

Drone-Enabled Mobile Edge Computing for Environmental Monitoring Revised

1. Introduction and Motivation

Our company wants an innovative yet cost-effective approach to environmental monitoring in remote or expansive areas. Your task is to simulate a system where:

- Multiple Sensor Nodes collect environmental data and send it to a Drone.
- The Drone does edge processing averaging, anomaly detection before forwarding summarized data to a Central Server.
- The Central Server displays real-time visualizations for end-users.

Key Goals:

1. Demonstrate TCP communication client–server among all components.
2. Show real-time data processing and anomaly detection.
3. Produce interactive, user-friendly GUIs except for headless sensors.
4. Ensure thorough logging for easy grading.

2. System Components

2.1 Sensor Nodes Clients

Purpose: Simulate environmental sensors temperature, humidity, etc..

Operation and Requirements:

1. Configuration:

- Accept connection parameters Drone's IP and port via command-line arguments or a small config file.

- Example: `python sensor.py --drone_ip 127.0.0.1 --drone_port 5000 --interval 2`

2. TCP Connection:

- Automatically initiate a connection to the Drone server.
- Retry on failure with a logged message indicating the attempt and result.

3. Data Transmission:

- Periodically send sensor readings in a standardized JSON or CSV format.

- Example: `{"sensor_id": "sensor1", "temperature": 22.5, "humidity": 55, "timestamp": "2025-02-10T10:00:00Z"}`

- The transmission interval is configurable for example, every 2 seconds.

4. Error Handling and Logging:

- Log every event: connection attempts, disconnections, data send events.
- **In case of disconnection, attempt reconnection periodically for example, every 5 seconds.**

Note: Sensor nodes are headless; they do not need a GUI. They can be launched via a simple script.

2.2 Drone Mobile Edge

Purpose: Acts as both a TCP server for sensor nodes and a TCP client to the Central Server.

Key Functionalities:

1. TCP Server:

- Listen on a configurable port for connections from multiple sensor nodes.
- Manage connections concurrently threads or async I/O.

2. Edge Processing:

- Aggregate incoming sensor data.
 - For instance, compute average temperature/humidity over the last N readings or T seconds.
- Detect anomalies for example, out-of-range values and generate a log or alert.

3. Return to Base Simulation Battery or Flight-Time:

- Have a configurable battery level or flight time parameter.
- Once the battery level falls below a certain threshold:
 1. Log a low battery event.
 2. Update the Drone's status to Returning to base.
 3. Decide how to handle incoming data:
 - Option A: Temporarily disconnect from sensor nodes.
 - Option B: Queue the data internally but do not forward to the Central Server until battery is restored.
- Clearly document the chosen approach in your code and system documentation.

4. TCP Client Forwarding to Central Server:

- After processing or aggregation, forward data to the Central Server on a configurable IP or port.
- This can be done periodically for example, every 5 seconds or after receiving a batch of data.

Drone GUI Requirements:

1. Real-Time Data View:

- Display incoming sensor data in a table or chart for example, a rolling graph of temperature or humidity.

2. Aggregated Results and Anomalies:

- Show computed averages, highlight or list anomalies timestamp, value, sensor ID.

3. Battery and Status Indicators:

- Show current battery level.
- Display an alert or banner stating Returning to base when battery is below threshold.

4. Logging Panel:

- Real-time log of events connections, disconnections, anomaly detections, battery events.

2.3 Central Server

Purpose: Receive processed data from the Drone and provide a final visualization or log.

Key Functionalities:

1. TCP Server:

- Listen on a configurable port for a single Drone connection though you may allow multiple.

2. Data Handling:

- Receive the aggregated or processed data from the Drone.
- Store or buffer the data for display in memory is fine for a simulation.

3. Central Server GUI:

- Display the aggregated data for example, table, chart, or other appropriate visuals.
- Maintain a log of all messages received with timestamps.
- Indicate any anomalies flagged by the Drone.

3. Detailed Requirements

1. Configuration

- Each component must support user-defined IP or port parameters and other relevant settings for example, Drone's battery threshold, sensor data intervals.

- Sensible defaults can be provided, but the grader should be able to override them easily.

2. Data Format

- Suggested: JSON objects with the following fields:

- sensor_id string
- temperature float
- humidity float
- timestamp string, ISO 8601 recommended

- The Drone should parse these fields, compute rolling averages, detect anomalies, etc.

3. Error Handling and Logging

- All components must produce logs sufficient for graders to trace events:

- Connection attempts, successes, failures.
- Data sent or received.
- Anomalies detected by the Drone.
- Battery threshold triggers and return to base events Drone.

- The logs can be console-based or written to files. If GUI-based, ensure a scrolled text panel or similar is available.

4. Interactivity and Demonstration

- Drone GUI:

- Must allow graders to see real-time data updates, battery levels, anomaly flags.
- Must allow some user interaction for example, a button to simulate battery consumption or a slider to set the threshold.

- Central Server GUI:

- Must display the summarized data it receives tables, charts, or textual readouts.

- Sensor Nodes:

- Headless. They simply run and send data. However, they should output minimal logs in the console so we can see that they are transmitting.

5. Testing and Scenarios

1. Normal Operation

- At least two sensor nodes start sending data.
- The Drone receives data, aggregates it, forwards it to the Central Server.
- The Drone and Central Server GUIs show the correct incoming or aggregated data.

2. Sensor Disconnection

- One sensor node stops or crashes mid-run.
- Drone logs the disconnection.
- The sensor node tries to reconnect if implemented.
- Drone's GUI should reflect the drop in data feed for that sensor.

3. Low Battery Return to Base

- Simulate the drone battery dropping below a set threshold.
- Drone logs the event and transitions to Returning to base.
- Drone either disconnects from or queues incoming data depending on design choice.
- Drone's GUI shows the new status.
- Once battery is restored, the Drone resumes normal operation.

4. Anomaly Detection

- Force a sensor to send out-of-range values (e.g., temperature = 1000°C).
- Drone's anomaly detection logs it, and the GUI flags it.
- The Central Server should also receive and display this anomaly record if forwarded.

5. Documentation & Deliverables

1. Working Prototype (Code)

- Submit well-documented Python code with clear separation of modules/classes for:
 - Sensor Nodes
 - Drone (Edge)
 - Central Server
- Ensure each main component can be run independently with command-line or minimal input.

2. System Documentation (2–3 pages)

- Architecture Diagram: Show the full TCP connectivity: multiple sensor nodes → Drone → Central Server.
- Module Descriptions: Outline the classes/functions in each component, focusing on:
 - Inputs/outputs
 - Connection handling
 - Edge processing logic (anomaly thresholds, data aggregation)
 - "Return to base" logic

- **Design Rationale:** Summarize why you chose certain data structures or communication patterns.

- **Test Cases:** Detail at least four test scenarios (as mentioned above) with expected results.

3. Demonstration

- A short live demo illustrating normal data flow, a battery return event, and anomaly detection.
- Graders must be able to replicate these demos quickly.

6. Project Phases & Timeline

1. Phase 1 (Weeks 8–10): System Architecture & Design

- Tasks:

- Finalize architecture, data formats, and connection parameters.
- Document potential issues (e.g., concurrency, queue management).

- Deliverable:

- A design document (2–3 pages) with diagrams and detailed module specs.

2. Phase 2 (Weeks 10–12): Partial Implementation

- Tasks:

- Implement basic TCP connections, preliminary GUI elements, logging framework.
- Show sensors sending data to the Drone, Drone displaying it, Drone forwarding some data to the Central Server.

- Deliverable:

- A partial prototype, plus initial test case results (e.g., Wireshark screenshots are optional but can be used to illustrate traffic).

3. Phase 3 (Weeks 12–14): Full Implementation & Testing

- Tasks:

- Complete all features: anomaly detection, battery simulation, robust GUIs, error handling.
- Conduct final tests (sensor disconnection, battery threshold, anomaly injection).

- Deliverable:

- A fully working system with updated documentation and a demonstration.

7. Grading Criteria

1. Functionality & Correctness (40%)

- Proper TCP communication, data aggregation, anomaly detection, battery simulation.

2. GUI & Interactivity (30%)

- Clarity of the Drone and Central Server GUIs, ease of demonstration.

3. Logging & Documentation (20%)

- Quality of logs, clarity of the 2–3 page documentation, and the presence of well-defined test scenarios.

4. Code Quality (10%)

- Code organization, comments, readability, and maintainability.