**Development Team Project ‌**

*Readme ‌for‌ Secure Systems Architecture ‌(SSA)‌ ‌*

MSc‌ ‌Cyber‌ ‌Security‌ ‌

Unit‌ ‌6 ‌Submission‌ ‌

Words 659

Table of Contents

[Solution Description 2](#_Toc90914138)

[Security Benefits 2](#_Toc90914139)

[Security Challenges 3](#_Toc90914140)

[Distributed System Challenges 3](#_Toc90914141)

[Table 1 4](#_Toc90914142)

[Areas for Security Improvement 4](#_Toc90914143)

[Conclusion 4](#_Toc90914144)

[Appendix A – Instructions 5](#_Toc90914145)

[Code Dependencies 5](#_Toc90914146)

[Table 2 5](#_Toc90914147)

[Initial Set Up Instructions 5](#_Toc90914148)

[Operational Instructions 6](#_Toc90914149)

[Light 6](#_Toc90914150)

[Thermostat 6](#_Toc90914151)

[Appendix B – Testing 7](#_Toc90914152)

[Functional Testing 7](#_Toc90914153)

[Use Cases 7](#_Toc90914154)

[Integrity of Functions 8](#_Toc90914155)

[Non-Functional Testing 8](#_Toc90914156)

[Security 8](#_Toc90914157)

[Performance Efficiency 12](#_Toc90914158)

[Style 13](#_Toc90914159)

[Appendix C - Design Decisions 14](#_Toc90914160)

[System Design 14](#_Toc90914161)

[Vulnerability Management 17](#_Toc90914162)

[Table 3 18](#_Toc90914163)

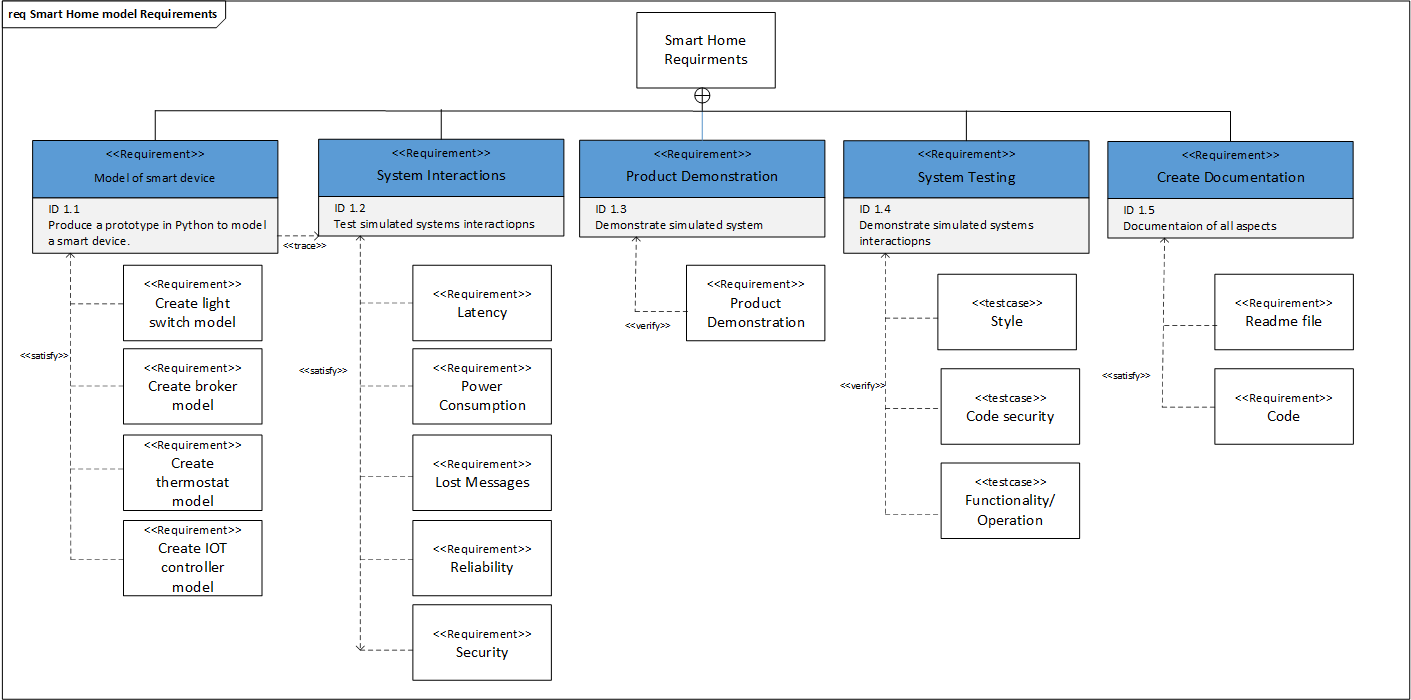
[Documentation References 19](#_Toc90914164)

[Code References 21](#_Toc90914165)

# Solution Description

The solution comprises an MQTT (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport) broker connected to a controller, providing two node options: a smart bulb and a thermostat comprising both a sensor and actuator. This has been set up to run in Docker and is scalable, currently capable of having up to 9999 containers of each node type. See Appendix A for implementation instructions.

SysML is used to formally model the Smart Home topology. Below is the requirements diagram with the further diagrams in Appendix C.



##### Figure 1: SysML Requirements diagram

# Security Benefits

The solution has the following security benefits in Phase 1 (Table 3):

* Authentication (TLS), node authentication and authorisation have been prioritised within the development timeframe.
* Third party components for strong encryption and authentication used but checked for legitimacy prior to implementation.
* User has been specified in the Dockerfiles to avoid privilege escalation to the host OS (The Digital Life, 2021).
* Disabled internet connection and set up on an isolated network.
* The maximum temperature of the thermostat has been set to 40C, to limit the impact of integrity attacks.
* Secure coding practices have been used, including but not limited to input validation.

When identifying security controls, the OWASP Top 10 for Internet of Things (IoT) was considered (OWASP, 2018). TLS in particular mitigates most of the vulnerabilities identified in the original Attack-Defense Tree. The severe vulnerabilities were targeted first given the timeframe.

# Security Challenges

The security challenges faced throughout development included:

* Security impacting intended functionality of the Smart Home system as found in final testing. Usability and security should be balanced appropriately to bring the most benefit to the end user.
* ID and password not encrypted for MQTT (Sardeshmukh & Ambawade, 2017).
* With no widely accepted IoT security standards or regulations to follow, ensuring full coverage of security and testing requirements is challenging.

## Distributed System Challenges

Distributed systems can present challenges, including latency and traffic loss. IoT devices also have limitations, including limited bandwidth and processing power (Gerber & Romeo, 2017). Table 1 demonstrates mitigations for these challenges.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Challenge** | **Solution(s)** |
| Latency | MQTT implemented (Sherozhenko. M, 2017). |
| Power Consumption | MQTT clients are small and require minimal resources (MQTT, 2021). Whilst node battery life with Wi-Fi would be shorter as standard (Mocnej et al., 2019), the use of MQTT reduces overhead and makes Wi-Fi a viable option. |
| Lost Messages | The MQTT Quality of Service (QoS) levels implemented. Only QoS 0 and 1 have been used, QoS 2 has not been implemented due to cost of transportation. |
| High Transport Cost |
| Reliability | MQTT session persistence ensures an efficient and reliable connection to the broker (MQTT, 2021). TCP was the chosen method of transport as this is compatible with MQTT and ensures reliable communication. |
| Limited Bandwidth | A lightweight publish-subscribe middleware approach using MQTT was chosen (MQTT, 2021). |
| Fault tolerance | Container architecture means that node failure will not impact the correct functioning of other microservices. |

### Table 1

# Areas for Security Improvement

The following improvements are suggested for future development in Phase 2 (Table 3):

* Strong ciphers are enforced with use of TLS v1.2 and above only. Using TLS v1.3 may provide additional efficiencies (Lundqvist et al., 2019).
* Ensure client individual certificates are used.
* Rejection of connections where the broker's name is different to the broker certificate.
* Third layer of authentication and encryption in the application layer.
* Two Factor Authentication (2FA) on the controller GUI.
* Use namespaces and control groups in Docker for management and security improvements (Kozhirbayev & Sinnott, 2017).
* Recommend WPA3 to prevent DEAUTH attacks.
* Intrusion detection automation based on the broker logs.
* Vulnerabilities raised by Bandit and Snyk (Appendix B) reviewed and managed.

# Conclusion

When developing this solution, security challenges and requirements for implementation were considered, some of which were found from testing (Appendix B). Although unable to complete all mitigations, the design was implemented with identified vulnerabilities in mind (Appendix C). The solution provided shows the foundational requirements of an IoT device; however, further security improvements are required in the next phases.

# Appendix A – Instructions

## Code Dependencies

Several prerequisites are required to be able to run this system. The following software needs to be installed ahead of completing the initial set up of the system.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Link** | **Rationale** |
| Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL 2) | <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/wsl/install> | Required to run the simulation (only necessary when you do not operate within Linux) |
| Docker Desktop | <https://www.docker.com/products/docker-desktop> | Required to run the simulation |
| Visual Studio (VS) Code | <https://code.visualstudio.com/download> | Required to manage code |
| VS Code extension “Docker” | <https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/containers/overview> | Required to manage code |
| VS Code extension “Remote - WSL” | <https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/remote/wsl> | Required to manage code (only necessary when you do not operate within Linux) |

### Table 2

## Initial Set Up Instructions

1. Clone the code from the [Github Repository](https://github.com/janKuefner/SSA)
2. To compose & start the broker:
   1. Open a Linux shell in VS Code
   2. Navigate to .../[MQTT\_broker\_Mosquitto](https://github.com/janKuefner/SSA/tree/main/MQTT_broker_Mosquitto)
   3. Start the broker with the following command:  
      $ sudo docker-compose up
3. Build docker image from controller and node Dockerfiles
   1. Right click on controller Dockerfile & click build image named ‘controller’
   2. Right click on controller Dockerfile & click build image named ‘thermostat’
   3. Right click on controller Dockerfile & click build image named ‘lamp’
4. Run thermostat
   1. Open shell
   2. Start the thermostat with the following command  
      $ docker run -i --name thermo\_001 thermostat
   3. You will get the message: “Integrate the node in Docker network and hit Enter”
   4. Before pressing Enter, open a Windows shell and type: $ docker network connect mqtt\_broker\_mosquitto\_default thermo\_001
   5. Hit enter in the shell where you had the “Integrate the node in Docker network and hit Enter” message.
5. Run lamp
   1. Open shell
   2. Start the lamp with the following command  
      $ docker run -i --name lamp\_001 lamp
   3. You will get the message: “Integrate the node in Docker network and hit Enter”
   4. Before pressing Enter, open a Windows shell and type: $ docker network connect mqtt\_broker\_mosquitto\_default lamp\_001
   5. Hit enter in the shell where you had the “Integrate the node in Docker network and hit Enter” message.
6. Run controller
   1. Open shell
   2. Start the controller with the following command:  
      $ docker run -i --name controller\_001 controller
   3. You will get the message: “Integrate the node in Docker network and hit Enter”
   4. Before pressing Enter, open a Windows shell and type: $ docker network connect mqtt\_broker\_mosquitto\_default controller\_001
   5. Hit enter in the shell where you had the “Integrate the node in Docker network and hit Enter” message.

## Operational Instructions

### Light

To operate the lamp, follow the on-screen instructions in the controller terminal.

### Thermostat

To operate the thermostat, follow the on-screen instructions in the controller terminal.

# Appendix B – Testing

When designing this system, the chosen QoS priorities are functional suitability, security and performance efficiency based on the ISO 25010 standard (Calidad Software, N.D.). These were chosen in line with the assignment requirements to produce a secure smart home system that makes allowance for the challenges of distributed systems, which are often performance related. The following testing assesses the extent to which this solution meets these objectives.

## Functional Testing

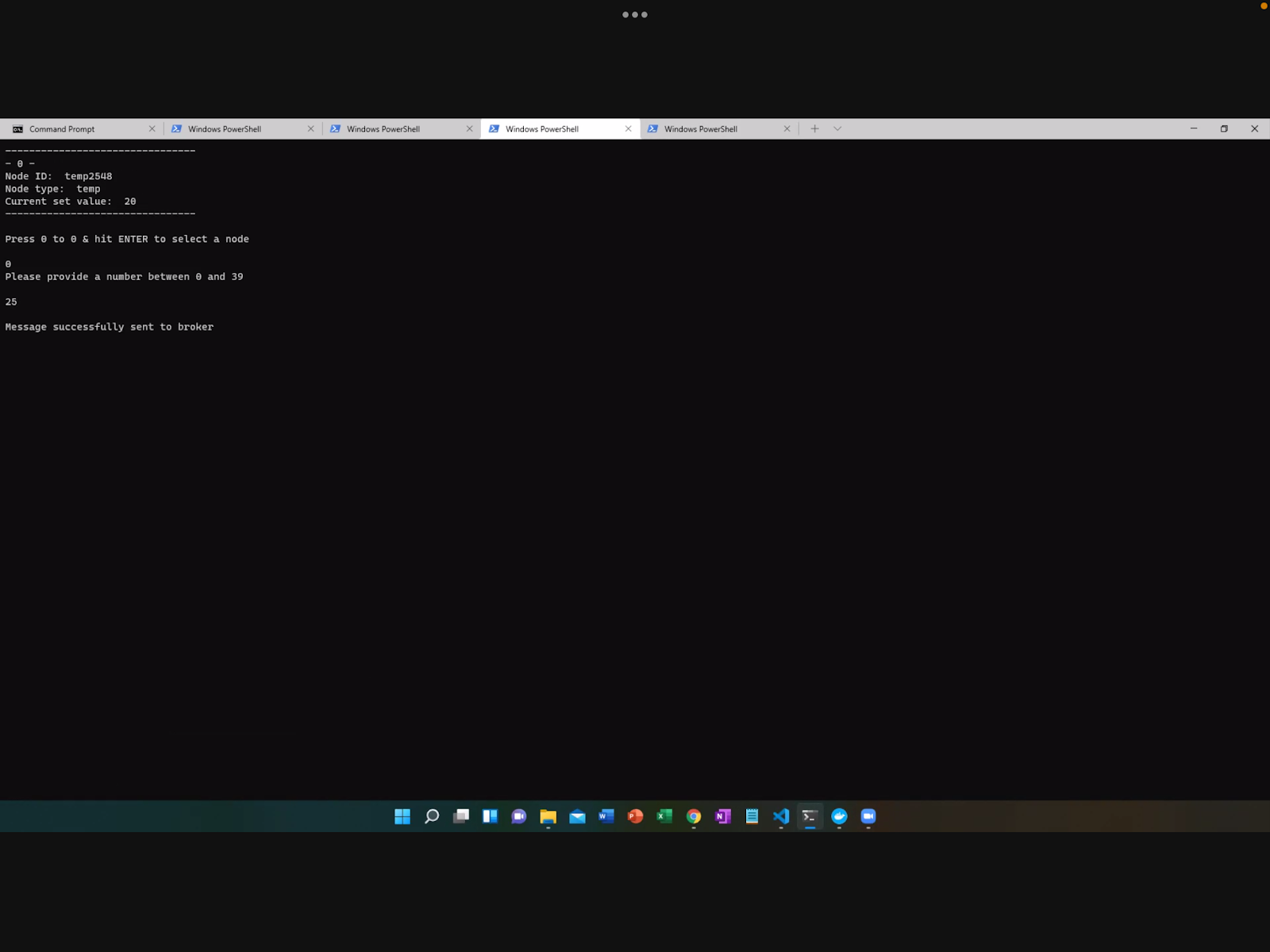
With regards to functional suitability, this testing focuses on the solution’s coverage of intended use cases as well as the integrity of the functions through successfully operating the IoT device settings from the controller. The efficiency of the functions will be covered in the ‘Performance Efficiency’ section below.

### Use Cases

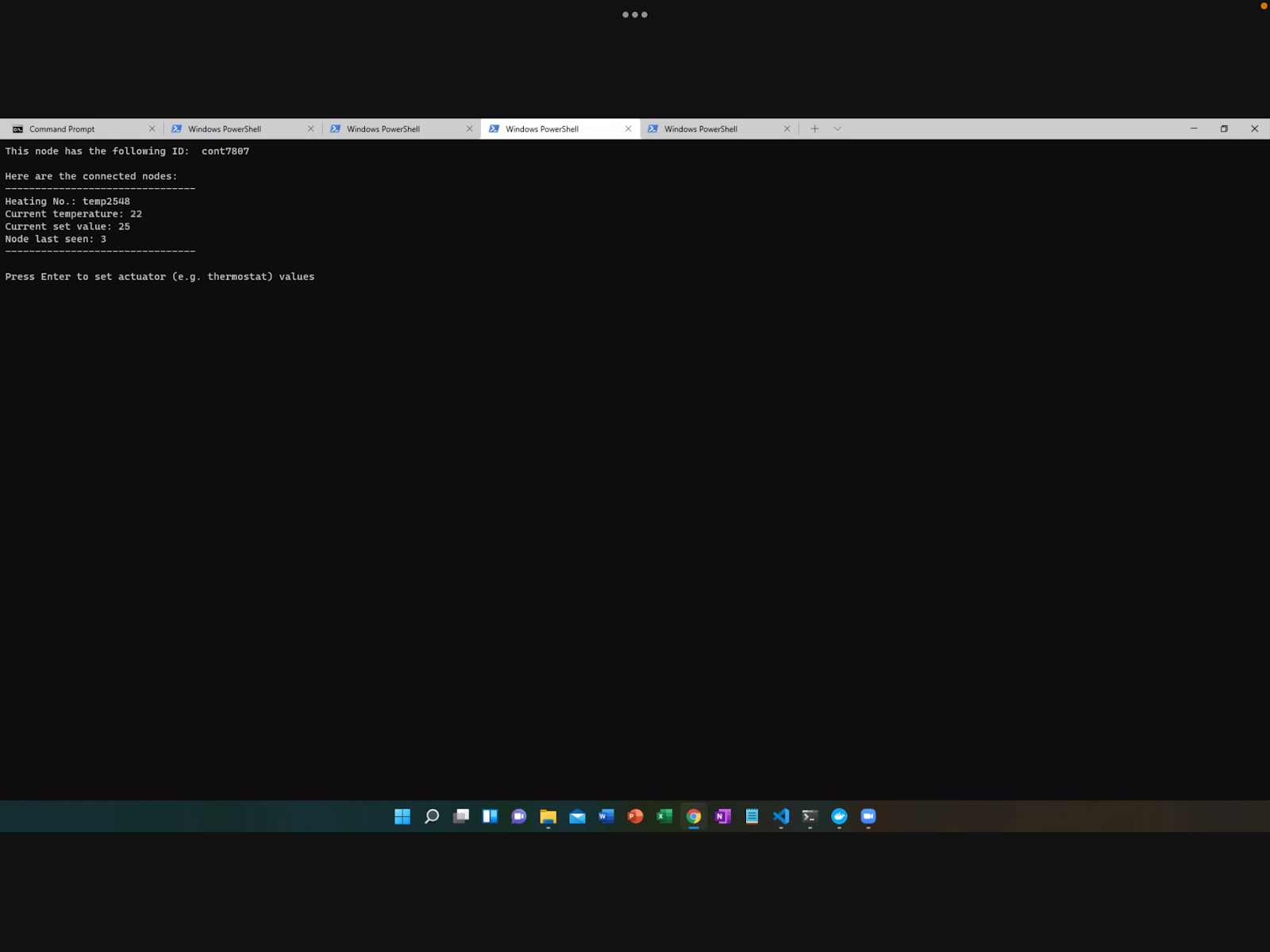
* Turn light on/off

At the time of testing, we were unable to test use cases for the lamp. This was due to the authorisation set up, we were unable to access the lamp itself to see if it could be changed.

* Turn temperature up/down



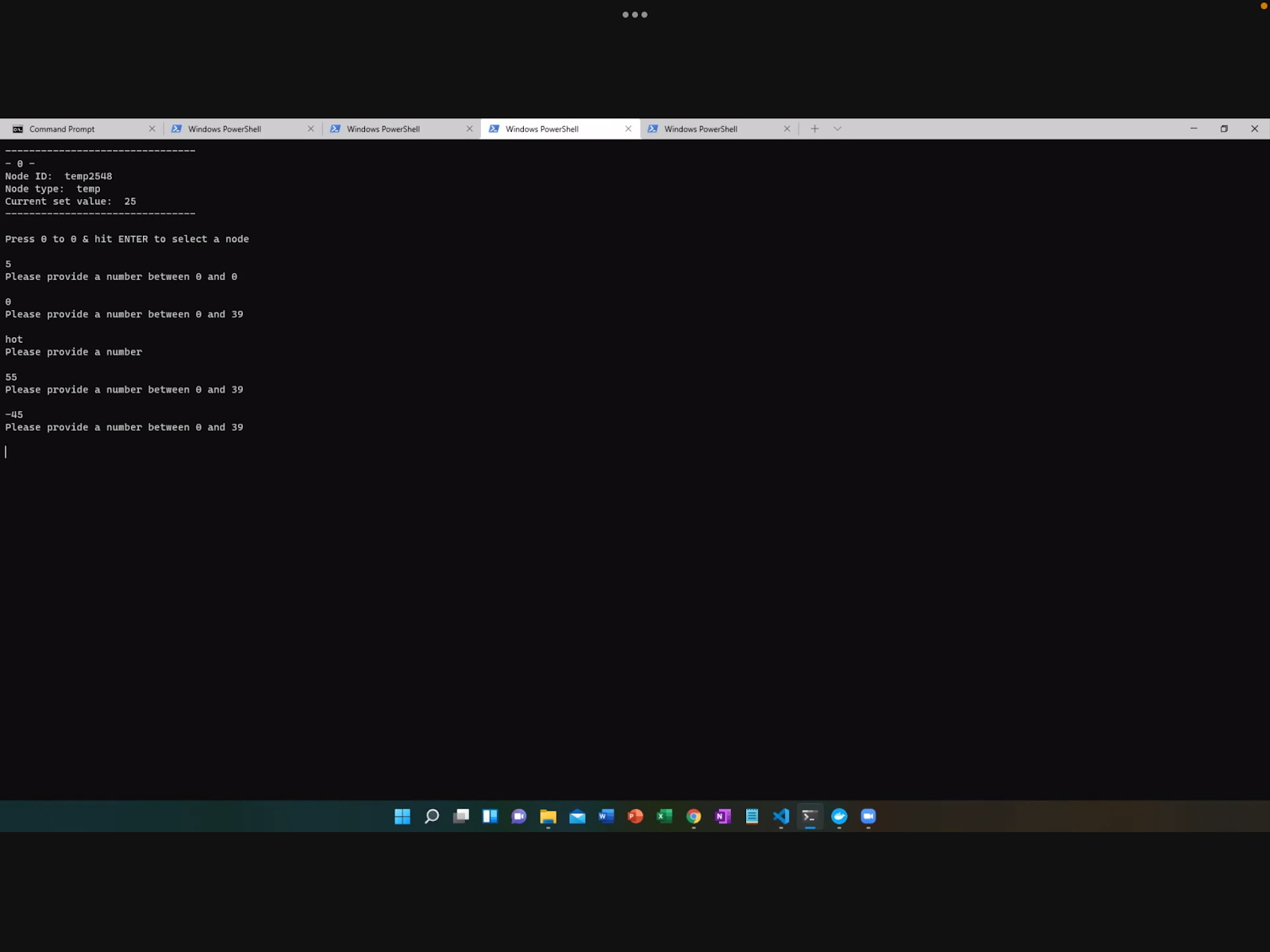
##### Image 1 Change Temperature



##### Image 2 Proof of Change in Temperature

### Integrity of Functions

* Input validation (string and incorrect numbers)

  
Image 3 Input Validation

It was not possible to test input validation for the second node (lamp). This was due to the authorisation set up, meaning we were not able to make any changes to the lamp.

**Efficiency of Functions**

* Competing messages/collisions - throughout testing we did not see any errors to suggest competing messages or collisions.

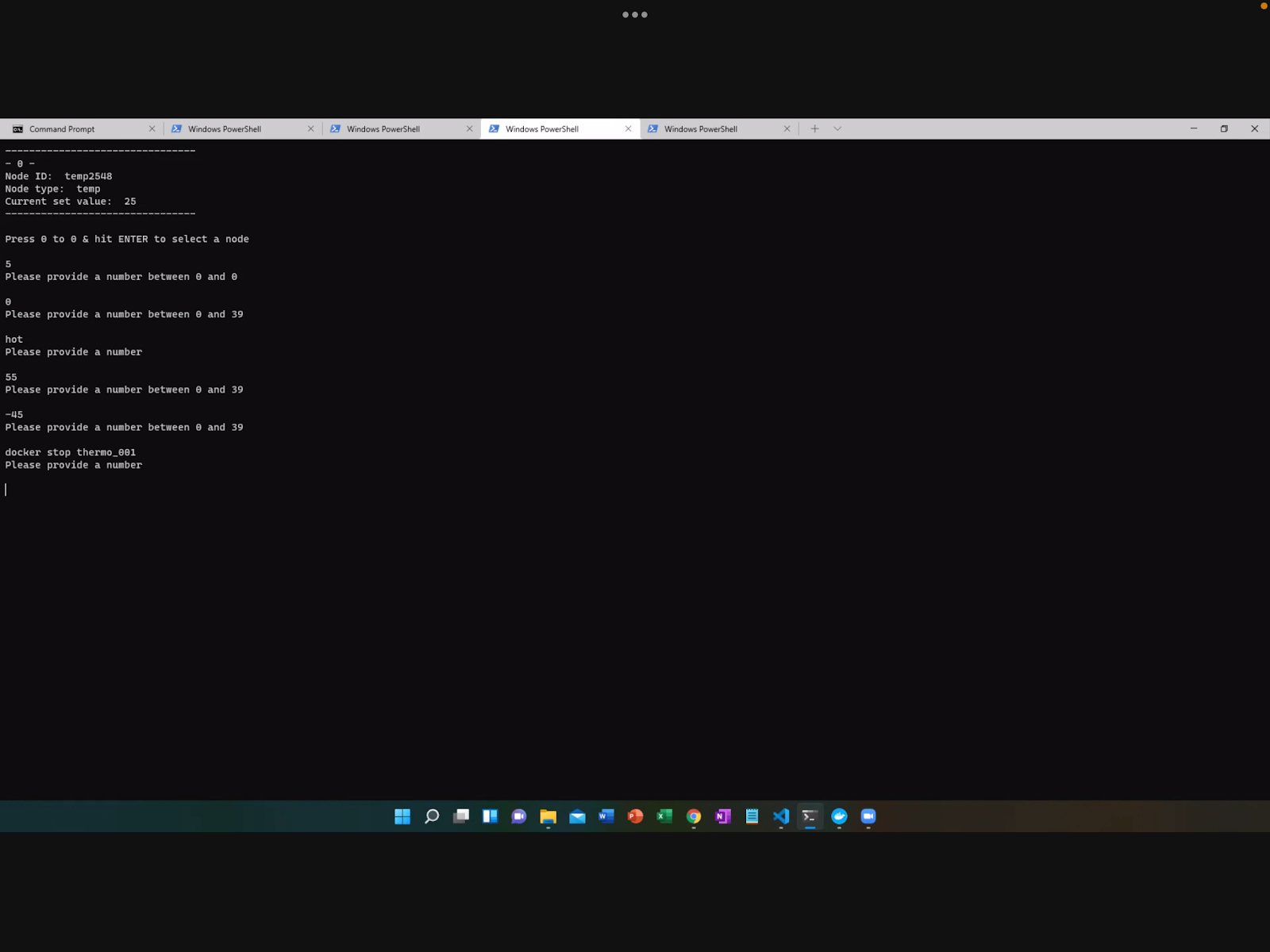
## Non-Functional Testing

### Security

Security testing has been performed at all layers, including application (SAST, etc.) and network (Wireshark, etc.), however physical security and black box testing is not within scope as this is an unhosted simulation only. Multiple security testing tools are used to achieve wide coverage of security vulnerabilities and testing has been tailored to the underlying technologies, e.g., Snyk for Docker image scanning.

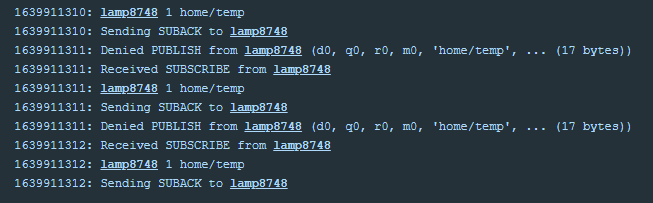
Abuse and misuse cases from the perspective of an attacker have been identified, these include:

#### Input validation

* Temp >40 on thermostat - Please refer to Image 3 above.
* Docker stop string   
  

##### Image 4 Docker Stop

#### Authorisation Checks



##### Image 5 Authorisation Check

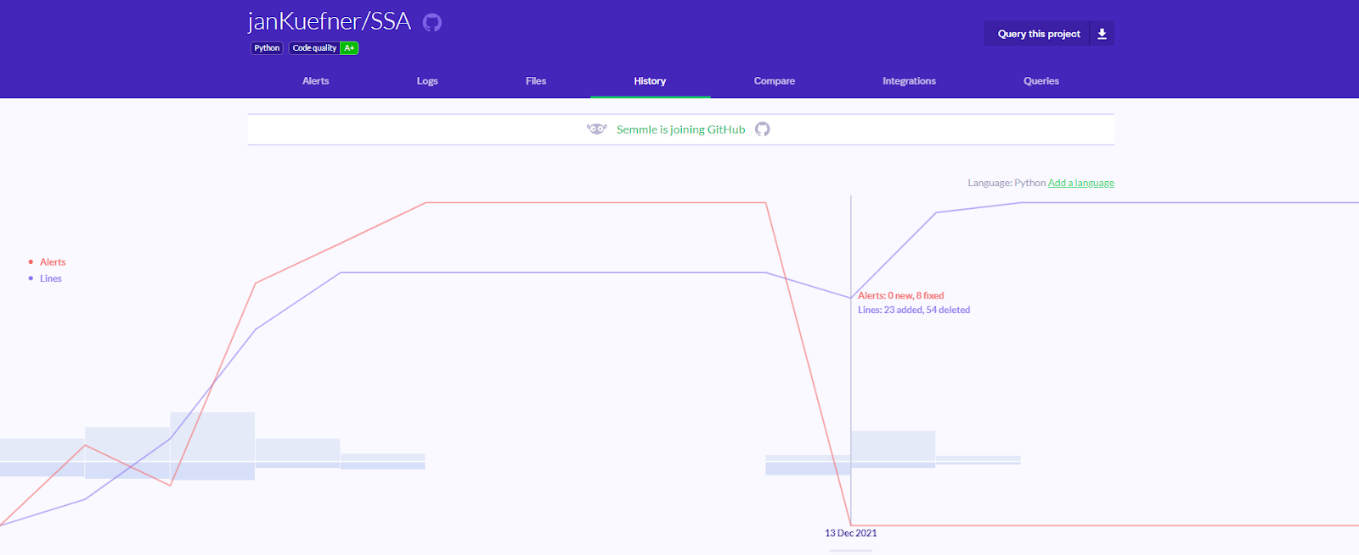
Whilst it was out of the scope of this testing, it is recommended to penetration test the system to determine vulnerability to more sophisticated misuse and abuse cases, for example credential abuse and malicious nodes attempting to connect to the network.

#### Application Security

##### Static Application Security Testing (SAST)

LGTM was used throughout development to identify and address code vulnerabilities (LGTM, 2018). Bandit has then been used to provide further coverage of vulnerabilities with some novel vulnerabilities identified (Image 7) (PyCQA, N.D.).

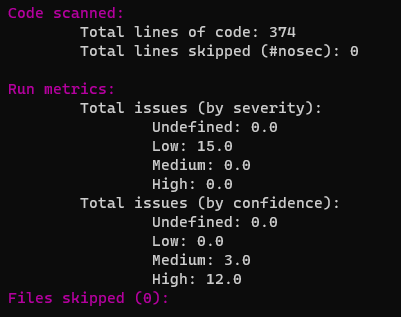
###### LGTM



##### Image 6 LGTM Alert History

For further insight into the LGTM results, please see the [dashboard](https://lgtm.com/projects/g/janKuefner/SSA?mode=list) for this code repository.

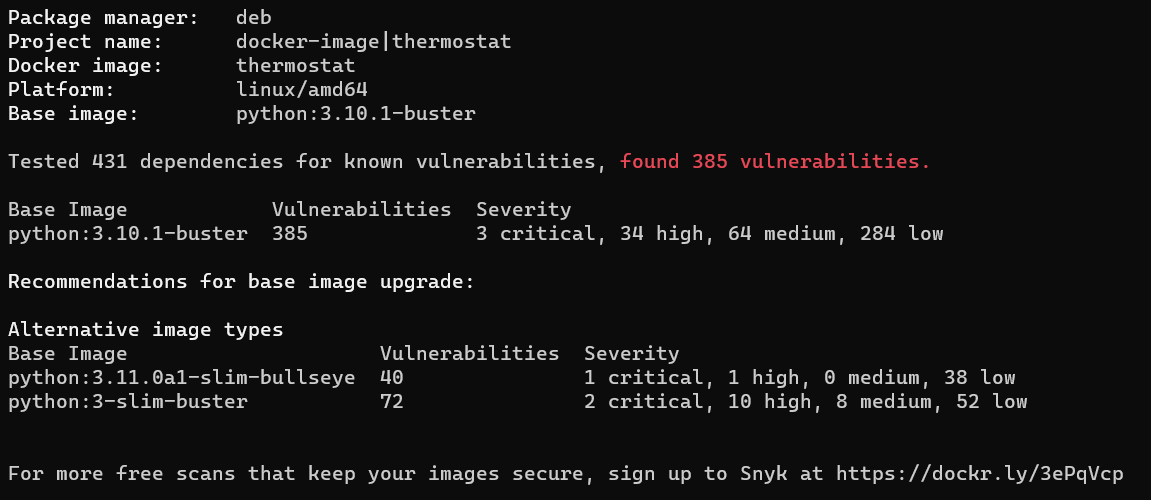
###### Bandit



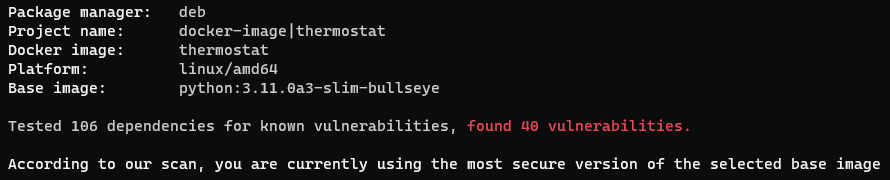
###### Image 7 Bandit Summary

###### Docker image Scan

Snyk was used to scan the Docker images for the Thermostat, Lamp, Controller, and the Broker (Docker, N.D.). The screenshots below show that the original thermostat base image was linked to 385 vulnerabilities and the recommendation to use a more secure base image was followed. Although vulnerabilities are still present, the scan has also informed us that currently this is the most secure version of the selected image.



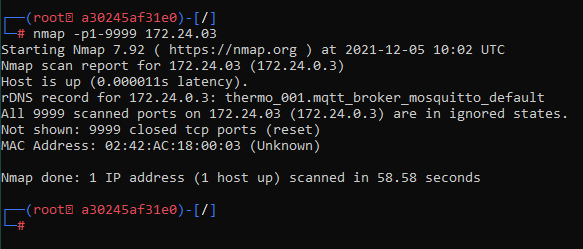
##### Image 8 Thermostat Before



##### Image 9 Thermostat After

##### Port Scanning

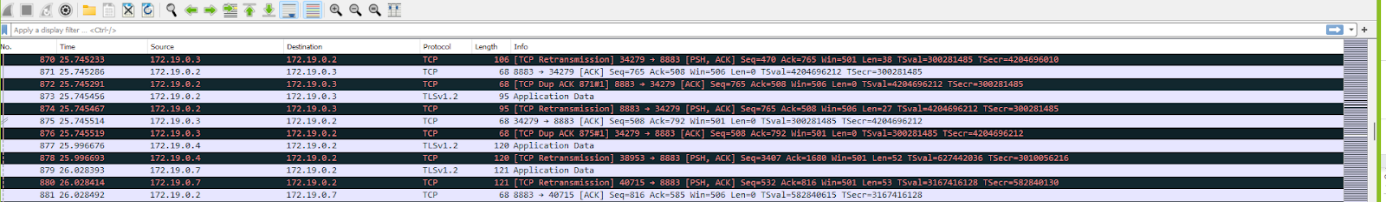
Each container has an IPv4 address to scan and nmap has been used to demonstrate port restrictions in place on the containers.



##### Image 10 Nmap

.

#### Network Security

A tcpdump packet capture has been used with Wireshark to demonstrate the TLS encrypted network communications (Docker Hub, 2016). TLS v1.2 was in use (Image 11).

##### Image 11 TCP Dump

### Performance Efficiency

The focus of this testing will be the efficiency of the solution functions and components. Time behaviour is covered to ensure that individual functions meet the expectations of an end user. Resource utilisation is also tested, and capacity estimated, with a view to establishing if the system can be suitably scaled, for a large home setting for example.

#### Time Behaviour

Based on the system use cases, e.g., changing temperature, the functions worked within expected timeframes.

#### Resource Utilization

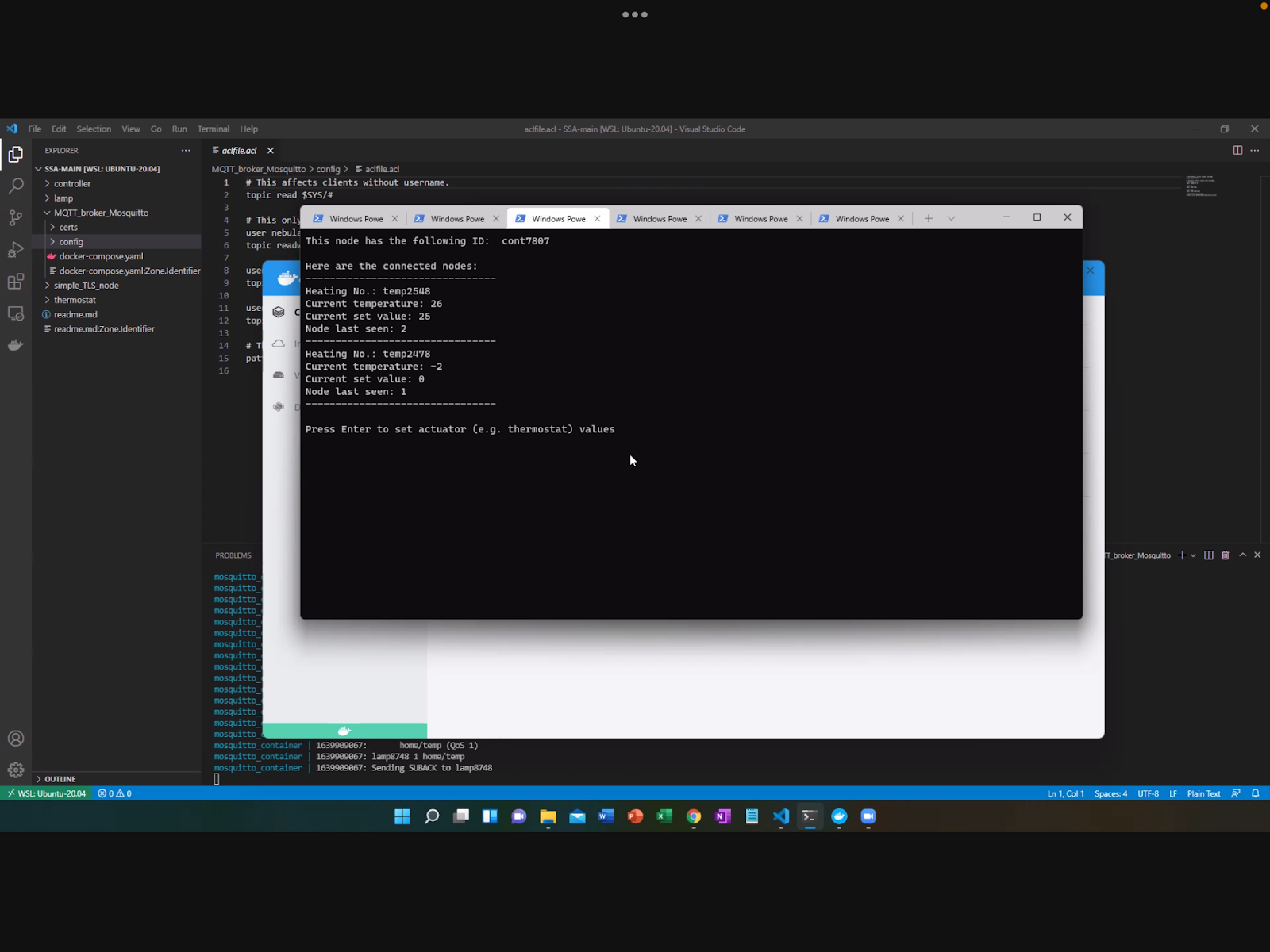
Docker stats have been used to demonstrate various performance metrics of the containers running, for example CPU and memory usage (Docker, 2018). The usage suggests that the system could be easily scaled to a large domestic property given the resources available. If control groups were implemented, the system could be tested as a whole, and this could be valuable when making scaling decisions.

Image 12 CPU Thermostat

Image 13 CPU Lamp

Image 14 CPU Controller

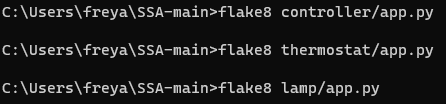
 Image 15 CPU Container

Scalability has also been tested with more than one thermostat added to the controller. 

##### Image 16 Multiple Devices

### Style

This code has been written in line with PEP8 Python best practice to ensure readability and maintainability (Python, 2013). The Flake8 linter has been chosen due to its rich features (Flake8, 2021). Before initial testing, there were hundreds of alerts. The team then started using the Visual Studio Code extension to ensure continuous adherence to style and this was successful (Image 17).



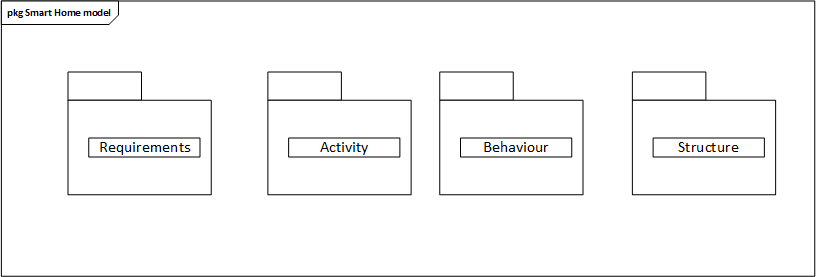
##### Image 17 Flake8

# Appendix C - Design Decisions

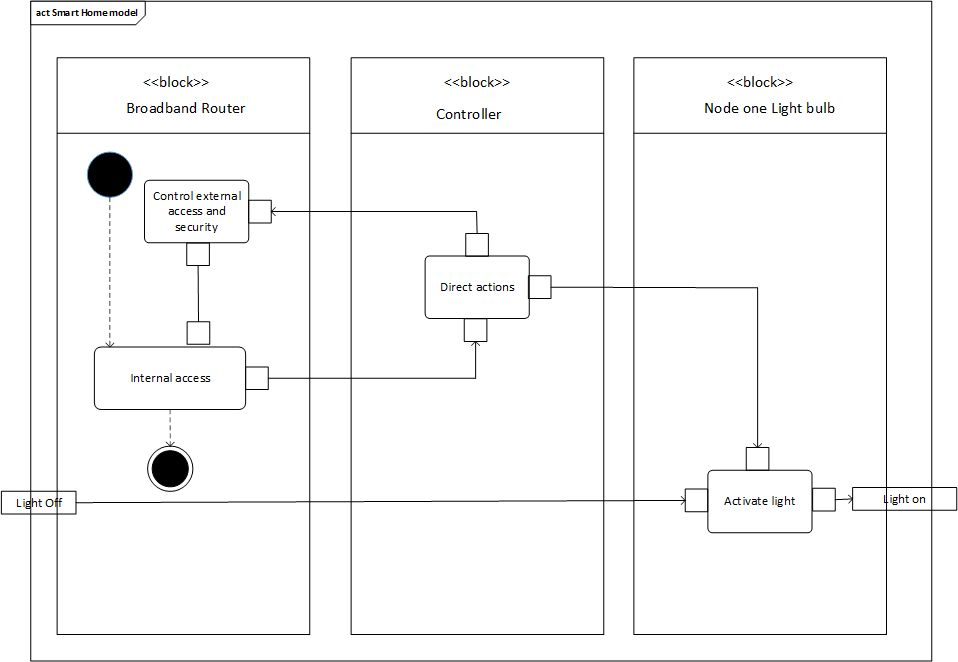
## System Design

Below are the further SysML diagrams required to formally model the Smart Home platform.

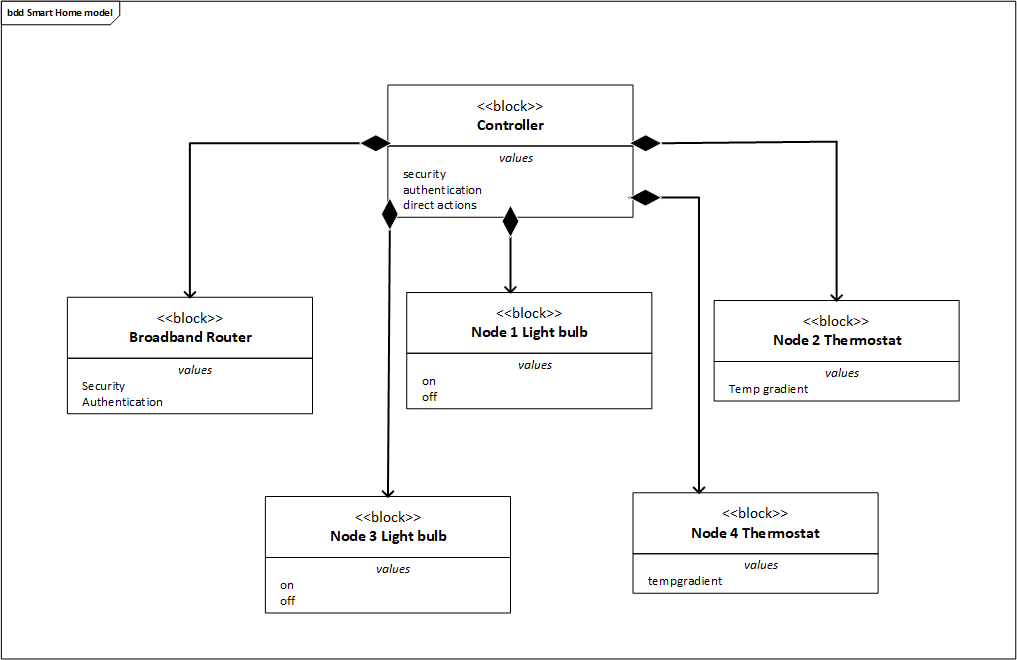
Figure 2 is the package diagram showing elements that are part of the SysML models for this requirement. The Activity diagram (Figure 3) highlights one aspect of the Smart Home platform in activating a light bulb. The Block Design Diagram (Figure 4) shows the architectural elements of the Smart Home platform. The Internal Design Diagram is a representation of the communication pathways and protocols utilised.



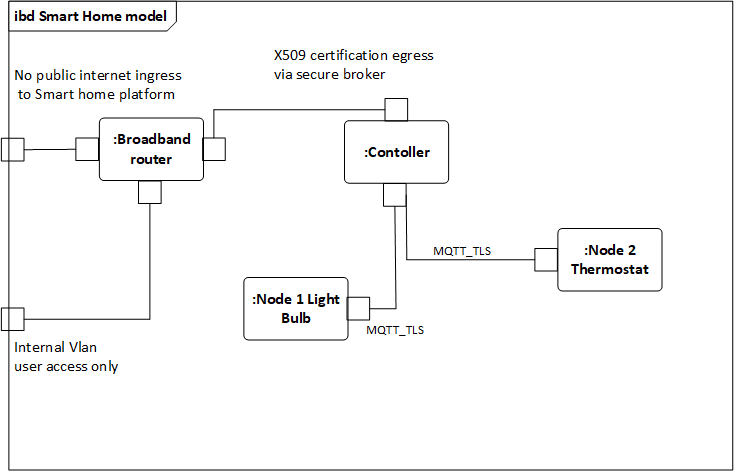
##### Figure 2: Package Diagram



##### Figure 3: Activity Diagram



##### Figure 4: Block Definition diagram



##### Figure 5: Internal Block Diagram

A microservices architecture is suitable for a Smart Home system because the inherent flexibility means it can be easily adapted to individual user requirements and extended if required to accommodate new, heterogenous devices (Luntovskyy & Spillner, 2017). This solution is based on a containers architecture because containers are versatile, lightweight, and overall, more efficient to use for microservices development than virtual machines (Kozhirbayev & Sinnott, 2017). Docker containers have been chosen as Docker is well-documented and simple to use, making it suitable for developers with less experience. Docker is also compatible with all major cloud platforms which provides a great deal of options for extending the functionality of this proof of concept.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Application Layer | MQTT |
| Transport Layer | TCP |
| Network Layer | IPv4 |
| Physical Layer | Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11 a/b/g/n) |

##### Figure 6

Figure 6 shows the technology decisions made for each layer corresponding to the TCP/IP stack (Gerber & Romeo, 2017). The decision was taken to use well-established, open-source protocols. This ensures reliable communication between the architecture layers (White et al., 2017), interoperability with additional devices and provides futureproofing for the solution (Irons-McLean et al., 2019).

## Vulnerability Management

Table 3 shows the vulnerabilities enumerated as part of the Unit 3 assignment (Wilson et al., 2021). Phase 1 reflects the scope of the simulation for this assignment. Phase 1 controls have been prioritised according to what can be implemented within the limitations of the simulation and within the given timelines. Phase 2 reflects what would be built to further enhance security in a real-world situation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Recommended Mitigations (Unit 3)** | **Phase 1 (Implemented)** | **Phase 2** |
| 1 | Implement auto-update function by default, including security patching. | N/A - Need internet connectivity. | ✔ |
| 2 | End User Education - social engineering and home physical security measures. | N/A - Proof of concept only. | ✔ |
| 3 | In-built logging and basic Intrusion Detection System (IDS) on the controller. | ✔  Broker logging enabled. | ✔  IDS automation overlay. |
| 4 | Firewall on controller, with use of access control lists and port restrictions. | ✔  ACL & port restrictions implemented - only ports 1883 & 8883 are open. | ✔  Full firewall implementation. |
| 5 | Antivirus on the controller with regular updates required. | N/A - Proof of concept only. | ✔ |
| 6 | Bluetooth out of band pairing (OOB) via near field communication (NFC) for device authentication. | N/A - Physical components out of scope. | ✔ |
| 7 | Two-factor authentication (2FA) for the end user to authenticate with the controller to change settings and perform other actions. | ✔  Authentication implemented via username & password. | ✔  2FA overlay required. |
| 8 | Employ randomly generated, strong passwords on the controller by default and encourage users to change to a chosen strong password on setup. | N/A - Proof of concept only. | ✔ |
| 9 | All communications should be Transport Layer Security (TLS) encrypted with strong ciphers enforced. | ✔  TLS encrypted communications. | ✔  Strong ciphers need to be enforced. |
| 10 | Hardware secure key storage via dedicated chip. | N/A - Physical components out of scope. | ✔ |
| 11 | Physical security controls to protect devices from tampering during manufacturing through to end user operation. | N/A - Physical components out of scope. | ✔ |
| 12 | Restrict access to ports, such as Secure Shell (SSH) on port 22. | ✔  Port restrictions in place - only ports 1883 & 8883 are open. | N/A |
| 13 | Session management controls to support authentication on the controller, such as automatically logging the user off after one hour. | N/A - Lower priority control not implemented. | ✔ |
| 14 | Predetermined authorised actions based on device type, e.g., temperature alert via email but smart bulb has no authorisation to email. | ✔  Authorisation of actions concept implemented. | N/A |
| 15 | Following secure development practices, such as input validation. | ✔  Input validation included. | ✔  Use additional secure techniques, such as safe failures. |
| 16 | Verify software prior to download. For example, verify checksums when downloading software packages during development and verify signatures before installing firmware updates. | ✔  Software verified. | ✔  Firmware updated verification implementation. |
| 17 | Ensure data minimisation on nodes and controller and sensitive data encrypted at rest. | N/A - Physical components out of scope. | ✔ |
| 18 | Robust third-party supplier security assurance, for chip manufacturers for example. | N/A - Proof of concept only. | ✔ |
| 19 | Use reputable open-source software libraries. | ✔  Reputable software used & lower risk base images implemented. | N/A |
| 20 | Function for the operator to wipe personal data to support secure disposal. | N/A - Proof of concept only. | ✔ |
| 21 | Rate limit pairing attempts with the nodes to prevent malicious battery drainage. | N/A - Physical components out of scope. | ✔ |

### Table 3

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