## **StepSnitch**

# A Motion-Triggered Security Device with Cloud Connectivity

By Group #54:

Carson Gusaas | <u>gusaa008@umn.edu</u> Jonas McClung | <u>mcclu360@umn.edu</u>

EE1301 Final Project Report Professor: Kia Bazargan May 02, 2025

#### **Project Description**

No matter who you are or where you live, security is an important priority, and it isn't always easy to guarantee. Without security measures, you often have no way of knowing whether people or animals are present in your home, business, or any other important location. To solve this problem, we created a cloud-connected motion-detecting security device powered by a Particle Photon 2 microcontroller. This device's features include live web monitoring, email alerts, an alarm, and motion status LEDs.

The most important component of this security device is the HC-SR501 PIR Motion Sensor, which is designed to detect changes in infrared radiation caused by the movement of living organisms. This sensor detects movement at a range of up to 21 feet away, within a 120-degree angle from the sensor, allowing quite a large area to be secured. The device also has several actuating components, the first of which is a small Piezoelectric Speaker. This speaker continuously sounds an alarm during motion detections. Similarly, three addressable iLEDs are used as motion status indicators, glowing green when no movement is detected, and switching to red for the duration of motion detections. Finally, two pairs of green and red diffused LEDs were used to display the current ON/OFF status of the device and its alarm.

For this device to serve its purpose as a security measure, it required some sort of internet connectivity, a web interface for live monitoring, and live alerts. To accomplish this, the Particle Photon 2's wifi connectivity is used to constantly send data to the cloud as it's recorded by the sensor. From there, the interactive website can access and display motion detection data, including time stamps, the current motion status, and a timeline of motion detections over the past hour. This cloud connectivity and webpage also allow the device and alarm to be toggled on or off through a website control panel. Finally, the device uses the third-party service IFTTT to send live motion detection email alerts.

The previously discussed device functionality combines for an efficient, user-friendly security solution with numerous applications. One use case example for this device is home security, whether this means securing your front porch from unauthorized people or animals, or making sure nobody enters your room full of valuable items. Additionally, the device could be used to monitor motion activity at a place of business during closing hours. When an unauthorized person triggers the motion detector, sees the flashing LEDs and alarm, they'll know their presence is no secret.

#### **Coding & Wiring**

To understand the code, it may be beneficial to first view the wiring diagram, see <u>Appendix I</u>. The code starts with a series of if/else statements, serving as the motion detection logic. The idea behind the logic was for each detection to be continuous, lasting any amount of time, up until the sensor's signal finishes. This was only possible because of the motion sensor's retriggering mode. This would allow the alarm, LED colors, and motion status displayed on the website to all work in sync, continuously for the duration of each motion detection. This was accomplished by using state variables to keep track of when a detection starts and stops, and only triggering LED changes when the motion has just started or ended.

```
if(deviceModeIs == DEVICE ON) {
 digitalWrite(device_ON_PIN, HIGH);
 digitalWrite(device_OFF_PIN, LOW);
  //IF: motion was just detected:
  if(motionReading == HIGH && previousSensorState == false) {
   currentMotion = true;
   previousSensorState = true; //to prevent retrigger
   motionLogged = false; //to prevent extra logs
   RedLEDs(); //LEDS --> red
    //if statement to make sure the motion is only logged once per detection
    if(motionLogged == false) {
     logDetection();
     motionLogged = true;
 //ELSE IF: motion just stopped being detected:
  } else if(motionReading == LOW && previousSensorState == true) {
   previousSensorState = false;
   currentMotion = false; //no motion
   GreenLEDs(); //LEDS --> green
```

The first if statement allows for the device to be toggled on and off.

The currentMotion variable acts as a live motion status indicator, only being "true" while motion is being detected.

The logic shown in the image allows for motion to only be logged once each time the sensor is triggered. This was key for preventing hundreds of website detection log entries with each motion detection.

The alarm logic follows the same rules, only sounding when the currentMotion variable is true, causing a continuous output while motion is detected. Additionally, the alarm code had to be non-blocking. This was accomplished by using time-tracking variables to create a non-blocking delay.

The first if statement allows the alarm to be toggled on and off.

Subtracting time state variables and checking if greater than 250ms has the same effect as delay(250).

```
//Alarm logic (non-blocking, continious over motion duration)
if(alarmModeIs == ALARM_ON) {
    digitalWrite(alarm_ON_PIN, HIGH); //alarm green LED ON
    digitalWrite(alarm_OFF_PIN, LOW); //alarm red LED OFF

if(currentMotion) {
    timeNow = millis();

    //IF: 250ms have elapsed since last alarm tone
    if(timeNow-timeLastBeep >= 250) {
        timeLastBeep = timeNow;
        noTone(speakerPIN);

        //to make sure alarm starts on high tone
        if(beepCount == 0) {
            highTone = true;
        }
}
```

The speaker alternates between a high-pitched tone and a lower tone every 250ms using if/else statements and flipping a bool as shown.

```
if(highTone) {
    tone(speakerPIN, 1800, 0); //1800hz (high pitched) sound
    beepCount++;
    highTone = false;
}else if(!highTone) {
    tone(speakerPIN, 1200, 0); //1200hz (lower pitched) sound
    beepCount++;
    highTone = true;
}
```

Following the previously shown code, else statements are used to turn the alarm off when motion ends, and turn the iLEDs off when the device is toggled off.

Cloud functions were used to control the device from the website. When the device or speaker toggle button is pressed on the website, a cloud function calls a function within the code, taking a string as an "instruction" parameter. Based on this string, the function flips a variable, toggling the speaker or device on/off.

```
int deviceMode(String inputString) {
  deviceModeIs = DEVICE_OFF;
   return 0;
  else if(inputString == "Device ON") {
  deviceModeIs = DEVICE_ON;
   GreenLEDs();
   return 1;
 } else {
//Called by cloud function (from website) for toggling speaker on/off
int alarmMode(String inputString){
  alarmModeIs = ALARM_OFF;
  return 0;
   alarmModeIs = ALARM_ON;
   return 1;
 } else {
   return -1; //something went wrong
```

The if-else statements allow the device or speaker to be toggled depending on the string that is sent.

The functions return a different integer based on the if-statement used, which is sent back to the website. A negative integer indicates an error to the user.

Cloud variables are used to transmit detection data to the website. These variables include a time stamp (string) for the most recent detection, a bool stating the current motion status, and 12 integers corresponding to a timeline array with five-minute intervals over the past hour.

```
void logDetection() {
   timeLine[0]++; //increments the detection count for time line. Location 0 is always the most recent 5-minute interval.

timeStamp = Time.format(Time.now(), "%I:%M:%S %p %m/%d/%Y"); //Records formatted timestamp as hours:mins:secs am/pm month/day/year detectionMessage(detectionCount, timeStamp); //output motion detected message (for debugging and testing)

sendEmail(); //call function to send email notification
}
```

This function is called with each motion detection.

The previously mentioned timeline array must be shifted every five minutes in order to stay up to date. For this purpose, the following function is called with each iteration of the main loop. The function uses time state variables like the speaker logic, only shifting the timeline array every 5 minutes.

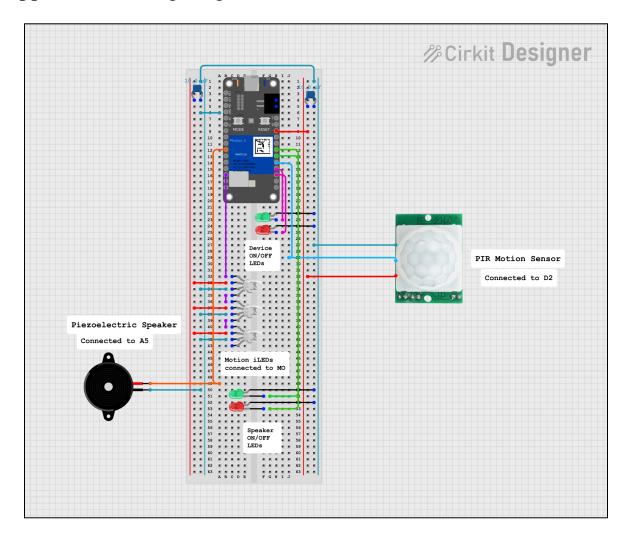
A common array shifting loop is used.

The loop does very little "blocking", as it runs quickly and infrequently.

Additional code includes LED updating functions, a function that sends email alerts by triggering a cloud event, which sends a webhook to IFTTT, the setup code, and global variable declarations. To view these, see *Appendix II*.

Finally, the HTML code for the interactive website, which is mostly generated by AI, is shown in *Appendix III*, and a visual representation of the website is shown in *Appendix IV*.

## Appendix I: Wiring Diagram



### Appendix II: Full Photon Code PDF Download

```
#include "Particle.h"
#include "neopixel.h"
#include <string>

using namespace std;

SYSTEM_MODE(AUTOMATIC);
SYSTEM_THREAD(ENABLED);
```

```
SerialLogHandler logHandler(LOG_LEVEL_INFO);
#define DEVICE ON 1
#define DEVICE OFF 0
#define ALARM ON 1
#define ALARM OFF 0
int alarmModeIs = ALARM OFF;
int device OFF PIN = D4;
int motionPIN = D2;
int speakerPIN = A5;
bool previousSensorState = false;
bool motionLogged = false; //used to ensure only 1 log (or output message) per
bool currentMotion = false;
int motionReading;
String timeStamp; //Learned time functions and formatting from:
unsigned long int timeLastBeep = 0;
bool highTone;
```

```
unsigned long int T1 = millis();
unsigned long int T2 = 0;
int timeLine[12] = \{0\}; //each of the 12 elements of this array represent a 5 minute
int PIXEL TYPE = WS2812;
Adafruit NeoPixel strip = Adafruit NeoPixel(PIXEL COUNT, PIXEL PIN, PIXEL TYPE);
int PixelColorGreen = strip.Color( 255, 0, 0);
int PixelOFF = strip.Color( 0, 0, 0);
void RedLEDs();
void GreenLEDs();
void NoLEDs();
void LEDWipeForward(int color, int wait);
void LEDWipeBackwards(int color, int wait);
void detectionMessage(int detectionCount, String timeStamp);
void logDetection();
void timeLineShift();
void sendEmail(); //for IFTTT email triggering
int alarmMode(String inputString);
```

```
////SETUP:///
void setup() {
pinMode(motionPIN, INPUT);
motionReading = digitalRead(motionPIN);
pinMode(device ON PIN, OUTPUT);
pinMode(alarm ON PIN, OUTPUT);
pinMode(alarm OFF PIN, OUTPUT);
Time.zone(-5); // Converts particle time zone to Central Time (from UTC)
 Particle.variable("CurrentMotion", currentMotion);
 Particle.variable("Interval2", timeLine[1]);
 Particle.variable("Interval5", timeLine[4]);
 Particle.variable("Interval6", timeLine[5]);
 Particle.variable("Interval10", timeLine[9]);
 Particle.variable("Interval11", timeLine[10]);
 Particle.variable("Interval12", timeLine[11]);
 Particle.function("AlarmToggle", alarmMode);
```

```
void loop() {
      RedLEDs(); //LEDS --> red
        motionLogged = true;
      GreenLEDs(); //LEDS --> green
  if(alarmModeIs == ALARM ON) {
     digitalWrite(alarm ON PIN, HIGH); //alarm green LED ON
       timeNow = millis();
```

```
noTone(speakerPIN);
      if(beepCount == 0) {
        tone(speakerPIN, 1800, 0); //1800hz (high pitched) sound
        tone(speakerPIN, 1200, 0); //1200hz (lower pitched) sound
    noTone(speakerPIN); //speaker stops sounding
  digitalWrite(alarm OFF PIN, HIGH); //alarm red LED ON
digitalWrite(alarm OFF PIN, HIGH);
```

```
mins have passed and acts accordingly)
  deviceModeIs = DEVICE OFF;
 GreenLEDs();
int alarmMode(String inputString) {
void logDetection() {
timeStamp = Time.format(Time.now(), "%1:%M:%S %p %m/%d/%Y "); //Records formatted
```

```
detectionMessage(detectionCount, timeStamp); //output motion detected message (for
void timeLineShift() {
      timeLine[i] = timeLine[i - 1];
void RedLEDs() {
  LEDWipeForward(strip.Color(0, 255, 0), 30); //cool animation from neopixel
  strip.setPixelColor(0, PixelColorRed);
  strip.show();
void GreenLEDs() {
  LEDWipeBackwards(strip.Color(255, 0, 0), 30);
  strip.setPixelColor(0, PixelColorGreen);
  strip.show();
void NoLEDs() {
strip.setPixelColor(2, PixelOFF);
strip.show();
```

```
void LEDWipeForward(int color, int wait) {
  strip.show();
  delay(wait);
void LEDWipeBackwards(int color, int wait) {
  strip.show();
  delay(wait);
void sendEmail() {
Particle.publish("sendEmail", timeStamp, PRIVATE); //publishes particle event,
```

#### **Appendix III:** Full Webpage Code (AI) PDF Download

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
```

```
(head>
   --bg: #0a0a0a;
    --bg-alt: #1a1a1a;
    --text: #eaeaea;
    --highlight-good: #00ff88;
    --highlight-alert: #ff4444;
    --scrollbar: #ffffff;
    --bg-alt: #eaeaea;
    --highlight-good: #008800;
    --highlight-alert: #cc0000;
    --scrollbar: #000000;
```

```
margin: 0;
background: linear-gradient(120deg, var(--bg), var(--bg-alt), var(--bg));
background-size: 400% 400%;
color: var(--text);
0% { background-position: 0% 50%; }
50% { background-position: 100% 50%; }
100% { background-position: 0% 50%; }
font-size: 3rem;
animation: fadeSlideIn 1s ease;
margin-bottom: 2.5rem;
```

```
border-radius: 20px;
margin-bottom: 2rem;
display: inline-flex;
align-items: center;
margin: 0.5rem;
padding: 0.8rem 1.6rem;
background: var(--button-bg);
font-size: 1rem;
```

```
.control-row {
display: flex;
justify-content: space-between;
.status-indicator {
gap: 0.6rem;
background-color: var(--highlight-good); /* Default green */
   list-style-type: none;
   padding: 0;
    margin-top: 1rem;
    border-radius: 8px;
```

```
color: var(--button-text);
 cursor: pointer;
 font-size: 0.9rem;
 margin-bottom: 0.5rem;
#timelineChart {
  opacity: 0;
  opacity: 1;
```

```
::-webkit-scrollbar-thumb {
   background: var(--scrollbar);
 padding-left: 0.5rem;
<div class="subtitle">An infrared motion-triggered security system.</div>
 <h2>Current Status:</h2>
 <span class="no-motion">✔ No Motion Detected</span>
```

```
<div class="control-row">
<button onclick="toggleAlarm()">Toggle Alarm</button>
<h3>Timeline (Past Hour)</h3>
<h3>Detection Log</h3>
 <1i>>04/09/25 14:36 - No motion
 >04/09/25 14:21 - Motion detected!
$.ajax({
   args: newState
```

```
success(data) {
      deviceOn = !deviceOn;
     updateDeviceStatus(); // <- NEW</pre>
 function toggleAlarm() {
 const newState = alarmOn ? "Alarm OFF" : "Alarm ON";
     args: newState
     updateAlarmStatus(); // <- NEW</pre>
function updateDeviceStatus() {
    statusSpan.textContent = "Device Status: ON";
    dot.style.boxShadow = "0 0 8px var(--highlight-good)";
    dot.style.backgroundColor = "var(--highlight-alert)";
```

```
dot.style.boxShadow = "0 0 8px var(--highlight-alert)";
function updateAlarmStatus() {
 const statusSpan = document.getElementById('alarmStatus');
   statusSpan.textContent = "Alarm Status: ON";
   dot.style.boxShadow = "0 0 8px var(--highlight-good)";
   dot.style.backgroundColor = "var(--highlight-alert)";
function clearLog() {
   document.getElementById('logList').innerHTML = '';
function updateMotionStatus(isDetected) {
 const motionStatus = document.getElementById("motionStatus");
   motionStatus.innerHTML = '<span class="no-motion">✓ No Motion
function toggleTheme() {
```

```
function fetchParticleVariables() {
 $.ajax({
   headers: {
     console.log("CurrentMotion:", data.result);
     updateMotionStatus(isDetected);
   headers: {
function fetchAndLogDetectionTime() {
 $.ajax({
```

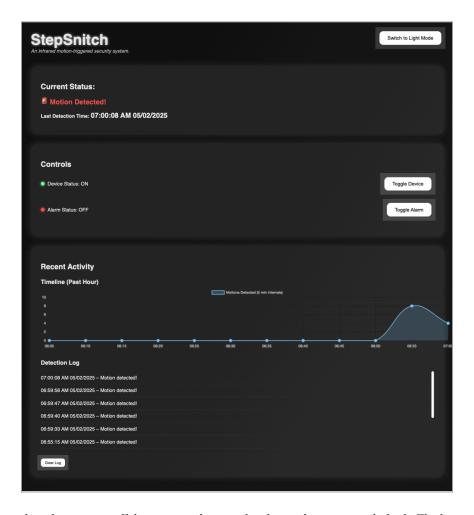
```
url: `${baseURL}/DetectionTime`,
    method: "GET",
    headers: {
      const logList = document.getElementById('logList');
     logList.prepend(newEntry);
setInterval(fetchParticleVariables, 1500);
fetchParticleVariables();
updateDeviceStatus();
updateAlarmStatus();
const past = new Date(now.getTime() - (i * 5 * 60000)); // 5 minutes * i
const hours = String(past.getHours()).padStart(2, '0');
const minutes = String(past.getMinutes()).padStart(2, '0');
```

```
return labels.reverse(); // So left -> right is oldest -> newest
type: 'line',
   borderColor: 'rgba(100, 200, 255, 1)',
   fill: true,
   pointHoverRadius: 8, /* 👈 NEW */
   pointBackgroundColor: 'rgba(100, 200, 255, 1)',
   borderWidth: 2
options: {
 responsive: true,
     beginAtZero: true,
       color: getComputedStyle(document.body).getPropertyValue('--text')
     labels: {
       color: getComputedStyle(document.body).getPropertyValue('--text')
```

```
const promises = intervalVars.map(interval =>
    method: "GET",
     const detections = results.map(r => r.result);
     const maxVal = Math.max(...detections);
     timelineChart.options.scales.y.max = maxVal < 5 ? 5 : Math.ceil(maxVal * 1.2);</pre>
     timelineChart.update();
setInterval(fetchTimelineIntervals, 10000);
fetchTimelineIntervals(); // initial load
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

## Appendix IV: Website Visual Representation



Note: The timeline does not go off the page on the actual website; this is a visual glitch. The boxes around the buttons also aren't on the actual page.