SoftwareControlledDrone Project

Projects website: https://github.com/Libs1/SoftwareControlledDrone.github.io

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Proposal

Proposal for the Software Controlled Drone Project

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Executive Summary

As a student in the Computer Engineering Technology program, I will be integrating the knowledge and skills I have learned from our program into this Internet of Things themed capstone project. This proposal requests the approval to build the hardware portion that will connect to a database as well as to a mobile device application. The internet connected hardware will include a custom PCB with sensors and actuators for controlling a drone. The database will store information on flight control. The mobile device functionality will include software support for controlling the flight of the drone and will be further detailed in the mobile application proposal. I will be collaborating with the following company/department Future Humber Quadcopter Swarm. In the winter semester I plan to form a group with Kevin Libdan, who is also building similar hardware this term and working on the mobile application with me. The hardware will be completed in CENG 317 Hardware Production Techniques independently and the application will be completed in CENG 319 Software Project. These will be integrated together in the subsequent term in CENG 355 Computer Systems Project as a member of a 2 or 3 student group.

Background

The problem solved by project is to control a drone remotely with an application built for android devices. The problem is to recognize the radio signal used to communicate with the drone and make the android application to send proper flight instructions to the drone.

Drone technology is fairly new and it's becoming popular day by day. It has become popular enough so that an organization like Amazon is testing product delivery by drone. But controlling manual or automated flight path of drones is difficult and requires dedicated controllers. Controllers can sometimes be more expensive or non-intuitive to use. In this situation widely popular can make the task more fun, intuitive and widely accessible. Android applications are easily obtainable and can have very intuitive user interface. In addition android devices are ubiquitous. So having proper android application for controlling the drones has very high potential to make drones more popular and user friendly.

I have searched for prior art via Humber's IEEE subscription selecting "My Subscribed Content"[1] and have found and read [2] which provides insight into similar efforts.

The first article discusses how UAVS have been getting a lot of attention due to its low cost of implementation and how an AR drone is being controlled by a motion capture system to follow a moving target. (Gomes, Leal, Oliveira, Cunha, & Revoredo, 2016)

The second article discusses how to collect input information for the controller used for the AR drone. (Barták, Hraško, & Obdržálek, 2014)

The third article discusses estimating UAV systems total ownership cost including hardware components, software design, and operations. (Malone, Apgar, Stukes, & Sterk, 2013)

In the Computer Engineering Technology program we have learned about the following topics from the respective relevant courses:

- Java Docs from CENG 212 Programming Techniques In Java,

- Construction of circuits from CENG 215 Digital And Interfacing Systems,

- Rapid application development and Gantt charts from CENG 216 Intro to Software Engineering,

- Micro computing from CENG 252 Embedded Systems,

- SQL from CENG 254 Database With Java,

- Web access of databases from CENG 256 Internet Scripting; and,

- Wireless protocols such as 802.11 from TECH152 Telecom Networks.

This knowledge and skill set will enable me to build the subsystems and integrate them together as my capstone project.

Methodology

This proposal is assigned in the first week of class and is due at the beginning of class in the second week of the fall semester. My coursework will focus on the first two of the 3 phases of this project:
Phase 1 Hardware build.
Phase 2 System integration.
Phase 3 Demonstration to future employers.

Phase 1 Hardware build

The hardware build will be completed in the fall term. It will fit within the CENG Project maximum dimensions of 12 13/16" x 6" x 2 7/8" (32.5cm x 15.25cm x 7.25cm) which represents the space below the tray in the parts kit. The highest AC voltage that will be used is 16Vrms from a wall adaptor from which +/- 15V or as high as 45 VDC can be obtained. Maximum power consumption will be 20 Watts.

Phase 2 System integration

The system integration will be completed in the fall term.

Phase 3 Demonstration to future employers

This project will showcase the knowledge and skills that I have learned to potential employers.

The tables below provide rough effort and non-labour estimates respectively for each phase. A Gantt chart will be added by week 3 to provide more project schedule details and a more complete budget will be added by week 4. It is important to start tasks as soon as possible to be able to meet deadlines.

Labour Estimates	Hrs	Notes
Phase 1		
Writing proposal.	9	Tech identification quiz.
Creating project schedule. Initial project team meeting.	9	Proposal due.
Creating budget. Status Meeting.	9	Project Schedule due.
Acquiring components and writing progress report.	9	Budget due.
Mechanical assembly and writing progress report. Status Meeting.	9	Progress Report due (components acquired milestone).
PCB fabrication.	9	Progress Report due (Mechanical Assembly milestone).
Interface wiring, Placard design, Status Meeting.	9	PCB Due (power up milestone).
Preparing for demonstration.	9	Placard due.
Writing progress report and demonstrating project.	9	Progress Report due (Demonstrations at Open House Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.).
Editing build video.	9	Peer grading of demonstrations due.

Task	Hours	Notes
Incorporation of feedback from demonstration and writing progress report. Status Meeting.	9	30 second build video due.
Practice presentations	9	Progress Report due.
1st round of Presentations, Collaborators present.	9	Presentation PowerPoint file due.
2nd round of Presentations	9	Build instructions up due.
Project videos, Status Meeting.	9	30 second script due.
Phase 1 Total	**135**	
Phase 2		
Meet with collaborators	9	Status Meeting
Initial integration.	9	Progress Report
Meet with collaborators	9	Status Meeting
Testing.	9	Progress Report
Meet with collaborators	9	Status Meeting
Meet with collaborators	9	Status Meeting
Incorporation of feedback.	9	Progress Report
Meet with collaborators	9	Status Meeting
Testing.	9	Progress Report
Meet with collaborators	9	Status Meeting
Prepare for demonstration.	9	Progress Report
Complete presentation.	9	Demonstration at Open House Saturday, April 9, 2016 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Complete final report. 1st round of Presentations.	9	Presentation PowerPoint file due.
Write video script. 2nd round of Presentations, delivery of project.	9	Final written report including final budget and record of expenditures, covering both this semester and the previous semester.
Project videos.	9	Video script due
Phase 2 Total	**135**	
Phase 3		
Interviews	TBD	
Phase 3 Total	**TBD**	

Material Estimates	Cost	Notes
Phase 1		
A microcomputer composed of a quad-core Windows 10 IoT core compatible Broadcom BCM2836 SoC with a 900MHz Application ARM Cortex-A7 32 bit RISC v7-A processor core stacked under 1GB of 450MHz SDRAM, 10/100 Mbit/s Ethernet, GPIO, UART, I²C bus, SPI bus, 8 GB of Secure Digital storage, a power supply, and a USB Wi-Fi adaptor.	>$80.00	An example of a retailer: [3].
Peripherals with cables		
Sensors		
Actuators		
Hardware, etc.		
Phase 1 Total	**>$200.00**	
Phase 2		
Materials to improve functionality, fit, and finish of project.		
Phase 2 Total	**TBD**	
Phase 3		
Off campus colocation	<$100.00	An example: [4].
Shipping	*TBD*	

Tax	*TBD*
Duty	*TBD*
Phase 3 Total	**TBD**

Concluding remarks

This proposal presents a plan for providing an IoT solution for *Future Humber Quadcopter Swarm*. This is an opportunity to integrate the knowledge and skills developed in our program to create a collaborative IoT capstone project demonstrating my ability to learn how to support projects such as the initiative described by [3]. I request approval of this project.

References

Barták, R., Hraško, A., & Obdržálek, D. (2014). A controller for autonomous landing of aR.Drone. In *The 26th chinese control and decision conference (2014 cCDC)* (pp. 329–334). https://doi.org/10.1109/CCDC.2014.6852167

Gomes, L. L., Leal, L. P., Oliveira, T. R., Cunha, J. P. V. S. da, & Revoredo, T. C. (2016). Unmanned quadcopter control using a motion capture system. *IEEE Latin America Transactions*, *14*(8), 3606–3613. https://doi.org/10.1109/TLA.2016.7786340

Malone, P., Apgar, H., Stukes, S., & Sterk, S. (2013). Unmanned aerial vehicles unique cost estimating requirements. In *2013 iEEE aerospace conference* (pp. 1–8). https://doi.org/10.1109/AERO.2013.6496852