Ivan John Naparota, MSEE – I

WSN Personal Essay

25/07/2018

**WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORK**

Electronic stuffs, programming, robotics, automations, and anything that uses computer in general is one of my frustrations, I love how things work without literally doing anything to them, it’s like electronics have their own minds. I want to be good at these things at some level, in fact these contributed to my decision to take a Master’s Degree because I believe taking a Master’s Degree will eventually expose me to things like these, and voila! We had our sensors and actuators during our first semester, though it is only theoretical discussions but fair enough that I get to know a little about sensors, and now I am currently in my second semester of Master’s Degree, this Wireless Sensor Networks came across my path.

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN), at first I was really excited about this subject, I was very eager to learn when we had our basic programming tutorial as preparation for WSN, then we had the discussion proper of the subject, we were first introduced to Raspberry Pi, there I see a glimpse of what really is ahead of me in this subject, I am not familiar with the Linux based microcomputer and guess what, all I see is a black screen where you literally type what you need to do to the computer, you navigate yourself in the computer with “codes” or “syntax” whatsoever, I can now see that “programming” or the kind is not an easy job to do, at least for those who do not have proper programming background like me, nonetheless, what I understood about the use of this “little” computer is that it serves as a bridge between you the “programmer” and the wireless sensors, more to that is it serves as a server where it manages and processes the data gathered from the deployed sensors.

Now let’s talk about the sensors, there is this sensor named “TelosB” where it is wireless of course because this is wireless sensor networks that serves its purpose, a sensor, this particular sensor senses data like temperature, humidity, and illumination of a particular zone, this sensor is capable of doing it alone but if it is already grouped it can do more than that, it cannot only gather the said data but it can now also transmit to another sensor if equipped with the necessary “program”, what we did really is connect a sensor that will serve as a receiver of the data to the Raspberry Pi which will then store and process the data depending on the “program” in the Raspberry Pi, with that, useful data is collected.

To summarize it all, Wireless Sensor Networks as far as my understanding goes, it is a networked sensors where it collect, transmit, receive, and process data. When data is already there, then for me, it already serves its purpose.

On an added note, in this modern world where information is much valued, when I say “much” it is in its superlative form, information or data is really that valued today, I remember what my other instructor will always say, that “Data is the New Oil”, so just imagine how “powerful” you are when you have a superior skill in the field of Wireless Sensor Networks, you can gather useful information, make money out of it, or just plainly use it. But personally, maybe the programming job of Wireless Sensor Networks is not for me, as how much I’m excited upon starting this subject is how I’m overwhelmed with the programming side at the end of the subject, for me it takes a lot of time learning, passion to programming, or just the will to do the science behind it for you to be good at it. That being said, I am really convinced on how useful and powerful Wireless Sensor Networks as a field is, it is a field in engineering or so that studying to it will give you an unparalleled opportunity in contributing useful information to humanity.