Option B: Weather Client - Final Report

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*Abstract*—This is the first progress report for the Term Project for CS370-801 for our group 8B. The project objectives and justifications are introduced. Description of the Hardware, Software Environment, Project Design, and Development. We discuss what hardware we are using, obtaining the hardware and other materials with costs associated, and describe the project's intended design. We then briefly describe our software development environment. The project design is elaborated, with the primary and secondary implementations for accessing the device and data, directly and indirectly. Then the development section is introduced where we describe our current progress and efforts. This is the current state of the project at the time of this report. We then discuss the two quantitative attributes of the project that we intend to analyze, power consumption, estimates, and measurements, and the second attribute cost and marketability analysis. Figures and Tables contain images and artifacts described in the document. We close with acknowledgment to Adafruit and Ladyada. (*Abstract*)

Keywords—Raspberry Pi, single board computer, GPIO headers, sensor board, I2C communication, React, Spring-boot, Pi4J, Java, Python (key words)

# Introduction

The project objective is to develop and evaluate a system built using a single-board computer. The hardware requirement specifications are a single board computer, a sensor device, and communicating with at least one other computer. The single-board computer must have both Wi-Fi and OS boot capability.

Our project will measure, monitor, and report environmental factors, such as temperature, air pressure, humidity, and air quality over the Internet to a client machine. This progress report describes the current status of the project and our intent to evaluate quantitative information about the project. At the end of the project, we will submit a final report and a demonstration of the application we have produced.

We have chosen the Raspberry Pi 3 Model B+ for our single board computer [1]. It is the final revision of the third-generation single-board computer with Broadcom BCM2837B0, Cortex-A53 (ARMv8) 64-bit SoC 1.4GHz processor, and 1GB LPDDR2 SDRAM. They are running the Raspberry Pi OS, formerly “Raspbian”, which is a “Debian-based operating system optimised for the Raspberry Pi hardware” [2].

For our sensor, we have chosen Adafruit BME688 - Temperature, Humidity, Pressure, and Gas Sensor - STEMMA QT [3]. The sensor features the Bosch BME680 Low power gas, pressure, temperature & humidity sensor [4]. Which is a precision device capable of measuring “humidity with ±3% accuracy, barometric pressure with ±1 ℎ𝑃𝑃𝑃𝑃 absolute accuracy, and temperature with ±1.0°𝐶𝐶 accuracy,” and can be used as “an altimeter with ±1 meter or better accuracy!” [3].

# Problem Characterization

## A Remote Sensor for Monitoring Environment

Climate and environmental data is necessary for studying the environment and the effects that human activity has on it. There is often a shortage of manpower and equipment for studying the environment. This leads to areas of the map which have little to no data available for analysis. Scientists also face funding issues and tight constraints on budgets, which can affect their options for equipment. Using a low-cost data collection method, that allows remote access to the device is a challenge.

Our task was to communicate with a single-board computer that is using a sensor. The communication can be broken into two smaller tasks, communication with the single-board computer and communication between the single board computer and its sensor. In our case this would be to communication with an environmental sensor to obtain readings and then communicate that back to a user client on their computer.

# Proposed Solution and implementation strategy

## Methodology

## Libraries Used and Original Work

The libraries used are create-react-app created with the node package manager. This created the template code for our client-side.

We also used Springboot and Spring libraries for the server side, this was created using the Spring initializer which generates some base code with specified dependencies.

Pi4J library was also used by the backend server to interface with the GPIO header pins. Specifically, it uses I2C communications to send and receive signals from the I2C GPIO header pins. Accessing the GPIO headers of the Raspberry Pi, natively, requires writing device drivers which is beyond the scope of this course, and thus we require a 3rd party library to perform this task.

A derived work, which is an original work based on an existing work, was created for interfacing with the sensor board. The Adafruit BME688 board has a setup guide and detailed tutorial, which links to their Adafruit CircuitPython BME680 library, written in Python. There are no other resources other than code samples and the setup guide. Our derived original work is based on the Adafruit CircuitPython BME680 library and is compliant under MIT and BSD-3-Clause license to be modified and redistributed. What is original about our work is that it is written in Java instead of Python, and uses the Java language and object oriented design features of Java language. The library is called “adafruit\_bme680” and resides in its own project as a JAR dependency for the server. This is necessary because we are implementing Adafruit’s sensor board, and the only resources that are available are code sources open to modification, as opposed to technical specifications, API, SDK, or other technical references. Initially, it was intended to perform I2C and SPI communications, but due to time constraint the I2C is the only tested and working part of our library.

Our original code in the backend server includes the classes for creating the REST API, the censor controller, and the data transfer object for the sensor data. The client-side frontend includes original code for retrieving and displaying the sensor readings.

# conclusion

# Figures and Tables

A black rectangular object with wires

Description automatically generated

1. John Maksuta’s Adafruit BME680 Sesnor Board and Pi Case.

A black electronic device with wires and wires

Description automatically generated

1. John Maksuta’s Raspberry Pi Board and case, with GPIO header exposed and sensor leads connected.

A green circuit board with red and blue wires

Description automatically generated

1. Ali Fayed’s Raspberry Pi Board, with GPIO header exposed and sensor leads connected.

A green circuit board with many wires

Description automatically generated

1. Adafruit BME680 Sesnor Board and Raspberry Pi Board wired with I2C [12]

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

1. Ali Fayed’s testing environment using Python.

A screenshot of a weather dashboard

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1. UI Development progress.

A green circuit board with red and blue wires

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1. Matt Boin’s Raspberry Pi Board with GPIO expansion header and sensor wires connected.

##### Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge Adafruit for providing documentation and code samples for interfacing with their BME680 sensor product. Specifically to Ladyada from Adafruit who wrote the original Python code work “ adafruit\_bme680” of which the Java interface for the BME680 that we wrote is a derived work from their Python language source [13]. This is permitted by 2017 Ladyada for Adafruit Industries under license MIT AND BSD-3-Clause.

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