and a server with a SQLite database and a REST API.

User registration and access data has been successfully sent to Ubidots for real-time visualization. The reading mode of the RFID key or card has been successfully changed using Bluetooth Low Energy. A tricolor LED has been successfully turned on based on the API response.

The application has been successfully tested and user registration and access have been correctly recorded.

Future work includes improving the system's security by encrypting data and scalability of the system with multiple Raspberry Pi Pico WHs and RFID readers communicating with the server. The technology for reading RFID keys and cards could also be changed to NFC, a facial recognition system, or fingerprint recognition to enhance the system's security.

References

- [1] A. Haro. Rfid-rc522 key reading, 2024. GitHub Repository.
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