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**MANUKAU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Faculty of Business and Information Technology

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Driver Safety & Drowsiness Detection System**

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| **Module** | : | **Hot Topic in Software** |
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Problem Description

Automobile has become a major part in our lives. They are used for transportation of people, items and any many other from one place to another. Whatever the automobile type (car, van, bike etc.) is being used for transportation, the safety should be a number one priority. While transporting people or any other item we should think about the safety of the passengers of the vehicle, public and private and public properties. According to Ministry of Transport, New Zealand (2018) number of road deaths has been increased from 284 to 393 within the period of 2011 to 2018. They also state that the number of reported injuries in transportation has amplified from 11,000 to 13,000 within a period of 5 years until 2017. Above statistics confirms that there should be a lot of improvements in the automobile and transportation industry for safety and the wellbeing of humans as well as the safety of private and public property.

There are various factors which contributes to road injuries and deaths. Some of them are lost control of the vehicle, speeding, alcohol, driver drowsiness, weather conditions, vehicle conditions and so on (Ministry of Transport New Zealand, 2018). Most of the time drivers do not care about the state of themselves prior to driving a vehicle. Even though the driver is tired, sleepy or has consumed alcohol he/she tries to drive a vehicle without any anxiety. As a result, it causes road accidents, injuries, loss of lives and damage to property. There aren’t many systems which could predict the conditions of the driver prior to a trivial incident which could assist the driver immensely. Therefore, this project mainly focuses on the driver drowsiness and how it can be identified using computer vision and facial features in order to provide necessary alerts to the driver when required as a warning, so that the driver can decide whether to continue driving or not and take a proactive approach to such incidents rather than a reactive approach.

## 1.2 Solution & Research Question

Since the road safety is the main priority, most of the high-end vehicle manufacturers implement safety systems in their vehicles. Unfortunately, these vehicles are expensive and most of the people can’t afford to buy them. Therefore, our research questions focus on improving the automobile safety practices using computer vision and low-cost hardware and improving the automobile safety practices by monitoring facial gestures of human.

The proposed solution will be implemented using image processing, computer vision and facial recognition techniques to increase the efficiency and the accuracy of the system. A camera will be the main hardware device to capture images of the eyes and this will reduce the cost of other expensive hardware devices such as embedded sensors and chips.

## 1.3 Scope

Proposed driver safety and drowsiness detection system will be a desktop application at its first stage as a prototype. In this system, a web camera will be used, and it will be placed in front of the driver (user) to capture images of the driver’s face and eyes. Simultaneously, the camera will provide live stream data (image frames) to the application to process them with face recognition and image processing techniques. By this process of execution, the system will detect the status of the eye (open eye or close eye) and alert the driver according to the eye status. The application will monitor image frames per second and identify the state of the eye. If the number of frames within the given period of time has more closed eye states compared to opened eye state, the system will provide warning alerts to the driver via a sound.

### 1.3.1 Aim of the project

The aim of this proposed system is to develop user-friendly, efficient, accurate and low-cost application using image and video processing algorithms to detect driver drowsiness to reduce road accidents and increase driver safety.

### 1.3.2 Objectives of the project

1. Research on the identified areas relevant to the project and come up with the literature review. The literature review of the project consists of existing driver safety systems and its functionalities along with the comparison table of the existing systems.
2. Design the system architecture according to the gathered information from the research.
3. Implement the finalized design of the proposed system.
4. Test and evaluate the implemented system.
5. Submit the deliverables on time.

### 1.3.3 Project Deliverables

* Research project proposal template
* Final research project proposal
* Final project report
* Prototype of the system

## 1.4 Measurable Organizational Value

Proposed solution of this project covers three main measurable organizational values. They are social, customer and financial aspects. As mentioned above in the solution and research question section majority of the population cannot afford to buy a high-end vehicle just for road safety purposes. Therefore, by implementing such a proposed system with low cost hardware will open up the opportunity for a vast number of customers. Customers could integrate the proposed system to their vehicles at a low cost compared to systems with sensors and chips. We expect the proposed solution to reduce the number of road accidents by 20 percent in the first year of installation to vehicles in New Zealand which will impact the society immensely. Team expects to take at least 500 customers aboard to the proposed system within the first year and growing the customer base by 10 percent each year. Customers will be attracted to the proposed solution since it is low-cost and the team can increase revenue and make a profit by new installations and maintenance of the proposed system. Since this application is a safety application for transportation it will have a great impact on our society. Not just the driver but also the passengers, public and property will be safe during transportation.

# 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Overview

Studying existing similar systems is a key aspect of this project. It’s because we can learn those existing solutions and figure out what are the pros and cons of various systems. This will also help us improve some functionality of a system when added to this proposed project or may be add a whole new feature to our system which doesn’t exist in other similar systems. This will be an added value of the proposed system. Each member of the team has analyzed three similar systems. Since these systems are mostly hardware systems and not software systems the exact functionalities couldn’t be tested. But relevant information was extracted from internet sources related those products to come up with the literature review of the existing systems. We have explained our findings in the below section and have done a comparison and contrast of the chosen systems to better analyze the current situation in the automobile industry and driver safety & drowsiness detection systems.

## 2.2 Existing Systems

### 2.2.1 StopSleep - Electronic Anti-Sleep Alarm

According to StopSleep (2017) the aim of the unit is to prevent drivers falling asleep. Being a portable device, it is made to wear on two fingers like a ring. The device alerts through vibration, light and sound. All the device elements are made of cosmetics which are unlikely to cause any allergies including durable plastic. The StopSleep unit has 8 built-in measuring sensors to monitor the heat change of the skin. This system uses the same technology used in lie detector polygraphs. This system generates two types of warnings. They are attention and danger levels. The unit will vibrate in attention warning type while providing vibrations and loud sound in danger situations.

Figure 1: StopSleep Alarm

Use of StopSleep – electronic anti-sleep alarm is not hard. First the user has to power on the unit and wait until the sound and light appears. Once this is completed the user can wear the device in two fingers of a hand. Then the sensors will start monitoring for active, micro-sleep and sleep states of a human body and issues the warnings or alarms. The device needs to be charged and it can hold up-to 15 hours within a single charging session (StopSleep, 2017). Stop sleep wearable device can be purchased at around 200 US dollars (Amazon, 2018).

### 2.2.2 Bosch Driver Drowsiness Detection

Bosch driver drowsiness detection system monitors the steering patterns of a driver and predicts the fatigue and micro sleepiness of a driver. It evaluates and processes about 70 signals to understand the level of drowsiness of a driver. Bosch uses a steering-angle sensor to determine the steering angle and its velocity. The algorithm behinds the Bosch system starts monitoring steering patterns when a trip begins. It monitors for different parameters such as unexpected steering movements, use of signals and many others to identify the fatigue condition of the driver and when it reaches a certain level it informs the driver that he/she requires a rest by flashing a coffee cup sign in the system. This unit is also a part of a car’s anti-skid system which help the wheels of the vehicle to keep tractive contact with the road surface (Bosch China, 2012).

Figure 2: Bosch Driver Drowsiness Detection

### 2.2.3 Anti Sleep Pilot

Anti sleep pilot is a device which was developed by ASP Technology Ltd, Denmark. It is usually placed on the dashboard of a vehicle to continuously monitor the driver and his/her driving conditions. The device has a light sensor, a sound sensor and a touch sensor and operated using battery power. Initially the driver has to complete an assessment in order to create his/her risk profile. Once this is completed the driver can start using the device. It will automatically start monitoring the driver’s fatigue level using 26 parameters including the risk profile. The device conducts random tests so that the driver needs to tap on the device to response to those tests. If the response time is slow the driver will have a slow response time and continuous low response time will warn the driver to take at least a ten-minute break before driving the vehicle again. Anti sleep pilot device also monitors the time and speed of the vehicle, so it can determine the time that the driver actually had the break. This device costs around 250 US dollars (Coxworth, 2011; Asp Technology, 2018).

Figure 3: Anti Sleep Pilot

### 2.2.4 Lane Departure Warning System

In early 2000 Mercedes Benz has invented first lane departure warning system for their heavy duty Actros trucks. After that most of the leading vehicle manufacturers implemented these kind of systems for their vehicles.

Figure 4: Standard Lane Departure warning Light on Dashboard

Basically lane departure warning systems alert the driver when the vehicle drift out the lane. Nowadays most of these lane departure warning systems are coming from different technologies of alerting the driver but with the same scenario. Most of the vehicle manufacturers have used low cost camera mounted in the rear view mirror which continuously keep track on the solid lane marks ahead. If the vehicle drifts out the lane most of the systems are alerting the driver by giving visual warning with a beep sound. In advance some systems are vibrating the steering wheel and apply slight steering to the steering wheel to keep the vehicle on track. (Driving Test Resource NZ, 2018)

Most of the high end vehicle manufacturers have implemented these systems with new technologies such as adaptive cruise control and forward collision warning to project the vehicle in front, lane departure warning to project in side and blind spot detection to project in rear. These systems are cost more than $1000 USD and only implemented in high end vehicles. (B.Howard,2017)

### 2.2.5 Drowsiness Detection system using EEG Helmets



Figure 5: Vertical EEG recording from awake and drowsy condition (Kircher, 2001)

Physiological measures are most common and efficient detectors when it comes to detect drowsiness. Electroencephalogram (EEG) is considered as the most reliable physiological method to detect drowsiness. EEG is a method to measure and record the electrical activity of the brain using electrodes placed in the scalp.

In this kind of driver safety and drowsiness detection systems driver has to wear an EEG electrode mounted helmet to detect the drowsiness. These EEG electrodes detect the rays of the brain. Basically if these electrode detect alpha activity of the brain that is the first indicator of the drowsiness. So the system alerting the driver by making sound or vibrating the steering wheel. Above figure 5 shows the changing between awake to drowsiness mode. (M.Awasis,2016)

Some people do not show any alpha activity even thou he/she in drowsiness mode. To detect this situation EEG helmets should detect theta activity of those people. Therefore these helmets are considered as high cost driver safety system (Gottlieb, 2004).

Figure 6: EEG Helmet

### 2.2.6 Tesla Auto Pilot



Figure 7: Tesla Auto Pilot

Tesla auto pilot driver safety system was implemented by Tesla Motors for their vehicles in 2014. This system consists of eight cameras mounted around the vehicle to get 360 degrees visibility up to 250 meters of range. Also twelve updated ultrasonic sensors for detection of both hard and soft obstacles around the 250 range. In addition a forward facing radar is providing other data around the car such as rain, fog and dust. On board computer process with the collected data and control the car without human involvement if there is any mistake done by the driver.

This system is high advance systems compared to most of the driver safety systems. Tesla auto pilot model S and X are available in the market for customers and it will cost $1795 USD per month. (Tesla , 2018).

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