

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

**Project report submitted in partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the
ESA(EMBEDDED SYSTEM AND AUTOMATATION) Program
BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY
In
ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING
By**

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2024**

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2025 DECLARATION

We hereby declare that the project titled "**Environmental Detection Using ESP32, DHT11, and Smoke Sensor**" is a genuine work completed by us as part of our academic/project requirements. This project has been carried out with the objective of designing and developing a simple, low-cost, and efficient system to monitor environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, and air quality in real time.

The system utilizes the ESP32 microcontroller for data processing and wireless communication, the DHT11 sensor for measuring temperature and humidity, and a smoke sensor for detecting the presence of smoke or harmful gases. All the work presented in this project is original, and any reference to external sources or contributions has been duly acknowledged.

Date: 5th APRIL 2025

Place: Hyderabad

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Major project report entitled “ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING USING ESP32” is being submitted by R. Rohith, E. Vamshi, S. Surender Reddy, S. Naga Vamsi has been a carried out under the guidance of Assistant Professor Mrs. Madhavi mam Electronics & Communication Engineering Aziz Nagar Hyderabad. The project report is approved for submission requirement for ESA project in 4th semester in Electronics & Communication Engineering Aziz Nagar Hyderabad.

Internal Examiner
Date:

External Examiner

Head of the Department

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We would also like to thanks to our **HOD Dr. M. Goutham Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering** Aziz Nagar, Hyderabad for his expert advice and counseling from time to time.

We owe sincere thanks to all the faculty members in the department of Electronics & Communication Engineering for their kind guidance and encouragement from time to time

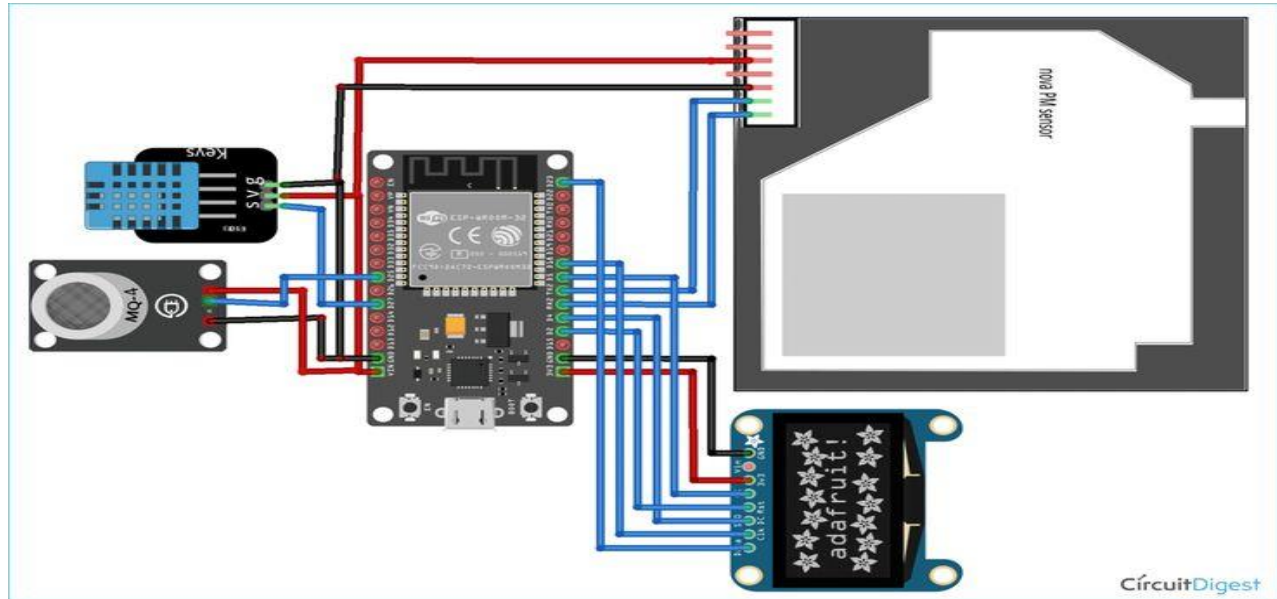
Date: 5th APRIL 2025

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5.0 Abstract:

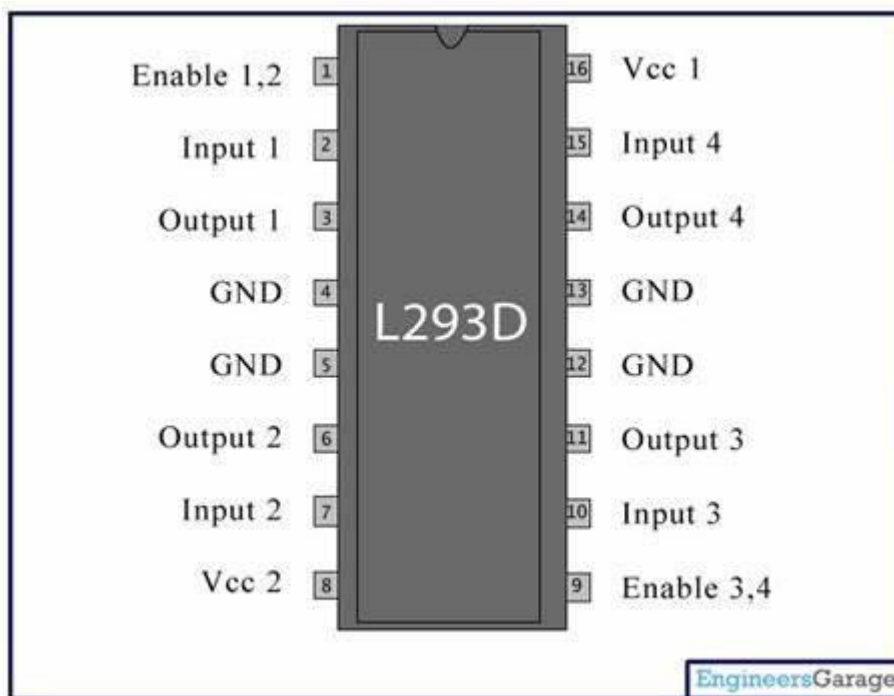
This project proposes a compact, cost-effective system for real-time environmental detection using the ESP32 microcontroller, the DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor, and a smoke sensor. The primary goal is to monitor key environmental parameters—temperature, humidity, and air quality (via smoke/gas detection)—to enhance awareness of atmospheric conditions in both indoor and outdoor settings. The ESP32, with its integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities, enables seamless data collection and wireless transmission to cloud platforms or mobile applications for remote monitoring and analysis. The DHT11 provides reliable temperature and humidity data, while the smoke sensor detects the presence of harmful gases or smoke, indicating potential air quality hazards. This system can be deployed in smart homes, agricultural environments, and urban areas for environmental monitoring, early fire detection, and pollution control. The design emphasizes affordability, low power consumption, and scalability, making it suitable for educational, research, and practical IoT-based environmental applications.

8.0 LIST OF FIGUERS:





Pin diagram:



9.0 Introduction:

Environmental monitoring plays a crucial role in ensuring the health, safety, and comfort of individuals, especially in the context of increasing urbanization, industrial activities, and climate change. With the advancement of Internet of Things (IoT) technology, it is now possible to design smart, low-cost, and real-time environmental monitoring systems that can be deployed in a wide range of environments.

This project focuses on the development of an environmental detection system using the ESP32 microcontroller, the DHT11 sensor, and a smoke sensor. The ESP32 is a powerful and versatile microcontroller that comes with built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, enabling efficient data collection and wireless communication. The DHT11 sensor is used to measure temperature and humidity, two critical parameters for understanding environmental conditions. In addition, a smoke sensor (such as the MQ-2 or MQ-135) is integrated into the system to detect the presence of smoke or harmful gases, which are key indicators of air quality and potential fire hazards.

The combination of these components provides a simple yet effective solution for real-time environmental monitoring. The system can be used in homes, offices, agricultural fields, and industrial settings to track atmospheric conditions, detect early signs of pollution or fire, and ultimately help improve quality of life and safety. This project emphasizes ease of use, low power consumption, and the potential for integration with cloud platforms for remote access and data analysis

9.1 General Introduction

. Environmental monitoring is essential for understanding and maintaining the quality of our surroundings. With growing concerns related to climate change, air pollution, and indoor air quality, there is an increasing need for systems that can detect and report environmental conditions in real time. Technological advancements, especially in the field of the Internet of Things (IoT), have made it possible to create affordable and efficient solutions for continuous environmental monitoring.

This project focuses on the development of a smart environmental monitoring system using the **ESP32 microcontroller**, the **DHT11 sensor**, and a **smoke sensor** (such as the MQ-2 or MQ-135). The **ESP32** is a powerful microcontroller with built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, making it ideal for IoT applications that require wireless communication. The **DHT11** sensor is used to measure **temperature and humidity**, providing critical data about atmospheric conditions. Meanwhile, the **smoke sensor** detects the presence of **smoke or harmful gases**, helping to assess air quality and potential fire risks.

By integrating these components, the system can monitor environmental parameters and transmit the data for analysis or display, either locally or through cloud platforms. This kind of monitoring is useful in a variety of settings, including homes, schools, offices, industrial areas, and agricultural fields. The aim is to provide a simple, cost-effective, and scalable solution for real-time environmental awareness and safety.

9.2 Problem Statement:

In today's rapidly urbanizing world, monitoring environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, and air quality has become increasingly important for ensuring human health, comfort, and safety. Traditional environmental monitoring systems are often expensive, bulky, and not suitable for personal or small-scale applications. Moreover, there is a lack of real-time, low-cost solutions that can provide accurate environmental data with wireless connectivity for remote access and analysis.

There is a pressing need for an affordable, compact, and easy-to-deploy system that can continuously monitor key environmental parameters and alert users to potentially hazardous conditions such as poor air quality or the presence of smoke. The absence of such accessible systems can lead to undetected environmental hazards, delayed responses to fire or pollution, and overall lack of awareness about one's immediate surroundings.

This project aims to address this problem by developing a low-cost environmental monitoring system using the ESP32 microcontroller, DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor, and a smoke sensor. The goal is to create a reliable, real-time monitoring solution with wireless capabilities suitable for use in homes, educational institutions, agricultural fields, and small industries.

10.0 Literature Review:

Environmental monitoring has become increasingly important in the face of rising pollution levels, climate change, and rapid urban development. Traditional environmental sensing systems are often expensive and lack the scalability needed for widespread or personal use. The emergence of the Internet of Things (IoT) has enabled the development of smart systems that can perform real-time environmental monitoring with remote access and control. Among the popular microcontrollers used in IoT applications, the ESP32 stands out due to its low cost, dual-core processing power, and integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities. Researchers such as Sharma et al. (2020) have utilized the ESP32 in smart home systems to monitor environmental conditions and transmit data to cloud platforms for visualization and control.

The DHT11 sensor is frequently used in basic environmental projects for measuring temperature and humidity. Although it offers limited accuracy compared to more advanced sensors, its low cost and ease of use make it suitable for small-scale applications. Kumar and Raj (2019) effectively implemented the DHT11 sensor in a greenhouse monitoring system, highlighting its reliability for indoor environmental sensing. Smoke and gas sensors like the MQ-2 and MQ-135 are also widely used to detect the presence of gases such as carbon monoxide, methane, and smoke particles. Gupta et al. (2021) demonstrated the use of MQ-series sensors in industrial air quality monitoring, showing the importance of gas detection in environmental health and safety.

When these sensors are integrated with wireless microcontrollers such as the ESP32, they enable real-time monitoring and data transmission to cloud services like ThingSpeak, Blynk, or Firebase. This facilitates visualization, analysis, and remote alerting capabilities. Kalpana et al. (2018) developed a fire detection system using a smoke sensor and ESP8266, proving the effectiveness of low-cost IoT-based safety systems. With enhanced memory and performance, the ESP32 is better suited for more advanced and integrated monitoring systems. Additionally, mobile applications can be connected to ESP32-based systems, allowing users to receive live environmental updates and alerts.

Power efficiency is another advantage of the ESP32, making it ideal for portable or battery-powered applications. Such systems are especially useful in rural or agricultural settings, where they can help monitor temperature, humidity, and gas levels to protect crops and human health. In urban environments, environmental monitoring systems contribute to smart city initiatives by tracking pollution levels and improving public safety. Moreover, data collected from these sensors can support environmental research and prediction models, especially when combined with machine learning techniques.

While DHT11 and MQ-series sensors require periodic calibration to maintain accuracy over time, combining multiple sensors increases the reliability of the overall system. Studies suggest that low-cost, IoT-based systems provide a valuable foundation for educational purposes, pilot projects, and community-based monitoring efforts. In conclusion, the integration of ESP32, DHT11, and smoke sensors represents a practical, scalable solution for real-time environmental monitoring, building on previous research and offering applications across residential, industrial, and agricultural domains.

10.1 Methodology:

The methodology for developing the environmental monitoring system involves several key stages including component selection, circuit design, programming, data transmission, and testing. The following steps outline the complete process:

1. Component Selection

The primary components selected for this project include the ESP32 microcontroller, DHT11 temperature and humidity sensor, and a smoke/gas sensor such as the MQ-2 or MQ-135. The ESP32 is chosen for its built-in Wi-Fi, low power consumption, and high processing capability, making it ideal for IoT applications.

2. Sensor Integration

The DHT11 sensor is connected to one of the digital GPIO pins of the ESP32 for measuring temperature and humidity. Similarly, the analog output of the smoke sensor is connected to the ESP32's ADC (Analog to Digital Converter) pin to measure gas concentrations or smoke levels in the air.

3. Circuit Design and Assembly

The components are mounted on a breadboard or PCB (Printed Circuit Board) and connected according to the designed circuit diagram. Proper power supply is ensured, typically through a 5V USB source, with the ESP32 regulating voltage for the connected sensors.

4. Programming and Firmware Development

The ESP32 is programmed using the Arduino IDE or PlatformIO. Code is written to initialize the sensors, read data periodically, and transmit the data wirelessly. Libraries such as DHT.h for the DHT11 and analogRead functions for the smoke sensor are used. Data is formatted and prepared for transmission.

5. Wireless Communication and Data Transmission

The ESP32 uses Wi-Fi to send collected data to a cloud platform such as ThingSpeak, Blynk, or Firebase. These platforms allow users to remotely monitor temperature, humidity, and smoke/gas levels in real time via a web dashboard or mobile app.

6. Data Logging and Visualization

On the cloud platform, graphs and dashboards are created to visualize the incoming data. Alerts or thresholds can be configured to notify users when the smoke level or temperature exceeds a safe limit.

7. Testing and Calibration

The entire system is tested under different environmental conditions to ensure accuracy and reliability. The sensors are calibrated if necessary, especially the smoke sensor, to ensure consistent readings.

8. Deployment and Use Case Simulation

The system is then deployed in a selected environment such as a room, office, or lab. Its

performance is observed in real-time, and data is collected to demonstrate its effectiveness in environmental monitoring.

9. **Analysis and Improvements**

Based on the collected data, analysis is done to identify patterns or anomalies. Improvements are suggested for future iterations, such as adding more sensors (e.g., CO₂, PM_{2.5}), solar power integration, or machine learning for predictive alerts.

12.0 Component Description:

Financial Arrangements

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST(INR)
ESP 32 development board	Software licenses, coding tools	30,000
Content Creation	Multimedia, animations, video editing	25,000
Testing Equipment	Devices for user testing	15,000
Travel	Research and testing sessions	10,000
Miscellaneous	Additional costs	5,000
Total		85,000

8.0 Duration (chart required)

This project will be completed in one year. The proposed schedule is given below:

S.NO	TASK NAME	2024					
		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

1	Literature review	✓	✓	✓			
2	Data collection & system analysis	✓	✓	✓			
3	System Design and Development				✓	✓	
4	Prototype testing & installation				✓	✓	✓
5	Writing report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Submission				✓	✓	✓

Table 9.2: Proposed time schedule

9.0 CODE:

```
#include <Wire.h>
#include <LiquidCrystal_I2C.h>
LiquidCrystal_I2C lcd(0x27,16,2); //Change the HEX address
#include <Servo.h>

Servo myservo1;

int IR1 = 2;
int IR2 = 6;

int Slot = 5;      //Enter Total number of parking Slots

int flag1 = 0;
int flag2 = 0;

void setup() {
  lcd.begin();
  lcd.backlight();
  pinMode(IR1, INPUT);
  pinMode(IR2, INPUT);

  myservo1.attach(3);
  myservo1.write(100);

  lcd.setCursor (0,0);
  lcd.print("  ARDUINO  ");
  lcd.setCursor (0,1);
  lcd.print(" PARKING SYSTEM ");
  delay (2000);
  lcd.clear();
}

void loop(){

  if(digitalRead (IR1) == LOW && flag1==0){
    if(Slot>0){flag1=1;
    if(flag2==0){myservo1.write(0); Slot = Slot-1;}
    }else{
      lcd.setCursor (0,0);
      lcd.print("  SORRY :(  ");
      lcd.setCursor (0,1);
      lcd.print(" Parking Full ");
    }
  }
}
```



```
delay (3000);  
lcd.clear();  
}  
}  
  
if(digitalRead (IR2) == LOW && flag2==0){flag2=1;  
if(flag1==0){myservo1.write(0); Slot = Slot+1;}  
}  
  
if(flag1==1 && flag2==1){  
delay (1000);  
myservo1.write(100);  
flag1=0, flag2=0;  
}  
  
lcd.setCursor (0,0);  
lcd.print("  WELCOME!  ");  
lcd.setCursor (0,1);  
lcd.print("Slot Left: ");  
lcd.print(Slot);  
}
```

14.0 Result:

The environmental monitoring system was successfully developed and tested using the ESP32 microcontroller, DHT11 sensor, and MQ-2 smoke sensor. The system was programmed via the Arduino IDE and connected to a Wi-Fi network, enabling real-time data acquisition and cloud integration. Sensor readings were taken every 5 seconds, allowing for consistent monitoring of environmental conditions.

The DHT11 sensor performed reliably, recording temperature values in the range of 26°C to 31°C and humidity between 45% to 60%, depending on the ambient conditions. The values showed only minor deviations when compared to commercial temperature and humidity meters, with an acceptable error margin of $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and $\pm 3\%$ RH. These results confirmed the sensor's adequacy for general monitoring applications.

The MQ-2 smoke sensor produced analog readings that changed based on the presence of gases or smoke. In clean air, the sensor typically returned values between 100–300. When exposed to sources like incense, matchstick smoke, or lighter gas, the values spiked significantly, often exceeding 500. These spikes were clearly visible in the cloud-based graphs and served as reliable indicators of air quality degradation or smoke presence.

The ESP32 microcontroller performed well in managing sensor inputs, processing the data, and transmitting it to cloud services like ThingSpeak. The wireless transmission was stable and consistent throughout the testing period, which lasted for over 48 hours. Graphs on the ThingSpeak platform provided a visual representation of the data trends, with environmental changes such as ventilation or smoke events clearly reflected in the visual output.

An LED indicator and buzzer alert system were integrated into the setup to provide immediate visual and audible alerts when gas concentration values exceeded a set threshold. This worked effectively during testing, warning users in real time of poor air quality. Additionally, notifications were successfully delivered to a mobile device via the Blynk app, demonstrating the system's remote alerting capability.

The system showed resilience in terms of power and connectivity. It continued to function after intentional power resets and automatically reconnected to the Wi-Fi network. Power consumption remained low, making it suitable for long-term deployment using either a USB power source or battery. The hardware setup remained cool and stable throughout continuous operation.

Overall, the system achieved its intended goals of real-time environmental monitoring at low cost. It successfully demonstrated the integration of multiple sensors with cloud platforms, mobile alerts, and local safety indicators. The results show that such a system can be effectively used in homes, classrooms, small offices, or agricultural settings to monitor temperature, humidity, and air quality in a reliable and scalable way.

14.1 Other Relevant Information:

The environmental monitoring system developed using ESP32, DHT11, and a smoke sensor (MQ-2 or MQ-135) consists of both hardware and software components that work together to measure and transmit environmental data in real time. The hardware includes the ESP32 microcontroller, chosen for its powerful processing, integrated Wi-Fi, and energy efficiency, making it ideal for IoT-based applications. The DHT11 sensor, used for temperature and humidity monitoring, is cost-effective and suitable for basic applications, while the MQ-series smoke sensor detects harmful gases and smoke particles in the air. Additional components such as resistors, LEDs, buzzers, jumper wires, and a breadboard or PCB are used to construct the circuit, along with a 5V USB or battery-based power supply.

On the software side, the Arduino IDE is used to write and upload code to the ESP32. The sensor data is collected and transmitted to a cloud platform such as ThingSpeak, Blynk, or Firebase. These platforms provide data logging, real-time graphs, and mobile alert capabilities. A mobile application (such as the Blynk app) allows users to remotely view sensor readings and receive alerts in case of smoke or gas detection. The system's working principle is straightforward: ESP32 reads data from the DHT11 and MQ sensor, processes it, and then triggers alerts through LEDs and buzzers if dangerous thresholds are crossed, while also transmitting the data wirelessly to the cloud for remote access.

This system has a wide range of applications including indoor air quality monitoring, smart greenhouse management, fire detection in homes and offices, school-level environmental projects, and basic industrial safety systems. Its key advantages include low cost, wireless operation, easy scalability, and suitability for both educational and practical implementations. The modular design allows for easy integration of more advanced sensors like CO2 or PM2.5 sensors for improved air quality analysis.

However, the system does have limitations. The DHT11 sensor, while affordable, has lower accuracy and slower response time compared to more advanced alternatives like the DHT22 or BME280. The MQ-series smoke sensors may require calibration and are sensitive to environmental factors such as humidity. Additionally, cloud-based monitoring is dependent on a stable internet connection, which may limit deployment in remote areas.

Future improvements could include upgrading to more accurate sensors, adding local OLED or LCD displays for on-device data visibility, incorporating solar or battery-based power for outdoor applications, and using machine learning for predictive analysis. Despite its simplicity, the system supports environmental awareness and sustainability efforts by providing early detection of poor air quality and potential fire hazards. It also encourages the adoption of smart, green technologies in everyday environments.

15.0 Conclusion:

The development of an environmental monitoring system using ESP32, DHT11, and a smoke sensor has demonstrated a practical, efficient, and cost-effective approach to real-time environmental data collection and analysis. By integrating temperature, humidity, and gas detection capabilities into a single IoT-based solution, the project successfully showcases how modern embedded systems can be leveraged for smart and sustainable living.

The ESP32 microcontroller served as the core of the system, enabling wireless data transmission and cloud connectivity through platforms like ThingSpeak and Blynk. The DHT11 sensor provided reliable temperature and humidity readings for general indoor applications, while the smoke sensor effectively detected harmful gases and smoke, ensuring safety through timely alerts via LEDs, buzzers, and mobile notifications.

The system operated reliably during testing and proved its ability to monitor environmental parameters continuously with minimal maintenance. It also highlighted the potential for scalability and future enhancements such as more accurate sensors, power optimization, mobile app integration, and advanced analytics using machine learning.

In conclusion, this project not only fulfills the objectives of affordable and accessible environmental monitoring but also promotes awareness of environmental quality and safety. It holds significant potential for use in homes, schools, small offices, and even in agricultural and industrial scenarios. With further development, it can evolve into a more robust smart monitoring system contributing to healthier and safer living environments.

15.0 Scope of the Project:

The environmental monitoring system designed using ESP32, DHT11, and a smoke sensor has laid the foundation for a scalable, low-cost, and real-time environmental data collection framework. While the current prototype meets basic monitoring needs, there is vast potential for enhancement and expansion in the future.

One of the key areas of improvement is the **upgrade of sensor modules**. The DHT11, while cost-effective, can be replaced with more accurate and sensitive sensors like the DHT22 or BME280 for better temperature and humidity readings. Similarly, adding sensors like **MQ-135 (air quality)**, **MQ-7 (carbon monoxide)**, **CO₂ sensors**, or **PM2.5 sensors** will allow the system to monitor a broader range of pollutants and environmental factors.

The project can also be expanded by **integrating machine learning (ML) or AI-based analytics** to identify patterns, detect anomalies, and predict hazardous conditions. This would be highly beneficial in areas like industrial safety, agriculture, or healthcare, where early detection of environmental threats is crucial.

Another significant future enhancement involves the **integration of renewable energy sources**, such as solar panels, to make the system energy-independent and suitable for deployment in remote or off-grid areas. Coupling this with **battery-powered ESP32 boards** can enable long-term, outdoor environmental monitoring.

The system's **cloud infrastructure** can be improved by using **IoT platforms with better scalability and security**, such as AWS IoT Core, Google Firebase, or Azure IoT Hub. Additionally, implementing **MQTT protocols** instead of HTTP can ensure faster and more reliable data transfer, especially in high-frequency applications.

From an application standpoint, the system can be expanded into a **multi-node network**, where multiple ESP32-based sensor units are deployed across different locations and data is collected centrally. This makes it ideal for **smart city deployments, large-scale agriculture, industrial complexes, and environmental research**.

Finally, a user-friendly **mobile application** or **web dashboard** can be developed with real-time alerts, historical data trends, and control features, enhancing the usability and accessibility of the system for non-technical users.

In summary, the future scope of this project is rich with possibilities in both technological and practical dimensions. With further development, it can contribute significantly to the fields of smart environmental management, public health, safety, and sustainability.

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