The overall structure of application is absolutely typical and consists of two parts: user interface and backend service.

UI may be represented by a page in your browser or by a mobile application. It’s actually all what you see. The services part just insulates all back-end's hardware devices and simplifies interaction with them. This part is hidden from user and he actually remembers it only when it is out of order .

Why this separation is necessary? There are two main reasons for it:

1. loose coupling between parts of the application
2. every part of application could be easily replaced with similar one (for instance, if we want to change android-based mobile for iPhone, we'll just change the view and service-part will stay untouched).

And finally, they are always in constant interaction with each other. Would you want to have actual sensors data, right? To achieve this, UI should request services every one second or even less.