An IoT based solution to device tracking

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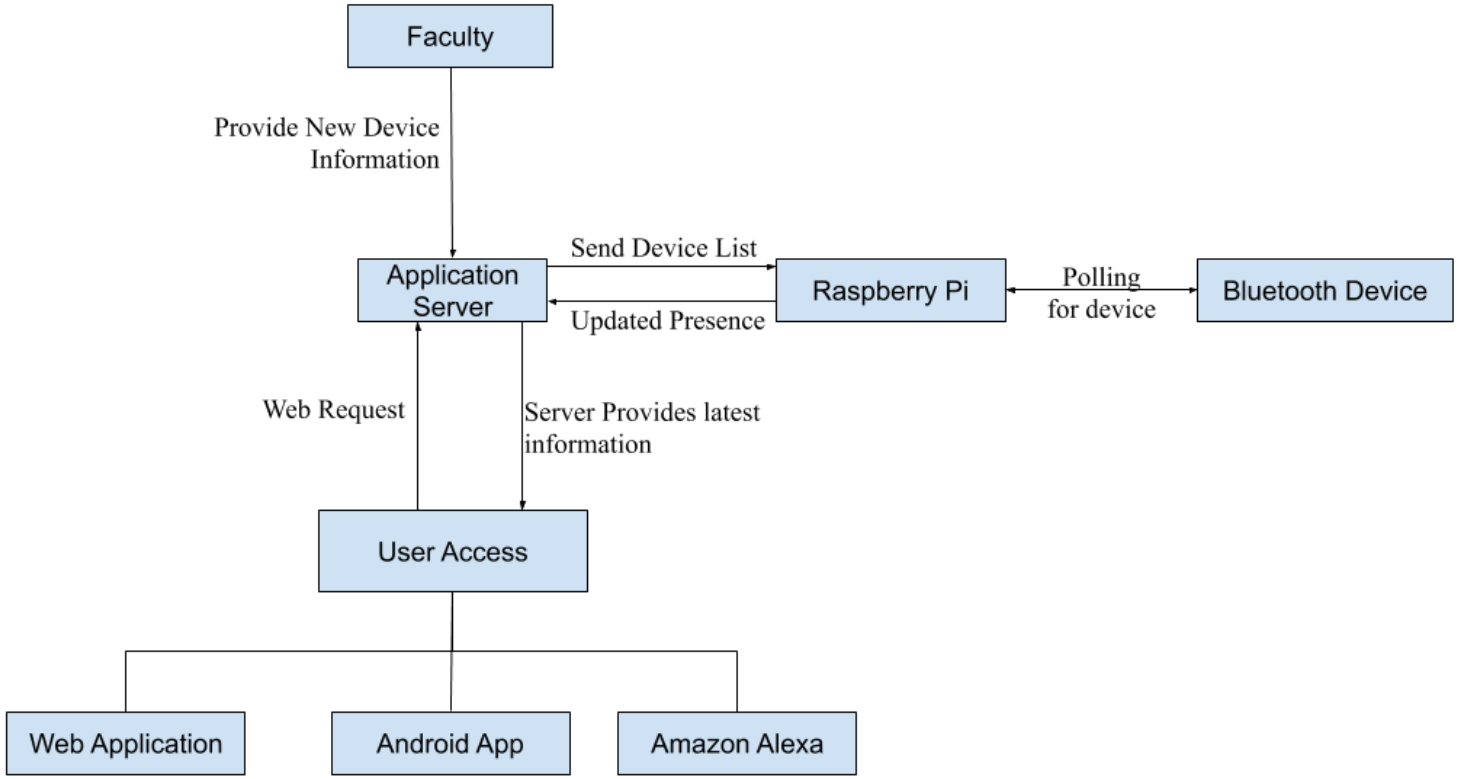
Use Case

Software System to enable students to check if students are in their office

Overview

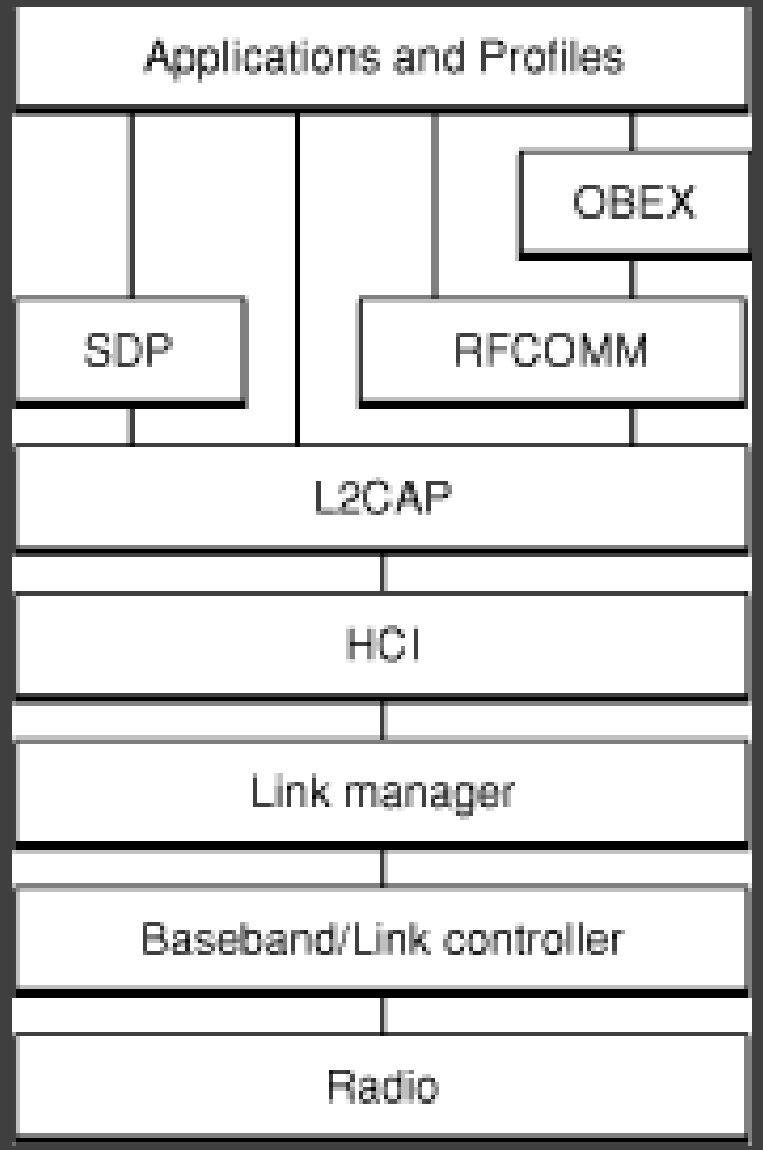
- Architecture
- Implementation
  - Raspberry Pi
  - Web App
  - Web API
  - Amazon Alexa
  - Android Application
- Future Work
- Undergrad Projects
- DEMO

Architecture



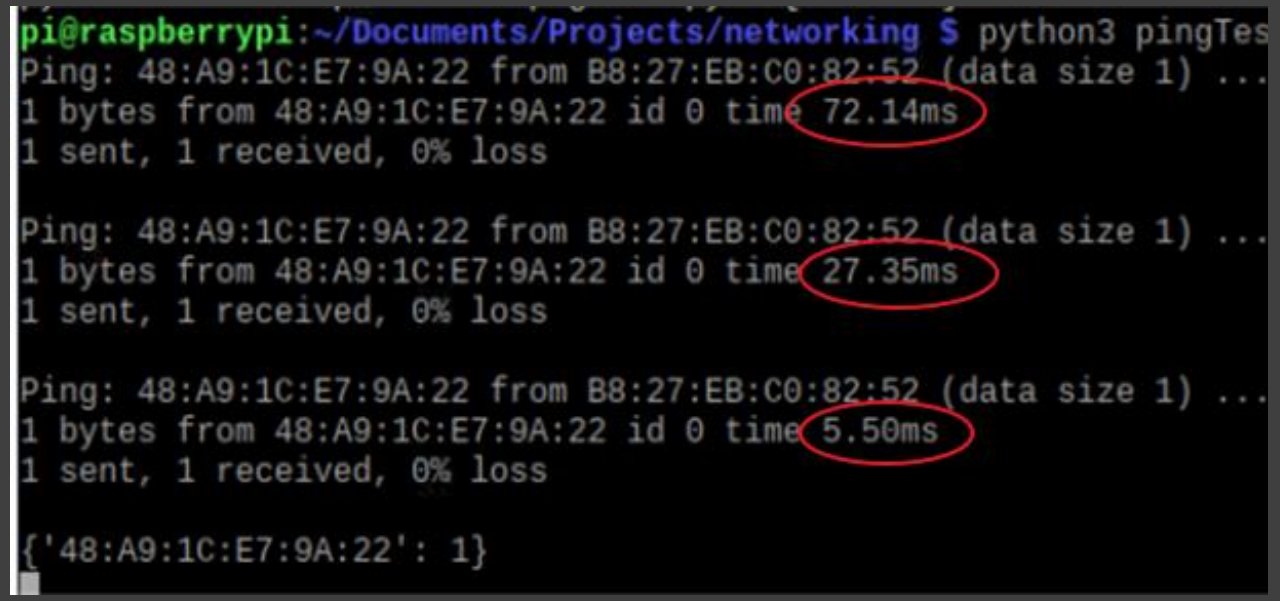
Bluetooth Protocol Stack

- The RFCOMM protocol has the same service and reliability guarantees as TCP
- L2CAP employs the concept of channels to track the source and destination of data packets. The L2CAP layer is a required part of every Bluetooth system. Responsible for providing connectionless and connection oriented services to the upper layers of Bluetooth communication stack
- Every Bluetooth device has a unique identifier similar to the Media Access Control (MAC) address in the TCP/IP paradigm known as the device address or Bluetooth Address. This is a globally unique 48-bit address and the address spaces are managed by the IEEE Registration Authority.
- The L2ping is similar to the ICMP ping in the internet protocol suite



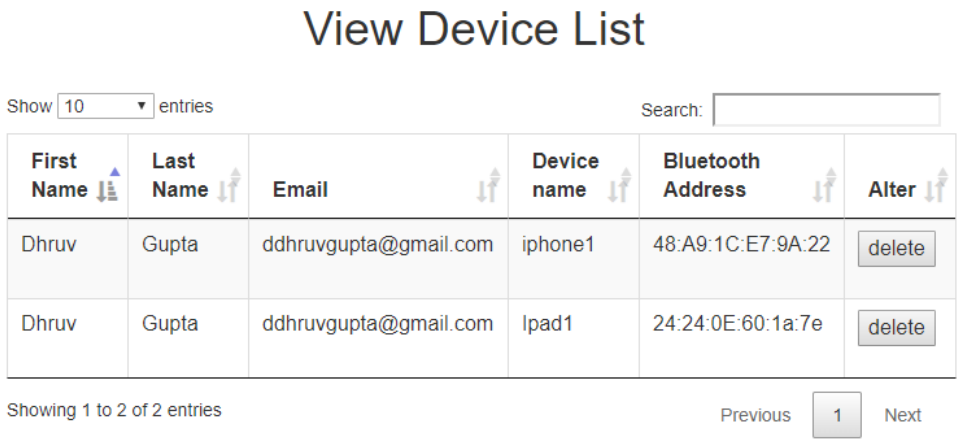
Raspberry Pi

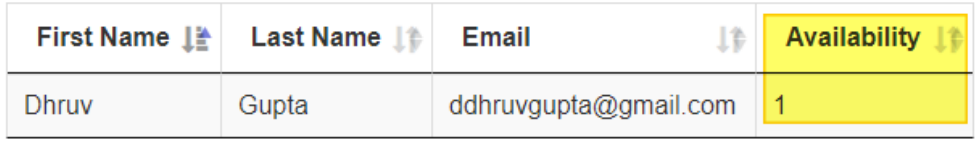
- The Raspberry Pi acts as the sensor which will connect to the Bluetooth devices.
- Since the Raspberry Pi is small, affordable and runs on a Linux operating system distribution called Raspbian, it can be configured to provide high reliability and availability as a distributed sensor bed.
- The Pi runs a python script at a configured frequency to ping all the devices in its device list and updates their presence in a hash table.
- The ping is performed thrice every cycle, with the mode of the results being taken as the result to provide accurate results.



Web Application

- Built in PHP with jQuery, BootStrap and mySQL database
- Passwords hashed with MD5
- Email verification for user authentication
- Only @gsu or @student.gsu allowed
- PDO for preventing SQL injection
- Search functionality via DataTables
- Hosted on Amazon EC2 instance
- APIs for interacting with other applications





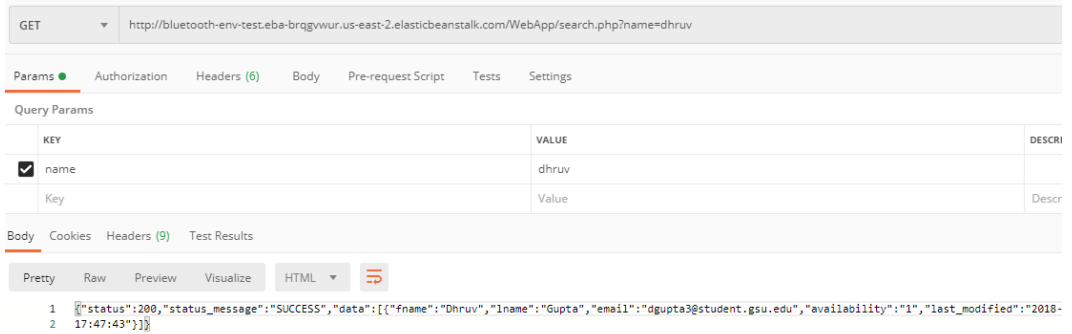
Web API

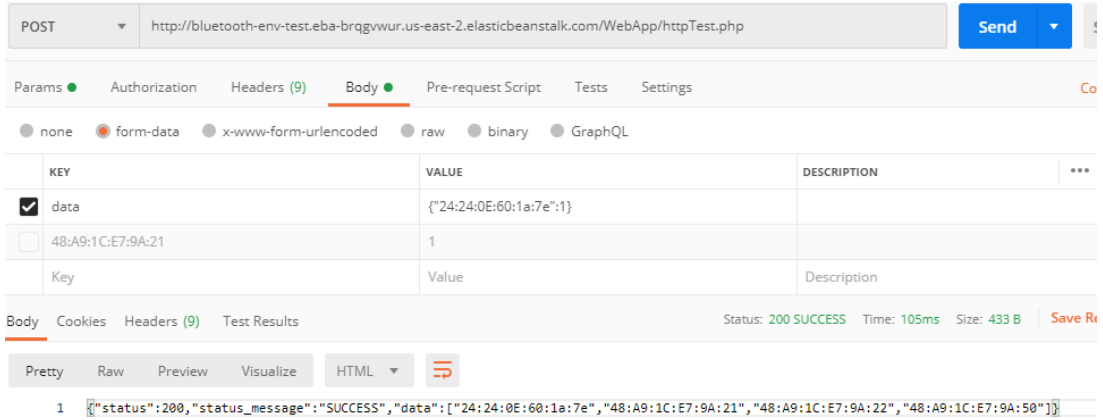
Search API

- Serves requests from a mobile application and Alexa devices.

Update API

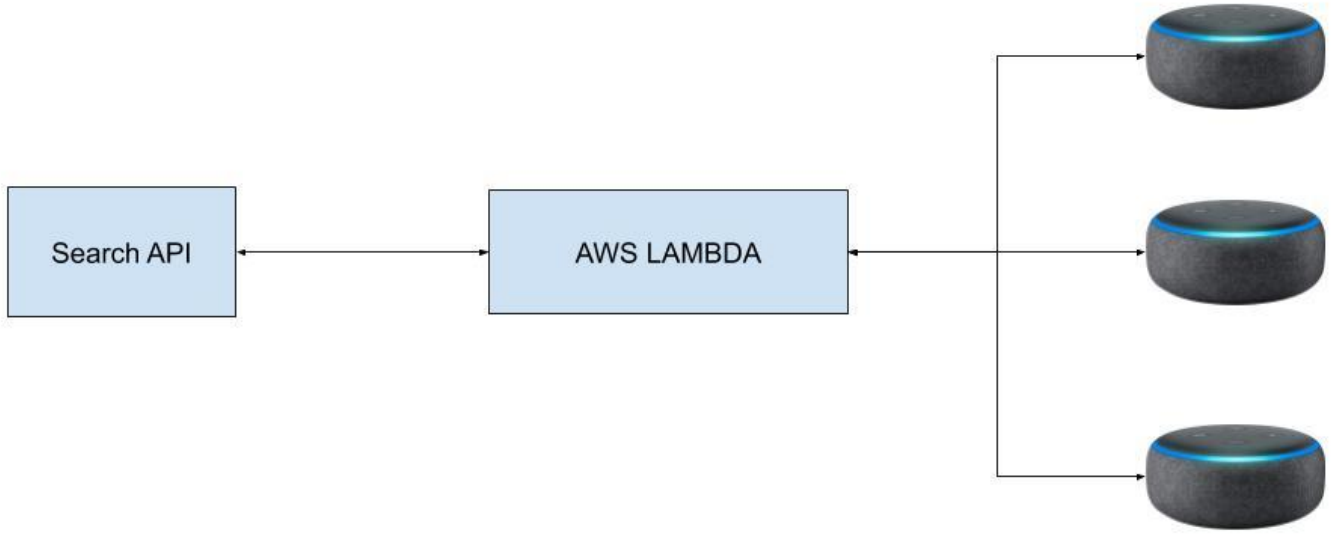
- API for Raspberry Pi devices to update information about devices and get an updated list of devices.





Amazon Alexa

- AWS Lambda function created to act as parent node for Alexa requests
- Developed in Node.js, contains event handlers for different interactions and inputs
- Alexa is pre trained to be able to understand names without developer support
- Custom name class can be created but would require constant updates with faculty changes



is doctor {name} in availble today
is doctor {name} in the office
is doctor {name} free
is Professor {name} free
is Dr. {name} available

Amazon Web Services

Solution hosted on Amazon EC2 instances using Elastic Beanstalk

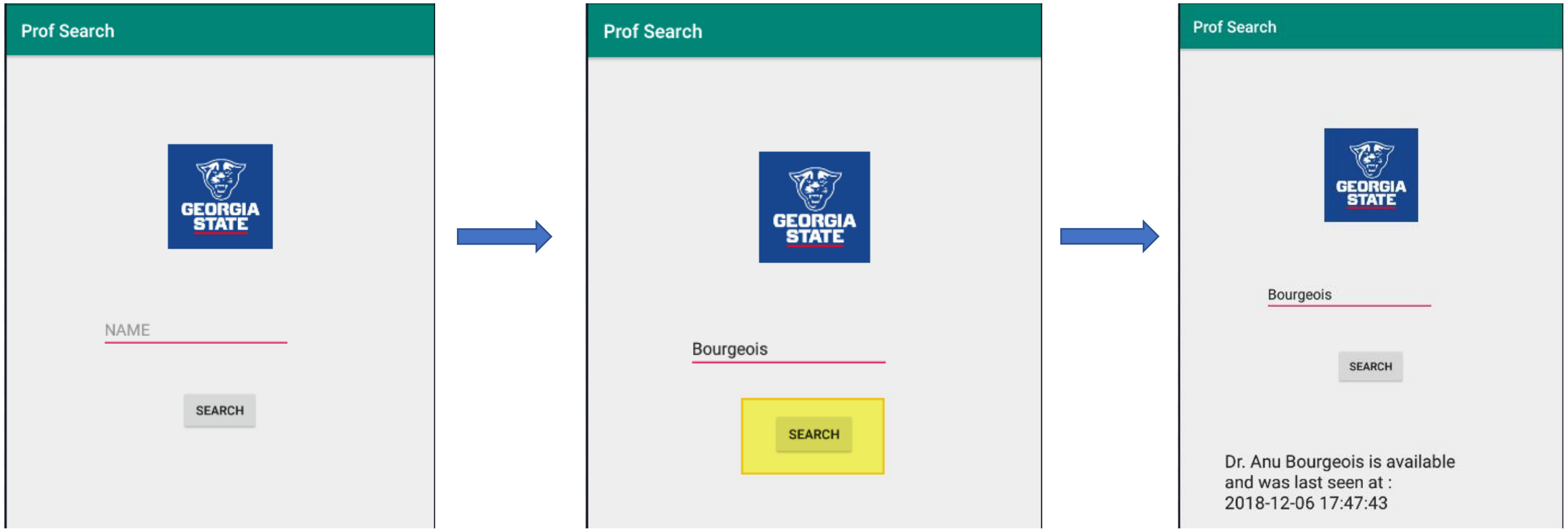
EC2 instance linked to GitHub Repository via CI/CD Pipeline

Internal communication between services can be secured

Eg. Lambda function can communicate with EC2 instance securely

mySQL RDS instance is secured and can only be reached via EC2 server

Android Application



Future Work

- Improve Landing Page and add NavBar
- Add OAuth 2.0 to API
- Implement SSL communication between all components
- Implement Batch Processing Queuing system to enable scaling of Sensor Network
- Implement Caching mechanism for preventing too many calls to database
- Database Sharding based on department
- Mobile application to enable professors to update availability or via Alexa
- Appointment making ability via Alexa

Projects for undergraduates

Build an Alexa based Client using available APIs

- Good OS background knowledge required
- Eg. Ask Alexa to find Campus Dining Options

Build an Android Application

- Requires background in OS and Mobile Apps
- Eg. Building an application to trigger home automation systems

Raspberry Pi Application for sensing

- Python and other tools easily available on Linux, Great community support
- Good introduction to Linux OS, Networking and working in resources constraints
- Sensors can interface with GPIO pins
- Eg. Home Automation Solutions, Health Tracking, Controlling Media Devices

Database Concepts

- Explore how to store real time data and database scaling concepts
- Good introduction for indexing and database partitioning concepts

DEMO