

Software Requirements Specification for Audio360

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October 9, 2025

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Revision History

Date	Version	Notes
2025-10-06	1.0	Initial Write-up

1 Goal

1.1 G.1 Context and overall objective

With around 4 million Canadians affected by hearing loss [1], there is a significant need for assistive technologies that can improve situational awareness and safety. Many safety cues and general sound alerts such as the sound of a car approaching, a kettle whistling, or a phone ringing may be missed, leading to increased risk of injury and miscommunication. Many existing solutions focus on speech transcription, but lack the ability to provide directional information about sound sources or classify non-speech sounds. This project aims to address this gap by developing an assistive device that provides real-time visual indications of sound source locations and classifications.

The objective of this project is to develop an assistive device that aids individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing real-time visual indications of sound source locations and classifications (ex. 'car on your left').

Some of the high-level goals of the project are:

Goal 1. Capture real-time audio data from a [microphone array](#) with synchronized sampling to enable accurate situational analysis of sound sources.

Goal 2. Analyze captured audio to determine the direction of arrival (DoA) of sound sources with minimal error and with minimal latency nearing real-time.

Goal 3. Analyze captured audio to classify the sound sources with their English label (ex. 'car', 'phone', 'kettle', 'alarm', 'speech').

Goal 4. Display audio classification and transcription on smart glasses in real-time without obstructing the user's field of view.

Goal 5. Provide a user-friendly interaction with the smart glasses, allowing the user to easily set up, use, and understand visual indicators.

Goal 6. Ensure that the system is comfortable to wear for extended periods of time, with minimal discomfort or fatigue.

1.2 G.2 Current situation

Currently, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing face significant challenges in maintaining situational awareness due to missed audio cues. Existing assistive technologies address some aspects of this problem, but leave critical gaps:

- **Smart glasses with transcription capabilities:** Some devices can listen to live human audio and transcribe it to text (multilingual) in real-time, displaying the transcript on a smartphone display. However, these solutions focus solely on speech transcription and do not provide directional information about sound sources or classify non-speech sounds.

- **Hearing aids:** Traditional hearing aids amplify ambient sounds to improve awareness of audio sources at various volumes [2]. While this helps individuals with partial hearing loss, it does not assist those who are profoundly deaf, nor does it provide visual cues about sound direction or classification.
- **Notification systems:** Some home automation systems can send visual alerts (e.g., flashing lights) when specific sounds are detected, such as doorbells or smoke alarms. However, these systems are limited to fixed locations and predetermined sound types, lacking portability and real-time directional awareness.

The current solutions fail to address the critical need for real-time, portable, directional awareness of environmental sounds, leaving individuals vulnerable to missing important safety cues such as approaching vehicles, warning beeps from machinery, or emergency alerts.

1.3 G.3 Expected benefits

The proposed system will deliver significant improvements to the daily lives and safety of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing:

- **Real-time spatial awareness:** Enable identification of sound source locations on a 2D plane in real-time, allowing users to quickly orient themselves toward important sounds such as someone calling their name, an approaching vehicle, or an emergency alarm.
- **Enhanced safety:** Reduce the risk of injury by alerting users to critical safety cues that are typically communicated through sound, such as warning beeps from forklifts, tea kettles whistling, car engines or emergency sirens (from emergency vehicles) approaching from behind.
- **Improved situational awareness:** Provide continuous awareness of the acoustic environment without requiring the user to constantly scan their surroundings, reducing cognitive load and enabling more natural interactions with their environment.
- **Sound classification:** Differentiate between various types of sounds (e.g., speech, alarms, vehicles, household appliances) to help users prioritize their attention and responses appropriately.
- **Reduced frustration and miscommunication:** Minimize instances of missed phone calls, doorbell rings, or verbal attempts to gain the user’s attention, leading to smoother social interactions and reduced social isolation.
- **Portable and wearable solution:** Unlike fixed home automation systems, the smart glasses form factor provides continuous protection and awareness regardless of location, whether at home, work, or in public spaces.

- **Independence and confidence:** Empower users to navigate their environment more independently without relying on others to alert them to important sounds, fostering greater autonomy in daily activities.

1.4 G.4 Functionality overview

The system will provide the following principal functions:

- **Real-time audio capture:** Continuously capture audio signals from a synchronized microphone array mounted on smart glasses, ensuring precise temporal alignment for accurate spatial analysis.
- **Direction of arrival (DoA) estimation:** Process captured audio to determine the angular direction of sound sources on a 2D plane relative to the user's position, with a target accuracy of $\pm 45^\circ$ for single sound sources.
- **Sound source classification:** Analyze audio characteristics to classify detected sounds into meaningful categories (e.g., speech, vehicle sounds, alarms, household appliances) using audio fingerprinting techniques, with a target accuracy of at least 90%.
- **Visual feedback generation:** Generate intuitive visual representations of detected sound sources, including their direction and classification, displayed on the smart glasses interface with minimal latency (≤ 1 second).
- **Multi-source handling:** Detect and track multiple simultaneous sound sources when feasible, prioritizing the most relevant or critical sounds based on classification and proximity.
- **Real-time processing:** Execute all signal processing, direction estimation and classification algorithms real-time, with consistent performance and low latency.
- **Noise cancellation or audio filtering:** The system will modify or filter the actual sounds in the environment based on direction of arrival in order to improve directional hearing. This would help improve the quality of the transcriptions provided by the system.

1.5 G.5 High-level usage scenarios

The following scenarios illustrate fundamental usage paths through the system:

1.5.1 Scenario 1: Pedestrian crossing detection

A user is walking in an urban environment and approaches a street intersection. As they prepare to cross, a car approaches from their left side. The system detects the engine sound, estimates its direction (e.g., 90° to the left), classifies it as a vehicle, and displays a visual

indicator on the smart glasses showing the direction and classification. The user recognizes the alert and waits for the vehicle to pass before crossing safely.

1.5.2 Scenario 2: Kitchen safety alert

A user is cooking in their kitchen when a tea kettle on the stove begins to whistle. The system captures the high-pitched sound through the microphone array, determines that it is coming from behind and to the right (e.g., 135°), classifies it as a kettle or alarm sound, and displays a directional indicator. The user turns toward the alert and removes the kettle from heat, preventing a potential hazard.

1.5.3 Scenario 3: Social interaction

A user is in a crowded room when someone calls their name from across the space. The system detects the speech sound, estimates the direction (e.g., 30° to the right), classifies it as speech or a human voice, and displays the information on the glasses. The user turns in the indicated direction to make eye contact and engage in conversation, reducing social friction and missed interactions.

1.5.4 Scenario 4: Workplace awareness

A user is working in an industrial setting when a forklift begins reversing nearby, emitting a warning beep. The system detects the beeping pattern, determines its direction (e.g., directly behind at 180°), classifies it as a warning signal, and alerts the user with a prominent visual indicator. The user steps aside to maintain a safe distance from the moving equipment.

1.6 G.6 Limitations and exclusions

The following aspects are explicitly outside the scope of this project:

- **Autonomous danger assessment:** The system will not independently evaluate whether a detected sound represents an immediate danger or automatically alert the user of hazardous situations. It will present directional and classification information, leaving interpretation and response decisions to the user.
- **Augmented reality overlay:** The system will not provide full augmented reality capabilities with spatial overlays showing sound locations directly mapped onto the user's field of view. Visual feedback will be presented through a simpler display interface on the smart glasses.
- **User response monitoring:** The system will not track whether the user has noticed, acknowledged, or responded to presented alerts. There is no feedback loop to ensure user reaction or to escalate notifications.

- **Multilingual speech transcription:** Audio transcription functionality, if implemented, will be limited to English only. Support for other languages is not included in the current scope.
- **3D spatial localization:** Direction estimation will be constrained to a 2D horizontal plane around the user. Elevation angle determination (above or below the user’s head level) is excluded from the core functionality.
- **Sound source distance estimation:** While direction will be provided, the system will not attempt to estimate the absolute distance to sound sources.
- **Continuous recording or data storage:** The system will not record or store audio data beyond what is necessary for real-time processing. No historical logs of detected sounds will be maintained.
- **Network connectivity:** All processing will occur locally on the embedded hardware. The system will not require internet connectivity or cloud-based services for core functionality.

1.7 G.7 Stakeholders and requirements sources

1.7.1 Primary stakeholders

- **Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing:** The primary end-users of the system, who will directly benefit from improved situational awareness and safety. This group is quite large in population, with approximately 4 million people who experience hearing loss in Canada alone (1 in 10). The McMaster Sign Language club is a group at McMaster University that falls in this stakeholder group.

1.7.2 Secondary stakeholders

- **Family members and caregivers:** Individuals who support people with hearing loss and will benefit from improved communication and reduced safety concerns.
- **Employers and workplace safety officers:** Organizations that employ individuals with hearing loss and are responsible for maintaining safe working environments.
- **Accessibility advocates and organizations:** Groups focused on improving quality of life and independence for individuals with disabilities.
- **Healthcare providers and audiologists:** Professionals who may recommend or integrate such assistive technologies into patient care plans.
- **Future developers and researchers:** The broader engineering and scientific community who may build upon this work or apply similar techniques to related problems.

1.7.3 Requirements sources

- **Academic literature:** Research on hearing loss impact, assistive technologies, direction of arrival algorithms, and audio classification techniques.
- **Domain experts:** Consultation with domain experts, such as Dr. Mohrenschildt, for technical feasibility and requirements validation.
- **Existing assistive technologies:** Analysis of current solutions such as hearing aids, transcription glasses, and home alert systems to identify gaps and opportunities.
- **Hardware and software documentation:** Technical specifications for microcontroller, source code libraries, smart glasses hardware, and microphone array components.
- **Standards and best practices:** IEEE standards for embedded systems, accessibility guidelines, and real-time system design principles.
- **Proof of concept testing:** Empirical results from prototyping and laboratory testing to validate technical approaches and refine requirements.

2 Environment

2.1 E.1 Glossary

- **Microphone Array:** A collection of microphones that are synchronized to capture audio from the environment to create a single multi-channel audio signal.
- **Microcontroller:** Compact embedded hardware system with a CPU, memory, input/output peripherals, designed to process real-time data directly on the device.
- **Microphone:** Input sensor to a device that converts audio soundwaves to digital bytestream.
- **Normal Operating Condition:** The state in which the system, including hardware and software, operate within expected environmental and usage parameters. This includes audio input sampled at the correct sample rate, input audio signals are within the human audible range (20 Hz – 20 kHz) [3], and audio input levels below 90 dB.
- **Spectral Leakage:** The spreading of a signal's energy across multiple frequency bins in a frequency spectrum due to finite time windowing. Essentially, noise that is caused by sharp signal cutting when processing audio signals as windows.

2.2 E.2 Components

[List of elements of the environment that may affect or be affected by the system and project. Includes other systems to which the system must be interfaced. —SS]

2.3 E.3 Constraints

[Obligations and limits imposed on the project and system by the environment. —SS]

2.4 E.4 Assumptions

[Properties of the environment that may be assumed, with the goal of facilitating the project and simplifying the system. —SS]

2.5 E.5 Effects

[Elements and properties of the environment that the system will affect. —SS]

2.6 E.6 Invariants

[Properties of the environment that the system's operation must preserve. —SS]

3 System

3.1 S.1 Components

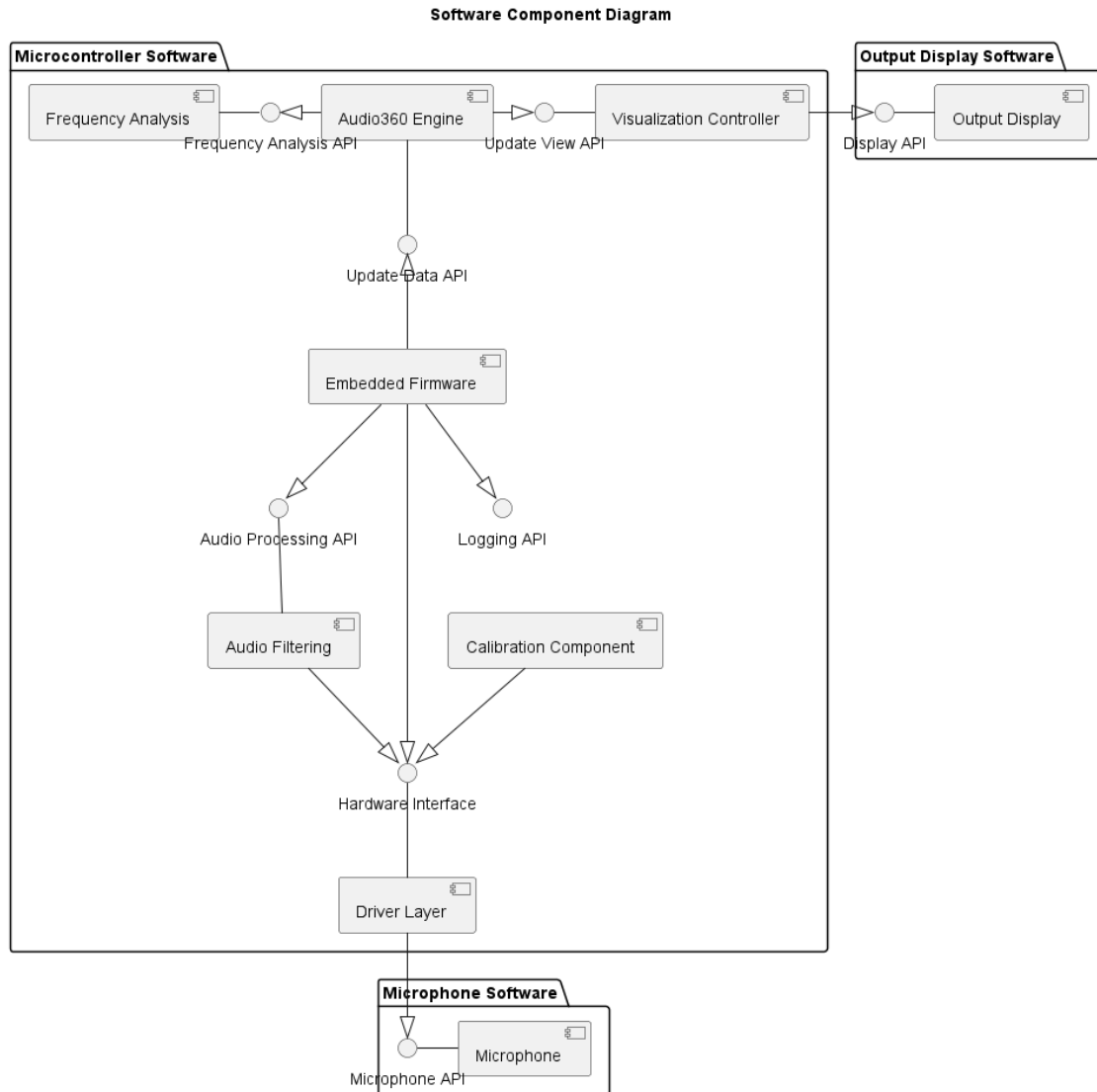


Figure 1: Software component diagram.

3.1.1 Software Components

- **Embedded Firmware:** Main component responsible for managing all embedded software on the Microcontroller.
- **Driver Layer:** Component responsible for providing drivers on the microcontroller. It provides interfaces for high level applications to interact with hardware components

external to the microcontroller

- **Audio Filtering:** Component responsible for processing raw audio signals in real-time sent by the microphones.
- **Calibration Component:** Component for calibrating hardware including microphones and output display.
- **Audio360 Engine:** Main component responsible for running Audio360 features. It serves as the primary interface and controller for the Audio360 system. The component is designed to be hardware agnostic, allowing seamless integration with any firmware running on other hardware.
- **Frequency Analysis:** Component responsible for analyzing properties of processed frequency signals. Sub components of this includes audio classification and direction of arrival estimation.
- **Visualization Controller:** Component responsible for creating and sending visualization output to the [output display](#).

3.1.2 Hardware Components

- **Microphone:** Component responsible for collecting audio signals from the environment.
- **Output display:** Component responsible for displaying visuals to the user.
- **Microcontroller:** Component responsible for executing the main software and interfacing with input and output peripheral devices.

3.2 S.2 Functionality

3.2.1 [Embedded Firmware](#)

Functional Requirements

- **FR1.1:** The firmware shall schedule tasks based on its priority.
- **FR1.2:** The firmware shall process and synchronize audio signals from all microphones connected to the microcontroller.
- **FR1.3:** The firmware shall handle memory errors to prevent the microcontroller from crashing.
- **FR1.4:** The system shall perform continuous diagnostics on all hardware components to monitor hardware errors in real-time. This ensures the system can react to failures as soon as they occur.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR1.1:** The firmware shall process audio signals in real-time with monotonic frame sequences. Earliest frames shall have higher priority.
- **NFR1.2:** The firmware shall operate faster than the connected microphone sample rate 44100 Hz, referring to [NFR7.1](#).

3.2.2 Driver Layer

Functional Requirements

- **FR2.1:** The driver layer shall provide an interface for higher level software to interact with the hardware on the microcontroller.
- **FR2.2:** The driver layer shall process hardware interface requests based on system permissions of the requester.
- **FR2.3:** The driver layer shall return error codes upon return to higher-level software to support error handling.
- **FR2.4:** The driver shall maintain data integrity on memory slots that is actively being used.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR2.1:** The driver shall immediately propagate any errors to the firmware layer for proper error handling.

3.2.3 Audio Filtering

Functional Requirements

- **FR3.1:** The audio filtering component shall convert digital audio waveform to frequency domain.
- **FR3.2:** The audio filtering component shall normalize the amplitude of incoming and outgoing signals.
- **FR3.3:** The audio filtering component shall filter incoming audio signals to reduce frequency [spectral leakage](#).
- **FR3.4:** The audio filtering component shall use available hardware acceleration method for efficient computations.
- **FR3.5:** The audio filtering component shall detect and flag audio anomalies such as clipping, lost signal and silence. This enables identification of microphone or signal path faults.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR3.1:** The audio filtering component shall represent audio signals in the frequency domain with less than 10% error from the true value.
- **NFR3.2:** The audio filtering component shall be scalable to handle different input signal sizes without missing timing constraints defined in [NFR1.2](#) for input signal size up to 4096 frames.
- **NFR3.3:** The audio filtering component shall have an audio processing success rate end to end of at least 90% over 60 seconds.

3.2.4 [Audio360 Engine](#)

Functional Requirements

- **FR4.1:** The Audio360 Engine shall retrieve data, such as frequency domain and errors, from the microcontroller via the driver layer for further processing.
- **FR4.2:** The Audio360 Engine shall notify dependent components when new frequency data is available. The latest data shall always be used.
- **FR4.3:** The Audio360 Engine shall control the flow of processed audio data from audio frequency analysis to visualization.
- **FR4.4:** The Audio360 Engine shall disable audio classification and directional analysis features until microphone faults addressed in [FR3.5](#) are resolved. This prevents the generation of unreliable or unsafe outputs.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR4.1:** The Audio360 Engine shall poll data without conflicting with ongoing microcontroller memory writes, ensuring no data loss.
- **NFR4.2:** The Audio360 Engine shall retrieve frequency data within the timing constraints of the embedded firmware defined in [NFR1.2](#).
- **NFR4.3:** The Audio360 Engine shall permanently discard microphone audio data immediately after completion of audio analysis.

3.2.5 [Frequency Analysis](#)

Functional Requirements

- **FR5.1:** The frequency analysis component shall classify sound sources based on features extracted from the frequency domain representation of the audio input signal.

- **FR5.2:** The frequency analysis component shall estimate the direction of arrival of the audio source using frequency domain representation of the audio input signal.
- **FR5.3:** The frequency analysis component shall represent the direction of arrival as an angle (θ) in radians. θ is measured relative to the forward axis of the glasses frame to the sound source, Figure 2.
- **FR5.4:** The frequency analysis component shall notify users when a sound classification result has low confidence or is unrecognized to prevent misleading contextual feedback.

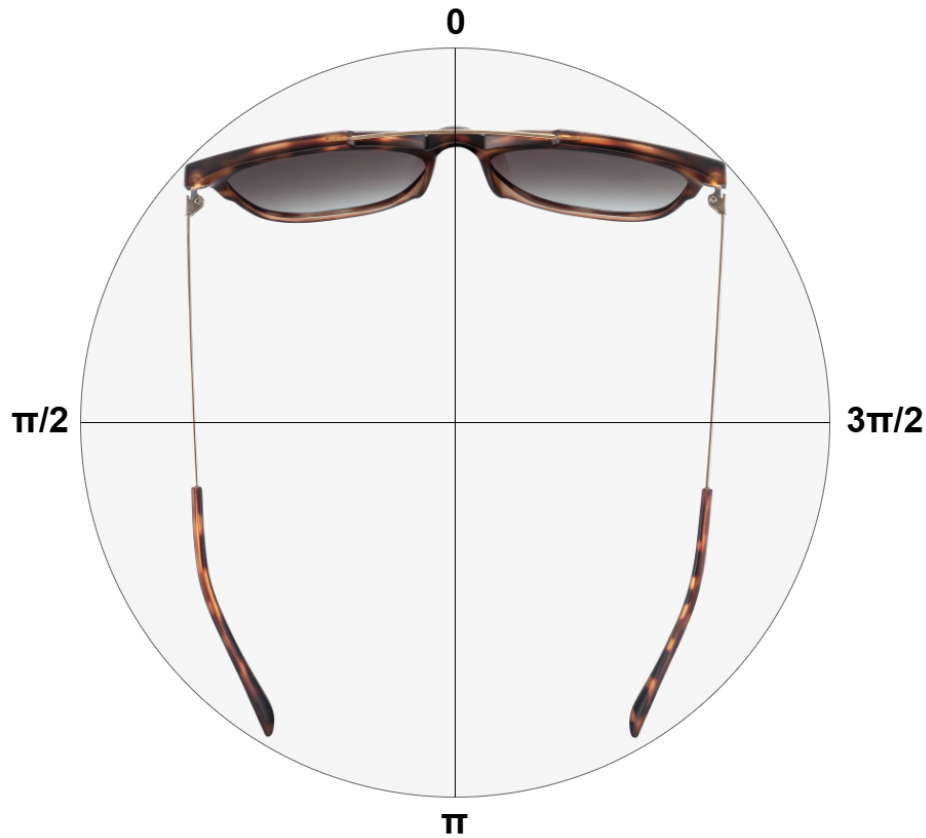


Figure 2: Coordinate System.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR5.1:** The frequency analysis shall classify atleast 3 distinct sound sources relevant to people who are hard of hearing.
- **NFR5.2:** The frequency analysis component shall achieve a minimum classification accuracy of 90% under [normal operating conditions](#).

- **NFR5.3:** The component shall estimate the direction of arrival of an audio source with a maximum error of 0.78 rad. This ensures reliable directional awareness for the user.

3.2.6 Visualization Controller

Functional Requirements

- **FR6.1:** The visualization controller component shall notify users of the direction of an audio source whenever it is detected by the system.
- **FR6.2:** The visualization controller component shall alert users when the core safety features such as direction determination or classification fail. This ensures that users are aware of degraded safety functions.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR6.1:** The visualization controller component shall prioritize to display the most safety-critical information at the time because display space is limited.
- **NFR6.2:** The visualization controller component shall present information in a non-intrusive manner, minimizing visual obstruction so users can safely perform external activities.

3.2.7 Microphone

Functional Requirements

- **FR7.1:** The microphone shall collect soundwaves from its environment and translate to digital representation.
- **FR7.2:** The microphone shall collect soundwaves with the human audible range (20 Hz - 20 kHz) [3].

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR7.1:** The microphone shall collect soundwaves at 44100 Hz. According to Nyquist's theorem, audio sampling should be greater than two times the highest frequency to avoid aliasing [4]. The maximum frequency audible to humans is approximately 20 kHz. [3].

3.2.8 Output Display

Functional Requirements

- **FR8.1:** The output display shall notify users of the classified sound source.
- **FR8.2:** The output display shall notify users of the direction of the sound source.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR8.1:** The output display shall operate at a minimum of 30 display updates per second to ensure low latency and provide information to the user without perceptible delay.

3.2.9 Microcontroller

Functional Requirements

- **FR9.1:** The microcontroller shall run the main Audio360 software in a closed environment. No external devices other than the microphones and output display shall be able to connect to it. This ensures protection against unauthorized access.

Non-Functional Requirements

- **NFR9.1:** The microcontroller shall have a clock speed of at least 100 MHz to support audio sampling at 44100 Hz, derived from [NFR7.1](#).
- **NFR9.2:** The microcontroller shall provide at least four microphone inputs to support directional analysis of audio.

3.3 S.3 Interfaces

Audio360 is designed as a closed embedded system due to its safety-critical application domain, referring to functional requirement [FR9.1](#). External access is intentionally restricted to ensure reliability, security, and user safety. The only user interface is the integrated visual display. The display provides real-time information by notifying users of detected sounds and their corresponding direction. No external programmatic interfaces (APIs) will be provided. This design decision ensures that system integrity is maintained and that no external software can interfere with the safety-critical operation of the device.

3.4 S.4 Detailed usage scenarios

[Examples of interaction between the environment (or human users) and the system: use cases, user stories. —SS]

This section provides detailed versions of the high-level scenarios from ??, with specific technical details and interaction flows.

3.4.1 S.4.1 Pedestrian Crossing Detection

User Story: As a deaf individual, I want to be alerted when vehicles are approaching so I can cross streets safely.

Scenario: A user is walking in an urban environment and approaches a street intersection. As they prepare to cross, a car approaches from their left side.

Interaction Flow:

1. System detects engine sound pattern characteristic of a vehicle
2. DoA algorithm estimates direction
3. Audio classification identifies the sound as a vehicle
4. Smart glasses display visual indicator showing direction and notifies the user of a vehicle approaching
5. User recognizes the alert and waits for the vehicle to pass before crossing safely

3.4.2 S.4.2 Kitchen Safety Alert

User Story: As a deaf individual, I want to be notified of household safety sounds so I can respond to potential hazards.

Scenario: A user is cooking in their kitchen when a tea kettle on the stove begins to whistle.

Interaction Flow:

1. Microphone array captures the high-pitched whistle sound
2. System processes the audio and identifies the characteristic pattern
3. DoA algorithm estimates the direction
4. Audio classification identifies it as a kettle or alarm sound (90% accuracy target)
5. Smart glasses display directional indicator notifying the user of a kettle whistling ($\leq 1s$ latency)
6. User turns toward the alert and removes the kettle from heat, preventing potential hazard

3.4.3 S.4.3 Social Interaction

User Story: As a deaf individual, I want to know when someone is trying to get my attention so I don't miss social interactions.

Scenario: A user is in a crowded room when someone calls their name from across the space.

Interaction Flow:

1. System captures audio from all directions through the microphone array
2. Voice activity detection identifies human speech patterns
3. DoA algorithm estimates the direction
4. Audio classification identifies the sound as speech or human voice
5. Smart glasses display the information with directional arrow
6. User turns in the indicated direction to make eye contact and engage in conversation

3.4.4 S.4.4 Workplace Awareness

User Story: As a deaf worker, I want to be aware of industrial safety warnings so I can maintain workplace safety.

Scenario: A user is working in an industrial setting when a forklift begins reversing nearby, emitting a warning beep.

Interaction Flow:

1. System detects the characteristic beeping pattern through microphone array
2. DoA algorithm estimates the direction
3. Audio classification identifies it as a warning signal or industrial alarm
4. Smart glasses display prominent visual indicator notifying the user of a forklift backing up and directional arrow
5. User steps aside to maintain a safe distance from the moving equipment

3.5 S.5 Prioritization

This section classifies all system behaviors, interfaces, and scenarios by their degree of criticality to ensure proper development prioritization and resource allocation. Requirements are organized into three criticality levels: Critical, Important, and Desirable, with corresponding development stages.

3.5.1 S.5.1 Critical Requirements (Stage 1 - Foundation)

Critical requirements form the essential foundation of the system and must be implemented first. These requirements are necessary for basic system operation and safety.

Estimated deadline: December 9th, 2025

Core Hardware and Infrastructure:

- [FR7.1](#) - Microphone soundwave collection and digital conversion
- [FR7.2](#) - Human audible range coverage (20 Hz - 20 kHz)
- [NFR7.1](#) - 44100 Hz sampling rate
- [FR9.1](#) - Closed microcontroller environment
- [NFR9.1](#) - Minimum 100 MHz clock speed
- [FR9.2](#) - Four microphone inputs for directional analysis

Sound Classification:

- [FR5.1](#) - Sound source classification
- [NFR5.1](#) - Classification of 3+ distinct sound sources
- [NFR5.2](#) - 90% classification accuracy

Basic Audio Processing:

- [FR1.2](#) - Audio signal processing and synchronization
- [FR3.1](#) - Digital to frequency domain conversion
- [FR3.2](#) - Signal amplitude normalization
- [NFR3.1](#) - Frequency domain accuracy ($\leq 10\%$ error)
- [NFR1.2](#) - Processing faster than 44100 Hz sample rate

Error Handling and Reliability:

- [FR1.3](#) - Memory error handling
- [FR1.4](#) - Continuous hardware diagnostics
- [FR2.3](#) - Driver error code returns
- [NFR2.1](#) - Immediate error propagation

Basic Display Functionality:

- [FR8.1](#) - Sound source classification display
- [FR8.2](#) - Sound direction display
- [NFR8.1](#) - 30 display updates per second

3.5.2 S.5.2 Important Requirements (Stage 2 - Core Features)

Important requirements implement the primary functionality that delivers the system's main value proposition. These build upon the critical foundation.

Estimated deadline: February 9th, 2026

Direction of Arrival (DoA) Analysis:

- [FR5.2](#) - Direction of arrival estimation

- [FR5.3](#) - Angular representation in radians
- [NFR5.3](#) - Maximum 0.78 rad DoA error

Advanced Audio Processing:

- [FR3.3](#) - Spectral leakage filtering
- [FR3.4](#) - Hardware acceleration utilization
- [FR3.5](#) - Audio anomaly detection
- [NFR3.2](#) - Scalability to 4096 frames
- [NFR3.3](#) - 90% processing success rate

System Integration:

- [FR2.1](#) - Driver layer hardware interface
- [FR2.2](#) - Permission-based hardware access
- [FR2.4](#) - Data integrity maintenance
- [FR4.1](#) - Audio360 Engine data retrieval
- [FR4.2](#) - Component notification system
- [FR4.3](#) - Data flow control

Visualization and User Interface:

- [FR6.1](#) - Direction notification display
- [FR6.2](#) - Safety feature failure alerts
- [NFR6.1](#) - Safety-critical information prioritization
- [NFR6.2](#) - Non-intrusive display design

3.5.3 S.5.3 Desirable Requirements (Stage 3 - Enhancement)

Desirable requirements enhance system performance and user experience but are not essential for basic operation.

Estimated deadline: April 9th, 2026

Advanced System Features:

- [FR1.1](#) - Priority-based task scheduling
- [NFR1.1](#) - Monotonic frame sequence processing
- [FR4.4](#) - Feature disabling during microphone faults
- [FR5.4](#) - Low confidence classification notifications

Performance Optimization:

- [NFR4.1](#) - Conflict-free data polling
- [NFR4.2](#) - Timing constraint compliance
- [NFR4.3](#) - Immediate data disposal after analysis

3.5.4 S.5.4 Scenario Prioritization

Critical Scenarios (Stage 1):

- S.4.2 - Kitchen Safety Alert (highest safety impact)
- S.4.4 - Workplace Awareness (industrial safety)

Important Scenarios (Stage 2):

- S.4.1 - Pedestrian Crossing Detection (public safety)
- S.4.3 - Social Interaction (quality of life)

3.5.5 S.5.5 Development Priority Rationale

The prioritization follows a safety-first approach:

1. **Stage 1 (Critical):** Establishes reliable hardware foundation and basic audio processing capabilities. Focuses on system stability and error handling to prevent failures that could compromise user safety.
2. **Stage 2 (Important):** Implements core DoA and classification features that deliver the primary value proposition. Kitchen and workplace safety scenarios are prioritized due to their immediate safety implications.
3. **Stage 3 (Desirable):** Adds performance optimizations and advanced features that enhance user experience but are not essential for basic safety functionality.

This staged approach ensures that the most safety-critical features are implemented first, providing immediate value to users while building toward a complete system. The prioritization also considers technical dependencies, with lower-level components (hardware, drivers) being implemented before higher-level features (classification, visualization).

3.6 S.6 Verification and acceptance criteria

[Specification of the conditions under which an implementation will be deemed satisfactory.
—SS]

4 Project

4.1 P.1 Roles and personnel

All project staff have responsibilities they must carry out in addition to the individual work required for deliverables. The roles, and qualifications for each assignment are outlined below.

- Leader (Sathurshan Arulmohan)
 - *Responsibilities:*
 - * Point of contact for professor and TAs.
 - * Ensures that the team is on track to meet deadlines.
 - * Project planning and scheduling.
 - *Qualifications:*
 - * Strong organizational and leadership skills.
 - * Has experience in coordinating group projects and managing timelines.
 - * Strong communication skills.
- Meeting Chair (Kalp Shah)
 - *Responsibilities:*
 - * Creates the agenda for meetings.
 - * Facilitates the meetings.
 - * Ensures that the team sticks to the agenda.
 - *Qualifications:*
 - * Great time management and facilitation skills.
 - * Strong interpersonal, communication and organizational skills.
 - * Prior experience in leading meetings.
- Reviewer (Jay Sharma)
 - *Responsibilities:*
 - * Reviews all deliverables before deadline to ensure all sections are completed.
 - * Reach out to the reviewers of each section to ensure they approve it before the deadline.

- *Qualifications:*
 - * Attention to detail and strong analytical skills.
 - * Experience in document quality assurance, and proof reading.
 - * Understanding of project requirements and documentation standards.
- Note taker (Nirmal Chaudhari)
 - *Responsibilities:*
 - * Takes notes during meetings.
 - * Create meeting notes summary after the meeting ends to grasp meeting content.
 - * Coordinates with project leader after meeting ends for action items.
 - *Qualifications:*
 - * Strong written communication, and summarization skills.
 - * Multi-tasking abilities, able to capture technical discussions while contributing to meetings.
 - * Ability to type fast, with little error.
- System Specialist (Omar Alam)
 - *Responsibilities:*
 - * Manages and validates system design at a high level.
 - * Responsible for hardware & software interfaces.
 - * Handles budgeting and expenses, ensures total budget remains under \$500.
 - *Qualifications:*
 - * Technical background in software and hardware system design.
 - * Experience with system architecture and prototyping.
 - * Basic knowledge of budgeting and resource allocation.

Moreover, all project members share the following competencies as contributing members to the development of this project.

- Embedded software development.
- Strong software design for novel features.
- Strong testing and debugging skills.

In addition to responsibilities as developers on the team, each project member has been designated as an **expert** in a specific area of focus essential to the development of this system. The designated focus areas are outlined below:

- Research in using hardware acceleration methods and other code optimization methods for embedded development, since the system is deployed on microcontroller with limited CPU and memory space. (**Sathurshan Arulmohan**).
- Hardware integration, including implementation of low-level hardware interface for high-level software. Features should be abstracted so that it can integrate with other hardware devices. Since the hardware requires an API integration for this, this focus area is needed. (**Omar Alam**).
- Analysis of methods to extract directionality from a microphone array, since multiple microphones need to be processed. and run some algorithm to determine which direction it is coming from. This algorithm needs to be researched. (**Kalp Shah**).
- Exploration of techniques for separating multiple audio sources from a single microphone input using Independent Component Analysis (ICA). This focus area is required since the system's environment will contain a mixture of sounds that need to be analyzed and processed independently. (**Jay Sharma**).
- Development of audio-fingerprinting for classifying sound sources based on the frequency domain representation of the audio signal. This feature needs to comply with the processing and memory limits of the compute unit. (**Nirmal Chaudhari**).

All experts share the following responsibilities for their area of focus.

- Look through research articles, and technical evaluations to come up with feasible approaches for proposed methods.
- Collaborate with other team members to discuss findings.
- Maintain clear and organized documentation of sources and proposed methods.
- Complete implementation of the focus area in the system.
- Testing to validate and verify the feature.

4.2 P.2 Imposed technical choices

[Any a priori choices binding the project to specific tools, hardware, languages or other technical parameters. —SS]

4.3 P.3 Schedule and milestones

To better understand the needs of the stakeholders, there are various milestones that need to be completed within the realm of the requirements process. These milestones can be generalized as a list of tasks, with their deadlines outlined below.

1. Initial Supervisor Consultation (2025-09-15)
2. Extraction of project soft and hard goals (2025-09-22)
3. Technical analysis for feasibility of project goals (2025-09-29)
4. Extraction of requirements from goals and technical assessment (2025-10-2)
5. Requirements Documentation (2025-10-10)
6. Validation Plan (2025-10-27)
7. System Design Plan (2025-10-27)
8. Verification & Validation of system (2026-02-02)
9. Consultation with primary stakeholder (TBD)

4.4 P.4 Tasks and deliverables

1. Initial Supervisor Consultation (2025-09-15)

Tasks:

- Meet with the supervisor to clarify the project vision.
- Discuss key goals, available resources and expected POC outcomes.
- Identify initial research domains.

Expected Outcomes:

- Team has a shared understanding of project objectives and potential risks associated with the project scope and goals.
- Defined list of research priorities outlined in section [P.1](#).

2. Extraction of project soft and hard goals (2025-09-22)

Tasks:

- Based on team elicitation, brainstorm and document list of soft goals.
- Deconstruct soft goals into a list of hard goals using definition, contribution, decomposition techniques.
- Discuss trade-offs of defined hard goals.

Expected Outcomes:

- Comprehensive list of soft and hard goals, clearly defining the project direction.

- Consensus among team members and supervisor on achievable project objectives.
- Prioritized list of goals for verification testing.
- Validated list of goals with primary stakeholders.

3. Technical analysis for feasibility of project goals (2025-09-29)

Tasks:

- Review research articles relevant to goals extracted during the elicitation stage.
- Conduct feasibility assessments for key goals set in the project.
- Run small-scale prototype, or test to confirm technical viability.

Expected Outcomes:

- Confirmation of which project goals are technically achievable within the scope.
- Revised goals based on hardware and software capabilities.
- Early identification of design constraints.

4. Extraction of requirements from goals and technical assessment (2025-10-2)

Tasks:

- Translate validated soft and hard goals into specific system requirements.
- Identify dependencies and relationships between requirements.
- Ensure each requirement is unambiguous, measurable and achievable within the scope.

Expected Outcomes:

- Drafted list of functional and non-functional requirements derived from goals.
- Clear mapping between project goals and corresponding requirements.

5. Requirements Documentation (2025-10-10)

Tasks:

- Iteratively updating sections in SRS document based on the results of different tasks mentioned in [P.3](#).

Expected Outcomes:

- Completed Rev 0 SRS document

- Software architecture and design can commence with a clear path using SRS as a guidance.

6. Validation Plan (2025-10-27)

Tasks:

- Come up with a plan for validating the system meets the requirement specification. This plan should be exhaustive enough to confirm that all of the stakeholders' goals have been met.

Expected Outcomes:

- The V&V deliverable has been completed, and clearly outlines the plan for validation and verification.

7. System Design Plan (2025-10-27)

Tasks:

- Each focus area expert works on completing the design plan for the implementation of that feature.
- The design plan will be communicated to the rest of the team and the project advisor for validation on the design and any feedback will be addressed.

Expected Outcomes:

- Each focus area has a fully completed design plan based on the investigation completed by the expert.
- The plan has been written in Rev 0 of the Design Document

8. Verification & Validation of System (2026-02-02)

Tasks:

- Using the Rev 0 V&V report, team goes through plan for validation and verification of the system against requirement specifications.
- For any unmet requirements based on the validation plan, the team re-assess the requirements to see it's priority in the given timeline. Previous requirement documents are updated accordingly.

Expected Outcomes:

- All documentation has been updated based on the current implementation of the system.

- Team has a clear list of unmet requirements that need to be addressed.

9. Consultation with primary stakeholder (TBD)

Tasks:

- Meet with the McMaster Sign Language club to conduct a semi-structured interview.
- Document all findings from interview specific to the questions asked.
- Update stakeholder goals and requirements based on the results of the interview.

Expected Outcomes:

- SRS document has been updated to be inline with McMaster Sign Language club needs.

4.5 P.5 Required technology elements

[External systems, hardware and software, expected to be necessary for building the system. —SS]

4.6 P.6 Risks and mitigation analysis

[Potential obstacles to meeting the schedule of P.4, and measures for adapting the plan if they do arise. —SS]

4.7 P.7 Requirements process and report

The development of this project requires iterating over various stages of the requirements process. These stages include:

1. Elicitation

- (a) Conduct stakeholder interviews and surveys to gather users' needs.
- (b) Review background documents and research articles describing how core features have been implemented in the past.
- (c) Consult with the technical supervisor of this application ([MVM](#)) to gain insight into what approaches can be used.

2. Analysis

- (a) Based on information retrieved from the elicitation process, derive a list of soft and hard goals for the application.

- (b) Using the goals defined previously, derive a list of key requirements. This will be influenced by the goals of the stakeholders, but also input on potential limitations based on discussion with the supervisor.
- (c) Group requirements into functional vs. non-functional categories.
- (d) Prioritize requirements using the MoSCoW framework (Must, Should, Could, Won't).
- (e) Iteratively evaluate defined requirements based on new constraints that arise during implementation.

3. Documentation

- (a) Write requirements in a structured format that is clear, testable, and unambiguous.
- (b) Use labels for different requirements and goals for traceability.

4. Specification

- (a) Using the `docs/` folder in the main repository for this project, update the various reports with the latest information based on what was discussed or finalized in other stages of the elicitation process.

5. Validation

- (a) Share draft requirements with stakeholders for confirmation.
- (b) Share requirements with the project supervisor to get expert opinion on feasibility of requirements.
- (c) Within the team, ensure the requirements are feasible, measurable, and aligned with the project scope.

As this project follows the V-model methodology, Figure 3, the team will aim to make the various stages of the requirements process mentioned above linear. Since although this model allows the team to re-visit previous parts, it will cost a lot to change in later stages of the project. This is why this team is heavily prioritizing the initial stages of the requirements process.

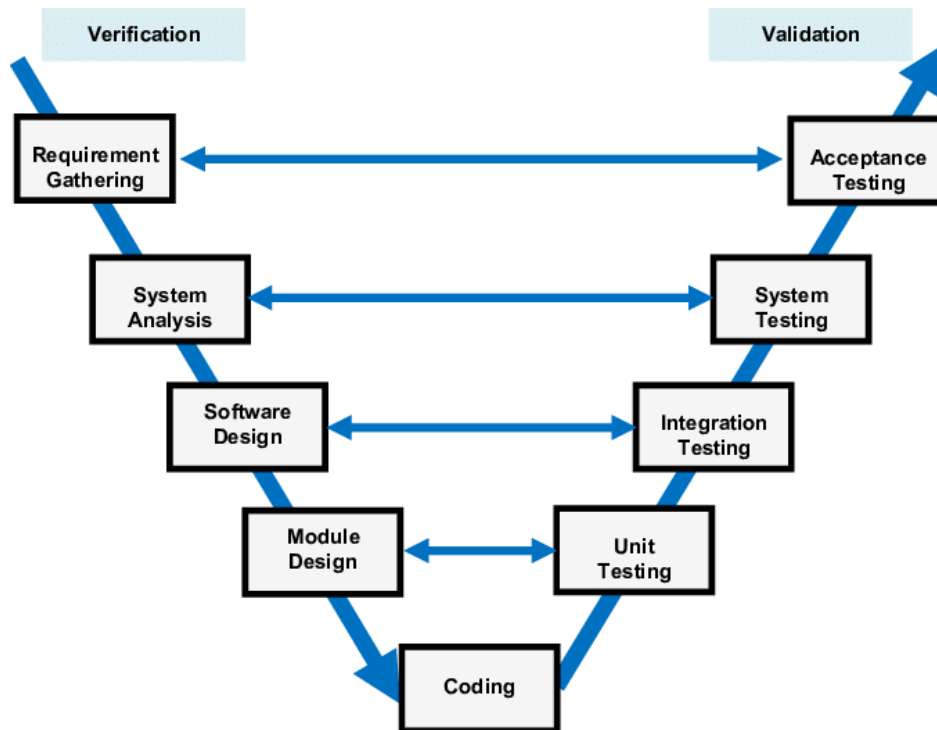


Figure 3: Illustration of the v-model process.

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Appendix — Reflection

The purpose of reflection questions is to give you a chance to assess your own learning and that of your group as a whole, and to find ways to improve in the future. Reflection is an important part of the learning process. Reflection is also an essential component of a successful software development process.

Reflections are most interesting and useful when they're honest, even if the stories they tell are imperfect. You will be marked based on your depth of thought and analysis, and not based on the content of the reflections themselves. Thus, for full marks we encourage you to answer openly and honestly and to avoid simply writing "what you think the evaluator wants to hear."

Please answer the following questions. Some questions can be answered on the team level, but where appropriate, each team member should write their own response:

1. What went well while writing this deliverable?
2. What pain points did you experience during this deliverable, and how did you resolve them?
3. How many of your requirements were inspired by speaking to your client(s) or their proxies (e.g. your peers, stakeholders, potential users)?

A lot of the requirements related to focus areas defined in our SRS document were inspired by our project supervisor. He gave great insight into what major components need to be researched for this system to work. For example, he went over the requirement of needing 4 ADC converters in our microprocessor to retrieve synchronized audio input across all 4 microphones. If he didn't give this insight early on, the team would have been stuck in the later stages on the project with a microprocessor that will not work well for this system. Furthermore, he gave good information of how the team can go about using Independent Component Analysis to separate audio into sources. He also mentioned we shouldn't use deep machine learning models for audio classification, since they won't be able to run on the microprocessor well.

4. Which of the courses you have taken, or are currently taking, will help your team to be successful with your capstone project.
5. What knowledge and skills will the team collectively need to acquire to successfully complete this capstone project? Examples of possible knowledge to acquire include domain specific knowledge from the domain of your application, or software engineering knowledge, mechatronics knowledge or computer science knowledge. Skills may be related to technology, or writing, or presentation, or team management, etc. You should look to identify at least one item for each team member.

Each member of the team requires the following qualifications as contributing developers to the team.

- Embedded software development.
- Strong software design for features being implemented on any microcontroller platform.
- Strong testing skills.
- Strong debugging skills.

In addition to this, since each team member is a focus area expert, they require the following skills and competencies to carry out that role.

- Look through research articles, and technical evaluations to come up with feasible approaches for proposed methods.
- Collaborate with other team members to discuss findings.
- Maintain clear and organized documentation of sources and proposed methods.
- Ensure that all research and implementation choices align with project objectives, timeline and budgeting costs.
- Based on the confirmed approach, complete the full implementation of that focus in the system.
- After implementation, create test cases that cover's the main functionality of the feature in that focus area.
- Configure github pipeline to run those tests on every PR and merge into a feature branch.

6. For each of the knowledge areas and skills identified in the previous question, what are at least two approaches to acquiring the knowledge or mastering the skill? Of the identified approaches, which will each team member pursue, and why did they make this choice?