

ZRecognition
TPJ665 Capstone
Project Report

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1 Executive Summary

Z-Recognition is a License Plate Recognition system which provides clients with a new and intuitive way to implement and enforce parking systems. Our goal is to allow for the successful implementation of both hardware and software elements to allow for a working project. The hardware aspect of the project involves the implementation of a microcontroller which will hold all the pre-required software to run the system. A camera that will be used to capture images of License plates. A speaker and a Servo Motor. The software aspect of the project entails the creation of a python script which will bring together all the hardware elements and have them operate with each other. The script will use the capture an image which will be processed as a JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) using Microsoft Azure Cognitive Services to process the image as text. The captured data will then be cross referenced against a database for validity and the Servo Motor will operate in response to valid data being found, whereas, the speaker will operate if no matching data is found.

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2 Introduction

Security is an important feature for a company providing a service to their customer. The company must ensure that its service can only be used by authorized personnel. This is where Z-Recognition comes into play. Z-Recognition is a license plate recognition system that ensures only authorized personnel have access to a designated area. Z-Recognition accomplishes this by taking an image of the approaching vehicle and processing it. If the vehicle is authorized, meaning the license plate is recognized, the vehicle is given access. Our group has decided on a license plate recognition system due to its uses in modern day society. Today, one can still find areas that are monitored by a single employee, or by a ticket-based entry system. These systems could be found inferior because of their reliance on periodic human interaction or supervision. Z-Recognition is designed to run autonomously with minimal costs, and a single requirement of an active internet. This license plate recognition system also implements a core feature in the future of computer technology, machine learning. With machine learning, an artificial intelligence (AI) can provide systems the ability to learn and improve without being explicitly programmed. This means that automated systems become more secure and reliable, without the need of constant supervision. Finally, this project will require both hardware and software implementation to be fully functional. It will require us to work with and learn both software development and hardware assembly which we, as Computer Engineering and Technology students, would prefer.

3 Functional Features

- Image processing - Using Microsoft's Cloud based Computer Vision Service, called Azure, a captured image will be uploaded to Azure's Service. The service perform Optical Character Recognition (OCR) on the image, and it will return a JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) object with all the recognized characters.
- Motor Control - The Raspberry Pi 3 Model B, a MicroController Unit (MCU), will control a servo-motor to imitate a gate arm used to allow entrance into a secure area.
- Scheduled script execution - The main python script will be executed at specified time intervals
- Sound execution - The Raspberry Pi will emit a sound from a speaker in order to audibly notify the personnel using the system of whether they have been given or denied access.

4 System Specifications

Camera

- 720p/30fps
- Fixed focus
- Field of View - 60°

Raspberry Pi 3 Model B

- Quad Core 1.2GHz Broadcom BCM2837 64bit CPU
- 1GB RAM
- BCM43438 wireless LAN
- 40-pin extended GPIO
- 4 Pole stereo output
- Micro SD

Servo-motor

- Operating voltage - 3.0V - 7.2V

Microsoft Azure

- Active subscription
- Cognitive Services resource

5 Operating Instructions

Please follow the listed steps to ensure that the system is operating as intended:

- Ensure that the Raspberry Pi Microprocessor is powered on
 - Plug the power cord into the Pi and connect to a power source
- Connect the Pi to an internet source
 - Using an Ethernet Cable or connecting to a Wireless-Fidelity(Wi-Fi) access point
- Ensure that the Camera is connected properly to the Raspberry Pi via Universal Serial Bus (USB)
- Start the Main Python Script named "ZRecognition.py"

6 Product Design, Implementation, and Operation of the System

6.1 System Block-Diagram

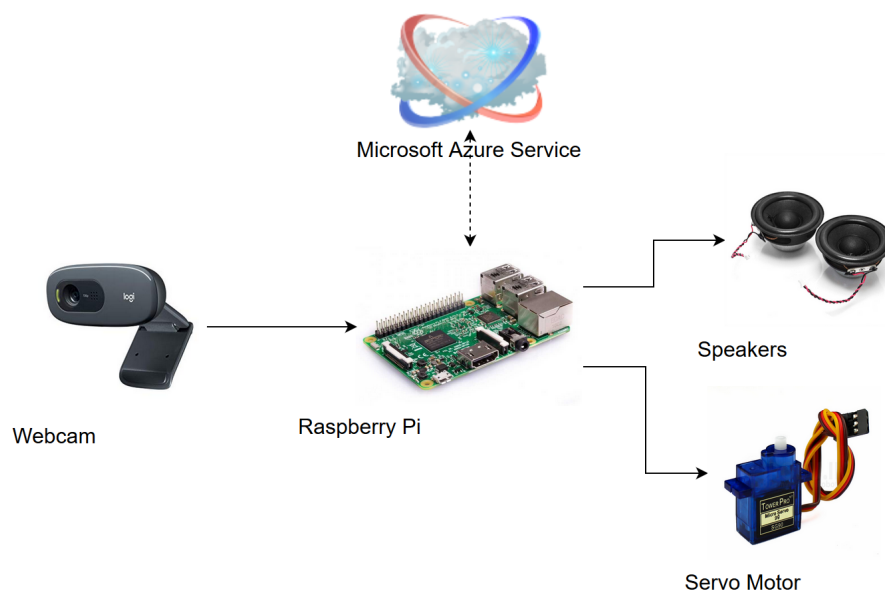


Figure 1: System Block-Diagram

6.2 Software Flow-Chart

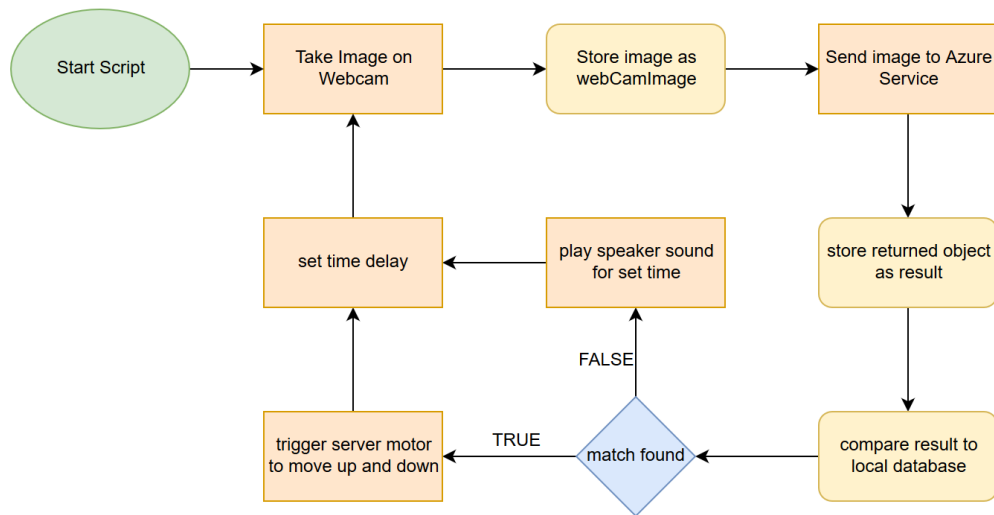


Figure 2: Software Flow-Chart

6.3 Components Description

The system utilized in this project consists of a few major components. Each component is listed and described below:

- Microprocessor - Raspberry Pi 3 Model B
 - The Raspberry Pi 3 Model B will act as the sole microprocessor for this project. It is programmed with a python script that is executed to run the program. The Pi makes use of a 1.2GHz Quad Core 64bit CPU with 1GB built in RAM.
- Camera - Logitech C270 HD Webcam
 - The Logitech C270 Webcam is installed to ensure that the images captured are of high quality so that they are easy to interpret. These Images are taken in 720p with a fixed focus and field of view of 60° These images are interpreted by the Microsoft Azure Cognitive services and returned back as a JSON object.
- Servo Motor
 - The RioRand SG90 Micro 9d Servo motor will be the sole motor that will be utilized.

6.4 Theory of operation of the entire system

7 Maintenance Requirements

Routine maintenance is a good way to avoid any unwanted interruptions for the services being provided. It is recommended that proactive maintenance be done on the system at a frequency of one week (7 days) or anytime that the system fails to operate.

- Reset the Raspberry pin (disconnect and reconnect power)
- Relaunch the Python script

Please ensure that you test the service after completing maintenance to ensure that all systems are up and running.

If you are unsure of how to complete any of these tasks, please get in touch with the contacts available in the contact(s) section of the report.

A Parts List

B Parts List / Bill Of Materials

BILL OF MATERIALS		
Component Name	Quantity	Price (CAD)
Raspberry Pi 3 Model B	1	\$35.00
Logitech C270 HD Webcam	1	\$32.00
RioRand 5PCS x SG90 Micro 9d Servo	1	\$16.99
Gikfun 2" 8 Ohm 2W Audio Speaker	1	\$16.88
Total Cost w/ Tax		\$113.98

Table 1: Bill of Materials

NOTE All prices are in Canadian Dollars (CAD)

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