

Visual Interface for Wi-Fi Networks Monitoring

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This document is dedicated to my parents, Paqui and Manel, and my brother Pau, who always gave me their support and estimation.

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Abstract

The municipal open Wi-Fi is increasingly used by the citizens. This project aims at offering a web visualization of the availability of access points of a Wi-Fi access network. Two examples of such access networks are *BarcelonaWi-Fi* and *Poblenou Sense Fils*. The tool is general enough to be used in other access networks.

This tool is divided in two parts. The first one is a Raspberry Pi that directly connects to the Wi-Fi access network and continuously gathers data about the availability of the access points. This information is sent to the second part, which is a server with a NoSQL database and a web interface to visualize the data on a map.

The ultimate goal is to increase the visibility and transparency of the Wi-Fi services offered to the citizenship and encourage citizen participation in improving these services.

Resum

El Wi-Fi municipal és cada vegada més utilitzat pels ciutadans. Aquest projecte té com a objectiu oferir una visualització web de la disponibilitat dels punts d'accés d'una xarxa d'accés Wi-Fi. Dos exemples d'aquestes xarxes d'accés són *BarcelonaWi-Fi* i *Poblenou Sense Fils*. L'eina és prou general per ser utilitzada en altres xarxes d'accés.

Aquesta eina es divideix en dues parts. La primera és una Raspberry Pi que es connecta directament a la xarxa d'accés Wi-Fi i contínuament recull dades sobre la disponibilitat dels punts d'accés. Aquesta informació s'envia a la segona part, que és un servidor amb una base de dades NoSQL i una interfície web per visualitzar les dades en un mapa.

L'objectiu final és augmentar la visibilitat i la transparència dels serveis de Wi-Fi que s'ofereix a la ciutadania i fomentar la participació ciutadana en la millora d'aquests serveis.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

This thesis is part of a new way of acting in terms of the provision of Internet services. This new tendency is BuB, Bottom-up-Broadband, which provides a new way of design, deploy and operate networks where the main actions to be carried out are promoted by the user [BuB, 2013].

Until now, Internet Service Providers (ISP) were responsible of the Internet regarding design, deployment and operation of the network, in which they remain completely owners of the infrastructure to provide the service. Now with this new form of network deployment, end users are the owners of the network, and therefore responsible of its consumption and maintenance.

This thesis aims at providing a tool to monitor the status of the access points of “*Barcelona WiFi*” and share this information with the citizens. To gather the information from “*Barcelona WiFi*” access points, the collaboration of the Institut Municipal d’Informàtica (IMI) is required. The tool is general enough to be used by other Wi-Fi access networks in Barcelona and other cities.

The project consists of two parts, the part of collecting data of the *Barcelona WiFi* access points, and the part of representing the data collected in such way that the ordinary citizen can benefit from this information.

To carry out this project, two devices are needed: a server and a Raspberry Pi. In addition, it requires programming a web service and a web application. It is also required to configure the server. Finally, it is necessary to program a software for

the generation, transfer and storage of the hotspots information, which is located at the Raspberry PI.

The elements of this system, and its operation, are explained at the following chapters.

Chapter 2

STATE OF THE ART

Wi-Fi is a wireless technology with a limited range, emerged from the wireless communication incompatibility that existed between devices from different manufacturers.

This incompatibility made that a group of companies of this sector, found an association with the aim of defining and standardizing the behavior of wireless local area networks.

This association is Wi-Fi Alliance, whose mission, nowadays, is to check and validate the products interoperability and the standard security protections. An example of its functions is to certificate the products that meet 802.11 [Wi-Fi Alliance, 2014].

The usage of public Wi-Fi is growing. The data proves it. In 2013, there has been an increase in the number of public hotspots, reaching the 6.3 million. Also, it is estimated that during the 2013, the 70% of the mobile users, browsed once a week using these hotspots [GOWEX,].

Forecasts for 2017, say that 12 million public hotspots will be reached, 93% more than in 2013, while users of public Wi-Fi will exceed 3.300 million. Likewise, it is expected that in 2017, 8 out of 10 cellphones will browse using public Wi-Fi, absorbing 60% of the mobile data traffic [GOWEX,].

The main reasons of this success are, the lower costs, the higher speed, and the increasing reliability of these type of networks [GOWEX,].

Given these data, we can see how the Wi-Fi will be a widely used tool in telecommunications, and for this reason, its control and monitoring will allow institutions, or entities responsible of these networks know how are these networks used. This is a vital aspect in the world of the future.

2.1 GOWEX

Gowex, is a telecommunication company based in Madrid, Spain, whose activity is to deploy Wi-Fi networks for the cities. These networks are similar to the networks deployed by the city councils, like *Barcelona WiFi*. The main difference between these networks is the network owner. The owner of public Wi-Fi networks is usually the council, but in this case the owner is a private company. And a second difference is that the GOWEX network has a free service, but has a payment option too that give a better service for those who need better features. This option is not available in networks deployed by city councils.

Gowex area of coverage extends over 80 cities worldwide, including cities like Madrid, New York or Miami. Madrid is the european city with more coverage. There are more than 3000 access points installed in Madrid streets and buildings [GOWEX, 2014].

2.1.1 Wireless Smart City

The wireless smart cities are cities with full Wi-Fi coverage for all citizens, where the services given to the citizens are improved using Wi-Fi networks. Samples of this mesure are semaphore control management or the control of transport fleets. These tools not only improve the services offered to the citizen, but also, reduce ordinary day-to-day costs.

2.2 MONITORING SOFTWARE

There are programs for monitoring networks to obtain information from network nodes. These programs use protocols such as SNMP, ICMP or TCP.

Some of these programs are:

2.2.1 Pandora FMS

Pandora FMS is an open source monitoring software. This software supports protocols such as ICMP, SNMP o TCP, and includes geolocation feature since version 3.1. There is an enterprise version of this software, that has better features and options. Pandora FMS is developed by Spanish company Ártica Soluciones Tecnológicas [Ártica Soluciones Tecnológicas, 2014].



Figure 2.1: Pandora FMS.

2.2.2 PRTG Network Monitor

PRTG Network Monitor is a monitoring software developed by Paessler AG. Some of this software functionalities are:

- Uptime/Downtime monitoring.
- Bandwidth monitoring.

- SLA monitoring.
- QoS monitoring.
- Flexible alerts.

This company, specialized in network monitoring and testing, has other software tools to control the performance of the network. These tools are Webserver Stress Tool or SmartPhone Apps for PRTG [Paessler AG, 2014].

2.2.3 Nagios

Nagios is another monitoring and alerting software developed by Nagios Enterprises. This software can detect and repair problems, and mitigate future issues before happen. Nagios can monitor multiple options, like Web Applications, Unix Processes, Email, and other ones [Nagios Enterprises, 2014].

The figure 2.2 shows the Nagios web interface.

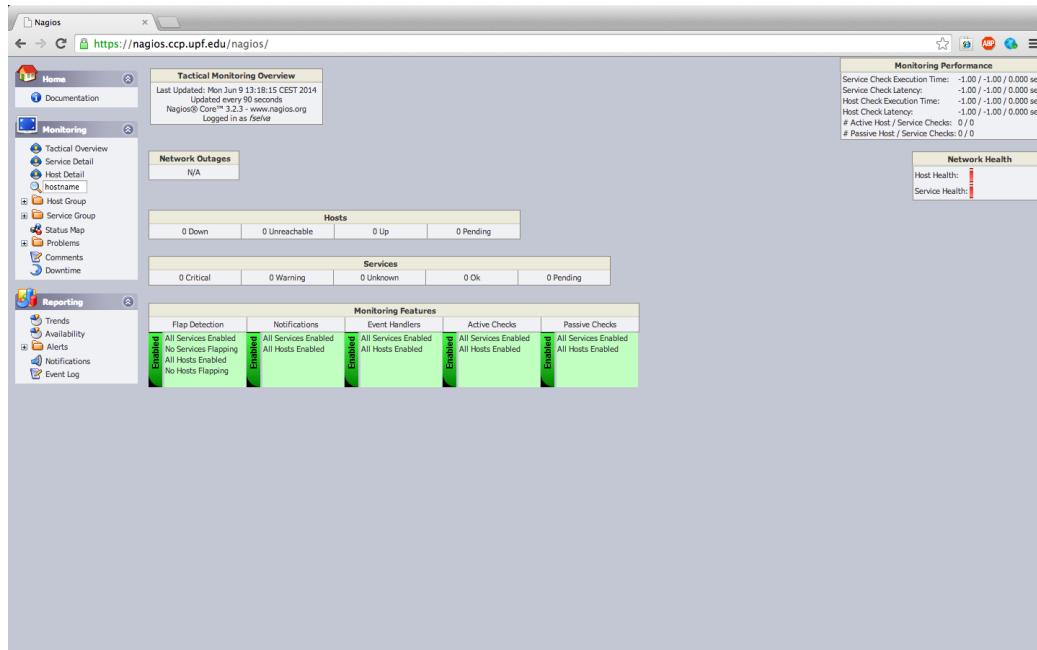


Figure 2.2: Nagios

2.2.4 ManageEngine OpManager

OpManager, is a monitoring software for networks, servers and applications that helps the enterprises and service providers to manage its networks. It is developed by *Manage Engine*, a brand of the ZOHO Corporation. Some of the features of this software are:

- Intelligent Alerts.
- Automatic Workflows.
- Quickly add of resources.
- Automatic network discovery.
- Network Mapping.

OpManager is used by companies and institutions such as at&t, Siemens, NASA, Alcatel-Lucent or Time Warner [Zoho Corp, 2014].

Chapter 3

SYSTEM COMPONENTS

3.1 HARDWARE COMPONENTS

3.1.1 Raspberry PI

Raspberry Pi [3.1] is a computer of the size of a credit card, that can do the same things than a ordinary desktop computer. With this device it is possible to program, play games, browse the Internet, play high-definition videos and more. Raspberry Pi uses standard mouse and keyboard, and its interface is shown via HDMI cable. Raspberry Pi is developed by Raspberry Pi Foundation [Raspberry Pi Foundation, 2014].

There are two models of Raspberry PI, Model A and Model B. For this project, it is used the Model B, because the model A has not Ethernet, a component needed for the correct operation of the Access program. Other differences are that model B has double USB connector and a 512MB Memory SDRAM.

The components needed for the correct setup and operation of the Raspberry Pi Model B for this pilot are:

- **Micro-USB Power.** It is used to power the Raspberry PI.
- **USB 2.0.** Needed to use USB devices, like the keyboard, or the mouse.
- **Ethernet.** Its function is to allow the Raspberry Pi connect to a Network.



Figure 3.1: Raspberry PI.

- **HDMI connector.** It gives the chance of displaying the Raspberry Pi interface on a Screen.

All those components, and more, like RCA Video connector or JACK Audio connector, are shown at figure 3.2.

The operating system(OS) installed on the Raspberry Pi for this project is the Raspbian. It is based on Debian OS but it is optimized to work with Raspberry Pi hardware. This optimization consists in the pre-compiled software packages, that are included on this OS, making its installation easy, besides other features [MoinMoin, 2014].

The Raspberry Pi used in this project has been configured to auto-start a process that will run a program to get and store information. As part of this, the Raspberry PI, must have installed Java Development Kit (JDK), to compile and execute Java projects. Projects like *Access*, the program that runs the Raspberry PI. It is explained at section 3.2.1.

3.1.2 Server

A server, shown at figure 3.3, is a computer that provides data to other computers using Internet. There are many types of servers. Each one uses different software

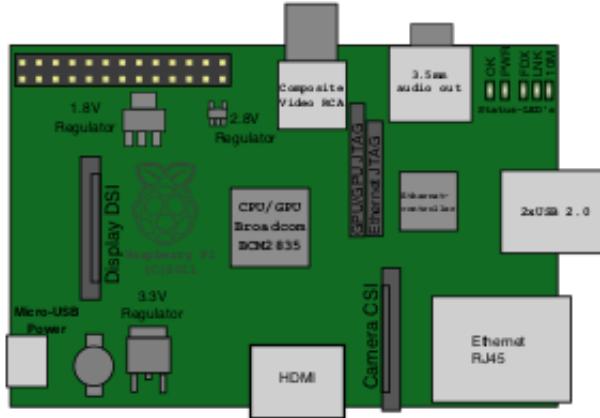


Figure 3.2: Raspberry Pi Model B Components

to perform its purpose. The hardware used is not important. A computer can become a server with the appropriate software [TechTerms.com, 2014d].

An example of these software is Apache HTTP. This software, used on web servers, is an open source code for the implementation of an HTTP server, that provides access to web applications using Internet connection [The Apache Software Foundation, 2014].

For this project it used a server from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, from Barcelona. It is a Debian machine, that has installed Apache HTTP and MongoDB, the database used to store the data. There is more information about MongoDB at section 3.2.3.

3.1.3 Access Points

The Access Points (AP), figure 3.4, are devices whose main goal is to connect other devices to a network. The access points have to be connected to a router, to provide them the network access. This network can be Internet network, or private networks. These devices will provide a secure access to network devices, like a



Figure 3.3: Dell Servers.

server.

Often the access points and the router are integrated in one device, to which is added a switch for Ethernet cable connection. So, it is possible to access networks via wireless or cable with the same device [TechTerms.com, 2014a].

3.2 SOFTWARE COMPONENTS

At this chapter, it is explained the software elements used for the correct operation of the system. The code, and all the material of this project is public at <https://github.com/FerranSelva/Visual-Interface-for-Wi-Fi-Networks-Monitoring.git>.

3.2.1 Access

Access is a program made in Java, whose goal is to update the information about the status of the access points. This will be done by accessing these access points and obtaining all the information available. Then the information is processed, and finally sent to the database.



Figure 3.4: Linksys WRT54Gt Access Point.

Java is a programming language developed in 1995 by Sun Microsystems, now acquired by Oracle Corporation. It is explained at section 3.2.1.0.1.

To get the status of the access points, the program, pings the IP Address ¹ of the access points. If this ping is successful, it means that the access point is working correctly. Then with this status, and using device time, the information is processed to get the availability, the uptime, downtime and since when the access point is on or off.

Once this information is processed, it is sent to the database located at a server. This transfer of information is done using a web service called by the program, that will access and modify the database locally. The web service is described at

¹IP Address: code that consist of four numbers separated with dots, needed to establish the connection between a device and Internet. Each one of this four numbers can vary from 0 to 255 [TechTerms.com, 2014b].

section 3.2.4.

If the program is stopped, or an access point is not working, the Access program using a method of the web service will send an email to the network manager with a description of the problem. This reporting will help the manager resolving issues easily.

Each class of this program has a function, and some of them have the same name than the used web server method. The section 3.2.1.1 discusses about these classes.

The Access program is located at the Raspberry PI, and it is run when the device is started, this program will not stop until the user gives this order. To work properly, the Raspberry Pi should be located at the same network of the access points to have access via ICMP. While ICMP is usually used to report an error in the datagram processing, in this system, it is used to know the status of the hotspots.

ICMP is described at section 3.2.1.0.2.

3.2.1.0.1 Java Java is a programming language, used to develop all type of programs. These programs could be games, mobile application, enterprise software and more. Java has been tested, improved and extended by Java developers. The results of these actions are that Java is fast and secure [Oracle Corporation, 2014].

Java allows developers to:

- Write software on one platform and run it on other platforms.
- Create web browser runnable programs that can access web services.
- Develop server-side applications.
- Combine applications or services.
- Write applications for multiple devices, like mobile phones, microcontrollers and others.

For this project, classes such as *HttpURLConnection*, *Runtime* or *BufferedReader* are used. The one, *HttpURLConnection*, is used to connect the program with the web service. *Runtime* is used to run terminal commands. The command to be run is a ping to an access point. To get the response of the ping, the class *BufferedReader* is used. This class gets the response from the web service or terminal.

3.2.1.0.2 ICMP Internet Control Message Protocol(ICMP) is a Protocol used to control purposes between connected devices. This control is done via messages, that give feedback of the problems that are happening in the network [Postel, 1981].

ICMP messages structure is shown at the figure 3.5.

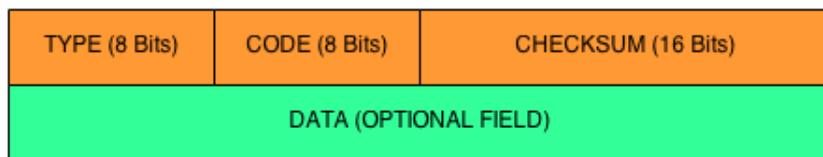


Figure 3.5: ICMP Messages Structure

For this project, the main goal of ICMP is to get the availability of the access points of a network. Using the ping response at the terminal, the program Access determines if the access point is UP or DOWN.

Figure 3.6 shows the Raspberry Pi running the Access program.

3.2.1.1 Classes

3.2.1.1.1 ConnectionMongo.java ConnectionMongo is the main class of the program. This will call other classes when needed. This class will begin, getting the ID and the corresponding IP, of all nodes of the network. This will be done using the methods *FindID()* and *FindIP()* from the class *getData*, described

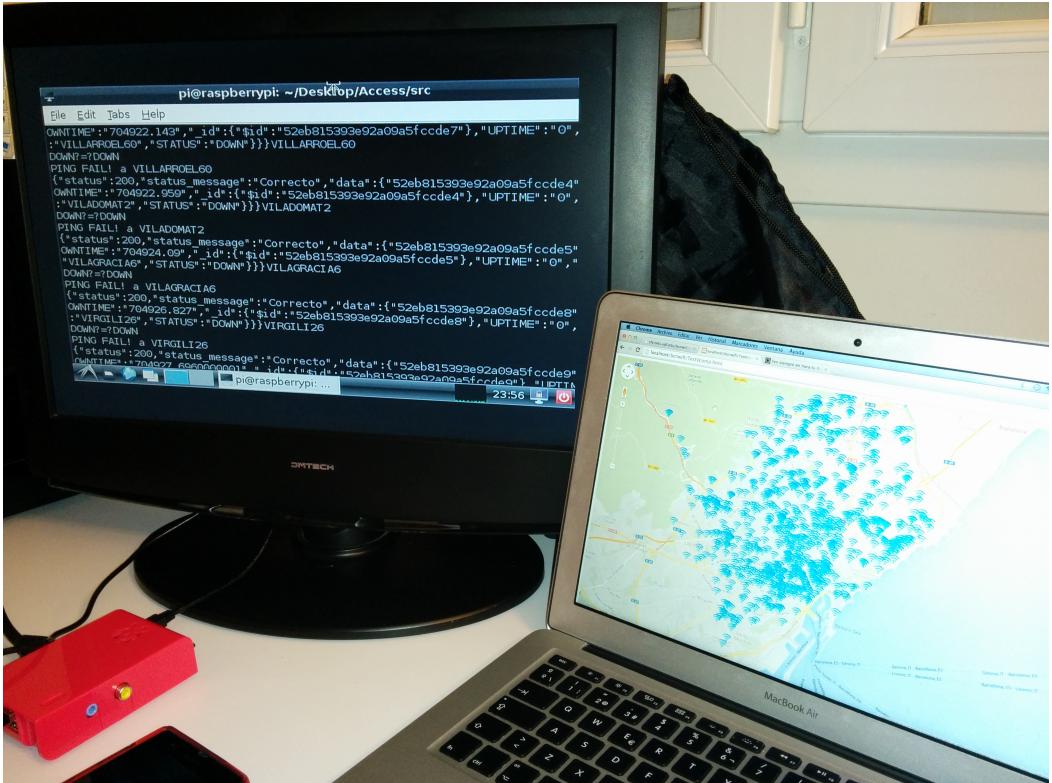


Figure 3.6: Access program running on a Raspberry PI

in section 3.2.1.1.2. Then, it will run a sequence until the process stops or the Raspberry Pi powers off. This sequence will start doing a ping to each node using method *doPing()* of the Ping class. The next step is to update Resume collection from the database, using *updateResume*, *getLastUpdate*, and *postResume* classes. The fields “STATUS”, “SINCE”, “TOTALTIME”, “UPTIME”, “DOWNTIME” and “AVAILABILITY” will be updated. Then the program will insert to Data collection all the information collected for later use.

3.2.1.1.2 getData.java GetData is the class used to get the ID and the IP of the access points. This class has three methods. The first one, *getresult()*, calls a web service, to get all the information stored on the database about the nodes. The second one, *FindIP()*, will return a vector with all IPs. And the third one, *FindID()*, will return a vector with the ID of all nodes.

3.2.1.1.3 getUTDT.java The class getUTDT has the objective of get the Uptime, the Downtime and the status of a specific node. This class can call three methods. The method *getuptime()* will get the uptime of a specific node using its ID. The second one, *getdowntime*, will get the downtime of a node. And the last method, *getstate()*, will return the status of a node.

3.2.1.1.4 getLastupdate.java Getlastupdate aims to get the last update values. This is needed to process the information, and calculate values such as availability, totaltime, or others. The first method included in this class, is *getresult()*. This method uses the web service to get the information about last update of a node. The second one is *getLastTimestamp()* that will get the last Timestamp from a node. And the last, *isDataempty()*, checks if the database is empty or not.

3.2.1.1.5 Ping.java Class Ping is used to do a ping to the access points. This class has a single method called *doPing()*, that will use ICMP protocol to do a ping to a specific node. The method *doPing* is a boolean that will return true or false, depending on the response received from the ping.

3.2.1.1.6 postData.java The class postData is used to insert information about the access points to the Data collection. This class calls a method *insertdata()*, that will use a web service to insert to the collection Data a document with the ID, the status, and the timestamp of a hotspot.

3.2.1.1.7 postResume.java This class objective is to update the information of an access point on the Resume collection. This class calls two methods, *modifyfystate()*, that will update the status of an access point. And *modifytime()* is used to modify the other values related to the time, these values are totaltime, uptime, downtime and availability. The class *postResume* will be called in the class *updateResume*.

3.2.1.1.8 updateResume.java This class aims to process the information gotten, and update the Resume collection with the results. The class *updateResume* has a unique method *update()* that will use *postResume* class to update the database.

If an access point is DOWN, this class will use Sendmail class to send a mail with the goal of notify the network manager of this event.

3.2.1.1.9 Sendmail.java The main objective of the Sendmail class is to send a post request to the web service who will send an email to an specific address.

This class calls a method *send()*. It is used to notify the manager of the network when the program is stopped, or when an access point is down. When it is

notifying the program stop, the program sends the cause of this stop using *Java Exceptions*. When it is notifying the down status of an access point it sends the ID of the node that is not working properly.

The report of a DOWN status of an access point is done the first time that a hotspot is DOWN. That means that if in the last iteration, the status of an access points was DOWN, and now is again DOWN, the program will not send a mail, because it keeps DOWN, at least, since the last iteration. So, to receive another email about the DOWN status of these access points, it is needed the change from UP to DOWN of the status of a hotspot.

3.2.1.2 Flowchart

The flowchart that describes the behaviour of the Access program is shown in the figure 3.7.

3.2.1.3 Class Diagram

The Class diagram of the Access program is shown at the figure 3.8

3.2.2 Web Application

The web application, is the tool used to display the information about the access points of a network to the managers of the network or its users. The information is gotten from the collection Resume of the database, located at the server.

3.2.2.1 Components

The web application needs three files, each one written in different language. These program languages are HTML, Javascript and PHP. The files that compose this web application are:

3.2.2.1.1 index.html Index.html is the file written in Hyper-Text Markup Language (HTML). HTML is a markup language used to create hypertext documents. These documents are platform independent. This means that are portable from

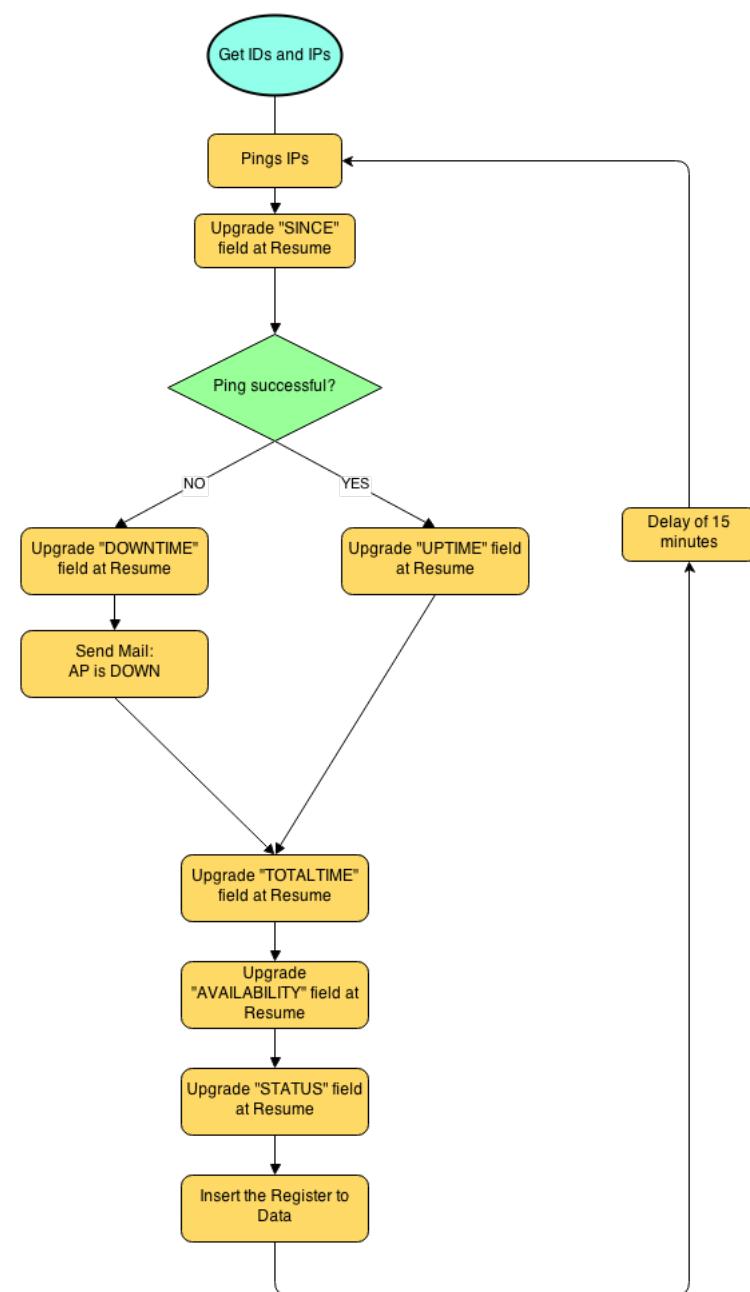


Figure 3.7: FlowChart

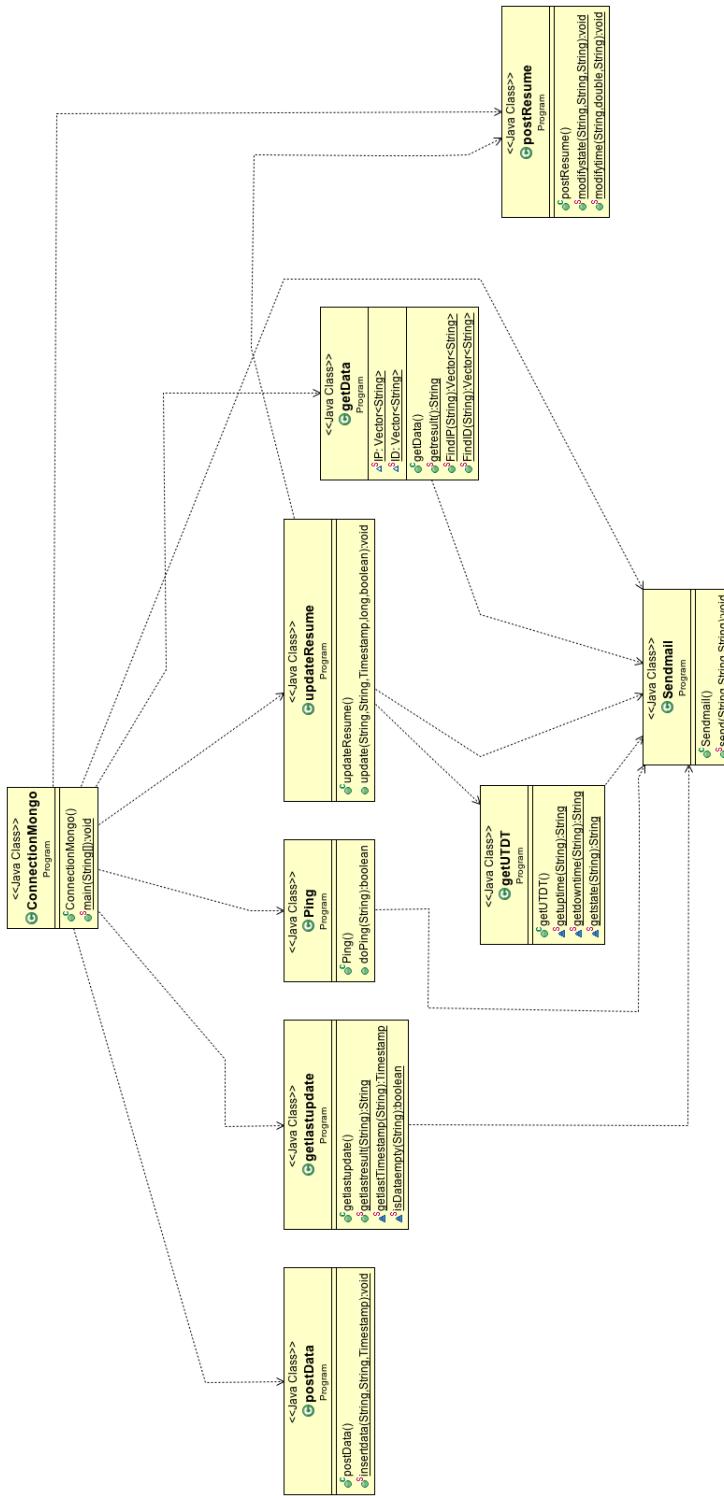


Figure 3.8: Access Program Class Diagram

one platform to another platform. This language is used by the World-Wide Web (WWW) global information initiative since 1990 [Berners-Lee, 1995].

In this case, *index.html* sets a Google maps map and calls the *function.js* javascript, to set values of the map.

3.2.2.1.2 function.js The file *function.js*, is a javascript file. Javascript, designed by Sun Microsystems, is based on the Java syntax. It is a scripting language, what means that can be used to write stand-alone programs [TechTerms.com, 2014c].

Function.js, for begin, will call the *getinfo.php* file to get the data from the MongoDB database. Next step, is to parse the data obtained from the database. Finally, it will use the parsed data to add the information to the google maps map using infowindows.

These infowindows are pop up windows that display information on a specific location on the map. In this case each infowindow will contain the information of an access point, and will be positioned at its location [Google Inc, 2014].

3.2.2.1.3 getinfo.php *Getinfo.php* is written in PHP. This file will get the database values and return these to the javascript to be parsed and displayed. PHP is explained at the following paragraph 3.2.2.1.4.

3.2.2.1.4 PHP Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP), is a HTML-embedded Web scripting language. This means that HTML files can contain PHP code. This programming language is used for the web development. Its main purposes are:

- Scripting on the server-side.
- Command line scripting.
- Writing desktop applications (Not used very usually).

PHP is read/run at the server and the output has HTML format. This output will be readable by the browsers. PHP is a good option to access databases,

because the php code is not shown on the page [The PHP Group, 2014].

In this project, PHP is used by the web application, to get the information that will be displayed in the map.

Also PHP makes possible the information exchange between the Raspberry Pi and the Server. This is done using a web service composed by the PHP files. This PHP files use a Mongodb module to access the information stored.

Figure 3.9 shows the web application that presents the status of the access points from *guifi.net*² network.

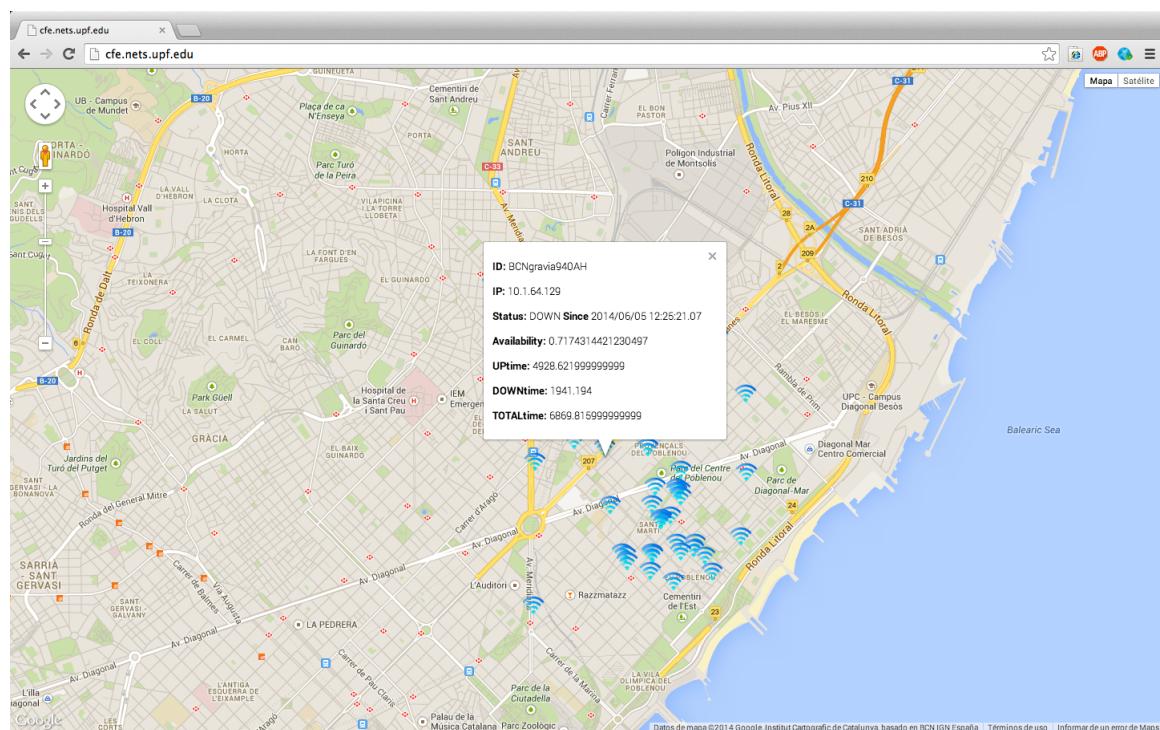


Figure 3.9: Web Application

²*guifi.net* is an open and free network, build for all who want to join. The user will provide his connection, this will extend the network, and consequently the user will get more connectivity to other nodes of this network [Guifi.net, 2014].

3.2.3 MongoDB Database

MongoDB[3.10] is a an open-source NoSQL database that works with BSON objects, similar to JSON objects. The main features of this kind of database are the high scalability, performance and availability [MongoDB, Inc, 2014a].



Figure 3.10: MongoDB

MongoDB main features are:

- BSON Document Data Model.
- Idiomatic Drivers. There are MongoDB drivers for the main program languages. Languages such as Java, Ruby, PHP, JavaScript or others.
- Horizontal Scalability.
- High Availability.
- In-Memory Performance.

MongoDB capabilities, structure and applications are shown at the figure 3.11.

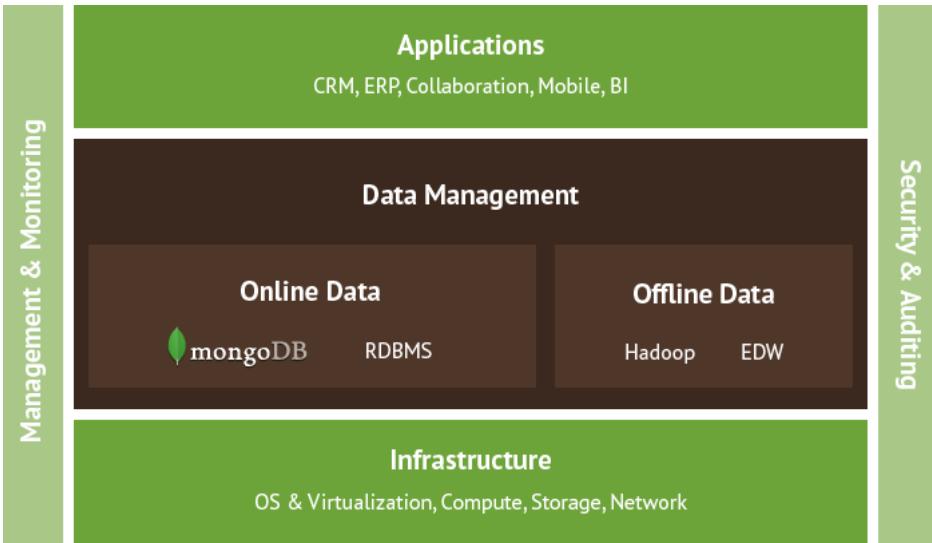


Figure 3.11: MongoDB Stack

3.2.3.1 Why MongoDB?

For this project, the database used is MongoDB. The decision of using MongoDB, a NoSQL database, instead of SQL-based databases is explained at the following paragraphs.

NoSQL databases were developed with the objective of solve the limitations of the SQL-based Databases. The main limitations to be solved were the scalability, a important feature for this project, the replication, and the unstructured data storage.

The result of this development is that NoSQL databases have better performance and are more scalable than SQL ones. In addition, NoSQL databases have better results when talking in terms of holding a large volume of data, quick iterations, object-oriented programming, and scalability [MongoDB, Inc, 2014c].

All NoSQL databases are open-source, while SQL ones, can be open-source or closed source. Another benefit is that NoSQL databases are dynamic while SQL ones are fixed.

All those features, suggest that the best choice is NoSQL Databases, and

specifically MongoDB because it is simple to use and has a good performance [MongoDB, Inc, 2014c].

3.2.3.2 Operation

3.2.3.2.1 BSON MongoDB uses Binary JSON(BSON) documents, to store the data. These documents are very similar to JSON objects. A benefit of BSON is that these type of documents have more data types. Types like Date. A second benefit is that JSON and BSON are flexible. The con is the efficiency because BSON messages have an overhead produced by the field names [Binary JSON, 2014].

The main features of BSON are:

- Lightweight.
- Traversable.
- Efficient. Related to fast encoding/decoding.

3.2.3.2.2 Structure MongoDB has three levels in its structure. The top level is the Databases. Databases are biggest elements that contains collections. The collections are the middle elements that contain the mass of documents. The documents are the smallest and primary element to store the data.

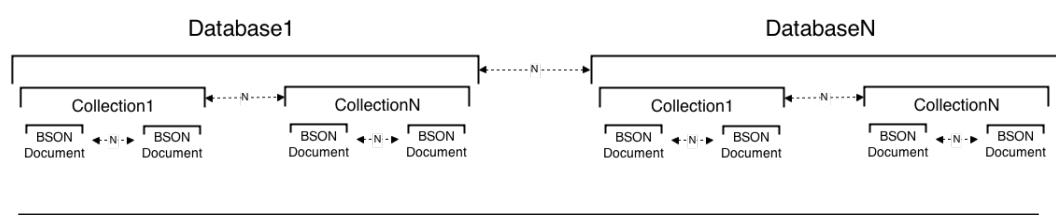


Figure 3.12: MongoDB Structure

3.2.3.2.3 Commands The commands that are needed for the correct operation of the system are [MongoDB, Inc, 2014b]:

- **Find**

`find()` command is used to obtain the documents from a collection. These documents can be obtained with different options, like obtain by a specific field value, sort documents, and other. The structure of this command is:

```
db.collection.find(<criteria>, <projection>)
```

where *collection* is the name of the collection from where the documents will be obtained. *Criteria* and *projection* are optional fields. The first one, *Criteria*, is a field used to find documents that follow a specific conditions. It is possible to set “equal” condition, “greater” condition, and others. The second one, *projection*, defines the fields of the documents to be returned.

- **Update**

This order will modify existing documents of a collection. The modification can be done by one or multiple documents. The structure of a update command is:

```
db.collection.update(query, update, options)
```

query and *update*, are mandatory fields. These fields are used to define a selection criteria, and for define the modifications to be done, respectively. *Options* field is used to add some features like “*upsert*” or “*multi*”.

- **Insert**

This function adds new documents to a collection. This command follows the next syntax:

```
db.collection.insert(<document>)
```

where the *document* is the document or array of documents to add to the collection.

- **Remove**

It removes documents of a collection. Its syntax is:

```
db.collection.remove(query, options)
```

query is a mandatory field, which specifies the deleting criteria. *Options* field is to add features like “justOne” or “writeConcern”.

3.2.3.3 Collections

For the correct operation of the system, two collections are needed. These collections are described next:

3.2.3.3.1 Resume Collection Resume stores all Access Point information using a document per Access Point. The information included in these documents, for each Access Point is:

- ID.
- IP.
- Latitude.
- Longitude.
- Status.
- Since (This field save the last time when the status changed).
- Totaltime.
- Uptime.
- Downtime.
- Availability.

The last six fields, status, since, totaltime, uptime, downtime and availability, will be modified, updating these values for the current ones. These current ones will be obtained and modified on this collection by the Access program on the Raspberry Pi.

3.2.3.3.2 Data This collection stores the register of the status of the Access Points. This register consists on documents with three fields, *ID*, *STATUS* and *Timestamp*. The information stored will be processed using Access program, and with the result, the documents on Resume collection will be updated. This collection can be very useful for the implementation of future features.

3.2.4 Web service

The web service, implemented for this system is a RESTful web service, composed by six PHP files. Its main objective is to be the way of communication that will be used to connect the Raspberry Pi with MongoDB Database at the server.

This web service will use mongo-php-driver. With this driver, PHP is able to use classes and functions that, specifically, get, modify, create or set up databases and its values of MongoDB. There are four types of methods, GET, POST, PUT and DELETE. For this web service, the methods used are:

3.2.4.1 GET Methods

GET Methods are used to retrieve for specific data, in this case, from the MongoDB database. The get methods of this webservice are:

3.2.4.1.1 getData.php This method retrieves the data needed by the Access program to ping the access points. These data will be the ID and the IP of each node of the Network. The data will be obtained from the Resume collection. An example of the getData response is shown at the figure 3.13.



Figure 3.13: Response of getData Method

3.2.4.1.2 getUTDT.php The method *getUTDT* gets the Uptime and Downtime fields of an specific node from the Resume collection. This information is needed by the Access program to process and calculate the new values for the fields Totaltime, Availability, Uptime and Downtime.

This method requires the parameter *id*, referred to the ID of the node to be updated.

3.2.4.1.3 getlast.php *Getlast* is a method that retrieves the last register of the Data collection for a specific node. This register refers to the last update of the Access program. This information is required to update the SINCE field of the Resume collection and to know how much time has passed since the last update.

The parameter *id* is needed to select the node, whose information will be obtained.

3.2.4.2 POST Methods

POST Methods, similar to PUT, add or update new data to the database. The POST methods for this system are:

3.2.4.2.1 postResume.php The method *postResume*, called by the Access program, is used to update the values of the fields contained to the Resume collection. The fields to be modified will be:

- Status.
- Since
- Totaltime.
- Uptime.
- Downtime.
- Availability.

The method requires three parameters. The *field* to be updated, the new *value* of the field, and the *id* of the node whose field will be modified.

3.2.4.2.2 postData.php This method is used by the Access program to add new documents to the Data collection. The insertion of these documents will happen each time that Access program pings to a hotspot, and the result of these pings is stored in those documents. These documents to be inserted should have the fields ID, STATUS and TimeStamp.

So the parameters needed for this method are *id*, *status* and *timestamp*.

3.2.4.2.3 notify.php This method is used to send an email, when the Access program calls this method using a POST request. The mails sent are used to notify the manager of the network that something is going wrong. This bad operation can be produced because the Access program has been stopped or a hotspot is not working properly for some reason.

The parameters needed to the correct operation of this method are *id*, *type* and *e*. This *e* is the exception that is returned by the Access program, when it has been stopped. This parameter will help to locate the error and repair it.

Chapter 4

SYSTEM OPERATION

The structure of the system is illustrated at figure 4.1. The following paragraphs will contain the explanation of the operation of the elements illustrated, and its importance inside the system.

The system can be divided into two sections. A section that gets and stores the information about the hotspots. And another section that processes the information, and displays it with a format that everyone could understand.

The elements of the first section mentioned are:

- Raspberry PI.
- Server.
- Hotspots.

The operation of this section will begin with the implementation of a Raspberry Pi into the same network that the access points to be monitored. Once the Raspberry Pi is booted, it automatically begins a process that executes the Access program, explained at section 3.2.1. This program will try to ping access points of the network. The IPs to be pinged, have to be gotten from the database located at server using getData method. When the pings are done, the information about this access points is processed. Then the Raspberry PI, using the program, must access to a web service, located at the server, to store the information.

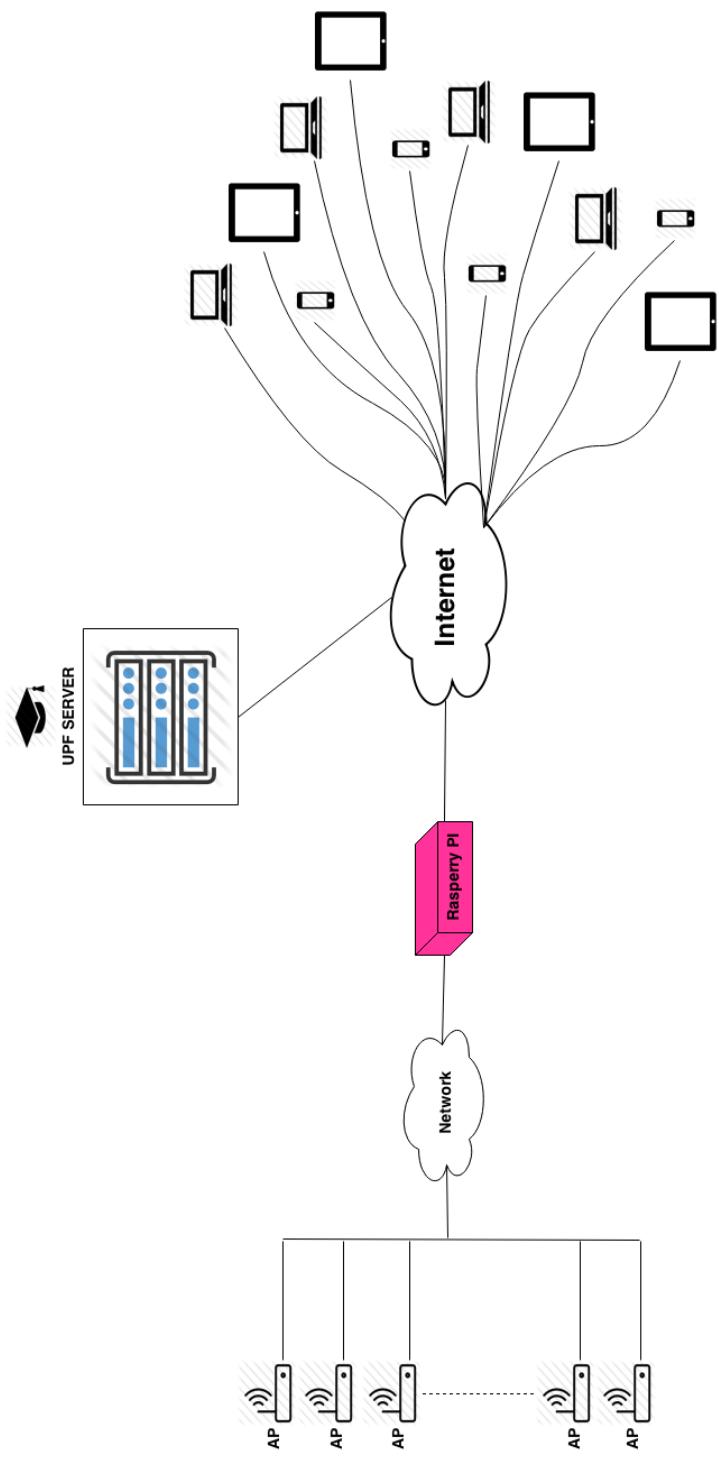


Figure 4.1: System Diagram

The server will receive and store the information about the access points. The storage of this information will be done by the MongoDB database, and the communication between Access program and the database is done using a web service.

The other section uses the following elements:

- Server.
- Users Devices.

This section main goal is to display, using a web application, the information once this has been gotten and processed with a simple format to let everyone understand it. The web application is located at the Apache HTTP server. The web application is available at the domain <http://cfe.nets.upf.edu/>. This web application will show, at the location of the access points, the information stored at the database. Or, what is the same, the information gathered at the previous section.

The citizen, only has to open the browser at the domain <http://cfe.nets.upf.edu/> to check the status of the access points of the network being monitored.

To change the network to be monitored, it is needed to add the access points information to the database before starting the Raspberry Pi, and, in consequence, the Access program. The information needed is the IP and the ID of the nodes to be monitored.



Figure 4.2: Raspberry Pi at Guifi.net Network

Chapter 5

TESTING THE SYSTEM

The test of the system began the 2014-06-05 at 10:30 and finished the 2014-06-10 at 10:30. During five days, the system has been monitoring the Access Points of the network *Poblenou Sense Fils* in Poblenou district from Barcelona. This network is owned by *guifi.net*. This organization gave the permissionss to carry out the test.

The figures 5.1 to 5.4, shows the stats of the collections Resume and Data before and after the test.

```
> db.ResumePoblenou.stats()
{
    "ns" : "AP.ResumePoblenou",
    "count" : 45,
    "size" : 12624,
    "avgObjSize" : 280.53333333333336,
    "storageSize" : 172032,
    "numExtents" : 3,
    "nindexes" : 1,
    "lastExtentSize" : 131072,
    "paddingFactor" : 1.00000000000004,
    "systemFlags" : 1,
    "userFlags" : 0,
    "totalIndexSize" : 8176,
    "indexSizes" : {
        "_id_" : 8176
    },
    "ok" : 1
}
```

Figure 5.1: Collection Resume Statistics Before Test.

```
> db.DataPoblenou.stats()
{
    "ns" : "AP.DataPoblenou",
    "count" : 0,
    "size" : 0,
    "storageSize" : 696320,
    "numExtents" : 4,
    "nindexes" : 1,
    "lastExtentSize" : 524288,
    "paddingFactor" : 1,
    "systemFlags" : 1,
    "userFlags" : 0,
    "totalIndexSize" : 8176,
    "indexSizes" : {
        "_id_" : 8176
    },
    "ok" : 1
}
```

Figure 5.2: Collection Data Statistics Before Test.

```
> db.ResumePoblenou.stats()
{
    "ns" : "AP.ResumePoblenou",
    "count" : 45,
    "size" : 12944,
    "avgObjSize" : 287.64444444444445,
    "storageSize" : 172032,
    "numExtents" : 3,
    "nindexes" : 1,
    "lastExtentSize" : 131072,
    "paddingFactor" : 1.0000000000000417,
    "systemFlags" : 1,
    "userFlags" : 0,
    "totalIndexSize" : 8176,
    "indexSizes" : {
        "_id_" : 8176
    },
    "ok" : 1
}
```

Figure 5.3: Collection Resume Statistics After Test

```
> db.DataPoblenou.stats()
{
    "ns" : "AP.DataPoblenou",
    "count" : 19766,
    "size" : 2070792,
    "avgObjSize" : 104.76535464939795,
    "storageSize" : 2793472,
    "numExtents" : 5,
    "nindexes" : 1,
    "lastExtentSize" : 2097152,
    "paddingFactor" : 1,
    "systemFlags" : 1,
    "userFlags" : 0,
    "totalIndexSize" : 678608,
    "indexSizes" : {
        "_id_" : 678608
    },
    "ok" : 1
}
```

Figure 5.4: Collection Data Statistics After Test

The fields from the collections to be controlled are:

- Collection Size.
- Number of documents.
- Document Size.

The relevant stats of the collections are summarized at the table 5.1.

| | Before | | After | |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | DataPoblenou | ResumePoblenou | DataPoblenou | DataPoblenou |
| Collection Size | 0 | 12.624 Bytes | 207.0792 Bytes | 12.944 Bytes |
| Number of Documents | 0 | 45 | 19.766 | 45 |
| Document Size | 0 | 280'53 Bytes | 104'76 Bytes | 287'64 Bytes |

Table 5.1: Summary Table of Collections Stats

5.1 Results

The results of the Test are:

5.1.1 Collection Size

Data Collection

The Data collection is empty before the start of the test. This is because the Data collection is a register where the documents are stored, with the ID of the access point, the status, and the timestamp of the moment when the checkup is done.

When the system is booted, the Data collection begins to fill with the information gotten of the access points.

At the end of the test, the Data collection had a size of 2.070.792 Bytes.

This collection is the fastest growing one. That occurs because is the only one that is storing new documents (*Insert*). At the Resume collection, the documents are modified, but new documents will not be added.

Resume Collection

The Resume Collection, at start, had a size of 12.624 Bytes. At the start of the test, the documents have the IDs, the position and the IPs of the access points. But the remaining fields are initialized with "0".

When the system starts monitoring the network, the fields "STATUS", "SINCE", "TOTALTIME", "UPTIME", "DOWNTIME" and "AVAILABILITY" are modified to the values obtained by the Access program.

At the end, the size of this collection, was of 12.944 Bytes. It increased, but this increase is not significant.

5.1.2 Number of Documents

The Resume collection, has always the same number of documents, while Data collection will increase its documents number in each iteration by the number of access points to be monitored.

This is the reason why Data collection increased the number of documents by 19.766, while Resume collection remain in 45 documents.

5.1.3 Document Size

Documents from Resume collection is larger because its documents have more fields than Data collection ones. While Data documents will have 3 fields, the Resume documents include 10 fields. The difference between the both collections documents size is of 182'66 Bytes.

5.1.4 Mailing

Mailing feature has operated correctly. The email address that sends and receives these alert mails is: *bub.project.apcontrol@gmail.com*.

It has received 223 emails about the stop of different access points and server warnings during the five days that the system was been tested.

For example, the program reported that hotspot with ID: **BCNgranvia940AH** was down, several times. This mean that the node has changed its status UP to DOWN and DOWN to UP several times.

Probably this access point is damaged, and it should be repaired or changed.

The mails received are shown at the figure 5.5.

5.1.5 Web Application

The web Application was available all time. The information shown was correct, in the sense that was the same information than the current information stored on the database.

5.1.6 Time

The Access program was executed correctly at the boot of the Raspberry Pi, and the loop that checks, processes, and sends the status of the access points was executed correctly 15 minutes after the last iteration.

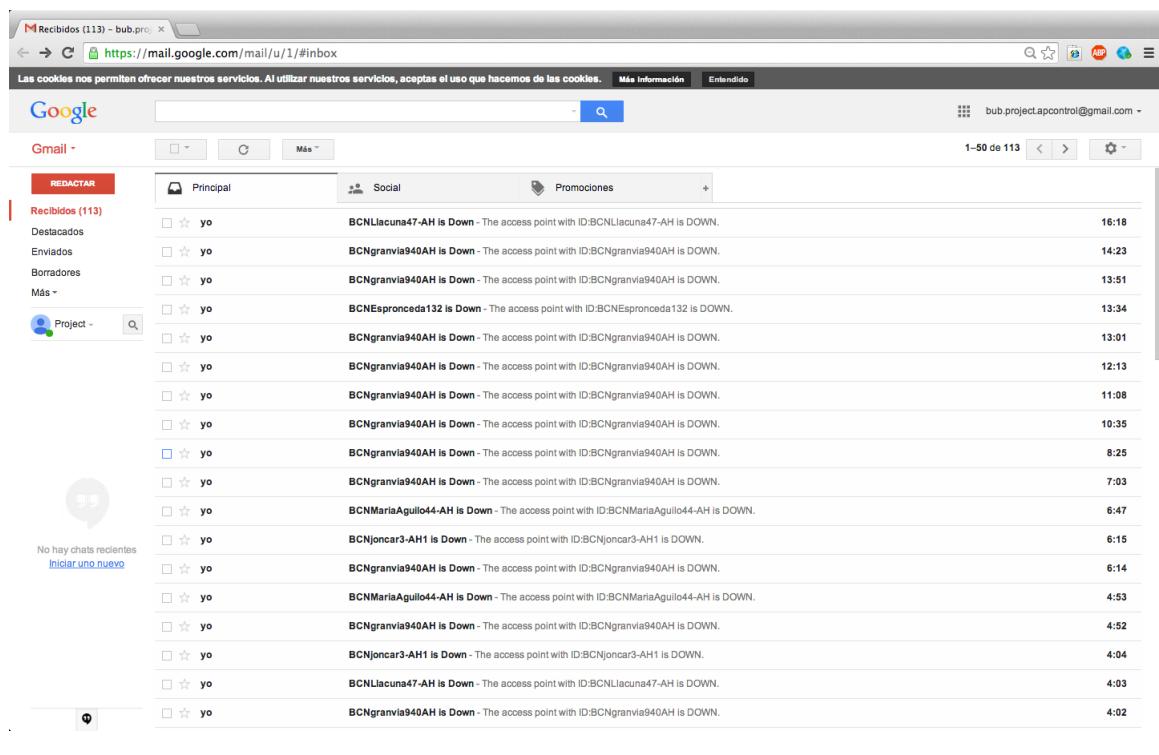


Figure 5.5: Mails received when a access point is DOWN

5.1.7 Processing the Information

The process of the information was done correctly. The data that has been checked is:

5.1.7.1 TOTALTIME

The test of the system started the day 2014-06-05 at 10.30 hours, and finished the day 2014-06-10 at 10.30 hours. This suppose a duration of 120 hours.

To check that this is correct, It is needed to get the TOTALTIME of an access point, for example, node with ID: **BCNgravia940AH**. Looking to the figure 5.6, the TOTALTIME of this hotspot is 430.977'44 seconds. That means 119'71 hours.

So the system monitored this access point during 119,71 hours, and the test stopped at 120 hours of the start. This little difference is because the last iteration, had not been done when the test finished.

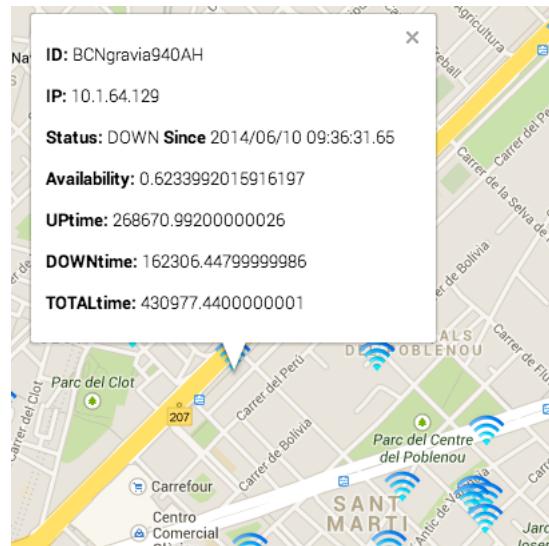


Figure 5.6: Information of the Access Point *BCNgravia940AH*

5.1.7.2 AVAILABILITY

To calculate the availability, the Access program divides UPTIME between TOTALTIME. To check this result, using the node *BCNgranvia940AH* shown at the figure 5.6, the result of divide 268.670'992 by 430.977'44 is 0'623399. This is the same value of the shown in the figure. So this feature operated correctly.

5.1.8 Unexpected stops

There were no unexpected stops during the five days that the system was being tested. Anyway, the system stop should not be a problem, because restart the system is easy. By rebooting the Raspberry Pi, the access program executes automatically and continue monitoring the access points of the network. No action is required at the database to keep working properly.

5.1.9 Warnings Reported

There is one warning reported. This warning is:

5.1.9.0.1 apache2: Could not reliably determine the server's fully qualified domain name, using cfe-nets.s.upf.edu for ServerName .

It is not an error. It happens when the *apache2* does not know the Domain Name System server¹. It is not important for the right operation of the system.

5.2 Collaboration with other Organizations

The project started with the collaboration of the Institut Municipal d'Informàtica (IMI), but the communication with this institution was complicated. The IMI is a big institution, and hold the communication was difficult.

¹The Domain Name System, or DNS, is a system that provides a distributed database, that store the names assigned to the devices and services on the network. These names are called Domain Names [Eastlake, 2000].

The testing of the system at IMI's network could not be performed due not having the IPs of the access points of BarcelonaWi-Fi.

For test the system, emerged a new organization, called Guifi.net. This institution, gave permission for the test of the system using its network *Poblenou Sense Fils* located at Poblenou district in Barcelona.

The communication with this institution was easier, and the fact that its network has a node at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra was helpful when the system was being tested.

Chapter 6

CONCLUSIONS

This project shows that it is possible to implement a inexpensive system to monitor the Access Points of a determined network. This will not give a full knowledge of the access points status, but will give some valuous information.

The system is composed by a Raspberry Pi and a Server. The Raspberry Pi is hosting a program made in java to get information about the access points. The server, is used to host the web application, the web service, and the MongoDB database. The web application displays the information stored at the database, and the web service is used for the information exchange between the Raspberry Pi and the server. Finally, the Database stores the information gotten by the program at Raspberry Pi.

The system has been tested during five days. The information gathering has operated correctly. There has not been problems with the web application. The emails were sent at the correct moment, with the correct content. In summary, the results of the test show a good performance of the system.

The system is simple, this allows the correct operation for all networks just knowing the IP Addresses of the hotspots. On the other hand, there is a lot of information that could be interesting to know that is being lost.

Chapter 7

FUTURE WORK

A project of this type can be developed in many ways. With the work done so far, it is possible to control whether the access points are in operation or not, whether the hotspots are stopped rarely or usually, its availability and more data, but it could still add more benefits to this system.

For improving the capacity of obtaining or picking up information, the SNMP¹ protocol, can be useful. To add SNMP queries would give access to important new information as the number of connected users in real time. This incorporation also, opens new possibilities, in the sense that the system, for the moment, is only monitoring the access points. With this addition, it would be possible to, also, control these hotspots. This control capability gives the chance of new features, like turn on, turn off, reboot and among many others, the controlled hotspots, remotely.

SNMP scheme about its operation is shown at the figure 7.1.

It is possible to integrate SNMP queries to java codes. There are libraries like *snmp4j*. This open source library, provides the needed classes and interfaces for

¹Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP): Protocol used to communicate management and control information between the network management stations and the agents in the network elements. The agent is the software, located on the managed device, that gets information available and translate it a supported SNMP format. The network management stations are the devices that process the information and control the managed devices [Case, 1990].

the creation of SNMP messages, and its communication [SNMP4J.org, 2014].

So, this options is something to be considered. The Access program could execute the code to use this protocol. The hardware and software of the system can support this protocol too. The only question is if all the access points will support this protocol and which version of it.

There are compatibility problems between different versions of SNMP. This is something that should be taken into account if there is the intention of deploy this protocol to the system.

Moreover, the interface of the web application could be improved. Nowadays, it is displayed the map with Access Points and the available information. Additional features could be added. Examples include viewing the log of a particular access point and adding search options. The search criteria could be the access point status, the geographical area or the number of users. like search an access point by status, area or fewer users.

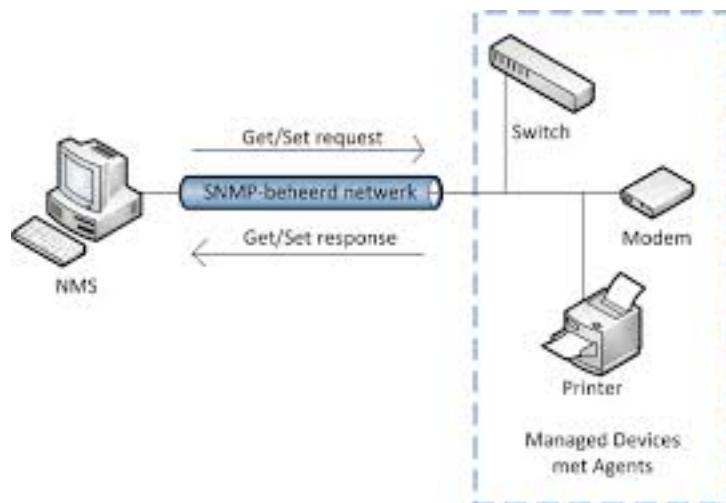


Figure 7.1: SNMP Scheme

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Appendix A

PILOT CHARTER

Visual Interface for WiFi Networks

Monitoring

PILOT CHARTER

FERRAN SELVA RODRÍGUEZ (122659)

Pilot Purpose.

The principle purpose of my pilot is to develop an application that shows the location and current statistics of usage for public Wifi and Sensor networks.

Pilot Objectives and Success Criteria.

- Fully functional application showing the location and Statistics of public Wifi Networks.
- Statistics will be performed with the real-time data collected from the IT Networks.
- Application have to be able to access, the 80% of times, to real-time data from IT Networks.

High-level requirements.

- Development of the application with a visual interface with the location of the IT Networks.
- Recollection of the data from the IT Networks.
- Generate statistics for IT Networks.
- Display of the data from the IT Networks.

High-level pilot description.

The principle purpose of my pilot is to develop an application with a visual interface with the location of the IT Networks. It will be displayed too, statistics of usage, coverage and downtime of IT Networks. It will be done with SDI, Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDE in Spanish). This pilot will be done with he cooperation of IMI (Institut Municipal d'Informàtica).

High-level risks.

- SDI programming: Never did before.
- Time: The control of time is a priority. The steps have to be executed on its time.
- Data: Availability to collect the necessary data.

Summary milestone schedule.

1. Planning: Review all requirement, and evaluate how and when do it and It's duration.
2. Documentation: How to develop a code of SDI Application. What I need to know? What tools are needed?
3. Development of the code:
 - a. SDI application. Where the IT networks location will be shown.
 - b. Access to de real-time data from IT Networks.
 - c. Data Base, where all data will be processed to get statistics.
 - d. Access to Data Base from the application.
 - e. Show statistics of each IT Networks in the application.
4. Testing. Resolve bugs and improve the application.
5. Review that all requirement are satisfied and all goals are achieved.
6. Document all this process in a Project memory.
7. Present the result.

Summary budget:

- Student Grant: 3.240,00€
- Travel and accommodation costs: 200-300€(Reason: Assist to meetings and conventions).

Appendix B

GANTT DIAGRAM

Visual Interface for WiFi Networks

Monitoring

PLANNING

FERRAN SELVA RODRÍGUEZ (122659)

Tasks to be performed:

Tasks

| Name | Begin date | End date |
|---|------------|----------|
| Initiating | 9/20/13 | 10/15/13 |
| Pilot Charter | 9/20/13 | 10/15/13 |
| IMI Meetings | 9/20/13 | 10/10/13 |
| Planning | 10/16/13 | 11/20/13 |
| Get Spatial Data Infrastructure Information | 10/16/13 | 10/23/13 |
| Data Selection | 10/24/13 | 10/31/13 |
| Technology Selection | 11/1/13 | 11/8/13 |
| Planning Document (Gantt Diagram) | 11/11/13 | 11/20/13 |
| Execution | 11/21/13 | 6/18/14 |
| Deployment of the Software | 11/21/13 | 3/26/14 |
| Spatial Data Infrastructure | 11/21/13 | 12/20/13 |
| Data Base | 12/23/13 | 1/23/14 |
| Data Updating Software | 1/24/14 | 2/12/14 |
| Web Application | 2/13/14 | 2/25/14 |
| Improvements | 2/26/14 | 3/26/14 |
| Deployment of the Documentation | 3/27/14 | 6/18/14 |
| Information of the Technology Used | 3/27/14 | 6/18/14 |
| Document The Work Performed | 3/27/14 | 6/18/14 |
| Monitoring and Controlling | 9/20/13 | 7/22/14 |
| Testing | 9/20/13 | 7/22/14 |
| Version Saving | 11/21/13 | 3/26/14 |
| Closing | 6/19/14 | 7/23/14 |
| Defense of the Project | 6/19/14 | 7/23/14 |
| Elaborate Defense Documentation | 6/19/14 | 7/23/14 |
| Preparation of the Defense | 6/19/14 | 7/23/14 |

Initiating.

Pilot Charter.

Elaborate the Pilot charter. Where the idea, the goal, the objectives, and other sections will be collected.

IMI Meetings.

Meetings with the “Institut Municipal d’Informàtica”. These meetings have the objective of decide the information that may be of interest to the user, evaluate the best way to present this information and know how is its WiFi structure.

Planning.

Get Spatial Data Infrastructure Information.

Collect information about Spatial Data Infrastructure. Know how to develop these data, what options can be used, what characteristics have each option and which one is better for deployment of this project.

Data Selection.

Select the data that will be displayed with the IMI recommendations. Define how it will be collected and possible ways to display.

Technology Selection.

Define the technology will be used to perform the project.

Planning Document (Gantt Diagram).

Document where is defined when will be done the tasks.

Execution

Deployment of the Software.

Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Develop the Spatial Data Infrastructure where the data will be displayed.

Database.

Develop the Database where the data will be stored and modified.

Data Updating Software.

Develop the program that will modify the data of the Database.

Web Application.

Develop de Web Application where the information will be displayed. It is linked with the Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Improvements.

Time to improve the performance of the project, adding new features, optimizing components and making other improvements.

Deployment of the Documentation.

Information of the Technology Used.

Explain the technologies used, what features have and why choose these technologies over other options.

Document The Work Performed.

Document everything related to project execution. How the project has been done, what problems have been occurred, how the problems have solved and others related to the work performed.

Monitoring and Controlling

Testing.

Check the work done throughout the project.

Version Saving.

Saving of all versions of the software deployed.

Closing.

Defense of the Project.

Elaborate Defense Documentation.

Elaborate the documents that will be used to defend the project in front of the court.

Preparation of the Defense.

Prepare the defense of the project.

Gantt Chart

