JETIR.ORG ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year : 2014 | Monthly Issue

JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)

An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Smart Building Warning System for Smart Cities

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Abstract : The need for Smart Building Warning Systems in high demand nowadays as they are used to warn owners about undesired situations that could happen while they are far away from their buildings. This paper aims to present the design and implementation of a Smart Building Warning System for Smart Cities. In this system, Arduino Uno microcontroller has been used with several compatible sensors (DHT22, MQ2, and PIR), actuators (buzzer and relays with attached water valve, air fan, and light bulb), and GSM as a wireless communication medium to enable the interaction between users and the proposed system. The experimental results of using the proposed system show that a variety of undesired events can be detected efficiently. Fire, gas leakage, and breaking in situations can be detected and users get notified about them via SMS messages, etc. Besides, some proper actions can also be performed by the proposed system including stopping fire via water and decreasing gas concentration via air ventilation. The proposed system is very useful to prevent losses in resources and human life caused by unwanted events.

IndexTerms **- Arduino; embedded system; smart buildings; buildings monitoring; buildings security; alert notifications.**

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, sensor-based smart buildings systems (e.g., warning systems) are in high demand and widely used due to the advent and evolution of microcontrollers, sensors, and actuators technologies. These systems are used to monitor indoor environments to give buildings owners live updates about undesired activities and unwanted conditions that could happen when they are far away. The aim of Arduino Based All Purpose Building Warning Systems to interpret the sensory data gatheredfrom the surrounding environment in order to perform some proper actions. For example, fire in houses could occur for many reasons such as the burning of materials, gases, and electric circuits and it could cause severe accidents. To remain safe from fire, a fire alarm system is a must for every residential house. Fire alarm systems are very useful to warn users about this unwanted event and to prevent losses in resources and human life that could happen as a result of it. Another example is gas leakage. The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is the most used gas for cooking in houses. It is used in cylinders and may blast because of leakage. Residents in many cases do not know that there is gas leaking. Thus, they may light up a fire which causes blast. This situation can be avoided by installing a gas leakage detection system. Also, crime is rampant these days. Therefore, installing security systems in houses is crucial. Such systems can detect any movements that could happen due to a thief entering a house. The fire and gas leakage detection systems are required alongside the motion based security system. This type of automatic buildings safety and security warning systems can save people from dangerous accidents. The components of any buildings warning system are a microcontroller with some compatible sensors, actuators, modules, and shields. Usually, such systems start with monitoring the surrounding environment and then perform some proper actions in response to the aforementioned unwanted events that could happen while owners away. The monitoring process is achieved via sensors such as temperature sensors, gas sensors, and motion sensors. While performing proper actions are performed using actuators such as buzzers, lights, and relays. To interact with smart buildings warning systems, a communication medium is required. Wireless communication (e.g., GSM, Bluetooth, and Wi-Fi) is vastly used in this context. Of course, selecting the appropriate communication medium is subject to several factors including cost, range, and availability. In this paper, a Smart Building Warning System for Smart Cities that can detect safety and security unwanted situations is proposed and implemented. The system can notify users about house fire, gas leakage, and breaking in. Also, it can perform some proper actions as a response to the aforementioned unwanted situations to prevent losses in human life and resources.
The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 presents the most relevant works for this study. Section 3 presents the design and implementation of the proposed system. Finally, some conclusions are given in Section 4.

II. RELATED WORKS

This section briefly presents the most relevant works to this study. The proposed system compared to other related works, it can be noted that the studies proposed buildings safety systems that detect both fire and gas leakage only. The system in only detects fire while the one considered both buildings safety and security (fire detection, gas leakage detection, and motion detection). Our proposed system also addresses both buildings safety and security as in. However, our system is more accurate and the detection range is wider than because our system uses the DHT22 sensor for fire detection instead of the DHT11 sensor. It is worth mentioning that the DHT22 sensor is more precise, more accurate, and provides a wider detection range compared to the DHT11 sensor. Also, our system is the only one uses a PIR with a built-in motion detection feature to capture pictures in case of any unwanted situation. Regarding notifying buildings owners about thehappening of undesired situations, our proposed

system provides more notifications compared to all other studies.Some of these notification alerts are unique including blinking a real AC light bulb, sending. Most of the related studies do not perform any proper action in response to dangerous situations. It can be noted that our system performs more proper actions compared to all other studies including using an AC ventilation fan. One of the most important other unique features of our proposed system is that the user can stop the working of the entire system remotely via sendingan SMS.

III. THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

To understand the work of the proposed system and its functionalities; the system's software, hardware, andoperation are listed and explained in detail in the following subsections.

3.1 System's Software

In this section, the programming language and related software libraries that have been employed in the implementation of the proposed system are briefly presented:

Arduino programming language:

The language has been used to program the functionalities of the entire system. It is worth mentioning that Arduino IDE version 1.8.10 has been used for this system.

DHT22 sensor library:

The library has been used to read data from the used DHT22 sensor.

MQ2 sensor library:

The library has been used to read data from the used MQ2 sensor.

GPS Module library:

The library has been used to read location data by using GPS module.

PIR sensor library:

The library has been used to read and write from/to the used PIR module.

SIM900 GSM/GPRS library:

The library has been used to facilitate the work of the used wireless communication shield.

It is worth mentioning that there is no need to use software libraries to work with the used buzzer and relay modules because the Arduino programming language itself provides built-in functions including tone(), no Tone(), and digital Write() to operate these devices.

3.2 System's Hardware

The proposed system uses an Arduino microcontroller, sensors, and actuators to perform its functional tasks as shown in Figure 1.

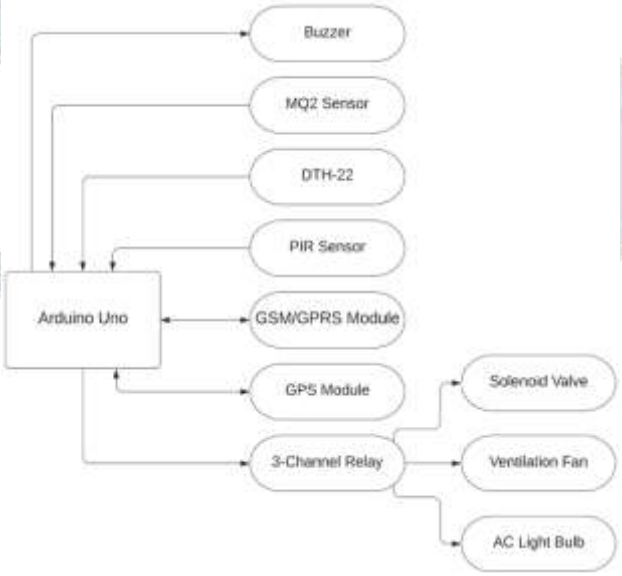


Figure 1. System's hardware components.

Arduino Uno:

It is an open-source microcontroller board based on the ATmega328P as shown in Figure 2 and it is developed by "Arduino.cc". The board has 14 digital I/O pins (6 which are PWM), 6 analog I/O pins, and is programmable with the Arduino programming language. Arduino pins can be interfaced to various sensors, actuators, modules, and shields to provide more functionality. Also, it can be powered by a USB cable or by an external 9V power supply, though it accepts voltages between 7V and 20V. In this system, the microcontroller board has been used to control the functionality of the entire system with its hardware components.

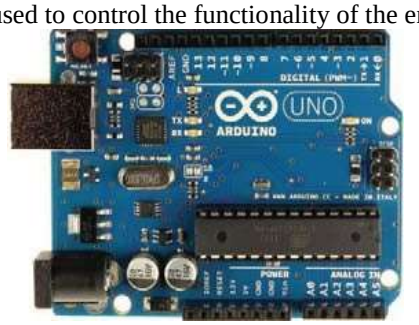


Figure 2. Arduino Uno board.

DHT22 Sensor Module:

It is a low-cost digital humidity and temperature sensor as shown in Figure 3. In this system, the sensor hasbeen used to measure the temperature in thesurrounding air to detect fire. The temperature range of DHT22 is from -40 to 80 °C with a ±0.5°C accuracy.The DHT22 module has three pins and it is interfaced with the used Arduino Uno as presented in Table 1.

Figure3. DHT22 sensor module.

Table 1: DHT22 and Arduino Uno Connection

No.	Camera Pins	Corresponding Arduino Pins
1	VCC	5V
2	GND	GND
3	Data	Digital Pin 2

MQ2 Sensor Module:

It is a gas detection sensor as shown in Figure 4. In this system, the sensor has been used to detect LPG(Liquefied Petroleum Gas) gas which is used for gas heaters and cookers. The MQ2 module has four pins(three of them were used for this system) and it is interfaced with the used Arduino Uno as presented in Table 2.

Figure 4. MQ2 sensor module.

Table 2: MQ3 and Arduino uno connection

No.	MQ2 Pins	Corresponding Arduino Pins
1	VCC	5V
2	GND	GND
3	Digital Out	Not Used
4	Analog Out	Analog Pin 3

PIR Sensor:

It is a motion detection sensor as shown in Figure 5. The main features of this sensor are: to detect the motion in a particular area using IR ray. A passive infrared sensor (PIR sensor) is an electronic sensor that measures infrared (IR) light radiating from objects in its field of view. They are most often used in PIR-based motion detectors. PIR sensors are commonly used in security alarms and automatic lighting applications. PIR sensors detect general movement, but do not give information on who or what moved. For that purpose, an imaging IR sensor is required. PIR sensors are commonly called simply "PIR", or sometimes "PID", for "passive infrared detector". The term passive refers to the fact that PIR devices do not radiate energy for detection purposes. They work entirely by detecting infrared radiation (radiant heat) emitted by or reflected from objects. The PIR has three pins and it is interfaced with the used Arduino Uno as presented in Table 3.

Figure 5. PIR sensor module.

Table 3: PIR and Arduino uno connection.

No.	Camera Pins	Corresponding Arduino Pins
1	VCC	5V
2	GND	GND
3	Data	Digital Pin 3

Buzzer Module:

It is an audio signaling device as shown in Figure 6 that produces a range of sound tones depending on the input frequency. In this system, the buzzer has been used to play a sound tone as a notification alarm. The buzzer module has three pins and it is interfaced with the used Arduino Uno as presented in Table 5.

Figure 6. Buzzer module.

Table 4: Buzzer and Arduino uno connection.

No.	Buzzer Pins	Corresponding Arduino Pins
1	VCC	5V
2	GND	GND
3	Signal	Digital Pin 9

GPS module:

It is an Arduino-compatible GPS module as shown in Figure 7. The module has four pins (one of them were used for this system) and it is interfaced with the used Arduino Uno as presented in Table 5.

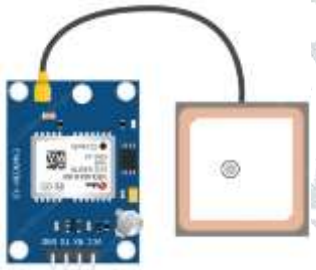


Figure 7. GPS module.

Table 5: GPS module and Arduino connection.

No.	GPS Pins	Corresponding Arduino Pins
1	5V	5V
2	GND	GND
3	RX	Not in use
4	TX	Digital Pin 0

3-Channel Relay Module:

A 3-channel 5V relay module is a switching device as shown in Figure 8 that controls high current and high voltage devices directly from a microcontroller output. Each channel of the relay can switch up to 10Amps and up to 250V. In this system, the 3-channel relay module has been used for three purposes which are: (a) to operate a ventilation fan to clear the smoke or leaked gas (b) to operate a solenoid valve to extinguish fire via inletting water from a water tank used for this purpose (c) to continuously blink a light bulb. The relay module has six pins (five of them were used for this system) and it is interfaced with the used Arduino Uno as presented in Table 6.

Figure 8. 3-channel relay module.

Table 6: 3-channel relay module.

No.	Relay Pins	Corresponding Arduino Pins
1	VCC	5V
2	GND	GND
3	Digital In 1	Digital Pin 10
4	Digital In 2	Digital Pin 11
5	Digital In 3	Digital Pin 12
6	RGND	Not Used

The ventilation fan as shown in Figure 9 is a device used to pull out (creates movement of the air from inside to outside) the air in rooms via fans or blowers. In this system, the fan has been used to clear the smoke or leaked gas.

Figure 9. AC ventilation fan.

The solenoid valve as shown in Figure 10 is a valve switch controlled by an electromagnet. In this system, a Normally Closed (NC) valve has been used; which means if pressurized water supplied to an NC solenoid valve, water will not flow through the valve. If a suitable power supplied to the valve, the valve will open and the water will flow.

Figure 10. Solenoid valve.

SIM900 GSM/GPRS Shield:

It is a wireless communication shield device as shown in Figure 11 that provides a way to use the cell phone network to send and receive data (e.g., voice call, SMS, and GPRS data over TCP/IP, HTTP, etc.) from a remote location. In this system, the GSM shield has been used to send SMS, to make a call to the house owner, and to send picture data to his/her email in caseof an unwanted event is detected. Besides, the house owner can also send back an SMS message to stop the work of the entire system. The shield has three pins and it is interfaced with the used Arduino Uno as presented in Table 7. It is worth mentioning that the shield mustbe powered from a 5V-9V external power supply.

Figure 11. SIM900 GSM/GPRS shield.

Table 7: GSM module and Arduino uno connections.

No.	Relay Pins	Corresponding Arduino Pins
1	GND	GND
2	RX	Digital Pin 8
3	TX	Digital Pin 7

3.3 System's Operation:

The internal operation of the proposed system is shown in Figure 12. The system starts with reading and checking each attached sensor. When there is fire, the DHT22 sensor will detect a rapid increase in temperature. If the temperature exceeds 60°C, it means there is fire. The LPG gas is detected by using the MQ2 sensor by measuring the gas concentration in the air. The used library provides a built-in function for this purpose. The PIR sensor is used to detect any movement that could happen in the monitored area. In case of detecting a safety or security threat, the system will activate different types of alarms. Sending SMS messages, sending SMS with attached GPS location, making owner call, playing buzzer, and blinking bulb will be activated as common alerts and notifications for all the unwanted situations. The ventilation fan will be activated only in case of fire or gas leak detection to clear the smoke or leaked gas. While the solenoid valve will be activated only in case of fire in order to stop it. The entire system can be stopped only when everything went normal as it has to be then it will stop.

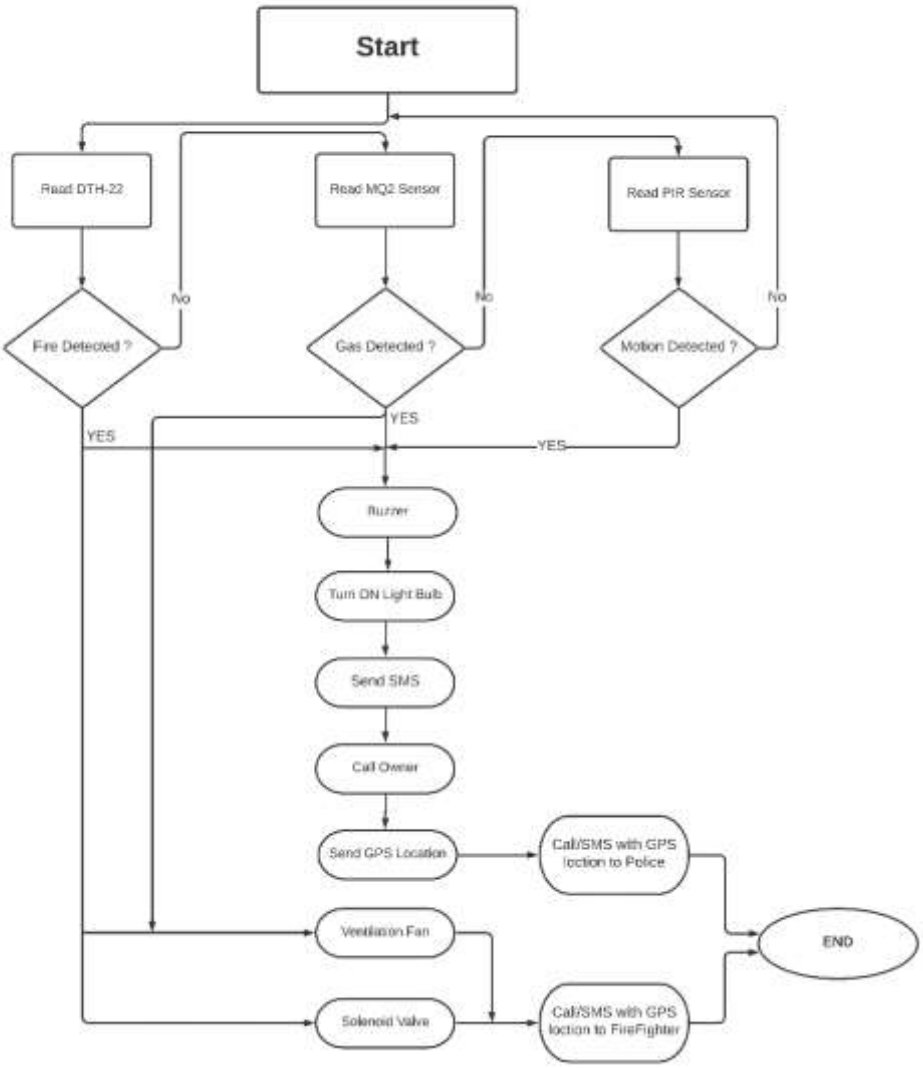
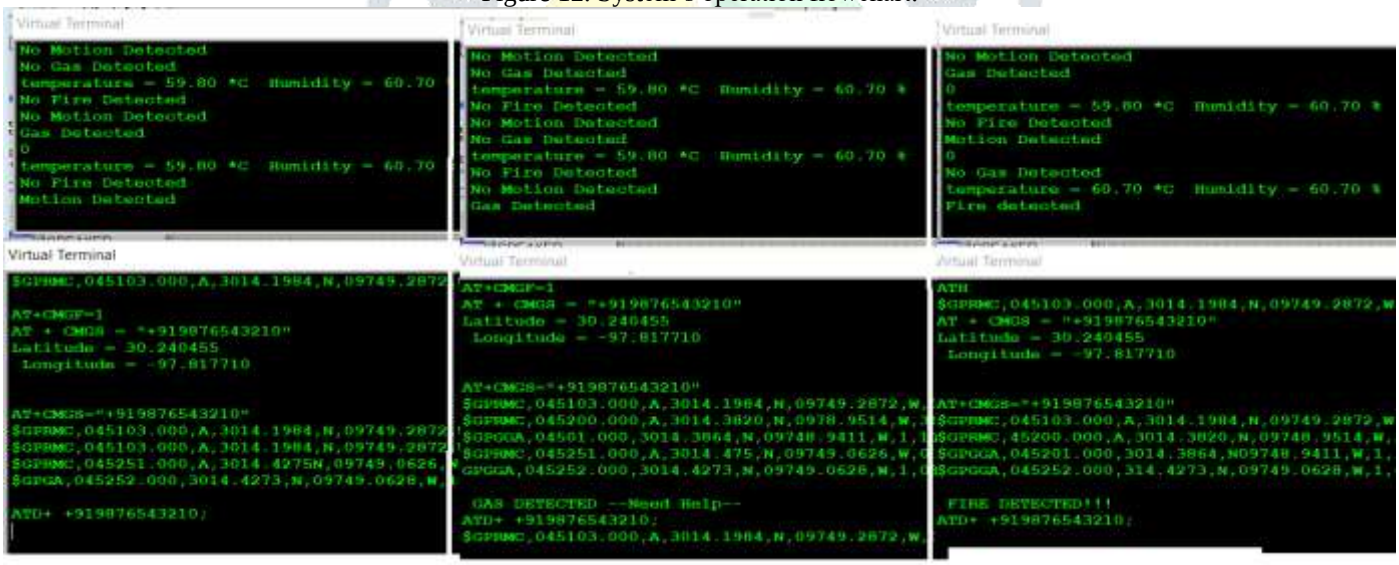


Figure 12. System's operation flowchart.



IV. CONCLUSION

A Smart Building Warning System for Smart Cities has been proposed and implemented in this paper. The proposed system allows buildings owners to monitor their buildings while they are far away. The most dangerous situations (fire, gas leakage, and breaking in) can be detected by using the proposed system. Buildings owners can be notified about these situations via SMS messages with GPS location, mobile calls, etc. And providing GPS coordinates will be very useful when the SMSs are intended to be sent to a police station or a fire station. This feature will enable the policemen or firefighters to easily locate the house facing problems. Moreover, several proper actions can also be performed by the proposed system such as stopping fire via water and decreasing gas concentration in the air via a fan. The proposed system is very useful to prevent breaking in by detecting movements caused by thieves. The system proposed in this study has expanded the functionalities of previous related works and presented its unique advantages and features.

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