Sentinel – A Smart Fire Fighting Helmet

IoT based Real-time Hazard Monitoring and Index Forecasting

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Abstract: Fire-fighting has been a problem since the medieval ages. Even with the advent of modern technology, we haven't been able to reduce fire accidents significantly. Our proposed method aims to use all relevant data, to remedy any fire accident. The project uses a variety of sensors and the collected data is processed and utilized to alert authorities and display meaningful results. All our sensors are integrated with one central Micro-controller. The Microcontroller is responsible for relaying the data to a shared database, from where the processed data is retrieved. Location data will be broadcast from the server to all clients in the nearby area. The main idea of this method of implementation is to monitor the physical parameters around the fire-fighter in hazardous situations, the whole equipment is supposed to be mounted on the helmet of the individual. The parameters needed to be monitored are temperature, humidity, air condition i.e. levels of toxic and inflammable gases in the atmosphere nearby including the atmospheric pressure of the area. Traditionally these kinds of fire accidents or dangers required an external entity to barge in and sniff the situation whether to call for help or vacate the whole area. With this implementation we automate this process using the sensors and save lives at a safe pace.

I. INTRODUCTION

There will be two interfaces for forecasting a mobile application and a web interface. The mobile application which will report any abrupt change and will be used to send SOS messages to call for help and the web interface will be monitored by someone from outside so just in case, if anything goes wrong or in case of abrupt parameter change, one can send help from outside.

Firefighting is one of the toughest jobs in today 's world, each and every day hundreds and thousands of firefighters put their life on stake for helping both nature and humanity. According to NFPA statistics, over 100 casualties were recorded in 2019.

Sentinel is a novel helmet designed to advance current fire fighting methods. By attaching various crucial sensors on the helmet, we will be able to gather important vitals about the environment such a s temperature, CO2 levels, atmospheric pressure, volume of total organic compounds, and much more while simultaneously sending this data in real-time over the Internet of Things platform to a remote database. We will then retrieve this information and create a unique app user interface that responds to the real-time changes in data to relay information across all individuals overwatching the situation.

The Sentinel firefighter helmet sends and retrieves information by using three sensors connected to a central microcontroller capable of connecting to nearby WIFI networks. When information from the environment is extracted, we are capable of sending this information using WIFI following the IOT protocol to a remote real-time database where it is stored and processed. When this information is retrieved, it is used to create an app user interface that displays the information in a real-time framework to show changes as they happen. This interface allows all subscribers to the web app to

monitor the situation different firefighters are in and provide assistance when needed.

The micro -controller we used for this project is the NODE -MCU board which is an Internet of Things enabled board built on top of the Arduino framework . We then attached several sensors to the board (DHT 11 Temperature and Humidity Sensor , BMP 280 Atmospheric and Pressure Sensor, and MQ3 – Flammable gas sensor) following the I2C (Inter -Integrated Circuit) protocol where we used a multi - master /multi -slave architecture to allow sensors to publish and receive data to the bus system . When the data is received by the NodeMCU micro -controller , the data is sent over WiFi to a real - time Google Firebase database where it is categorized by sensor and type of data. This information is then retrieved and displayed on an app user interface updated in real- time. The app could be built using kotlin.

II. METHODOLOGY

Researchers have developed the new software framework to integrate a wide range of devices and services and efficiently manage resources. In addition, based on this, they developed a smart helmet to respond to disaster safety accidents. The smart helmet collects, generates, and converts information on sensors (infrared camera, electro Optical camera, drone camera, oxygen residual sensor, 6- axis inertial sensor, and smart watch) and it can be monitored through head mounted display (HMD) and the Command Center. Finally, they developed a simulator and generated data based on scenarios, and also tested all devices and services outdoors.

III. SOFTWARE COMPONENT

THINGSPEAK DATA COLLECTION PLATFORM - ThingSpeak is an IoT analytics platform service that allows you to aggregate, visualize and analyze live data streams in the cloud. ThingSpeak provides instant visualizations of data posted by your devices to ThingSpeak. With the ability to execute MATLAB code in ThingSpeak you can perform online analysis and processing of the data as it comes in. ThingSpeak is often used for prototyping and proof of concept IoT systems that require analytics. The MVVM architecture which is used widely by many companies, was found to be the best fit for this application. Research was also done for finding the best dependency injection framework for the application. The benchmarks for the Kotlin and Dagger framework seemed to be promising. We proceeded with the Kotlin framework as it provides a simpler DSL (Domain Specific language) than the Dagger framework. The application uses the ThingSpeakKotlin API to retrieve the data from the NodeMCU microcontroller.

IV. HARDWARE COMPONENTS

NODE MCU - NodeMCU is a low-cost open source IoT platform. It initially included firmware which runs on the ESP 8266 Wi -Fi SoC from Espressif Systems, and hardware which was based on the ESP - 12 module .[6][7] Later ,support for the ESP32 32-bit MCU was added. Both the firmware and prototyping board designs are open source.[9] The firmware uses the Lua scripting language. The firmware is based on the eLua project, and built on the Espressif Non-OS SDK for ESP8266. It uses many open source projects, such as lua-cjson[10] and SPIFFS.[11] Due to resource constraints, users need to select the modules relevant for their project and build a firmware tailored to their needs. Support for the 32-bit ESP32 has also been implemented.

DHT11 – TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY SENSOR - The DHT11 is a basic, ultra low-cost digital temperature and humidity sensor. It uses a capacitive humidity sensor and a thermistor to measure the surrounding air, and spits out a digital signal on the data pin (no analog input pins needed). It's fairly simple to use, but requires careful timing to grab data. Provides high reliability and long term stability.

BMP280 – AIR PRESSURE SENSOR - An environmental sensor with temperature, barometric pressure that is the next generation upgrade to the BMP085/BMP180/BMP183. This sensor is great for all sorts of weather sensing. This precision sensor from Bosch is the best low- cost, precision sensing solution for measuring barometric pressure with ± 1 hPa absolute accuracy, and temperature with $\pm 1.0^{\circ}$ C accuracy.

MQ3 – FLAMMABLE GAS SENSOR - It can detect a wide range of gases, including Alcohol, benzene, CO and methane. Ideal for use in the office or factory. The MQ3 gas sensor has high sensitivity to methane, carbon mono-oxide and LPG, also sensitive to inflammable gases. It is low cost and particularly suitable for gas index monitoring application. High sensitivity to Alcohol, LPG and Methane. Stable and Long Life The sensitivity of the sensor can be adjusted by using the potentiometer.

HARDWARE CONNECTIONS - The Vin of 3V is taken from the pin at the end. The ground voltage is channeled from the ground pins on the other side of Vin. DHT 11 has three ports, VCC, GND and DATA. The DATA port is mapped to the D3/GPIO pin in MCU. The MQ3 sensor has 4 pins, Vcc, GND, DO (digital output) and AO (analog output). We have mapped AO to the A0 pin in MCU. BMP 280 has 6 pins. Vcc, GND, and SDA for data input to the D3 pin of MCU.

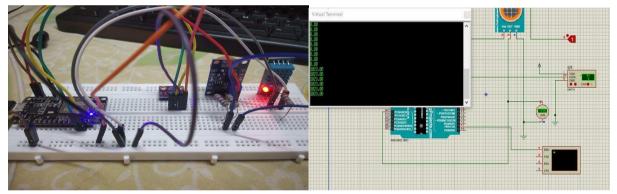


Fig. 1 Electronic Assembly - Hardware Fig. 2 Electronic Assembly - Software (Proteus)

ThingSpeak Interfacing of the Hardware

V. OBSERVATIONS AND RESULT

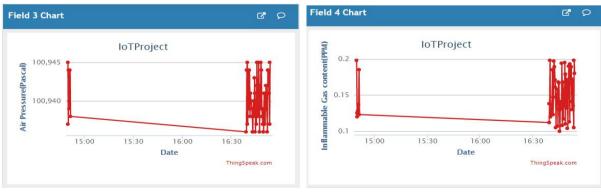


Fig. 3 Graph plot of readings from MQ3 and BMP280 sensor



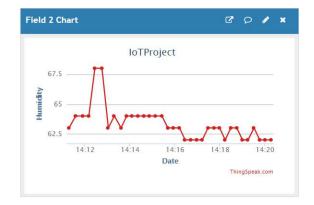


Fig. 4 Graph plot of readings from sensor DHT11 temp and humidity sensor

APP INTERFACE OF SENTINEL

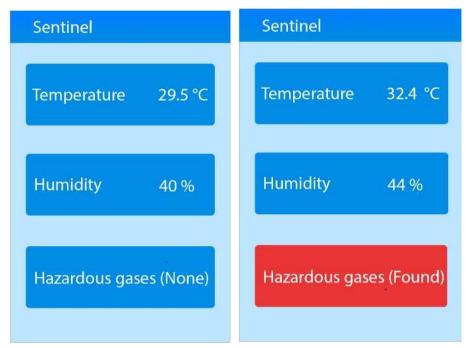


Fig. 5 No hazardous gas detected

Fig. 6 Hazardous gas detected

VI. APPLICATION

Compared with the traditional techniques of forest fire detection, a wireless sensor, a network paradigm based on a ZigBee technique was proposed. The proposed technique is in real time, given the exigencies of forest fires. The architecture of a wireless sensor network for forest fire detection is described.

The Navy program , Damage Control -Automation for Reduced Manning is focused on enhancing automation of ship functions and damage control systems . A key element to this objective is the improvement of current fire detection systems. As in many applications , it is desired to increase detection sensitivity and, more importantly, increase the reliability of the detection system through improved nuisance alarm immunity.

A novel video smoke detection method using both color and motion features is presented. The result of optical flow is assumed to be an approximation of the motion field. Background estimation and color-based decision rules are used to determine candidate smoke regions. The Lucas Kanade optical flow algorithm is proposed to calculate the optical flow of candidate regions.

The possibility of detecting small forest fires with the help of a simple and cheap LIDAR operating at 0.532-µm wavelength up to distances of about 6.5 km is demonstrated. The values of the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) achieved in the experiments are consistent with theoretical estimations obtained by computational modeling of the lidar detection process , including simulation of the smoke-plume shape and of the laser beam–plume interaction.

An integrated system based on video surveillance is presented for automatic fire detection and suppression. The system is composed of two modules, including fire detection and fire suppression. The fire detection module makes full use of traditional CCD cameras for fire recognition.

VII. CONCLUSION

At the end of completing this project we aim to achieve the development of following product features. The sentinel fire fighter helmet will send and retrieve information by using six sensors connected to a central microcontroller capable of connecting to nearby WiFi networks . When information from the environment will be extracted , we will be capable of sending this information using WiFi following the IOT protocol to a remote real-time database where it is stored and processed . When this information is retrieved , it will be used to create an app user interface that will display the information in a real-time framework to show changes as they happen . This interface will allow all subscribers to the app to monitor the situation different firefighters are providing assistance when needed.

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