DOI https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-597-6-22

HOME AUTOMATION USING INTERNET OF THINGS

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Abstract

This paper presents a home automation system designed for the elderly and disabled, using an Arduino microcontroller with Bluetooth communication. Home devices, such as lights, heating, air conditioning, and security systems, can be controlled by the users through a simple smartphone interface. This paper gives a brief overview of home automation systems, technologies existing, and the implementation of a Bluetooth-based system using Arduino. Within its scope of this research would be literature about wireless home automation and real-life implementation of such a system.

Keywords: Home automation system, Internet of things, Arduino microcontroller, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Zigbee, Z-Wave

1 Introduction

Home automation using the Internet of Things has changed everything regarding how we live in spaces and manage them. Modern homes have thus evolved into intelligent ecosystems that integrate smart devices and connected technology, offering convenience, efficiency, and very high security. It has made it very easy for homeowners to control household appliances, lighting, security systems, and other essential functions, all even with a mobile software application or simply with voice commands. At the heart of this type of automation is the concept of connectivity IoT-enabled: devices such as sensors, actuators, and smart controllers are networked to communicate and output real-time input data to each other. The interconnectivity between these different devices empowers an individual to automate tasks, optimize energy consumption, and enhance overall home security. (Anusha Hegde, 2024) Operating such devices could, for example, include remotely altering the thermostat, obtaining an immediate notice from a motion-detection system, or scheduling appliances to operate at specific times.

However, an important enabler of smart home technology is the introduction of microcontrollers, for example, Arduino UNO and ESP8266 (ESP-01), which form the backbone of interfacing analogue appliances into the digital world. These microcontrollers are usually equipped with

characteristics that make wireless commutation of home automation systems possible with that of the internet, hence enabling even the very conventional electrical devices to be part of a modern Internet of Things framework.

2 Overview of Home Automation System

An automated home system is designed for automatically controlling household devices. Such systems use different microcontroller and different parameters for monitoring and controlling household machines. There are IoT sensors and other communication devices, which can control home appliances efficiently. It can control home appliances from across the globe using a mobile device, laptop, or the internet. These systems control various tube lights, fans, household appliances, electrical motors, air conditioning, and air heating systems and are easily accessible through web– or internet-enabled devices. Being much cheaper to implement and offering flexible functionality that anyone can easily customize according to their needs, these IoT systems are now gaining high demand and worth as well. The system architecture consists of proposed system model using the internet for a connection, communication, and coordination of various communication devices for home automation system. This two Node MCUs are present in the suggested approach. Node Micro Controller Unit (NodeMCU) is an open source hardware-software integrated lazy cheap module based on ESP8266 chip. (Dr. G. Karuna, 2023)

Home Automation and the Internet of Things (IoT): The IoT has innovated in the advancement of technology to facilitate the interconnectivity between devices anywhere. Therefore, these have enabled remote monitoring, automation, and control over the internet. A modern IoT-enabled home automation system consists of a network of sensors, actuators, and smart controllers that inter-connect in real time to enhance comfort and security and to add energy efficiency. It is based on the home wireless communication protocols, i.e., Wi-Fi, Zigbee, Z-Wave, etc. Facilitate the connections so that devices have efficient data exchange. Machine learning algorithms and predictive analytical methods are incorporated into the definition of smart homes beyond automation alone.[3] Therefore, appliances will dynamically adapt according to users' habits and optimize energy consumption while improving overall efficiency, for example:

- Smart lighting systems can adjust brightness and color based on occupancy and time of day.
- AI-powered thermostats learn user habits to optimize indoor climate while minimizing energy consumption.
- Smart irrigation systems utilize weather forecasts and soil moisture sensors to prevent water waste.
- Advanced security systems with facial recognition, motion detection, and biometric authentication enhance home safety.

As shown in Figure 1, here lies an example of IoT smart homes acting with interconnected devices mostly in the direction of showcasing real-world examples of applications in home automation. Indeed, with the improvement in technology, smart homes are turning over time to become self-sufficient environments, promoting energy conservation, user safety, and comfort; hence giving a different dimension to how modern living will unfold. (Cristina Stolojescu-Crisan, Calin Crisan, Bogdan-Petru Butunoi, 2021)

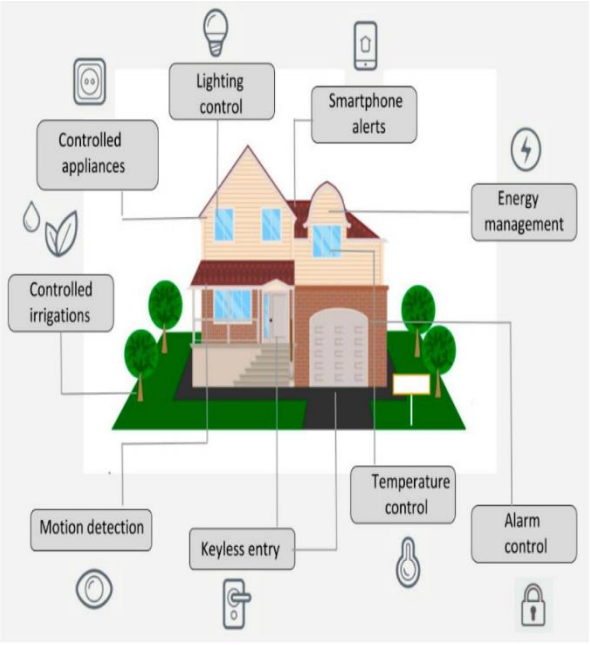

Figure 1. A smart home based on IoT that embodies the use of smart sensing devices for different purposes

3 Wireless Home Automation Platforms:

Current options in home automation offer a lot for the consumer today, especially in the do-it-yourself and DIY markets. The infusion of charging smart gadgets from Nest, Philips, Belkin, Honeywell, and the like has given consumers headaches trying to decide which technology they will use when controlling their whole homes. Smart home giants such as Apple and Google have also joined this large entourage making thinking considerably harder for consumers as to what they would want to invest in for themselves. For

example, manufacturers have pinpointed the following main drivers of the current mainstream of home automation: Primary Controllers, Wi-fi Dominance, Standalone Devices, Price Sensitivity and Expandability, and Software Relevance. (Woodall, 2022)

Bluetooth-Based Home Automation Systems:

Bluetooth technology, initially developed by by Ericsson and standardized as IEEE 802.15.1. Bluetooth also features the development of Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) which is sometimes referred to as Bluetooth Smart. BLE focuses as well on privacy, security, and energy efficiency which makes it applicable for different IoT applications, such as home automation.

Bluetooth Home Automation Technology**:**

The low-cost and secure automation of homes is achieved using smartphones, microcontroller boards like Arduino, and Bluetooth technology. In this type of system, communication between the Arduino board and smartphone is achieved through Bluetooth. Commands are sent to the Arduino board via a smartphone application that enables users to control home appliances; the Arduino in turn controls these appliances via relays. This way, it becomes easier to integrate the home automation into an already existing home. However, the main limitation here is the control range, which is limited to Bluetooth effective distance. (Steve Ovens, 2020)

Zigbee Based Wireless Home Automation System: In this regard, we thus considered the proposed ZigBee-based wireless home automation system, which comprises three basic components: a handheld microphone module, a central controller module-a computer-and an appliance controller module. It utilizes the ZigBee protocol with RF ZigBee modules for low-power and cost-effective wireless communication. While the ZigBee standard was initially issued in 2004, it was updated to ZigBee Pro and ZigBee Smart Energy 2.0 to provide IPv6 connectivity through 6LoWPAN. ZigBee operates at 868 MHz, 915 MHz, and 2.45 GHz and includes coordinators, routers, and end devices. The architecture makes ZigBee integration for low data rate needs and Wi-Fi for high data rate needs. It allows on-time access through the Internet to a home gateway to control devices by ZigBee or local remote controls for security and monitoring.

Wi-Fi Based Home Automation System: Wi-Fi, developed by the IEEE in 1999, is a wireless technology that adheres to the IEEE 802.11 standards and is one of the most used technologies globally. Using radio signals at 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz, Wi-Fi enables devices to connect to the internet and is popularly used in home automation systems. Its main advantages over competing technologies are being ubiquitous, having high data bandwidth, a range of 100 meters outdoors, and good security using The WPA/WPA2 encryption. Radio signals, Wi-Fi cards in devices, and Wi-Fi hotspots creating the network are the three components of the system. The radio signal

transmission is done through antennas and received by various devices with the help of Wi-Fi cards. The Wi-Fi hotspot provides internet access from anywhere within a 300-foot range. Nowadays, more and more public hotspots are found in airports, coffee shops, and hotels and are generally governed by ISPs or businesses. (Habas, 2022)

Z-Wave Based Wireless Home Automation System: Z-Wave is a wireless home automation technology developed by the Danish company Zensys in 2005 and later acquired by Sigma Designs. It operates in the frequency bands of 868 MHz in Europe and 908 MHz in the USA and transfers data at speeds from 9.6 to 40 kb/s, and up to 200 kb/s on the latest chips using the 2.4 GHz band.The Z-Wave technology makes use of two types of devices: controllers and slaves. The controller is a master unit that organizes the topology of the network and initiates the communication to a slave unit. Slaves are responsible for sensor functions, while controlling slaves are acted upon for time-sensitive operations. Z-Wave considers low in power consumption as the sleep current of its ZM5101 chip is rated at a mere 1uA. But unlike ZigBee, Z-Wave is not an open standard, hence more proprietary in nature and less interoperable in comparison. (Woodall, 2022)

4 Implementation of Bluetooth Home Automation System Using Arduino

This is a smart home automation project that lets users control home appliances wirelessly through Bluetooth using an Android smartphone. The Arduino microcontroller receives the information with the help of a Bluetooth module (HC-05 or HC-06). This information controls an array of electrical appliances through a Relay module. After connecting the Bluetooth module to an Arduino Uno (or any compatible board), users can start sending commands to the system via a smartphone app or terminal application. These commands operate the relays in the system and allow either a light, fan, air conditioner, or basically any device in the house to be turned on or off.

Implementation Requirements:

– Arduino Uno (or any compatible board)
– HC-05/HC-06 Bluetooth Module
– Relay Module (4-channel or 8-channel)
– Light Bulbs, Fans, or other appliances (as loads)
– Power Supply (5V for Arduino, 220V/110V for appliances)
– Jumper Wires
– Smartphone with a Bluetooth Terminal App (e.g., Arduino Bluetooth Controller, BlueTerm)

Configuration Method: The user will send trigger some command from his smartphone to the HC-05 or HC-06 Bluetooth module that is connected and synced with the smartphone via a Bluetooth terminal app. Receiving commands such as 'A' and other commands to switch ON and OFF the light.

The HC-05/HC-06 module gets the command and sends it to the Arduino board through the serial interface. The Arduino would read the data received and determine what relay switch is to be activated or deactivated. The module relay acts as a switch to control the power supply of an appliance. When the command is sent for the appliance to be switched ON (here 'A'), the corresponding relay is turned ON, supplying the required power to the appliance. Likewise, when a command such as 'a' for switching the appliance OFF is received, the respective relay turns OFF, cutting the current.

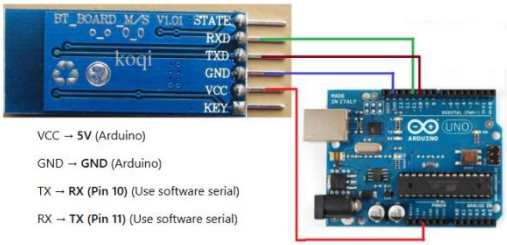

Figure 2. Connection of HC -05 Bluetooth Module

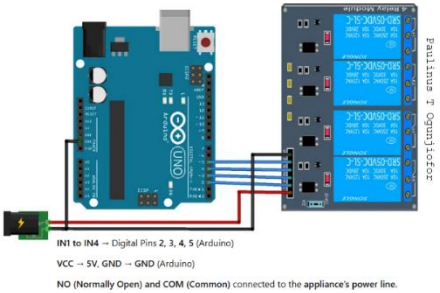

Figure 3. Connection of Relay Module with Arduino

Arduino Code For Controlling Appliances Via Bluetooth:

```
#include <SoftwareSerial.h>

SoftwareSerial BT(10, 11); // RX, TX

int relay1 = 2;
```

```
int relay2 = 3;
int relay3 = 4;
int relay4 = 5;

void setup() {
 Serial.begin(9600);
 BT.begin(9600);

 pinMode(relay1, OUTPUT);
 pinMode(relay2, OUTPUT);
 pinMode(relay3, OUTPUT);
 pinMode(relay4, OUTPUT);

 digitalWrite(relay1, HIGH);
 digitalWrite(relay2, HIGH);
 digitalWrite(relay3, HIGH);
 digitalWrite(relay4, HIGH);
}

void loop() {
 if (BT.available()) {
 char command = BT.read();
 Serial.println(command);

 switch (command) {
 case 'A': digitalWrite(relay1, LOW); break; // Turn ON Device 1
 case 'a': digitalWrite(relay1, HIGH); break; // Turn OFF Device 1
 case 'B': digitalWrite(relay2, LOW); break; // Turn ON Device 2
 case 'b': digitalWrite(relay2, HIGH); break; // Turn OFF Device 2
 case 'C': digitalWrite(relay3, LOW); break; // Turn ON Device 3
 case 'c': digitalWrite(relay3, HIGH); break; // Turn OFF Device 3
 case 'D': digitalWrite(relay4, LOW); break; // Turn ON Device 4
 case 'd': digitalWrite(relay4, HIGH); break; // Turn OFF Device 4
 }
 }
}
```

5 Literature Review

The article investigates the impact of home automation using IoT technologies on residential property, and how they have developed into intelligence ecosystems that allow users, the homeowners, to manage lighting and heating, and security features, all via applications on their mobile devices or by voice commands. (Anusha Hegde, 2024) The key component of this is the system could feature any number of devices such as sensors, actuators and smart controllers that can communicate with each other realtime, which

permits advantageous functionality of remote control of a thermostat or receiving simultaneous notifications of alarm features. These systems, microcontrollers such as Arduino and ESP8266, also allow users to upgrade appliances to the digital environments to improve energy efficiency and user convenience. (Dr. G. Karuna, 2023)

In addition, the article identifies a range of wireless technologies used in home automation systems, with particular reference to Bluetooth, ZigBee, Z-Wave and Wi-Fi. Bluetooth characteristics includes the fact that, while it is energy efficient and easy to use, it limits control to range, or local areas. Alternately, ZigBee and Z-Wave provide low-power low-data solutions, which are useful in addressing a wider range of applications, and Wi-Fi provides high bandwidth, and greater connectivity options. As a practical application of a home automation system operating on Bluetooth technology with Arduino, the study was able to demonstrate how users could control household appliances wirelessly from a smartphone, highlighting the potential of IoT based innovations and how they might help modernize household management and enhance people's everyday lives. (Steve Ovens, 2020)

6 Conclusion

The wireless Bluetooth home automation system based on the Arduino provides an easy and efficient solution to control household appliances with the aid of an application on a smartphone. It makes life easier, more energy-efficient, and quite secure, granting the user the possibility to switch devices ON/OFF remotely and within Bluetooth range. Therefore, despite the limited range of operation being determined by Bluetooth, it is, however, best suited for local automation without needing an active internet connection. Bluetooth is followed by the likes of Wi-Fi, Zigbee, and Z-Wave as other communication alternatives and promising future technologies in IoT-based smart homes, where the future scope can pick up in terms of cloud collaboration, AI-enabled automation, and voice management, thus giving the user an enhanced experience and efficiency upon integration. To summarize, Bluetooth-based home Automation using Arduino is practical and cheap in terms of smart home solutions, showing the real potential of IoT-driven innovations in modernizing the management of households.

Acknowledgement

I would like to appreciate my supervisor, Amit Joshi, for his support and guidance, throughout this project. His feedback and support have been most influential in completing this article. I am also very thankful to my lovely family for their constant support and words of encouragements throughout the project.

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