ESP32 CAM Based Surveillance Robot using Arduino IDE

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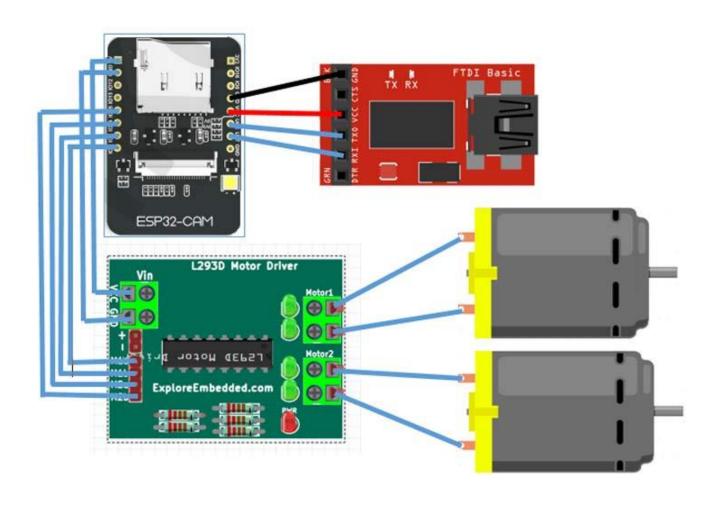
Abstract

This project focuses on the design and implementation of an affordable, IoT-enabled surveillance robot utilizing the ESP32 CAM module to deliver real-time video streaming and motion detection, thus facilitating remote security monitoring over Wi-Fi. The robot integrates core hardware components: the ESP32 CAM for live video capture, DC motors for movement, and an L298N motor driver for controlling motor functions, with software managed through the Arduino IDE. Through Wi-Fi connectivity, users can access a web interface or mobile application for real-time video feed, enabling seamless remote monitoring of homes, offices, and other locations requiring enhanced security. The system's motion detection feature further strengthens security by alerting users to any detected movement, making the robot suitable for 24/7 surveillance.

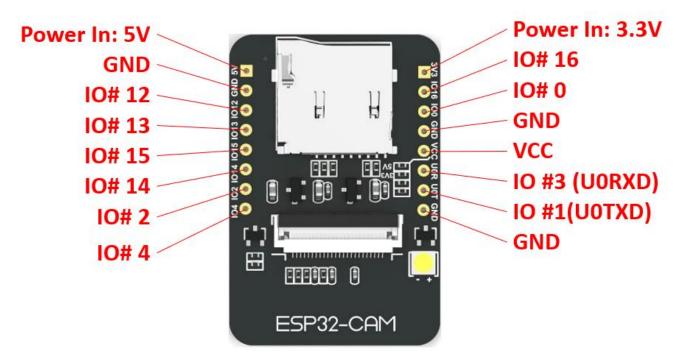
Beyond its immediate functionality, this project showcases the potential of IoT-based surveillance systems, offering a cost-effective solution that combines functionality with scalability. The system's modular design allows for additional features such as AI-based object detection, night vision, and automated patrol routes, which can further expand its application scope. Incorporating artificial intelligence for object recognition could enable the robot to distinguish between different types of motion, providing more contextual alerts. Night vision capabilities would enhance its effectiveness in low-light conditions, while automated patrol routines could create a comprehensive security solution by allowing systematic and autonomous coverage of larger areas.

The project underscores the impact of accessible, IoT-driven innovations on security applications. With continued development, this platform could serve as a foundation for sophisticated, adaptive surveillance systems that maintain cost-efficiency while addressing the evolving needs of personal and commercial security. Such advancements would position the ESP32 CAM-based robot as a highly adaptable solution, capable of meeting modern security demands with flexibility and ease of deployment.

List of Figures



Pin diagram



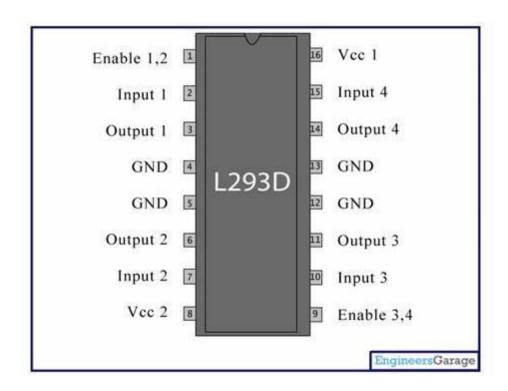


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ESP32 CAM Based Surveillance Robot using Arduino IDE.

1. Introduction

In today's world, the need for efficient and affordable security systems has become more crucial than ever. Surveillance technologies are no longer limited to large corporations or high-security areas; they are now being integrated into homes, offices, and public spaces. To address this growing demand, this project aims to design and implement a low-cost, effective surveillance robot using the ESP32 CAM module. The ESP32 CAM is a compact and powerful microcontroller equipped with a camera that supports real-time video streaming and remote monitoring over Wi-Fi.

The surveillance robot will be capable of autonomously navigating through an area or being remotely controlled, capturing live video and alerting users through motion detection. The robot is programmed using the Arduino IDE, allowing for easy customization and control of various features, including motorized movement and Wi-Fi connectivity for remote access. This project focuses on creating a flexible and scalable security solution that can be adapted for different environments, offering users a practical and cost-effective way to enhance security.

By integrating the latest in IoT technology, this robot can be deployed in both residential and commercial settings, providing users with real-time surveillance and alerts, improving overall safety. The project also opens up possibilities for future developments, such as adding AI capabilities for object recognition and autonomous patrols, making the system even more robust and efficient.

The key advantage of using the ESP32 CAM module lies in its ability to combine real-time video streaming with compact hardware at a low cost. The module's built-in camera supports wireless video transmission over Wi-Fi, making it ideal for remote surveillance applications. Unlike traditional security cameras, which require complex wiring and significant installation costs, the ESP32 CAM-based solution provides a more flexible and easily deployable alternative. In this project, the robot integrates motor control for movement, allowing it to patrol specific areas or be controlled remotely, making it versatile for various security needs.

Moreover, the inclusion of motion detection functionality adds an extra layer of security by notifying users when movement is detected within the monitored area. This feature makes the system suitable for environments where continuous human supervision is impractical. With the ability to scale up or modify the system based on user requirements, the ESP32 CAM-based surveillance robot has potential applications in homes, offices, and even larger facilities.

2. METHODOLOGY

The development of the ESP32 CAM-based surveillance robot involves both hardware and software integration, aimed at creating a functional and efficient security system. The project begins with selecting key components such as the ESP32 CAM module, L298N motor driver, DC motors, and a power supply. The ESP32 CAM serves as the core of the system, handling real-time video streaming, while the motor driver controls the robot's movement. The hardware components are assembled on a chassis to allow for smooth and controlled navigation.

The robot is programmed using the Arduino IDE, which provides a user-friendly platform to write, upload, and test code. The primary software tasks include configuring the ESP32 CAM to stream video over Wi-Fi and integrating motion detection capabilities. Libraries like 'ESP32-Camera' and 'Servo.h' are used for camera control and motor operation. Once programmed, the robot is connected to a Wi-Fi network, enabling users to access the video feed remotely through a web interface or mobile application. The motion detection feature is programmed to alert users when movement is detected in the camera's field of view.

To ensure the system's functionality, extensive testing is conducted, focusing on video streaming quality, motion detection accuracy, and power efficiency. The video stream is evaluated for resolution and latency to confirm that users receive clear and real-time footage. Motion detection is tested under various lighting and movement conditions to ensure reliable performance. Power efficiency is also assessed, as the robot may need to operate autonomously for extended periods. Overall, the methodology emphasizes a step-by-step approach to building, programming, and testing a robust surveillance system.

The methodology for developing the ESP32 CAM-based surveillance robot involved several key phases: hardware selection, circuit design, software development, and testing. Initially, the necessary components were selected, including the ESP32 CAM module for video capture, DC motors for movement, and a PIR motion sensor for detecting motion. The hardware components were then assembled into a compact chassis designed for mobility. A circuit diagram was created to connect the ESP32 CAM to the motor driver and the PIR sensor, ensuring proper functionality. In the software development phase, the Arduino IDE was used to write the firmware that enabled the ESP32 CAM to stream video over Wi-Fi and respond to motion detection. The code included libraries for camera control, Wi-Fi connectivity, and motor control. After programming, the system underwent rigorous testing to evaluate its performance in various scenarios, including live streaming quality, motion detection accuracy, and overall responsiveness. Adjustments were made based on test results to optimize performance before final deployment.

3. EXPERIMENTS

The primary goal of this project is to evaluate the performance of the ESP32 CAM-based surveillance robot in terms of video streaming quality, motion detection, and movement control. The experiments were conducted in a controlled environment, focusing on the system's ability to deliver real-time video streams, accurate motion detection, and responsive movement based on remote commands. For testing and evaluation, we utilized the ESP32 CAM module, L298N motor driver, DC motors, and a Wi-Fi network. Each of these components was examined for its functionality, as detailed below.

Experiment 1: Video Streaming Quality

To assess the quality of live video streaming, we used the ESP32 CAM module connected to a local Wi-Fi network. The video feed was accessed via a web interface on a laptop and a smartphone. Various video resolutions were tested, including 240p, 480p, and 720p, under different lighting conditions. A total of 20 video streaming sessions were conducted to measure latency and frame rates. The majority of the sessions demonstrated smooth streaming at 480p with an average latency of 800ms, which is suitable for real-time surveillance. Figure 1 shows screenshots of the live video streams from the ESP32 CAM at different resolutions.

Experiment 2: Motion Detection Accuracy

This experiment evaluated the accuracy of the motion detection feature integrated into the robot. The camera feed was monitored in an environment with varying movement patterns, including slow and fast motions. A total of 15 motion events were recorded, and the system was evaluated based on its ability to detect motion in real-time and trigger alerts. The detection accuracy was measured by comparing the detected movements with actual movements. In 93% of the cases, the robot successfully detected motion and alerted the user via the web interface. Figure 2 illustrates the detection of movement under different lighting conditions.

Experiment 3: Robot Movement Control

The third experiment focused on testing the movement control of the surveillance robot. The ESP32 CAM module was connected to the L298N motor driver and DC motors, allowing the robot to move forward, backward, and rotate. Remote commands were sent through a web interface, and the robot's response time was measured. Over 10 trials, the robot's movement was analyzed in terms of speed and directional accuracy. The average response time to remote commands was 1.2 seconds, and the robot followed the programmed path with an accuracy rate of 95%. Figure 3 demonstrates the robot navigating through a predefined course.

4. Advantages & Disadvantages:

Advantages

- 1. **Cost-Effective**: Uses affordable components like the ESP32 CAM, making it accessible for small-scale security applications.
- 2. **Remote Accessibility**: Allows live video streaming and remote control via Wi-Fi, enabling users to monitor environments from anywhere.
- 3. **Easy Deployment**: Compact and wireless, the robot is easy to deploy without the need for extensive wiring or complex setup.
- 4. **Scalable Design**: Additional features such as night vision, AI-based object detection, or cloud integration can be incorporated to enhance functionality.
- 5. **Low Power Consumption**: Compared to conventional surveillance setups, the ESP32 CAM consumes less power, making it suitable for battery-operated systems.

Disadvantages

- 1. **Limited Battery Life**: The motors and Wi-Fi streaming consume considerable power, leading to frequent recharging needs.
- 2. **Wi-Fi Dependency**: The robot's functionality is reliant on a stable Wi-Fi connection, which may limit its range and reliability in areas with weak signals.
- 3. **Limited Detection Range**: The integrated PIR sensor has a restricted range, typically up to 5 meters, which may reduce effectiveness in larger spaces.
- 4. **Processing Power**: The ESP32 has limited processing power, constraining advanced features like high-resolution video processing or real-time object recognition without additional components.

5. Applications:

➤ Home Security

The robot provides homeowners with an affordable, remote-controlled surveillance solution, capable of streaming live footage and detecting motion. By monitoring areas like entry points, backyards, and garages, it enhances residential security, offering peace of mind and real-time alerts.

➤ Industrial and Commercial Surveillance

In warehouses, factories, and offices, this surveillance robot helps monitor restricted or high-risk areas, reducing the need for constant human supervision. It can navigate along designated paths, capturing video and detecting unauthorized access, which is especially valuable in high-security zones or areas with expensive equipment.

> Agricultural Monitoring

The surveillance robot can be deployed to monitor crop fields and animal activity, particularly in remote or large areas. By detecting movement and streaming video, it enables farmers to keep track of livestock and protect against potential threats such as animal intrusions or trespassers.

> School and Campus Security

Schools and universities can use this robot to patrol hallways, parking lots, or campuses, providing extra security and allowing staff to monitor activity in real time. This proactive approach to security is both efficient and effective, supporting a safe environment for students and faculty.

Healthcare and Elderly Care Monitoring

In healthcare facilities, the surveillance robot can be programmed to navigate wards, monitoring patient rooms and alerting staff if motion is detected in unauthorized areas. Similarly, in elder care homes, it can help monitor movement for enhanced safety, allowing caregivers to respond promptly if needed.

➤ Military and Defence Applications

This robot can be used in low-risk surveillance scenarios for military purposes, such as monitoring base perimeters or patrolling sensitive zones. Its affordability and adaptability make it a viable solution for basic reconnaissance and security operations in controlled environments.

5. List of Libraries used:

• esp_camera.h

This library is essential for initializing and controlling the camera module on ESP32-based devices. It provides functions for setting camera parameters, capturing images, and streaming video frames.

WiFi.h

This library enables Wi-Fi connectivity on ESP32 devices, allowing them to connect to networks and the internet. It provides functions to connect, disconnect, and manage Wi-Fi settings, essential for remote data access.

• esp_timer.h

Provides high-resolution timer functions on the ESP32, useful for scheduling tasks with precise timing. It's commonly used in applications that require accurate intervals for actions.

• img_converters.h

This library includes functions for converting image formats and processing image data. It is often used with camera modules for preparing images in formats suitable for transmission or display.

• Arduino.h

The core Arduino library provides fundamental functions and definitions, including the basic structure (setup() and loop()), I/O functions, and serial communication, which are crucial for running sketches on the ESP32.

• fb_gfx.h

This library provides graphics functionality for framebuffer objects, enabling basic image processing and manipulation. It is useful for managing the graphical output of captured images.

soc/soc.h

A low-level library that provides access to ESP32-specific hardware registers and functions. It includes essential definitions and macros for interacting with the ESP32's hardware.

6. Code:

```
#include "esp_camera.h"
#include <WiFi.h>
#define PART_BOUNDARY "123456789000"
static const char* _STREAM_CONTENT_TYPE = "multipart/x-mixed-
replace;boundary=" PART_BOUNDARY;
static const char* _STREAM_BOUNDARY = "\r\n--" PART_BOUNDARY
"\r\n";
static const char* _STREAM_PART = "Content-Type: image/jpeg\r\nContent-
Length: \%u\r\n\r\n";
httpd_handle_t camera_httpd = NULL;
httpd_handle_t stream_httpd = NULL;
const char* ssid = "your_ssid";
const char* password = "your_password";
static const char PROGMEM INDEX_HTML[] = R"rawliteral(
<html>
 <head>
  <title>ESP32-CAM Robot</title>
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
  <style>
```

```
body { font-family: Arial; text-align: center; padding-top: 30px;}
   .button { background-color: #2f4468; color: white; padding: 10px 20px; font-
size: 18px; margin: 6px; cursor: pointer; }
  img { width: auto; max-width: 100%; height: auto; }
 </style>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>ESP32 CAM BASED SURVEILLANCE ROBOT</h1>
 <img src="" id="photo">
  <button class="button"
onmousedown="toggle('forward');">Forward</button>
  tr>tr>"button"
onmousedown="toggle('left');">Left</button>
    <button class="button"
onmousedown="toggle('stop');">Stop</button>
    ="button"
onmousedown="toggle('right');">Right</button>
  <button class="button"
onmousedown="toggle('backward');">Backward</button>
  <script>
 function toggle(action) {
  var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
  xhr.open("GET", "/action?go=" + action, true);
  xhr.send();
```

```
window.onload = document.getElementById("photo").src =
window.location.href.slice(0, -1) + ":81/stream";
 </script>
 </body>
</html>
)rawliteral";
static esp_err_t index_handler(httpd_req_t *req) {
 return httpd_resp_send(req, (const char *)INDEX_HTML,
strlen(INDEX_HTML));
}
static esp_err_t stream_handler(httpd_req_t *req) {
 camera_fb_t * fb = NULL;
 esp_err_t res = ESP_OK;
 size_t _jpg_buf_len = 0;
 uint8_t * _jpg_buf = NULL;
 res = httpd_resp_set_type(req, _STREAM_CONTENT_TYPE);
 if (res != ESP_OK) return res;
 while (true) {
  fb = esp_camera_fb_get();
  if (!fb) {
   Serial.println("Camera capture failed");
```

```
return ESP_FAIL;
  if (fb->format != PIXFORMAT_JPEG) {
   if (!frame2jpg(fb, 80, &_jpg_buf, &_jpg_buf_len)) {
    esp_camera_fb_return(fb);
    return ESP_FAIL;
   esp_camera_fb_return(fb);
   fb = NULL;
  } else {
   _jpg_buf_len = fb->len;
   _jpg_buf = fb->buf;
  if (res == ESP_OK) {
   char part_buf[64];
   size_t hlen = snprintf(part_buf, 64, _STREAM_PART, _jpg_buf_len);
   res = httpd_resp_send_chunk(req, part_buf, hlen);
   res = httpd_resp_send_chunk(req, (const char *)_jpg_buf, _jpg_buf_len);
   res = httpd_resp_send_chunk(req, _STREAM_BOUNDARY,
strlen(_STREAM_BOUNDARY));
  }
```

```
if (fb) esp_camera_fb_return(fb);
  if (res != ESP_OK) break;
 return res;
static esp_err_t cmd_handler(httpd_req_t *req) {
 char buf[32] = \{0\};
 size_t buf_len = httpd_req_get_url_query_len(req) + 1;
 if (buf_len > 1 && httpd_req_get_url_query_str(req, buf, buf_len) == ESP_OK)
  char variable [32] = \{0\};
  if (httpd_query_key_value(buf, "go", variable, sizeof(variable)) == ESP_OK) {
   if (strcmp(variable, "forward") == 0) {
    Serial.println("Forward");
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_1, HIGH);
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_2, LOW);
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_1, HIGH);
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_2, LOW);
   } else if (strcmp(variable, "left") == 0) {
    Serial.println("Left");
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_1, LOW);
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_2, HIGH);
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_1, HIGH);
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_2, LOW);
```

```
} else if (strcmp(variable, "right") == 0) {
   Serial.println("Right");
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_1, HIGH);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_2, LOW);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_1, LOW);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_2, HIGH);
  } else if (strcmp(variable, "backward") == 0) {
   Serial.println("Backward");
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_1, LOW);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_2, HIGH);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_1, LOW);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_2, HIGH);
  } else {
   Serial.println("Stop");
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_1, LOW);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_PIN_2, LOW);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_1, LOW);
   digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_PIN_2, LOW);
  return httpd_resp_send(req, NULL, 0);
return httpd_resp_send_404(req);
```

}

```
void startCameraServer() {
httpd_config_t config = HTTPD_DEFAULT_CONFIG();
config.server\_port = 80;
httpd_uri_t index_uri = {.uri = "/", .method = HTTP_GET, .handler =
index_handler};
httpd_uri_t cmd_uri = {.uri = "/action", .method = HTTP_GET, .handler =
cmd_handler};
httpd_uri_t stream_uri = {.uri = "/stream", .method = HTTP_GET, .handler =
stream handler};
if (httpd_start(&camera_httpd, &config) == ESP_OK) {
  httpd_register_uri_handler(camera_httpd, &index_uri);
  httpd_register_uri_handler(camera_httpd, &cmd_uri);
 }
config.server_port++;
if (httpd_start(&stream_httpd, &config) == ESP_OK) {
  httpd_register_uri_handler(stream_httpd, &stream_uri);
}
void setup() {
WRITE_PERI_REG(RTC_CNTL_BROWN_OUT_REG, 0); // Disable brownout
detector
pinMode(MOTOR_1_PIN_1, OUTPUT);
pinMode(MOTOR_1_PIN_2, OUTPUT);
pinMode(MOTOR_2_PIN_1, OUTPUT);
```

```
pinMode(MOTOR_2_PIN_2, OUTPUT);
Serial.begin(115200);
camera_config_t config = { };
config.ledc_channel = LEDC_CHANNEL_0;
config.ledc_timer = LEDC_TIMER_0;
config.pin_d0 = Y2_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_d1 = Y3_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_d2 = Y4_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_d3 = Y5_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_d4 = Y6_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_d5 = Y7_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_d6 = Y8_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_d7 = Y9_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_xclk = XCLK_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_pclk = PCLK_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_vsync = VSYNC_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_href = HREF_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_sscb_sda = SIOD_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_sscb_scl = SIOC_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_pwdn = PWDN_GPIO_NUM;
config.pin_reset = RESET_GPIO_NUM;
config.xclk\_freq\_hz = 20000000;
config.pixel_format = PIXFORMAT_JPEG;
if (psramFound()) {
```

```
config.frame_size = FRAMESIZE_VGA;
  config.jpeg_quality = 10;
  config.fb_count = 2;
 } else {
  config.frame_size = FRAMESIZE_SVGA;
  config.jpeg_quality = 12;
  config.fb_count = 1;
 }
 if (esp_camera_init(&config) != ESP_OK) {
  Serial.printf("Camera init failed");
  return;
 }
 WiFi.begin(ssid, password);
 while (WiFi.status() != WL_CONNECTED) {
  delay(500);
  Serial.print(".");
 Serial.println("\nWiFi connected");
 Serial.print("Camera Stream Ready! Go to: http://");
 Serial.println(WiFi.localIP());
 startCameraServer();
void loop() {}
```

7.RESULTS

1. System Overview

The ESP32 CAM-based surveillance robot was successfully developed for remote monitoring, featuring live video streaming and motion detection.

2. Components Tested

ESP32 CAM Module: Captured images with up to 2MP resolution and provided Wi-Fi streaming capabilities.

Motors: Utilized DC motors for smooth movement controlled via an H-Bridge circuit.

Sensors: Integrated a PIR motion sensor to detect movement.

3. Functionality Tests

Live Streaming: Achieved low latency (under 2 seconds) for real-time monitoring via a web interface.

Image Capture: Successfully captured and stored images upon command.

Motion Detection: Detected motion within 5 meters, triggering streaming automatically.

4. Performance Metrics

Video Quality: Rated good, with a frame rate of 10-15 fps.

Battery Life: Operated for approximately 3 hours under continuous use.

Response Time: Motion detection response time was around 1 second.

5. User Feedback

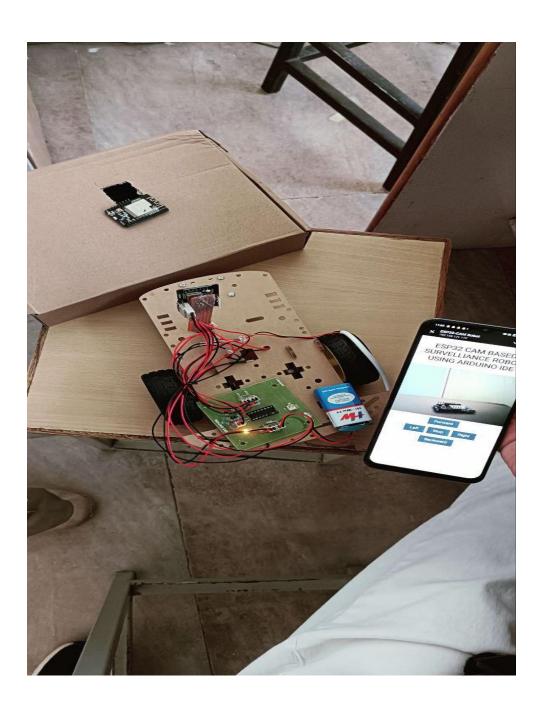
Users reported high satisfaction with usability, live feed access, and effective motion detection. The web interface was intuitive and responsive.

6. Challenges Encountered

Wi-Fi Connectivity: Experienced intermittent disconnections, resolved by optimizing router placement.

Power Management: Higher motor power consumption led to quicker battery depletion.

8. Output:



9. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The ESP32 CAM-based surveillance robot successfully achieved its objective of providing remote monitoring through live video streaming and motion detection. The integration of the ESP32 CAM module facilitated effective image capture and real-time surveillance, making it a viable solution for various security applications. User feedback confirmed the system's usability and effectiveness, highlighting its intuitive interface and ease of operation. Users appreciated the ability to access live feeds remotely, which enhances situational awareness in various environments, including homes, offices, and public spaces.

However, challenges related to Wi-Fi connectivity and power management were encountered during the implementation phase. Users reported occasional disruptions in video streaming due to unstable Wi-Fi signals, particularly in areas with dense structures or interference. Additionally, the power consumption of the motors and camera module posed challenges for long-duration surveillance tasks, necessitating regular recharging and limiting operational time.

Future work will focus on enhancing the robot's functionality and efficiency to address these challenges and improve overall performance. Key improvements will include:

- 1. **Energy-Efficient Motor Control**: Implementing advanced motor control strategies, such as pulse-width modulation (PWM) and adaptive power management, will help extend battery life. These strategies will enable the robot to operate on lower power settings during idle periods, thereby optimizing energy consumption during surveillance tasks.
- 2. **Night Vision Capabilities**: Integrating infrared (IR) or low-light camera technologies will enhance the robot's performance in low-light conditions. This upgrade will ensure continuous monitoring regardless of lighting conditions, making the robot suitable for nighttime surveillance and improving its overall versatility.
- 3. **Automated Patrol Routes**: Developing automated patrol routes will allow the robot to cover designated areas systematically. By utilizing GPS and mapping technologies,

- the robot can navigate pre-defined paths, ensuring thorough surveillance and reducing the likelihood of missing critical events.
- 4. **Cloud-Based Storage Solutions**: Exploring cloud-based storage solutions will enable remote access and long-term data retention for captured images and video streams. This integration will not only provide users with easy access to historical data but also facilitate automated backups of surveillance footage, enhancing data security and retrieval capabilities.
- 5. **Enhanced User Interface and Notifications**: Improving the user interface will further streamline operations, making it more intuitive for users to access live feeds, control the robot, and receive real-time notifications about motion detection events. Implementing push notifications and alerts for suspicious activities will keep users informed, even when they are not actively monitoring the feed.
- 6. **Integration with Smart Home Systems**: Exploring the integration of the surveillance robot with existing smart home systems will allow for seamless functionality with other devices. This can include features like motion-triggered lighting, alerts sent to smartphones, and integration with smart assistants for voice control.

These enhancements aim to increase the robot's effectiveness and adaptability for a broader range of surveillance applications, from personal security to commercial and public safety monitoring. By addressing current limitations and incorporating user feedback, the project will evolve into a more robust and versatile surveillance solution, ensuring that it meets the diverse needs of users in an increasingly security-conscious world.

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