

Technical Report

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1

ABSTRACT

The abstract is a tl;dr-type thing that *very* briefly summarizes the introduction, method, result and conclusion.

1

CONTENTS

1	Abstract	1
2	Introduction	3
3	Concept Description	4
4	SWOT	5
5	Method	6
5.1	Vehicle	6
5.1.1	Wiggle It	7
5.1.2	Driving	7
5.1.3	Future problems/challenges	7

2

INTRODUCTION

Introduction goes here...

Problemstillingen vår lyder som følger: Lage en plattform som legger til rette for instrumentering og styring over internett. Plattformen skal være modulbasert slik at den er enkel å utvide til forskjellige bruksområder. Det er også strenge krav til sikkerhet slik at uvedkommende ikke kan lese data eller sende styresignaler. Ulike redningstjenester opplever stadig situasjoner der det kan være vanskelig å bedømme hvor trygt det er for folk å gå inn ulike steder. Eksempler på dette er brennende hus der husets stand er ukjent, eller om det er uvisst om folk befinner seg der inne. Et annet eksempel er utforskning av grotter enten på land eller under vann. Skulle det skje noe med en dykker er redningsoppdraget vanskelig og tidkrevende (<http://www.ranablad.no/nyheter/article7154581.ece>) Til tross for at transmissionsmediumet er helt forskjellig under vann og i luft vil det være enkelt å utvide/forandre et slikt system. I dag finnes det løsninger som fungerer bra i de forskjellige spesifikke scenariene, men det er ingen universell plattform som benyttes for alle løsningene. Ved hjelp av en slik plattform som er lett å utvide kan man få utviklet bedre og sikrere verktøy for slike situasjoner. Det er viktig at en slik plattform er stabil og driftsikker, derfor vil det være hensiktsmessig med kun en plattform som selv tilpasser seg til de sensorene/motorene som er koblet på. Slik vil vedlikehold av systemene holdes til et minimum. System skal i all hovedsak gå over internett. Dette kan være over vanlig WLAN eller 3G. Fordelen med et slikt system som går over internett er at man da kan bruke det uansett rekkevidde. En uavhengig enhet vil kunne styres fra hvor som helst i verden, når som helst. Slik kan også eksperter fra andre steder i verden hjelpe til med å vurdere en kritisk situasjon f.eks her i Norge.

3

CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Concept description goes here

4

SWOT

SWOT analysis of the project goes here. I guess one of our weaknesses is that everything is run on top of https but then again that might be one of our strengths depending on the area for which one wants to apply the system. Also what about monetization? I mean we've got like, no prospects for monetization. Is that bad? Should we write about that?

From Wikipedia:

Setting the objective should be done after the SWOT analysis has been performed. This would allow achievable goals or objectives to be set for the organization.

Well we did not do that.

Strengths

- everything is built on already existing technologies
- mutability/modularity/expandability or whatever
- robots are pretty cool and I've heard the internet is hip these days

Weaknesses

- http is kinda slow I guess? for video at least. Something about how this limits the possible real-time usage of the system
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Opportunities

- nothing like this exists and being first is always cool
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Threats

- I think I speak for the entirety of the group when I say that we'd rather be on a beach somewhere sippin' piña coladas or wherever, like in an igloo or something, than doing *work*.

5.1 Vehicle

To demonstrate the platform it was decided to make a vehicle controlled remotely over internet. This vehicle had to be able to drive, turn, use a robotic arm and send camera feed to the controller. Due to the possibility to expand this later with more complex functionality, the program was written in C++. The following was used to make this vehicle:

- Raspberry Pi
- Dynamixel servomotors
- USB2Dynamixel
- Dynamixel SDK

Raspberry Pi (Pi) is a small single board computer. It has two USB inputs, ethernet, HDMI and gpio pins. This makes it the perfect prototyping computer for this kind of projects. The Pi is running its operating system from a SD card, and the OS is Raspbian which is a debian based linux distro. To controll the Pi a regular laptop is used. This is achieved by using a SSH server on the Pi and a SSH client on the computer. SSH (Secure SHell) is a protocol that allows one computer to remotely controll another via command line.

Dynamixel servomotors¹ are motors that allows for precise controll of angle and velocity. These motors are controlled by three wires, power, gnd and signal. WRITE SOME MORE HERE!

USB2Dynamixel is a USB device that allows easy controll of dynamixel servo motors. This USB requires no driver installation when running linux, and since Raspbian is a linux distro this simplifies things. The USB2Dynamixel is inserted into one of the USB ports on the Pi and the servor motors are connected to the device.

Dynamixel SDK² is a programming library for controlling dynamixel servo motors. This library is available for Windows, Mac and Linux and easy to run on the Pi. Since the library is written in C it is easy to use it in this C++ project.

¹http://www.robotis.com/xe/dynamixel_en

²<http://support.robotis.com/en/software/dynamixel/sdk.htm>

5.1.1 Wiggle It

The first step is to make a servo motor move. Since the USB device is linux compatible and the library also works in linux the Pi was used from the beginning of the project.

Figure 5.1: fig:1servo

To make the servo motor move an example c-file from the library was used³. For this to work there are some important parameters which should be known:

- ID - Each motor has its own ID. This way it's possible to control which motor that should get the command.
- Port - Which port the USB2Dynamixel is connected to. This is used to set up the communication to the motors.
- Mode - The servo motors can run in two different modes. Endless turn (like a wheel) and start2stop (from start position to specified position).

The servo motors used for this test had IDs 7 and 12, and can be found on the side of the servo. In linux the USB device can be found under /dev/usb, and using the Pi this device was /dev/usb0. By replacing these parameters in the example file two servos were wiggled.

5.1.2 Driving

The next step is to make four wheels cooperate!

5.1.3 Future problems/challenges

What happens if some of the wheels is disconnected? The answer for this question will not be covered in this report because of the timeframe, but it is an important issue that has to be resolved. The optimal solution is to find an algorithm that calculates the speed that the remaining wheels, so that the vehicle can obtain normal function even in failsafe mode. This will most likely depend on the surface under the vehicle.

We should have like, a graph or drawing of the finished system here shouldn't with the involved components and actors and what gets transferred between them. Like those drawings Anders has been keeping safe in his lockerbox or whatever.

³LOCATION TO EXAMPLE FILE