

Academic year : 2018-2019

UNIVERSITY OF SOUSSE
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING OF SOUSSE

Graduation project report

Applied Computer Engineering

Option: Distributed Systems

Designing and Developing a platform of remote and communicating equipements

By: Ismail Mekni

Company supervisor : Mr. Sabri Mtibaa, Sofrecom Tunisia

University supervisor : Mr. Aref Meddeb, ENISO

To my family and all my beloved.

Acknowledgements

In conducting this report, I have received meaningful assistance from many quarters which I like to put on record here with deep gratitude and great pleasure. First and foremost, I express my sincere gratitude to my supervisors, Mr. Sabri Mtibaa, Ms. Marwa Drissi, and Mr. Aref Meddeb who extended their complete support and helped to make me deliver my best. I would also like to thank all of my teachers at the National Engineering School of Sousse for their continuous help and treasurable training during our study years. Finally, special thanks to the jury members who honored us by examining and evaluating this modest contribution.

Contents

1	Project Context	4
1.1	Introduction	4
1.2	Host company presentation	4
1.3	Project presentation	5
1.3.1	Problem statement	5
1.3.2	Project objectives	5
1.4	Critical analysis of the state of the art	6
1.4.1	State of the art	6
1.4.1.1	SamKnows One	6
1.4.1.2	SMAQ	7
1.4.2	Critical of the state of the art	8
1.4.3	Proposed solution:	8
1.5	Modeling language	9
1.6	Software development methodology	9
1.7	Conclusion	9
2	Requirements Analysis and Specification	10
2.1	Introduction	10
2.2	Identification of the actors:	10
2.3	Functional requirements	11

2.4	Non-functional requirements	12
2.5	Requirements analysis	13
2.5.1	Manage devices	14
2.5.2	Manage tests	16
2.5.3	Manage network monitoring	18
2.5.4	Manage statistics and charts configuration	20
2.5.5	Manage users	22
2.6	Conclusion	23
3	Design of the Physical and Logical Architectures	24
3.1	Introduction	24
3.2	Physical architecture	24
3.3	Logical architecture	26
3.3.1	Conceptual model	26
3.3.2	Modular decomposition	28
3.3.3	Broadband supervision and monitoring theory	28
3.4	Conclusion	28
4	Project Achievements	29
4.1	Introduction	30
4.2	Developing environment	30
4.2.1	Hardware environment	30
4.2.2	Software environment	30
4.2.3	Frameworks and technologies	30
4.3	Achieved work	30
4.3.1	Authentication and users management	30
4.3.2	Devices management	30
4.3.3	Metrics and tests management	30
4.3.4	Statistics and dashboard management	30
4.3.5	Alerts management	30
4.4	Conclusion	30
5	General Conclusion and Future Work	31

List of Figures

1.1	Screenshot of SamKnows One dashboard	7
1.2	Screenshot of SMAQ online dashboard	7
2.1	General use case diagram	13
2.2	Devices management sequence diagram	14
2.3	Tests management sequence diagram	16
2.4	Network monitoring management sequence diagram	18
2.5	Charts management sequence diagram	20
2.6	Users' management sequence diagram	22
3.1	Physical Architecture of SMAQ Probes solution	25
3.2	Logical architecture	27

List of Tables

1.1	Comparison of state of the art	8
2.1	Device management description	15
2.2	Test management description	17
2.3	Network monitoring management description	19
2.4	Charts management description	21
2.5	Users management description	23

Abstract

This report describes the design and the development of our graduation project internship, which is carried out at Sofrecom Tunisia, the project consists in creating a remote and communicating devices platform to achieve broadband supervision and monitoring and assess the quality of service “QoS” of fixed network access. With our solution, the user could manage connected probes and create broadband tests configuration before running them in the probes, also he could manage statistics configuration with attractive charts for testing results. Users could create customized alerts configuration to simplify broadband supervision. The project also helps network supervisors to get accurate statistics according to a time period and zone area.

Keywords

Probe – Spring boot – Angular – Raspberry Pi – Java – Kafka – Broadband – Quality of experience

General introduction

With the global spread of the internet nowadays, many mobile and internet services operators appear. In the coming days, connected devices will spread massively worldwide, especially with the appearance of new technologies such as the internet of things, big data, personal area networks (PAN), artificial intelligence (AI). So mobile and internet services operators desire to achieve a better quality of service for their customers. To do so, operators design and develop solutions for broadband monitoring and supervision mainly to massively assess and monitor the quality of service of networks access perceived by customers. Sofrecom Tunisia, subsidiary of Orange Group, attempts to serve this purpose by designing and developing a platform for broadband supervision and monitoring and specific to massively assess the quality of service (QoS) of fixed network access. In this context comes our mission during the graduation project internship.

This report contains four chapters as follows:

The first chapter titled “Project context” will be devoted to the company presentation and setting the project in its general context.

The second chapter “Requirements analysis and specification” will be about the global system analysis to design and develop.

The third chapter “Design of the physical and logical architectures” will be dedicated to present physical and the logical architectures of our solution, also, we will explain the theory behind the broadband monitoring and supervision.

At last but not least, the final chapter “Project achievements” will be about the application achievements. First, we will present the developing environments and technologies and tools, secondly, we will illustrate our application with several interfaces.

Finally, we will close the report with a general conclusion, future work and perspectives will be mentioned at last to illustrate some ideas to improve our solution.

1.1 Introduction

In the first place, this chapter will be about the host company Sofrecom Tunisia presentation, a consulting and engineering firm specializing in telecommunications. Then, we will talk about the work and the project environments, by putting the light on the project goals and the analysis of the state of the art. Finally, we will present our software development methodology and the modeling language that we are going to use.

1.2 Host company presentation

Sofrecom, a subsidiary of Orange Group, has built up 50 years' worth of unique know-how in the telecoms operator line of business, making it a world leader in telecom consultancy and engineering. Sofrecom Tunisia is the youngest subsidiary of Sofrecom. Launched in November 2011, Sofrecom Tunisia expands Sofrecom's presence in North Africa and the Middle East region to meet the growing demand for dedicated solutions and to offer its customers adapted and competitive offers.

1.3 Project presentation

1.3.1 Problem statement

Operators of mobile and internet services have probes, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), installed in several network elements, but they desire to appreciate the quality perceived by their customers (Quality of Experience, QoE) in order to improve their network performance and reliability.

In order to get accurate information about the quality of experience we should get the measurements according to zone area and specific periods of time. Also, it is difficult to manage the configuration and QoS/QoE tests running in the widespread probes, which indicates a lack of flexibility. The internet usage is improving fast; therefore we should improve the quality of service measuring as well.

1.3.2 Project objectives

This work will be considered as a graduation project to obtain applied computer science diploma from the national engineering school of Sousse (ENISO).

The main project goal is to design and develop a platform for remote and communicating devices, to serve broadband monitoring and supervision. The application should satisfy these needs:

- The creation and interpretation of messages exchanged with terminals and embedded equipment.
- Information exchanges with client applications (northbound interface).
- Management of messages from terminals (southbound interface).
- Sending requests and messages to the terminals.
- On-the-fly supervision of exchanges.
- Management of supervised elements.
- Resolution of message referral rules.

1.4 Critical analysis of the state of the art

This step is essential to propose our solution in the relation to those offered by other companies. To do so, we have studied the characteristics and the features of some available apps while we focus on their weak points.

1.4.1 State of the art

1.4.1.1 SamKnows One

The SamKnows One is a cloud-based analytics platform that includes a full range of measurement agents for fixed and cellular internet connection with a global test infrastructure. The SamKnows solution stores and visualizes performance data in real-time. This solution is implemented by a UK company “Sam” founded in 2008 by Sam Crawford. SamKnows One has developed a suite of tests as follows:

- Speed tests: includes download and upload over TCP and UDP speed tests.
- Latency, loss and jitter: latency, jitter and packet loss over UDP, latency over HTML5.
- DNS resolution: DNS resolution time and failure rate (UDP).
- Web browsing: web browsing test over TCP.
- CDN performance: content delivery network (CDN) measurements over TCP.
- Video streaming: video streaming measurements that stream real content from major video streaming providers.
- Gaming: measures performance for a number of major games.
- Online storage: tests upload and download from popular online storage services.
- Voice over IP: measures the quality of a voice call between client and test server.
- Traceroute: tests the path that traffic takes around the internet, it is useful in diagnosing routing issues.
- Data usage: measures of data used on the broadband connection.

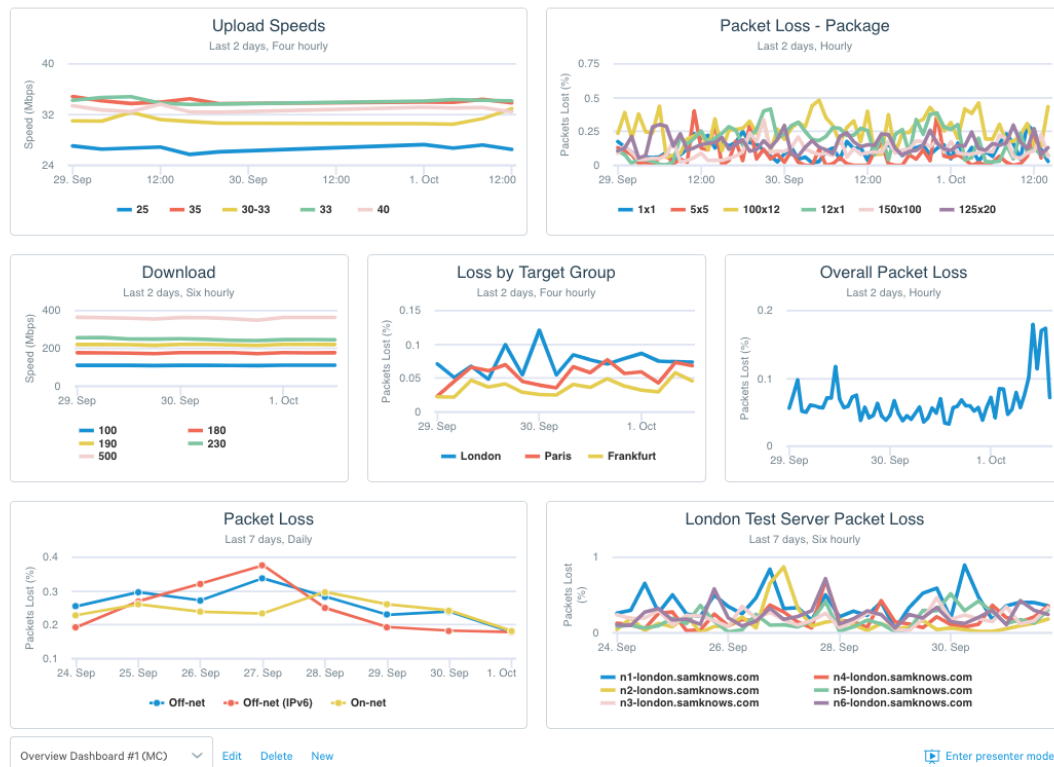


Figure 1.1: Screenshot of SamKnows One dashboard

1.4.1.2 SMAQ

SMAQ is a solution implemented by Sofrecom to generate reports and analysis based upon different broadband tests, this solution is used by the Orient Middle East and Africa Orange affiliates.

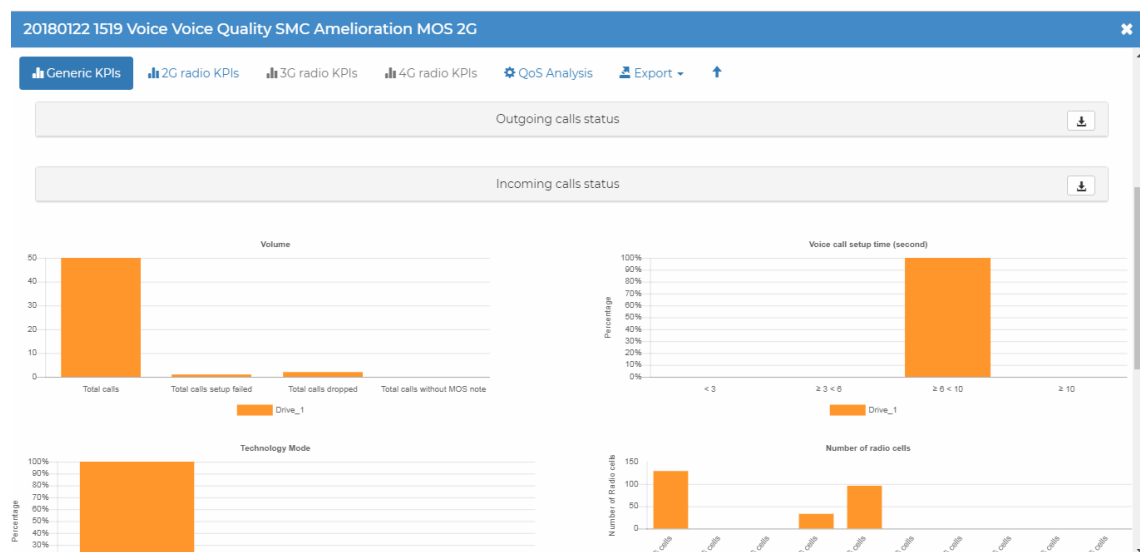


Figure 1.2: Screenshot of SMAQ online dashboard

1.4.2 Critical of the state of the art

The following table shows in detail the difference between the two mentioned solutions:

Solution	SamKnows One	SMAQ
Paying solution	YES	NO
Analytics	YES	YES
Custom dashboard	YES	NO
Mapping data	YES	NO
Generate reports	YES	YES
Network monitoring (alerting)	YES	YES
Users management	YES	NO
Devices management	NO	NO
Tests management	NO	NO

Table 1.1: Comparison of state of the art

Sofrecom Tunisia is looking for an open source solution for the issue in question so SamKnows One solution is not convenient for them, in the other hand SMAQ provides just the basic functionalities. The weak point in the mentioned solutions, they don't give users the access to devices configuration. Network supervisors can't customize tests to satisfy their specific needs.

1.4.3 Proposed solution:

The solution proposed by Sofrecom Tunisia is to design and develop a platform for broadband monitoring and supervision, "SMAQ Probes", the solution should respond the following needs:

- Online device management and task scheduling.
- Online test management.
- Online statistics and customized charts configuration.
- Online alerts configuration and customization.
- Online user management.

1.5 Modeling language

During the work on our solution we used UML “Unified Modeling Language” for describing and modeling the specifications of our project. UML is a flexible and versatile modeling language, also it is the most popular and widely used by the community. We are going to present some diagrams from UML that we find it useful during our work:

- Use case diagram: it helps to structure the needs of users and the corresponding objectives of our system by identifying its users and their interactions.
- Sequence diagram: it is a time focus representation of objects and their interactions.
- Package diagram: it gives an overview of the application packages. It is a high abstraction that presents the application modularity.
- Class diagram: it gives a presentation of classes and interfaces of our system and relations between them.
- Activity diagram: it gives an overview of the dynamic aspects of the system.

1.6 Software development methodology

Before starting the project design and development, we should choose appropriate software development methodology to work with. The software development methodology helps to describe the different phases and the sequences of application development process.

During our project, we used agile kanban because it is a most convenient method to us. I am the only intern working on the project. Changes in the project can happen any time. We are continuously improving the flow of work. We are trying to limit work in progress and to maximize efficiency. Also, we focus on reducing the time it takes to take a project from start to finish.

1.7 Conclusion

In this chapter, we presented the general context of the project by presenting the host company Sofrecom Tunisia, the problem statement and the state of the art.

In the next chapter, we will model the requirements of our solution through use case diagrams.

Requirements Analysis and Specification

2.1 Introduction

The requirements analysis and specification phase is an essential step for the development of a new application. It allows presenting the application's features in detail.

In this chapter, the first part will be devoted to identify the different actors of the application who are interacting with the system and to give the functional and non-functional requirements definitions. Subsequently, we will present the general system analysis using use case diagrams.

2.2 Identification of the actors:

An actor is an abstraction of a role of actual user who is in a perpetual interaction with the application. Following on, our system's actor along with his role and granted permissions.

Internal actors

- Application administrator: the administrator is responsible of managing users and their permission, he has the permission to create, read, update, and delete

users. Also, he has the permission to check all the other configurations like devices configuration and test configuration.

- Network supervisor: the network supervisor has the permission to read the different configurations without editing them. He has the right to supervise the quality of experience “QOS”.
- Network and broadband administrator: he has all the rights of the network supervisor, in addition, he has the permission to create, read, update, and delete broadband monitoring configurations.

External actors

- Probe: the probe is the entity able to get devices and tests configuration, and send the metrics to the server after running tests.

2.3 Functional requirements

Functional requirements refer to primary functions that each component of our solution must exhibit. It is a set of services which are:

For the web application

- The application should give the administrator the hand to manage users' accounts.
- The application should give permitted users the possibility to customize their dashboards.
- The application should give permitted users the access to manage the network monitoring (alerting).
- The application should provide permitted users with the access to tests and devices configurations.
- The application should be able to process received metrics data in real-time.

For the hardware

- The boards should be able to receive and implement their configurations in real-time.
- The boards should be able to run tests according to the time scheduler and send results to the server.
- The boards should be able to send their current configuration (location, IP address, device identifier, jobs configuration).
- The boards should be able to keep the tests results if the server is not available.

2.4 Non-functional requirements

Non-functional requirements refer to several key features that are beyond the purpose of the solution, they specify criteria that judge the operation of a system, rather than specific behaviors in order to ensure the client's satisfaction.

Extensibility

The system must be open to some extension like for example adding new features if needed without radical modification in the code.

Performance

The web application should be as efficient as possible with especially a good response time. Users should be able to receive the quality of experience (QOE) from the cloud server within a reasonable amount of time.

Re-usability

The system shouldn't be exclusive for our case and must be adaptive to other use cases.

Robustness

The system must cope with errors during execution and should be able to reboot within a short time in case of failure.

Security

The user's personal information must be kept safe from others and only system administrator has permissions to access it. The broadband monitoring and supervision access must be permitted to the supervisors of the network in question.

2.5 Requirements analysis

On one hand, this section offers a better understanding of the mentioned requirements by declaring them in a semi-formal way. On the other hand, it emphasizes the interactions between the actor and our application. In contemplation of breaking down the complexity of these goals, we use the use case diagrams.

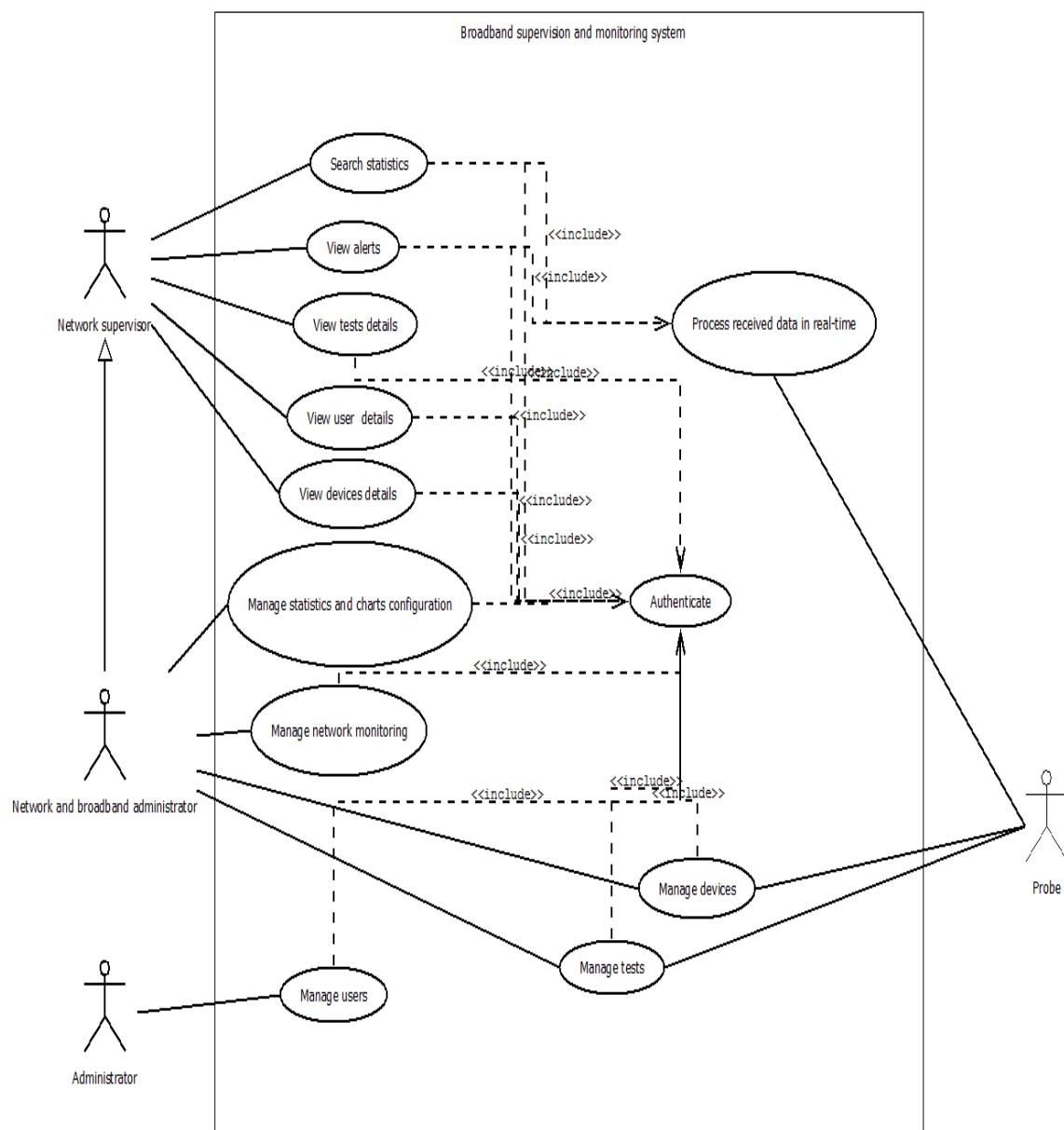


Figure 2.1: General use case diagram

As shown in the general use case diagram (fig.2.1), only the administrator can register all types of users. All the features of the application must go through authentication. The network and broadband supervisor is responsible for managing network monitoring, devices configuration, tests, and statistics configuration. Any configuration that concerns probes configuration will be sent to probes. Probes send their information and runs tests according to a job scheduler, then probes send tests results to the server, thus, our system process the received data in real-time. Finally our system is prepared to generate statistics and quality of service for the network supervisor.

2.5.1 Manage devices

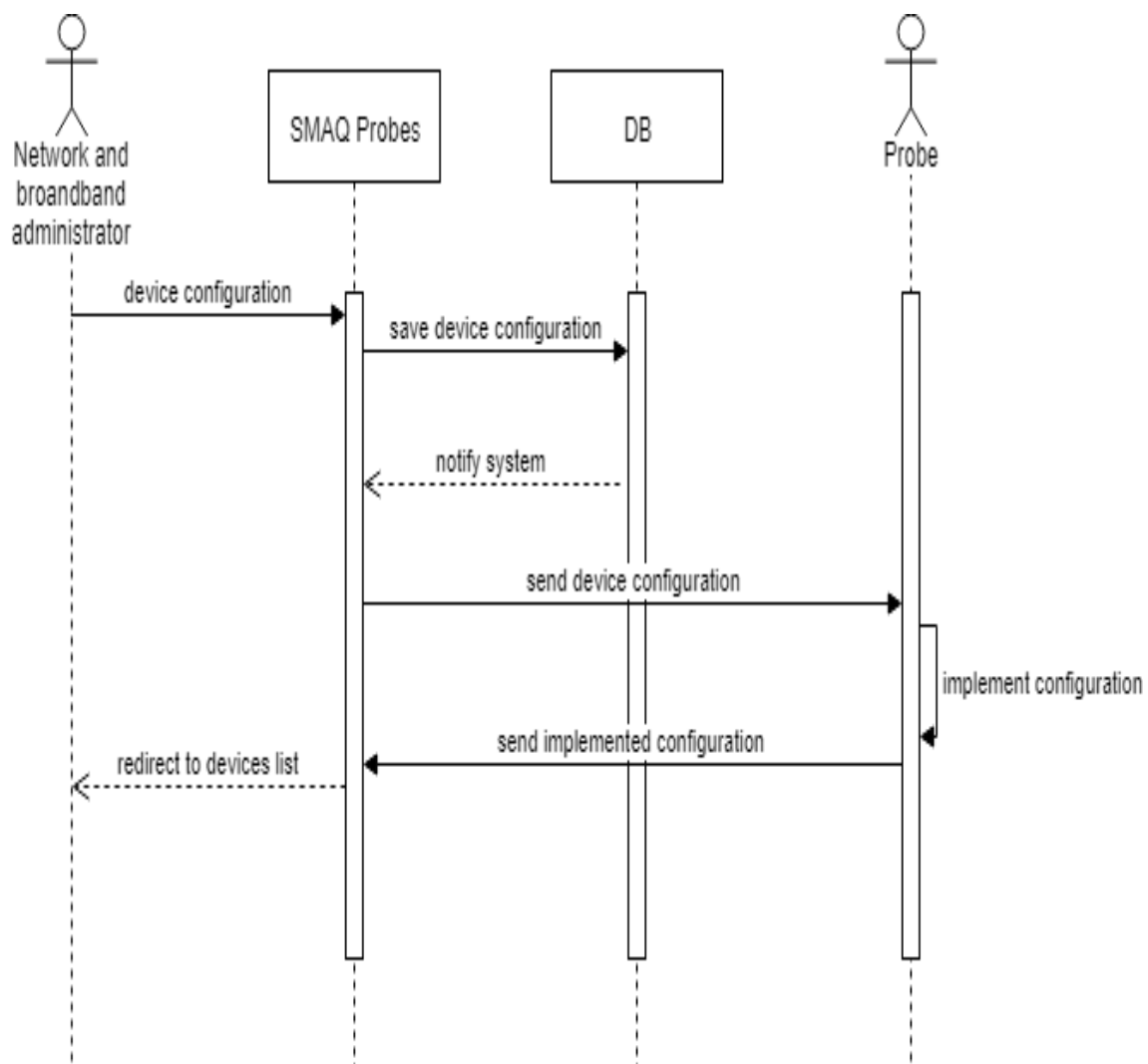


Figure 2.2: Devices management sequence diagram

Title	Device management
Author	Ismail MEKNI
Version	1.0
Objectives	Allow users to manage connected devices configuration
Actors	Network and broadband administrator – SMAQ Probes – Probe
Pre-conditions	The user should authenticate as network and broadband administrator. The device should be connected.
Post-conditions	New device configuration is persisted in the database. New device configuration is implemented in the probe.
Story	1. The user enters device new configuration (status, IP address, client name, job scheduling). 2. The user submits the changes.
Alternative story	
Exceptional story	The device in question is not connected; the configuration's message will be suspended waiting the device to reconnect.

Table 2.1: Device management description

As shown in the devices management sequence diagram (fig.2.2), the device management functionality is permitted to network and broadband administrators. User can access to the devices list. User can select a device to edit its configuration (IP address, location, registered client name, job scheduling), if user submits the new configuration, the configuration will be sent to the backend system to persist it to database. Also the configuration will be sent to the device in question, the probe, device, implements the changes. Finally, the probe sends back the implemented configurations to the system as a confirmation.

2.5.2 Manage tests

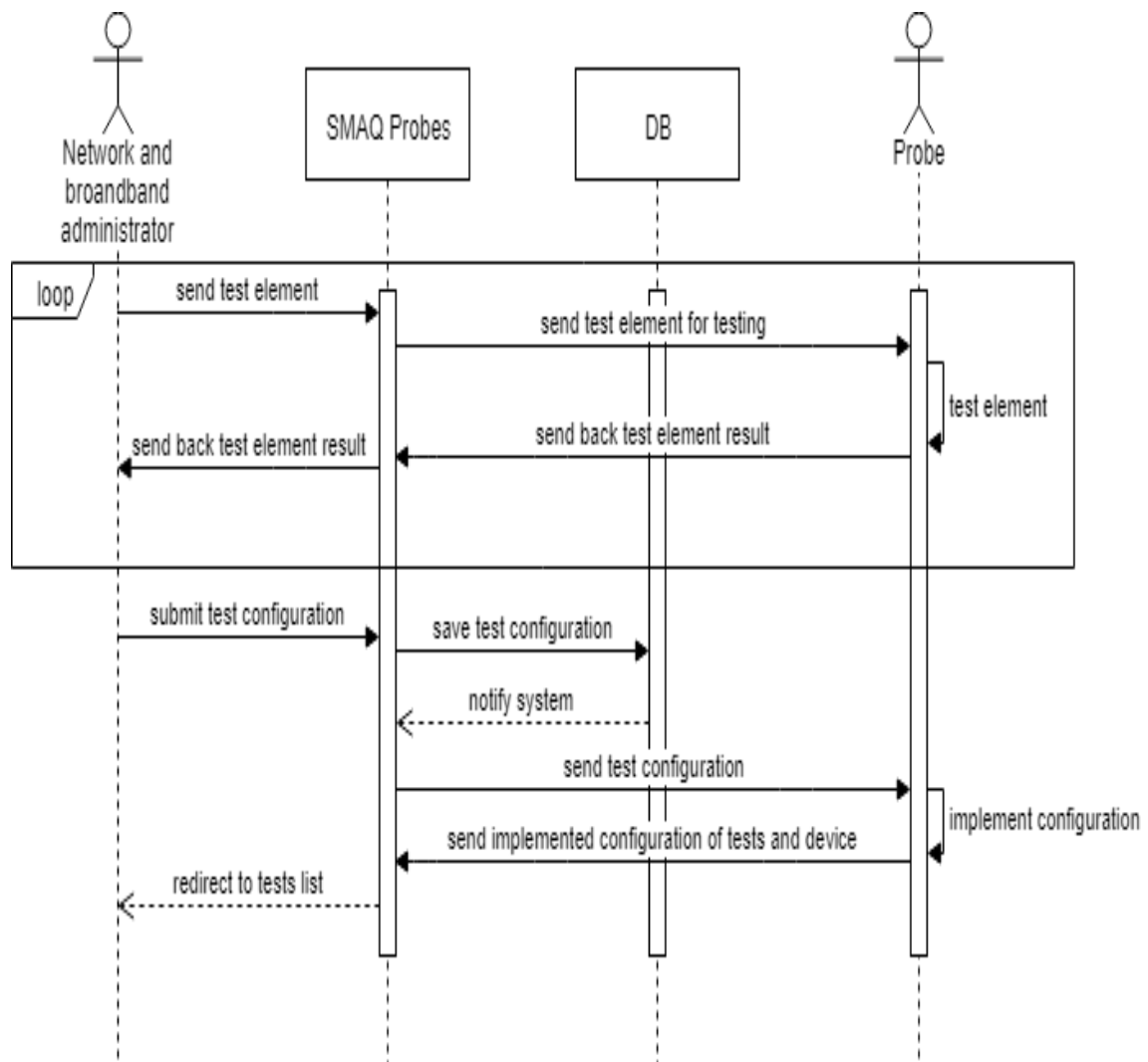


Figure 2.3: Tests management sequence diagram

Title	Tests management
Author	Ismail MEKNI
Version	1.0
Objectives	Allow users to manage tests configuration.
Actors	Network and broadband administrator – SMAQ Probes – Probe
Pre-conditions	The user should authenticate as network and broadband administrator. At least one device should be connected.
Post-conditions	New tests configuration is persisted in the database. New tests are running on the probes.
Story	1. The user tests each element directly on the device. 2. The user submits the test configuration with all elements.
Alternative story	
Exceptional story	There is no connected device, so user can't test elements, the operation will be suspended until at least one device reconnect.

Table 2.2: Test management description

As shown above in the diagram (fig.2.3), the access to the test configuration is granted to users with network and broadband administrator role. To edit test configuration, user should enter test elements, each element must be tested directly on the probe, device, and then test's element result will be sent back to the user. After creating and testing all the elements, a new test configuration will be sent to the backend system. The configuration is persisted to database. The new test configuration is sent to the probes, all the probes implement the new test configuration. Finally a signal messages is sent from all the probes holding the current configurations.

2.5.3 Manage network monitoring

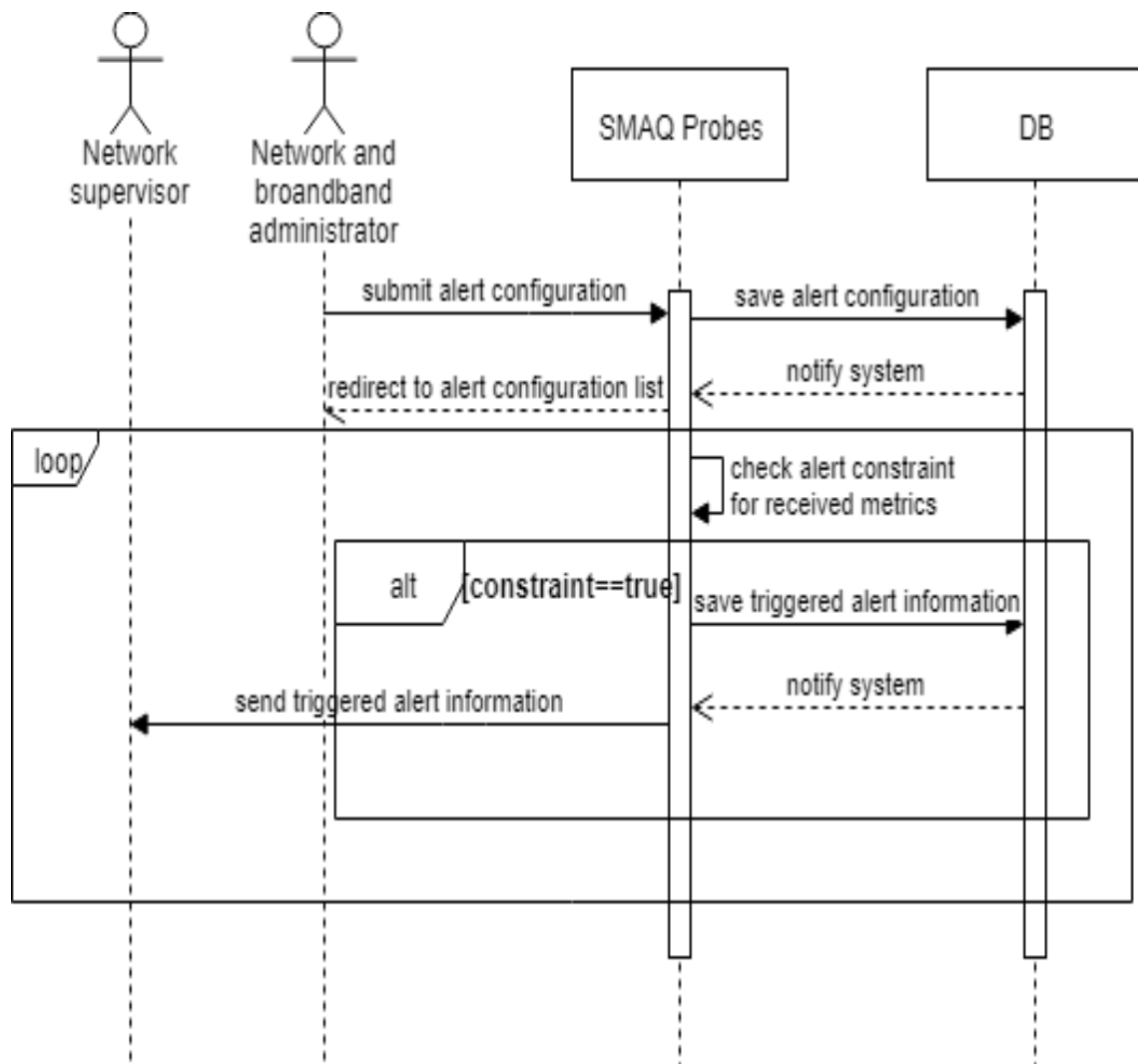


Figure 2.4: Network monitoring management sequence diagram

Title	Network monitoring management
Author	Ismail MEKNI
Version	1.0
Objectives	Allow users to manage network monitoring configuration, alerting system.
Actors	Network and broadband administrator – Network supervisor – SMAQ Probes
Pre-conditions	The user should authenticate as network and broadband administrator to access the network monitoring management. To view triggered alerts, the user should authenticate as a network supervisor.
Post-conditions	New alert configuration is persisted in the database. Alert listener is running on the received metrics.
Story	1. The user send alert configuration containing the constraint. 2. The network supervisor can view alerts if triggered.
Alternative story	
Exceptional story	

Table 2.3: Network monitoring management description

As shown in the diagram (fig.2.4), the user authenticates with network and broadband administrator. This feature aims to configure customized alerts. User creates alerts with a specific constraint. This configuration will be persisted to database. An alert checker will be run for every received metrics data, if the constraint is satisfied an alert with full description will be triggered. The triggered alerts are persisted to database so network supervisors can check them.

2.5.4 Manage statistics and charts configuration

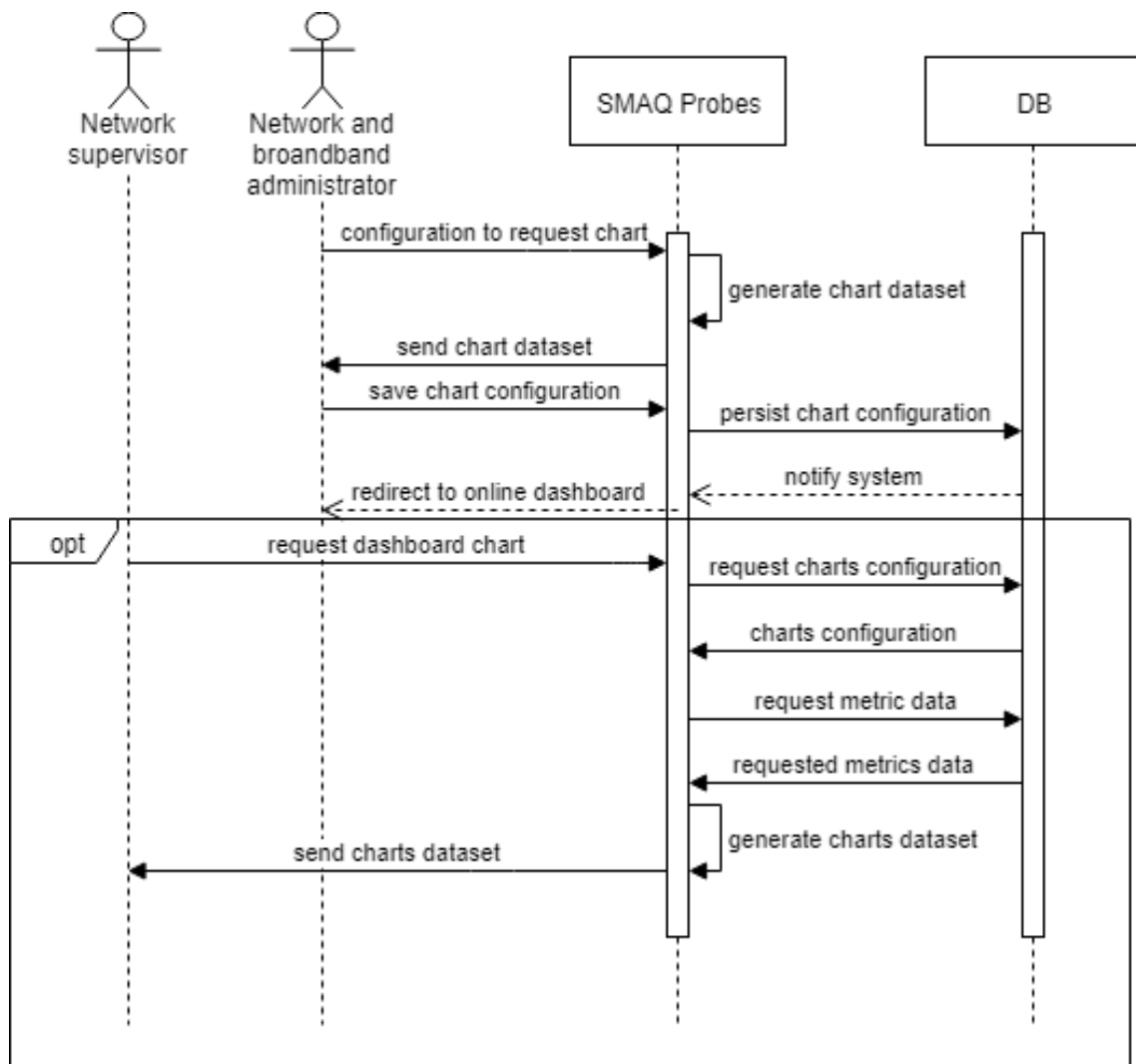


Figure 2.5: Charts management sequence diagram

Title	Charts and statistics management
Author	Ismail MEKNI
Version	1.0
Objectives	Allow users to manage charts configuration.
Actors	Network and broadband administrator – Network supervisor – SMAQ Probes
Pre-conditions	The user should authenticate as network and broadband administrator to access charts and statistics management. To view dashboard, the user should authenticate as a network supervisor.
Post-conditions	New chart configuration is persisted in the database. New chart is added to dashboard.
Story	1. The user send chart configuration, system generates chart dataset. 2. Chart displayed to user. 3. User submit chart configuration.
Alternative story	
Exceptional story	

Table 2.4: Charts management description

As we can see in the above sequence diagram (fig.2.5), to access to charts and statistics configuration, users should have network and broadband administrator privileges. User enters the chart parameters; our system generates the chart in question. User submits this configuration to be persisted and added to dashboard. Thus, users with network supervisor permission can see the configured charts on the dashboard. This feature aims to allow users to create customized charts and views.

2.5.5 Manage users

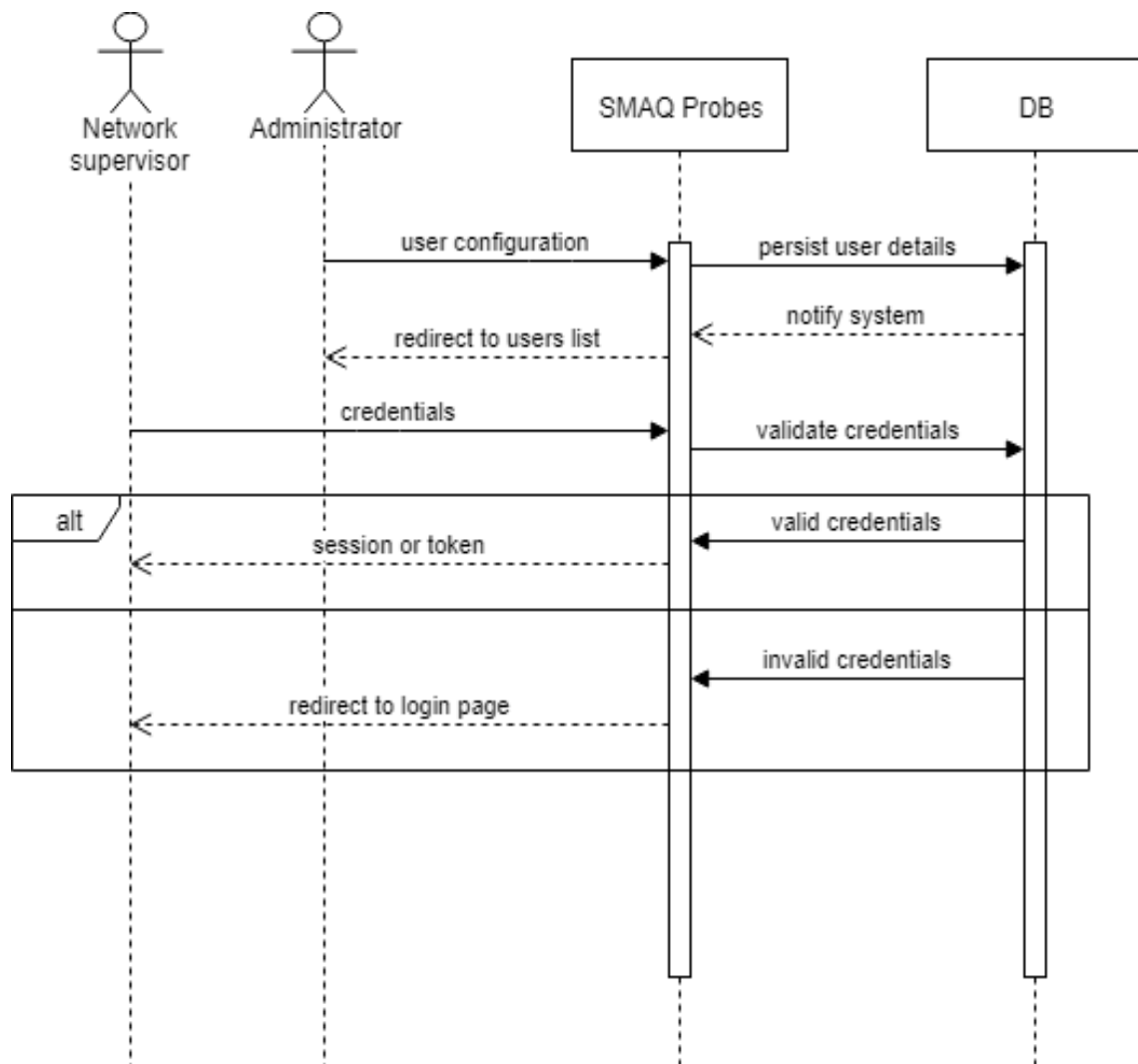


Figure 2.6: Users' management sequence diagram

Title	Users management
Author	Ismail MEKNI
Version	1.0
Objectives	Allow administrator to manage users' configuration and details.
Actors	Administrator – Network supervisor – SMAQ Probes
Pre-conditions	The user should authenticate as application administrator to access the users' management.
Post-conditions	User credential is persisted to database. User can authenticate.
Story	1. The administrator submit user configuration. 2. The user submits his credentials.
Alternative story	
Exceptional story	If the user enters invalid credentials, he will be prompted to try to login again.

Table 2.5: Users management description

As shown in the users' management sequence diagram (fig.2.6), the users' management feature is only allowed to the application administrator. The administrator enters the credentials of each user. Thus, user is now registered to the application and he can access to the application features according to his privileges. To sign in to the application, the user enters his credentials, generally a username and a password, if the credentials are valid, he will be redirected to the dashboard, and else he will be prompted to login again.

2.6 Conclusion

Throughout this chapter, we specified and analyzed the requirements that solution should deliver to users, and we presented the main scenarios and the use cases that it should offer.

The next chapter aims to go a step further in the process of developing the application via presenting the design of the different components of our system.

Design of the Physical and Logical Architectures

3.1 Introduction

In order to reach the appropriate result as described in the specifications, we need to clarify the project's main architecture as well as the architecture of its components. This chapter will focus on designing a suitable structure for the smart parking system. This step is considered as the most crucial of the process because it prepares the ground for the implementation phase.

3.2 Physical architecture

The architecture presented in (fig.3.1) is the physical architecture of our system. It represents the physical layout of our system and its components in a global diagram and it refers to some representations of the structure or organization of the physical elements that build the system.

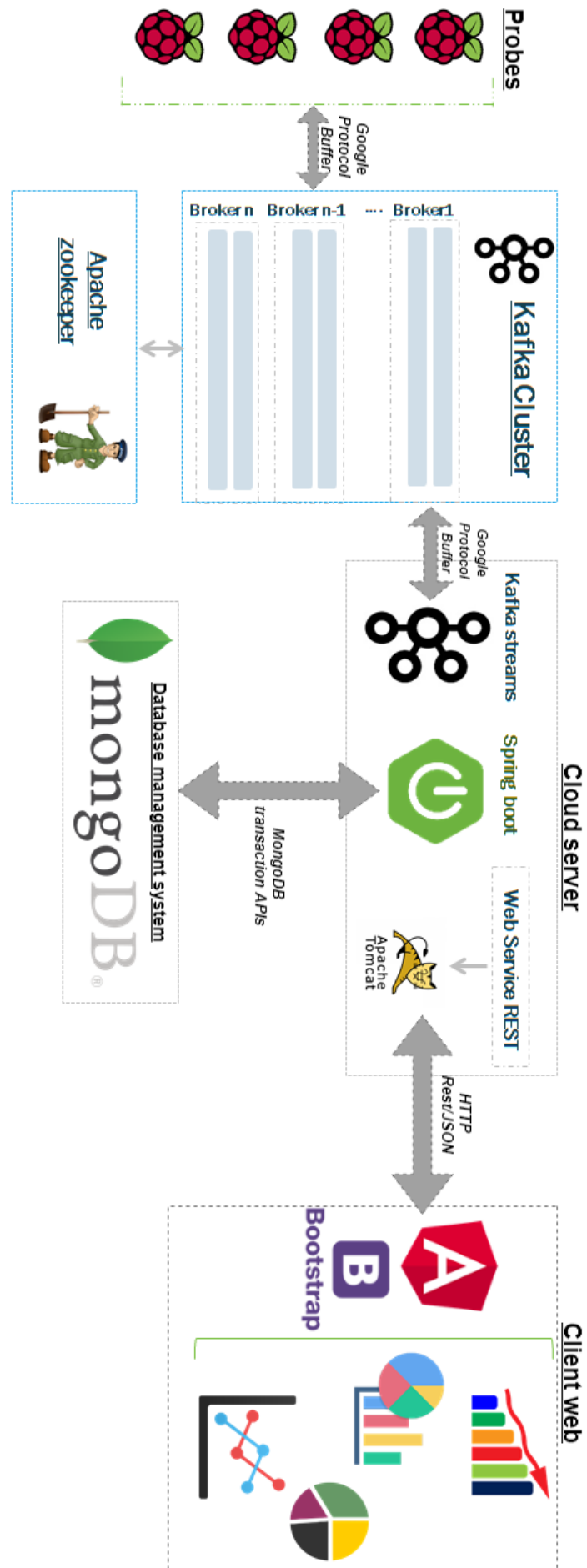


Figure 3.1: Physical Architecture of SMAQ Probes solution

This architecture describes the main components of the system and how they interact in order to achieve the objectives mentioned in the previous chapter.

The system is composed mainly from the following parts: the probes (Raspberry Pi boards), the user interface (web browser) and the cloud server including Kafka cluster, the database management system and our web application.

The probes represent the entity that executes the scheduled tests and sends the metrics to Kafka cluster through the Google protocol buffer.

The client web part represents the part with which the final users interacts and they are essentially: the Web platform accessible by the application users, application administrator, network supervisors and network and broadband administrators.

The third part, the cloud server, is where the application will be hosted, this part is responsible for receiving and processing data coming from Kafka cluster, also it is responsible for data analysis and configurations persistent to our database.

3.3 Logical architecture

3.3.1 Conceptual model

The (fig.3.2) shows the logical architecture of the system.

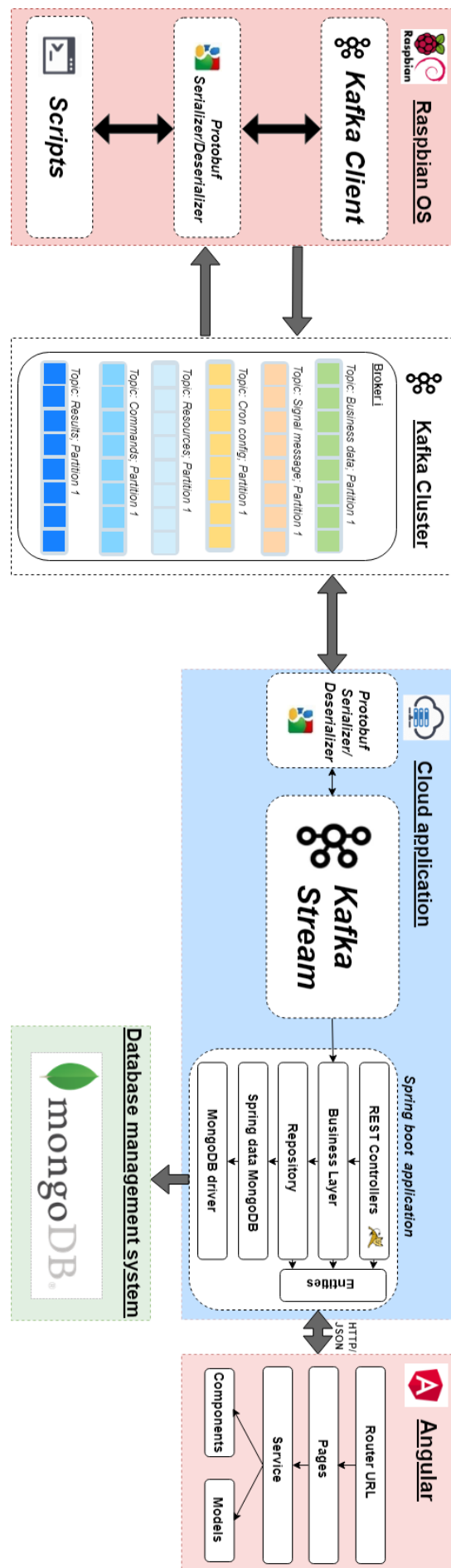


Figure 3.2: Logical architecture

According to the figure of the logical architecture, the system is composed from three major parts:

- **Probes:** this parts represents widespread devices, these devices are the entities that handles tests. There are several scripts responsible for running the tests with efficient schedules. All the messages are serialized with Google Protocol Buffer. There is a Kafka client responsible for publishing and receiving messages.
- **Cloud server:** this server is the entity that holds the application logic. It holds within him a Google Protocol Buffer converter. Kafka stream is the layer that process the received data in real-time with high performance. Spring Boot application is a three tiers web application, it is responsible for managing the features of our system including metrics analytics.
- **Angular:** this entity is the frontend application accessible to users across the Web.

The connection between the web application and the user interface is guaranteed through HTTP protocol and REST web services.

Kafka cluster is playing the role of a middleware between the probes and the back-end server.

Finally we have our database, we have chosen MongoDB as a database management system for performance reasons, and it is accessible only through the three tiers web application.

3.3.2 Modular decomposition

3.3.3 Broadband supervision and monitoring theory

3.4 Conclusion

Through this chapter, we described each part of the solution, its functionalities both separately and when coordinating with other parts of the system. We also explained subsequently the choice of our logical and physical architecture. Concerning the detailed design, we exhibited the class and sequence diagram. In the next chapter, we present and expose the technologies employed during the process of the creation of our product.

CHAPTER 4

Project Achievements**4.1 Introduction****4.2 Developing environment****4.2.1 Hardware environment****4.2.2 Software environment****4.2.3 Frameworks and technologies****4.3 Achieved work****4.3.1 Authentication and users management****4.3.2 Devices management****4.3.3 Metrics and tests management****4.3.4 Statistics and dashboard management****4.3.5 Alerts management****4.4 Conclusion**

CHAPTER 5

General Conclusion and Future Work

Bibliography

Appendix