Technical Report

for

Greenhouse Monitoring System

Version 1.0 approved

Prepared by Colin Blakley, Kenneth Chen and Princess Hernandez

Humber College – School of Applied Technology

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# Declaration of Joint Authorship

We, Colin Blakley, Kenneth Chen and Princess Hernandez, confirm that this work submitted for assessment is our own and is expressed in our own words. Any uses made within it of the works of any other author, in any form (ideas, equations, figures, texts, tables, programs), are properly acknowledged at the point of use. A list of the references used is included.

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# Approved Proposal

January 17, 2019

***Proposal for the development of Greenhouse Monitoring System***

Prepared by Colin Blakley, Kenneth Chen, and Princess Hernandez  
*Computer Engineering Technology Students*

https://github.com/PrincessHernandez/GreenhouseMonitoringSystem

**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 the following sensors and actuators AM2315 Humidity/Temp (0x5C), CCS811 VOC (0x5B), SSD1306 OLED (0x3C). The database will store temperature, humidity and gas level data retrieved from the device. The mobile device functionality will include a series readings of temperature and humidity, as well as a variety of organic compound levels found in the air. There will be warnings when the data retrieved is below or above acceptable ranges. and will be further detailed in the mobile application proposal. I will be collaborating with the following company/department Colin Blakley, Kenneth Chen, and Princess Hernandez. In the winter semester I plan to form a group with the following students, who are 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 this project is temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide (CO2) levels are the key factors in monitoring and manage the growth process of plants. Plants become more prone to diseases when temperature is too low or deteriorate when it is too high. Low relative humidity can attract pests like red spider mites because of little to no moisture in plants. The temperature and humidity maintenance play a big impact in contributing to the generation carbon dioxide level. Carbon dioxide is essential for plant growth as it supplies the nutrients.. A bit of background about this topic is greenhouses are closed environments where conditions are optimized for plant growth. Ideally, in greenhouses, temperature should be 25 degrees Celsius, 95% relative humidity and 300 - 500 ppm CO2 level. Measuring and maintaining an ideal temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide (CO2) in greenhouses decreases the dependency on pesticides. Farmers can rely on real-time data of temperature, humidity and CO2 to determine wether their agriculture is at risk. They are able to use the monitoring system to encourage themselves to increase yields. This is an important need for framers in a world where consumers demand more and corporations demand increased profits and cannot afford substantial loses.These sensors will become a staple in the framer community where greenhouse and any structure that need to have a maintained climate..

Existing products on the market include (Jones, 2013). I have searched for prior art via Humber’s IEEE subscription selecting “My Subscribed Content” (IEEE, 2015) and have found and read (Dan, Yang, Jianqiu, 2016) which provides insight into similar efforts.

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 brief description below provides 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.

OLED screen from Ebay, USB powered fan from Amazon

**Concluding remarks**

This proposal presents a plan for providing an IoT solution for the atmospheric factors that can be controlled in greenhouses are temperature, humidity and CO2 levels. High humidity and low temperature allows for plants to grow at an ideal rate. The temperature and humidity sensor will gather data to help manage a greenhouse. If the temperatures were to go out of range the yield of the plants could be effected in a negative way, and in a worst case scenario - kill the plants. By tracking and monitoring the data, adjustments can be made to the greenhouse to ensure maximum yield. Therefore, using humidifiers and circulation fans helps maintain an ideal greenhouse environment where plants can freely grow at the best rate. Better control of temperature and humidity can regulate precise CO2 levels and create a secure environment for growing plants.. 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 (Dan, Yang, Jianqiu, 2016). I request approval of this project.

**References**

Jones, J.B. (2013, December 1). *Maintaining Control in the Greenhouse*. Retrieved from

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Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. (2015, August 28). IEEE Xplore Digital Library

[Online]. Available: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/search/advsearch.jsp

Dan, L., Jianmei, S., Yang, Y., & Jianqiu, X. (2016). Precise Agricultural Greenhouses Based on

the IoT and Fuzzy Control. 2016 International Conference on Intelligent Transportation,

Big Data & Smart City (ICITBS). doi:10.1109/icitbs.2016.19

# Abstract

Greenhouses has been an environmental solution to grow crops without involving any form of contaminants. However, due to atmospheric factors it is difficult to maintain plant growth. We have conducted research on integration of 3 different sensors that will carry out a solution that will maintain the growth of plants by monitoring atmospheric factors.

The following technical report will be on the software and hardware requirements for our project Greenhouse Monitoring System. It consists of 3 sensors that will be stationed in a greenhouse that works with our mobile application “Greenhouse Monitor.” This report will provide the details of the device we are going to develop by including features of our system and diagrams for the application.

Table of Contents

[Declaration of Joint Authorship iii](#_Toc458172)

[Approved Proposal v](#_Toc458173)

[Abstract xi](#_Toc458174)

[Revision History xiii](#_Toc458175)

[Introduction 1](#_Toc458176)

[Intended Audience and Reading Suggestions 1](#_Toc458177)

[Product Scope 1](#_Toc458178)

[Overall Description 3](#_Toc458179)

[Product Perspective 3](#_Toc458180)

[Product Functions 3](#_Toc458181)

[Operating Environment 4](#_Toc458182)

[Design and Implementation Constraints 4](#_Toc458183)

[User Documentation 4](#_Toc458184)

[Assumptions and Dependencies 4](#_Toc458185)

[Project Requirements 5](#_Toc458186)

[Database Requirements 5](#_Toc458187)

[Software Requirements 5](#_Toc458188)

[Hardware Requirements 5](#_Toc458189)

[Conclusion and Recommendations 7](#_Toc458190)

[Technical References 9](#_Toc458191)

[Appendix A: Glossary 11](#_Toc458192)

[Appendix B: Analysis Models 11](#_Toc458193)

# Revision History

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| **Name** | **Date** | **Reason For Changes** | **Version** |
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# Introduction

This technical report presents the methods and processes of how we achieved our project result. Atmospheric factors can affect plant growth and the result of our device can help farmers control the factors that affect them. Our project will be used as a monitoring system that can be accessed from a mobile device. The system is ideally situated in a greenhouse for best performance and outcome. The application will provide temperature, humidity and CO2 levels in the greenhouse. It also allows the user to control the fan connected to the device. This device is meant for agricultural workers that need help to maintain their plant growth if they cannot tend to their plants immediately.

## Intended Audience and Reading Suggestions

This document is intended for agricultural farmers, greenhouse technicians, and workplace management as a reference when they are using the device and application. Also, the developers of the system are able to contribute and revise to this document at any time.

## Product Scope

Greenhouse workers must check on their plants frequently and the surrounding factors of plants’ growth. This system will be designed to help raise awareness of the atmosphere factors that affect plants by providing real-time record of temperature, humidity and air quality like CO2. It provides a feature that allows the user to turn on the fan from their mobile, otherwise it can be performed manually.

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# Overall Description

## Product Perspective

The product has 2 main parts, the mobile app and the integrated sensors. The application is used to view data on Temperature and humidity from AM2315 sensor, and CO2 from CCS811. The application can also be used to turn on the fan when out of range low level of temperature is reached. The OLED (SSD1306) sensor displays the data of all three factors. All sensors will be integrated onto the Raspberry Pi.

The mobile application will need to communicate with the database to get the data from the Raspberry Pi.

Figure 1.

The Raspberry Pi is used to communicate with the database by sending data for it to be stored. All of the database communication will go over the server.

Refer to Figure 1.

## Product Functions

The device and application need an internet connection to function, and will connect to a Firebase database server. The product must be connected to the Internet to do the following:

* Read the temperature, and send it to the server so the application can read it
* Read the humidity, and send it to the server so the application can read it
* Read the CO2 levels, and send it to the server so the application can read it

## Operating Environment

The device operating environment is mostly ideal for indoor, but it can also work outdoor. The mobile application can be used anywhere with an Internet connection, software is android lollipop and up.

## Design and Implementation Constraints

The Internet connection is a constraint for the application. It isn’t a huge constraint but the application fetches data from the database once in a while or the static wouldn’t update, it is crucial that there is an Internet connection for the application to function. The Raspberry Pi itself has the same constraint due to the need of it sending data to the database as well.

## User Documentation

All documentation is available through GitHub as it is open source. This part will be updated as we move towards the completion of the project and document.

## Assumptions and Dependencies

One assumption about the product will be use on a mobile phone that meets the required specs. If the phone does not have the hardware resources required for the application, for example other application has already allocated space, the application may not work as intended.

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# Project Requirements

## Database Requirements

The server-side application requires a Google account for the database with Firebase. The database will store the readings of the temperature, humidity and CO2. The application will be connected with the database to show the readings stored on the database to the application. Kenneth will be working on the database, and Colin will link the database to connect to the application to retrieve readings from the Pi.

## Software Requirements

The mobile application shows information of temperature, humidity and CO2 from the database. There will be an added feature where the user has the ability to control the fan to go on or off. Kenneth will be working on developing the application and its features, and Colin will develop the GUI (XML files). This part will be updated as we move towards the completion of the project and document.

## Hardware Requirements

The AM2315 sensor measures the temperature and humidity, and the CCS811 sensor measures the levels of CO2 that are in the air. Both sensors are integrated together with Raspberry Pi. The completed hardware will be able to be connected with the software in order to receive and store data in a remote database. Additionally, OLED will be added as a feature to show readings of temperature, humidity and CO2. Princess will be integrating all these sensors onto her Raspberry Pi.

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# Conclusion and Recommendations

This document presents a solution to maintaining greenhouses’ plant growth. For greenhouse workers, this system is very efficient to use.

This part will be updated as we move towards the completion of the project and document.

# Technical References

Jones, J.B. (2013, December 1). *Maintaining Control in the Greenhouse*. Retrieved from

https://www.maximumyield.com/maintaining-control-in-the-greenhouse/2/949

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# Appendix A: Glossary

CO2 – Carbon Dioxide

VOC – Volatile Organic Compound

# Appendix B: Analysis Models

Figure 1 – Diagram for ideal communication between software and hardware.