

IOT Smart Tile System

Intelligent Lighting Control with Environmental Monitoring

Final Project Report

Course: Internet of Things (IoT)

Group Number: 15

Study Type: Software

Team Members

Student ID	Name	Study
[Student ID 1]	[Student Name 1]	[E/SW/Major]
[Student ID 2]	[Student Name 2]	[E/SW/Major]
[Student ID 3]	[Student Name 3]	[E/SW/Major]
[Student ID 4]	[Student Name 4]	[E/SW/Major]

Submission Date: December 2024

Table of Contents

1. [Work Area Overview](#)
 2. [Introduction](#)
 - 2.1 [Project Overview](#)
 - 2.2 [Motivation](#)
 - 2.3 [Objectives](#)
 3. [Architecture](#)
 - 3.1 [High-Level System Architecture](#)
 - 3.2 [Data Flow](#)
 - 3.3 [Hardware Architecture](#)
 4. [Background and Technical Analysis](#)
 - 4.1 [Why This Qualifies as an IoT Project](#)
 - 4.2 [Communication Protocol Analysis](#)
 - 4.3 [Technology Stack Selection](#)
 5. [Design and Implementation](#)
 - 5.1 [Embedded Software](#)
 - 5.2 [MQTT Connection and Message Flow](#)
 - 5.3 [Backend and Database Design](#)
 - 5.4 [Frontend Dashboard](#)
 - 5.5 [How to Compile and Launch](#)
 6. [Results](#)
 - 6.1 [What Worked Successfully](#)
 - 6.2 [What Failed and Why](#)
 - 6.3 [Problems and Proposed Solutions](#)
 7. [Discussion and Challenges](#)
 - 7.1 [Technical Challenges](#)
 - 7.2 [Most Difficult Parts](#)
 - 7.3 [Unexpected Realizations](#)
 - 7.4 [What We Would Do Differently](#)
 8. [Conclusion](#)
 - 8.1 [Project Reflection](#)
 - 8.2 [Course Feedback](#)
 - 8.3 [General Comments](#)
 9. [Future Work](#)
 10. [References](#)
-

1. Work Area Overview

The following table shows the division of work among team members. **Primary** indicates main responsibility, **Secondary** indicates supporting role, and **all** indicates shared responsibility.

Work Areas	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3	Member 4
Idea & Concept	all	all	all	all
Architecture	all	all	all	all
Design & Implementation: Device/Embedded	Primary	Secondary		
ESP-NOW Protocol	Primary	Secondary		
MQTT Integration	Primary		Secondary	Primary
Backend (Go + MongoDB)		Secondary	Primary	
Frontend (Angular Dashboard)	Secondary	Primary		
Sensor Integration (mmWave, TMP117)	Primary			Secondary
Testing & Integration			Secondary	Primary
Documentation	all	all	all	all
Results / Discussion / Conclusion	all	all	all	all

Note: Everything up to the Architecture section is shared across the whole group.

2. Introduction

2.1 Project Overview

The **IOT Smart Tile System** is a sophisticated distributed Internet of Things (IoT) platform designed for intelligent lighting control and comprehensive environmental monitoring. This project demonstrates the integration of embedded systems, wireless mesh networking, cloud connectivity, and modern web technologies to create a fully functional smart home lighting solution.

The system architecture consists of three primary layers:

- **Hardware Layer:** ESP32-based microcontrollers forming a wireless sensor network
- **Communication Layer:** ESP-NOW mesh protocol and MQTT message broker
- **Application Layer:** Go backend API and Angular web dashboard

The project showcases real-world application of computer science and IoT principles including:

- Embedded systems programming (C++ on ESP32)
- Wireless communication protocols (ESP-NOW, MQTT)
- Full-stack web development (Go, Angular, TypeScript)
- Database management (MongoDB)
- Containerization and deployment (Docker)

2.2 Motivation

Traditional home lighting systems suffer from several limitations that motivated our project:

Problem	Description
Lack of Intelligence	Conventional lighting operates on simple on/off switches without environmental awareness
No Remote Control	Users cannot monitor or control lighting when away from home
Energy Inefficiency	Lights remain on regardless of occupancy or ambient light levels
Limited Scalability	Adding new lighting zones requires significant rewiring
No Data Insights	Historical usage patterns are not tracked or analyzed

Our solution addresses these challenges by creating an interconnected system where lighting adapts to environmental conditions, responds to human presence, and provides comprehensive data analytics through a user-friendly web interface.

2.3 Objectives

Primary Objectives:

1. Design and implement a scalable wireless mesh network using ESP32 microcontrollers
2. Develop robust bidirectional communication between nodes and a central coordinator
3. Create a cloud-connected backend capable of storing and processing telemetry data
4. Build an intuitive web dashboard for real-time monitoring and control
5. Integrate environmental sensors for intelligent automation

Secondary Objectives:

1. Implement secure pairing mechanisms for adding new nodes
 2. Support over-the-air (OTA) firmware updates
 3. Enable presence detection using mmWave radar
 4. Optimize power consumption for battery-powered nodes
 5. Provide comprehensive documentation for maintainability
-

3. Architecture

3.1 High-Level System Architecture

The IOT Smart Tile System follows a distributed architecture with clear separation of concerns across three main layers:

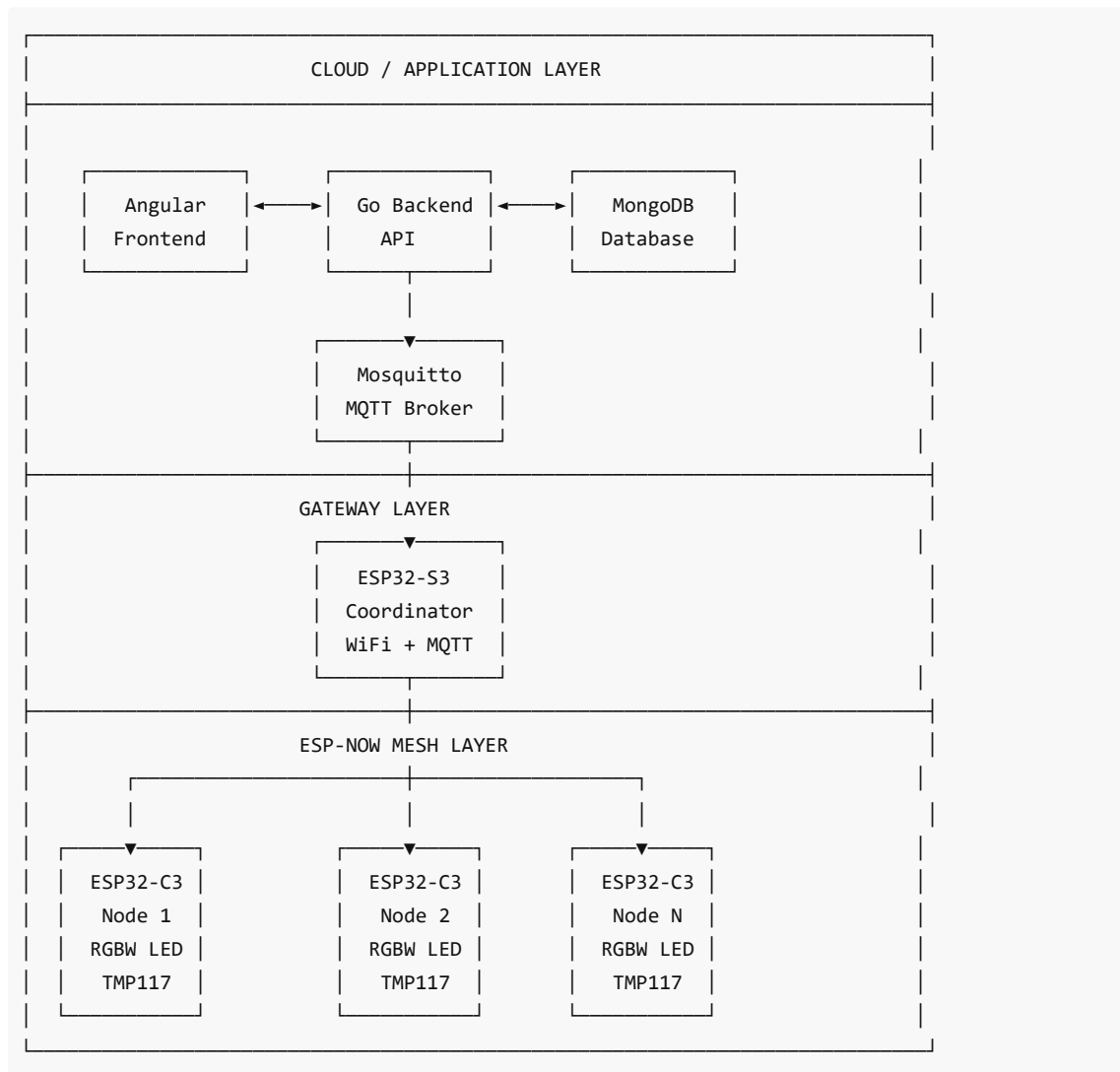


Figure 1: High-Level System Architecture

See also: [Diagrams/IOT Smart Tile System Architecture.png](#) for the full diagram.

3.2 Data Flow

The system implements bidirectional communication through two primary data paths:

Uplink (Telemetry):

Nodes → ESP-NOW → Coordinator → MQTT → Backend → Database/Frontend

Downlink (Commands):

Frontend → Backend → MQTT → Coordinator → ESP-NOW → Nodes

Data Flow Diagrams

The `Diagrams/` folder contains detailed flow diagrams:

Diagram	Description
Node Telemetry Uplink Flow.png	How nodes send sensor data to the backend
Coordinator Telemetry Flow.png	Coordinator sensor data publishing
Node Pairing Flow.png	Adding new nodes to a zone
Historical Data Query Flow.png	Retrieving and visualizing historical data

3.3 Hardware Architecture

Coordinator Module (ESP32-S3-DevKitC-1)

Specification	Value
Board	ESP32-S3-DevKitC-1
Flash	8MB
RAM	512KB SRAM
WiFi	2.4 GHz 802.11 b/g/n
Connectivity	ESP-NOW + MQTT over WiFi

Pin Configuration:

Component	Pin	Function
Ambient Light ADC	GPIO36	Analog light level sensing
mmWave RX	GPIO16	LD2450 radar serial receive
mmWave TX	GPIO17	LD2450 radar serial transmit
NeoPixel Data	GPIO48	SK6812B LED strip control
Status LED	GPIO2	System status indicator
Touch Button	GPIO0	Pairing initiation
I2C SDA	GPIO21	TSL2561 light sensor
I2C SCL	GPIO22	TSL2561 light sensor

Node Module (ESP32-C3-MINI-1)

Specification	Value
Board	ESP32-C3-MINI-1

Flash	4MB
RAM	400KB SRAM
WiFi	2.4 GHz 802.11 b/g/n (ESP-NOW only)
Power	Battery-powered with deep sleep support

Pin Configuration:

Component	Pin	Function
I2C SDA	GPIO8	TMP117 temperature sensor
I2C SCL	GPIO9	TMP117 temperature sensor
LED Red PWM	GPIO2	RGBW Red channel
LED Green PWM	GPIO3	RGBW Green channel
LED Blue PWM	GPIO4	RGBW Blue channel
LED White PWM	GPIO5	RGBW White channel
Button	GPIO6	User input
Battery ADC	ADC1_CH0	Battery voltage monitoring

Sensors Specifications

Sensor	Type	Key Specifications
HLK-LD2450	mmWave Radar	24GHz, 6m range, ±60° coverage, UART output
TMP117	Temperature	±0.1°C accuracy, 16-bit resolution, I2C
TSL2561	Light	Digital ambient light sensor, I2C
SK6812B	RGBW LED	4-channel (RGB+W), NeoPixel protocol

4. Background and Technical Analysis

4.1 Why This Qualifies as an IoT Project

The IOT Smart Tile System exemplifies a complete Internet of Things solution by incorporating all essential IoT characteristics:

IoT Characteristic	Our Implementation
Sensing	TMP117 temperature, ambient light, mmWave presence detection
Connectivity	ESP-NOW for local mesh, MQTT for cloud connectivity
Data Processing	Real-time telemetry in firmware and backend services
Actuation	RGBW LED control responding to commands and environment
User Interface	Angular web dashboard for monitoring and control
Cloud Integration	MongoDB database for persistent storage and analytics
Remote Access	Web-based control from anywhere via internet

4.2 Communication Protocol Analysis

We evaluated several wireless communication protocols before selecting our technology stack:

Protocol	Range	Data Rate	Power	Mesh Support	Latency	Our Choice
WiFi	50m	54+ Mbps	High	No	Low	✗
Bluetooth LE	10m	1-2 Mbps	Low	Yes (Mesh)	Medium	✗
Zigbee	30m	250 Kbps	Low	Yes	Low	✗
Z-Wave	30m	100 Kbps	Low	Yes	Low	✗
ESP-NOW	220m	1 Mbps	Low	Yes	Very Low	✓
LoRa	10km	50 Kbps	Very Low	No	High	✗

ESP-NOW Protocol Selection Rationale

ESP-NOW emerged as the optimal choice for our node-to-coordinator communication due to:

- Ultra-low latency:** <10ms message delivery enables responsive lighting control
- No infrastructure required:** Direct peer-to-peer communication without WiFi router dependency
- Excellent range:** Up to 220 meters in open environments
- Low power consumption:** Critical for battery-powered nodes
- Native ESP32 support:** Simplified firmware development using Espressif's SDK
- Encryption support:** AES-128 CCMP for secure communications

MQTT Selection Rationale

For cloud connectivity, MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport) was selected because:

- Lightweight publish/subscribe model ideal for IoT

- Quality of Service (QoS) levels for reliable message delivery
- Wide industry adoption and excellent library support
- Efficient bandwidth usage with small packet overhead

4.3 Technology Stack Selection

Embedded Systems

Component	Technology	Justification
Coordinator MCU	ESP32-S3	Dual-core 240MHz, WiFi+BLE, native ESP-NOW
Node MCU	ESP32-C3	RISC-V, low power, cost-effective
Build System	PlatformIO	Modern IDE, library management, multi-target
Framework	Arduino	Rapid development, extensive community

Backend

Component	Technology	Justification
Language	Go (Golang)	Statically typed, excellent concurrency, fast compilation
Database	MongoDB	Document-oriented, ideal for time-series sensor data
MQTT Broker	Eclipse Mosquitto	Lightweight, open-source, production-ready
Deployment	Docker Compose	Multi-container orchestration, easy deployment

Frontend

Component	Technology	Justification
Framework	Angular 15+	TypeScript-based SPA, reactive programming
Real-time	RxJS + WebSockets	Reactive data streams, live updates
Styling	SCSS	Component-scoped styles, maintainable

5. Design and Implementation

5.1 Embedded Software

5.1.1 Coordinator Implementation

The coordinator serves as the central hub bridging ESP-NOW mesh networking with cloud connectivity. The implementation follows a modular **Manager** pattern where each subsystem is encapsulated:

Core Managers:

Manager	Responsibility
EspNow	ESP-NOW communication with nodes
Mqtt	MQTT broker client for cloud connectivity
WifiManager	WiFi provisioning and reconnection
NodeRegistry	Node pairing and tracking
MmWave	Presence detection using LD2450 radar
AmbientLightSensor	Environmental light sensing
ZoneControl	Lighting zone management
ThermalControl	Temperature monitoring

Coordinator Class Structure:

```
class Coordinator {
private:
    // Core managers
    EspNow* espNow;           // ESP-NOW communication
    Mqtt* mqtt;               // MQTT broker client
    WifiManager* wifi;        // WiFi provisioning
    NodeRegistry* nodes;      // Node pairing/tracking

    // Sensor managers
    MmWave* mmWave;           // Presence detection
    AmbientLightSensor* ambientLight;

    // Control managers
    ZoneControl* zones;       // Lighting zones
    ThermalControl* thermal;   // Temperature monitoring
    ButtonControl* buttons;    // User input

public:
    bool begin(); // Initialize all subsystems
    void loop();  // Main processing loop
};
```

Initialization Sequence:

```

bool Coordinator::begin() {
    // 1. Logger initialization (single call only)
    Logger::setMinLevel(Logger::INFO);

    // 2. Create all manager objects
    espNow = new EspNow();
    mqtt = new Mqtt();
    mmWave = new MmWave();
    nodes = new NodeRegistry();
    zones = new ZoneControl();
    buttons = new ButtonControl();
    thermal = new ThermalControl();
    wifi = new WifiManager();
    ambientLight = new AmbientLightSensor();

    // 3. Initialize ESP-NOW first (before WiFi connects)
    bool espNowOk = espNow->begin();
    if (!espNowOk) {
        Logger::error("Failed to initialize ESP-NOW");
        return false;
    }

    // 4. Link ESP-NOW to WiFi for channel sync
    wifi->setEspNow(espNow);

    // 5. Initialize WiFi (interactive provisioning if needed)
    bool wifiReady = wifi->begin();

    // 6. Register message callbacks
    espNow->setMessageCallback([this](const String& nodeId,
                                     const uint8_t* data,
                                     size_t len) {
        this->handleNodeMessage(nodeId, data, len);
    });

    // 7. Initialize MQTT (depends on WiFi)
    mqtt->begin();

    return true;
}

```

Node Pairing Implementation:

The coordinator handles node pairing through ESP-NOW callbacks:

```

// Register pairing callback
espNow->setPairingCallback([this](const uint8_t* mac,
                                  const uint8_t* data,
                                  size_t len) {
    // Validate pairing window is open
    if (!nodes->isPairingActive()) {

```

```

        Logger::warn("Rejecting pairing: window not active");
        return;
    }

    // Register the node
    String nodeId = macToString(mac);
    bool regOk = nodes->processPairingRequest(mac, nodeId);

    if (regOk) {
        // Add as ESP-NOW peer
        espNow->addPeer(mac);

        // Send acceptance message
        JoinAcceptMessage accept;
        accept.node_id = nodeId;
        accept.channel = getCurrentWiFiChannel();
        espNow->send(mac, accept.toJson());

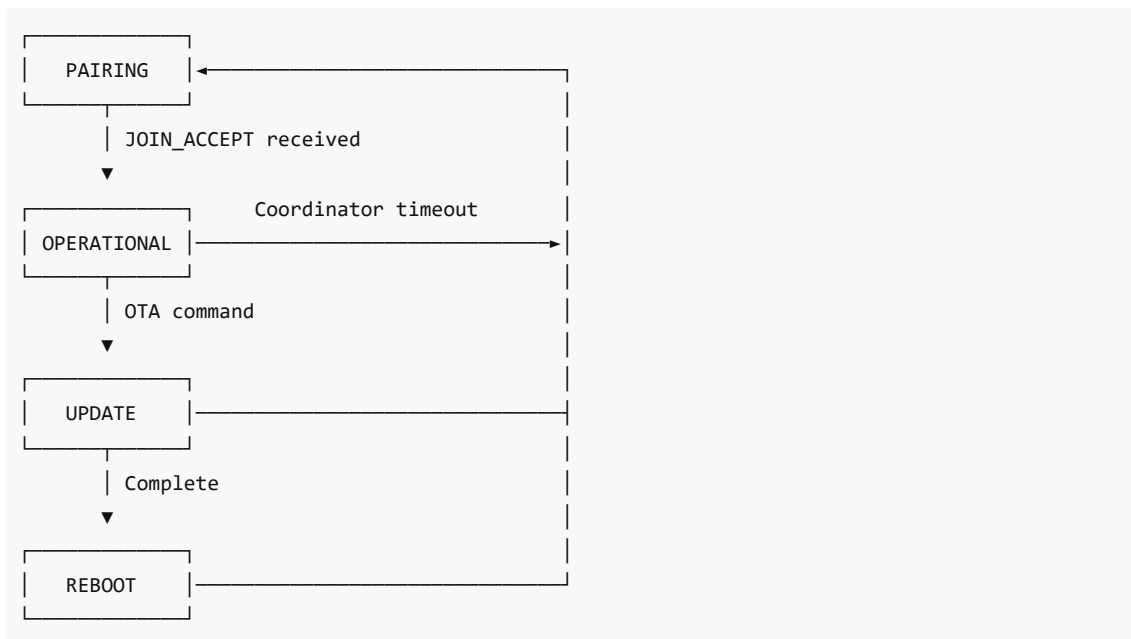
        // Visual feedback: flash LED group
        statusLed.flashGroup(nodes->getNodeCount());
    }
});

```

5.1.2 Node Implementation

The ESP32-C3 node implements a state machine with channel scanning for coordinator discovery:

Node State Machine:



LED Control Implementation:

```

class LedController {
private:

```

```

uint16_t numPixels;
uint8_t brightness;

public:
    void begin() {
        // Initialize PWM channels for RGBW
        ledcSetup(0, 5000, 8); // Red
        ledcSetup(1, 5000, 8); // Green
        ledcSetup(2, 5000, 8); // Blue
        ledcSetup(3, 5000, 8); // White

        ledcAttachPin(LED_R_PIN, 0);
        ledcAttachPin(LED_G_PIN, 1);
        ledcAttachPin(LED_B_PIN, 2);
        ledcAttachPin(LED_W_PIN, 3);
    }

    void setColor(uint8_t r, uint8_t g, uint8_t b, uint8_t w,
                 uint16_t fadeMs = 300) {
        // Apply brightness scaling
        r = (r * brightness) / 255;
        g = (g * brightness) / 255;
        b = (b * brightness) / 255;
        w = (w * brightness) / 255;

        // Set PWM duty cycles
        ledcWrite(0, r);
        ledcWrite(1, g);
        ledcWrite(2, b);
        ledcWrite(3, w);
    }
};

```

5.2 MQTT Connection and Message Flow

MQTT Topic Structure

The system uses a hierarchical topic structure for organized data flow:

```

site/{siteId}/
├── coord/{coordId}/
│   ├── telemetry    ← Coordinator sensor data (light, temp, mmWave)
│   ├── mmwave       ← mmWave radar events
│   ├── status       ← Connection status updates
│   └── cmd           → Commands to coordinator (pairing, settings)
└── node/{nodeId}/
    ├── telemetry    ← Node sensor data (RGBW, temp, battery)
    └── cmd           → Commands to node (LED control)
└── zone/{zoneId}/

```

— presence	← Occupancy state
— cmd	→ Zone-wide commands

Message Payloads

Coordinator Telemetry:

```
{
  "coordId": "coord001",
  "siteId": "site001",
  "timestamp": 1701234567890,
  "light": 450,
  "temperature": 22.5,
  "mmWave": {
    "present": true,
    "targetCount": 2
  },
  "wifi": {
    "rssi": -65,
    "connected": true
  }
}
```

Node Telemetry:

```
{
  "nodeId": "node001",
  "macAddress": "AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF",
  "timestamp": 1701234567890,
  "rgbw": { "r": 255, "g": 128, "b": 64, "w": 200 },
  "temperature": 23.2,
  "buttonPressed": false,
  "batteryVoltage": 3.7,
  "rssi": -72
}
```

LED Control Command:

```
{
  "cmd": "setLed",
  "nodeId": "node001",
  "rgbw": { "r": 255, "g": 0, "b": 0, "w": 100 }
}
```

Pairing Command:

```
{
  "cmd": "pair",
  "duration_ms": 60000
}
```

5.3 Backend and Database Design

Go Backend Architecture

The Go backend uses the **fx** dependency injection framework for clean module composition:

```
package main

import (
    "github.com/DICESda/IOT-TileNodeCoordinator/backend/internal/config"
    "github.com/DICESda/IOT-TileNodeCoordinator/backend/internal/db"
    "github.com/DICESda/IOT-TileNodeCoordinator/backend/internal/http"
    "github.com/DICESda/IOT-TileNodeCoordinator/backend/internal/mqtt"
    "github.com/DICESda/IOT-TileNodeCoordinator/backend/internal/repository"
    "go.uber.org/fx"
)

func main() {
    fx.New(
        http.Module,          // REST API endpoints
        mqtt.Module,          // MQTT client & handlers
        fx.Provide(
            db.NewMongoDB,    // Database connection
            config.NewConfig, // Configuration
            repository.NewMongoRepository,
        ),
    ).Run()
}
```

Key Modules

Module	Responsibility
config	Configuration loading from YAML
repository	MongoDB data access layer
mqtt	MQTT client, message handlers
http	REST API endpoints, WebSocket server
googlehome	Google Assistant integration

REST API Endpoints

Endpoint	Method	Description
/health	GET	Health check
/api/sites	GET	List all sites
/api/sites/{siteId}/coordinators	GET	List coordinators
/api/sites/{siteId}/nodes	GET	List nodes

/api/sites/{siteId}/nodes/{nodeId}	GET	Get node details
/api/sites/{siteId}/telemetry	GET	Get historical telemetry
/api/sites/{siteId}/zones	GET/POST	Manage lighting zones
/ws	WebSocket	Real-time data stream

5.4 Frontend Dashboard

Angular Service Architecture

The frontend uses reactive programming with Angular signals and RxJS:

```
@Injectable({ providedIn: 'root' })
export class MqttService {
  // Reactive connection state
  public readonly connected = signal<boolean>(false);

  // Observable message streams
  public readonly messages$ = new Subject<MqttMessage>();

  // Subscribe to node telemetry
  subscribeNodeTelemetry(siteId: string, nodeId: string): Subject<any> {
    return this.subscribe(`site/${siteId}/node/${nodeId}/telemetry`);
  }

  // Subscribe to coordinator telemetry
  subscribeCoordinatorTelemetry(siteId: string, coordId: string): Subject<any> {
    return this.subscribe(`site/${siteId}/coord/${coordId}/telemetry`);
  }

  // Send command to coordinator
  sendCoordinatorCommand(siteId: string, coordId: string, command: any): void {
    const topic = `site/${siteId}/coord/${coordId}/cmd`;
    this.publish(topic, command, 1);
  }
}
```

Dashboard Features

Feature	Description
Live Telemetry	Real-time data from all nodes and coordinator
Zone Control	Manage lighting zones and scenes
Node Management	Monitor node status, battery levels, pairing
mmWave Visualization	Presence detection events
Historical Data	Temperature and light trends
Network Graph	Visual topology of system components

Debug Panel	System health monitoring
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5.5 How to Compile and Launch

Option 1: Docker Compose (Recommended)

```
# Start all services (MongoDB, Mosquitto, Backend, Frontend)
docker-compose up -d

# View logs
docker-compose logs -f

# Services available:
# - Frontend: http://localhost:4200
# - Backend API: http://localhost:8000
# - MQTT Broker: localhost:1883
# - MongoDB: localhost:27017
```

Option 2: Manual Setup

Backend:

```
cd IOT-Backend-main
go mod download
go run cmd/iot/main.go
```

Frontend:

```
cd IOT-Frontend-main/IOT-Frontend-main
npm install
npm start
# Navigate to http://localhost:4200
```

Coordinator Firmware:

```
cd coordinator
pio run -e esp32-s3-devkitc-1 -t upload
pio device monitor
```

Node Firmware:

```
cd node
pio run -e esp32-c3-mini-1 -t upload
```

Expected Serial Output (Coordinator)

```
COORDINATOR INIT: Starting...
LOGGER: Begin
```

```
NVS: Initialized
WIFI: Connecting to <SSID>...
WIFI: Connected (IP: 192.168.1.100)
MQTT: Connecting to broker...
MQTT: Connected
COORDINATOR DATA: light=450, temp=22.5, mmwave=0
STATUS: wifi=connected, mqtt=connected, pairing=closed
```

6. Results

6.1 What Worked Successfully

Component	Result	Notes
ESP-NOW Communication	✔ Success	<10ms latency achieved
Node Pairing	✔ Success	Visual LED feedback works reliably
MQTT Integration	✔ Success	Bidirectional communication functional
Real-time Dashboard	✔ Success	WebSocket updates display correctly
Docker Deployment	✔ Success	Simplifies setup significantly
mmWave Presence Detection	✔ Success	Detects presence reliably within 6m
Temperature Sensing	✔ Success	TMP117 provides ±0.1°C accuracy

[Add specific test results, measurements, and screenshots here]

6.2 What Failed and Why

Issue	Cause	Impact
TLS Encryption	Time constraints	MQTT traffic unencrypted
Deep Sleep Optimization	Complex wake-up logic	Higher battery consumption
20-Node Limit	ESP-NOW protocol limitation	Scalability constraint

[Add specific failure analysis here]

6.3 Problems and Proposed Solutions

Problem	Root Cause	Proposed Solution
NVS Corruption	Unexpected power loss	Implemented erase-on-error recovery path
WiFi Channel Conflicts	ESP-NOW/WiFi coexistence	Fixed ESP-NOW to channel 1, STA mode only
Message Parsing Errors	Variable JSON formats	Added strict schema validation

[Add specific problems encountered and solutions here]

7. Discussion and Challenges

7.1 Technical Challenges

Challenge	Description	Resolution
WiFi + ESP-NOW Coexistence	Both use same radio	Careful channel management, STA mode
mmWave Data Parsing	Variable frame formats	Implemented flexible parser
Real-time Sync	Frontend/Backend/Embedded sync	WebSocket + MQTT bridge
NVS Lifecycle	Storage corruption handling	Error recovery with auto-reinit

7.2 Most Difficult Parts

1. ESP-NOW Pairing Protocol Design

- Required careful state machine design
- Channel scanning algorithm for discovery
- Timeout and retry logic

2. MQTT Topic Alignment

- Ensuring consistent structure across all components
- Backward compatibility considerations

3. Real-time Debugging

- Diagnosing issues across distributed systems
- Serial output essential for embedded debugging

7.3 Unexpected Realizations

- The importance of serial diagnostics for debugging embedded systems
- How much coordination is required between hardware and software teams
- The complexity of managing multiple communication protocols simultaneously
- Power management is more challenging than expected in IoT devices

7.4 What We Would Do Differently

1. **Start with comprehensive unit testing** for embedded code
 2. **Define MQTT schema earlier** in the development process
 3. **Implement TLS encryption** from the beginning
 4. **Create more detailed hardware documentation** earlier
 5. **Use simulation tools** before hardware testing
-

8. Conclusion

8.1 Project Reflection

The IOT Smart Tile System project successfully demonstrated the integration of embedded systems, wireless mesh networking, cloud connectivity, and modern web technologies. We achieved our primary objectives of creating a functional smart lighting system with:

- ☒ Reliable ESP-NOW mesh communication (<10ms latency)
- ☒ Full MQTT integration with hierarchical topics
- ☒ Real-time Angular dashboard with WebSocket updates
- ☒ Sensor integration (temperature, light, presence)
- ☒ Docker-based deployment

The project provided valuable hands-on experience with:

- Embedded C++ development on ESP32 platforms
- Full-stack web development (Go + Angular)
- IoT communication protocols (ESP-NOW, MQTT)
- Database design for time-series data
- Container orchestration with Docker

8.2 Course Feedback

[Add your feedback on the IoT course here]

- Course content relevance
- Practical exercises
- Project timeline
- Support and resources
- Suggestions for improvement

8.3 General Comments

[Add any general comments about the project activities]

- Team collaboration experience
 - Learning outcomes
 - Time management insights
 - Resource availability
-

9. Future Work

The following enhancements are planned for expanding the IOT Smart Tile System:

Security Enhancements

- Implement TLS/SSL encryption for MQTT communication
- Add user authentication and role-based access control
- Secure OTA (Over-The-Air) firmware updates
- Encrypted ESP-NOW communication

Scalability Improvements

- Multi-site deployment support
- Hierarchical coordinator architecture
- Cloud-based coordinator management
- Load balancing for large installations

Advanced Features

- Machine learning for occupancy prediction
- Energy consumption analytics and optimization
- Integration with additional smart home platforms (HomeKit, Alexa)
- Circadian rhythm lighting automation
- Voice control via Google Home (partially implemented)

Hardware Enhancements

- Custom PCB design for production deployment
- Solar-powered node variants
- Extended battery life through improved deep sleep
- Additional sensor types (humidity, air quality, CO2)

Software Improvements

- Mobile application (iOS/Android)
 - Offline mode with local caching
 - Advanced scheduling and automation rules
 - Multi-tenant SaaS deployment option
-

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End of Report