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IOT-Enhanced Smart Dustbin with Real-Time Weight and Level Monitoring Using ESP32

Yogesh H M[1], Shivalingappa[2], Suman M[3], Vinodh B[4], Mrs. Malini V L[5]
UG Scholars, Department of Electronics and Communication[1-4]
Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics and Communication[5]
East Point College of Engineering and Technology, Bangalore

Abstract: *The rapid increase in waste generation necessitates smarter waste management solutions to ensure efficiency and sustainability. This project presents Eco Bin, an IOT-enabled smart dustbin designed to optimize waste disposal processes by leveraging advanced technologies. Eco Bin integrates an ESP32 microcontroller, load cells, and an ultrasonic sonar sensor to monitor the weight and fill level of the dustbin in real-time. The data collected is uploaded to Firebase Realtime Database (RTDB) for seamless storage and accessibility. A user-friendly mobile application, developed using MIT App Inventor, provides real-time updates on the dustbin's status, such as weight, fill percentage, and alerts when the dustbin is full. This system aims to reduce manual checks, prevent overflow, and enhance the efficiency of waste collection operations. By promoting automation and real-time monitoring, Eco Bin offers a scalable solution to modern waste management challenges, contributing to cleaner and more sustainable urban environments*

Keywords: *waste generation*

I. INTRODUCTION

Effective waste management is a critical challenge in urban and rural areas, where overflowing dustbins and inefficient collection systems contribute to environmental pollution and public health concerns. Traditional waste collection processes often involve manual monitoring, which is time consuming, labor-intensive, and prone to inefficiencies. To address these issues, integrating Internet of Things (IoT) technologies into waste management systems offers innovative and scalable solutions. This project introduces EcoBin, an IoT-enabled smart dustbin designed to automate and streamline waste monitoring and collection. Utilizing an ESP32 microcontroller, load cells, and an ultrasonic sonar sensor, EcoBin tracks both the weight and fill level of the dustbin in real-time. This data is uploaded to Firebase Realtime Database (RTDB), enabling centralized storage and easy access. Users and waste management personnel can monitor the dustbin's status via a mobile application developed using MIT App Inventor, which provides timely alerts when the bin is full or nearing capacity. By eliminating the need for manual checks and providing actionable insights contributes to a cleaner environment and supports smart city initiatives. This project represents a step towards sustainable waste management, leveraging IoT technologies to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and promote environmental stewardship.

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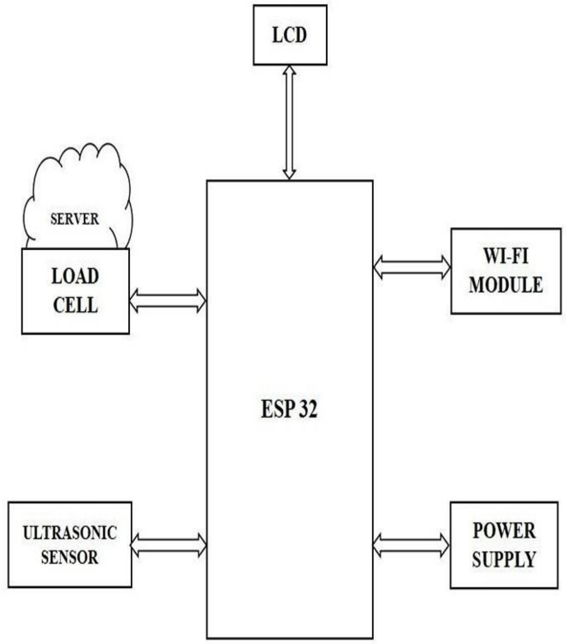
II. BLOCK REPRESENTATION



III. METHODOLOGY

An IoT-enhanced smart dustbin with real-time weight and level monitoring using ESP32" essentially illustrates how different components like a load cell (for weight measurement), ultrasonic sensor (for level detection), an ESP32 microcontroller (for data processing and communication), and an LCD display (for showing the information) would interact within a smart dustbin system to monitor and display the current fill level and weight of waste in real-time, all connected to a server via Wi-Fi for data storage and access.

Key components in the diagram:

01. Load Cell: This sensor measures the force applied to it, which directly translates to the weight of the waste inside the dustbin.
02. Ultrasonic Sensor: This sensor emits ultrasonic waves and measures the time taken for the waves to reflect back, thereby determining the distance to the top of the waste, providing an indication of the fill level.
03. ESP32 Microcontroller: This is the "brain" of the system, responsible for reading data from the load cell and ultrasonic sensor, processing it, and sending the weight and level information to a server via Wi-Fi.
04. Wi-Fi Module (integrated within ESP32): Enables wireless communication between the smart dustbin and a server.
05. LCD Display: A small screen attached to the dustbin to display the current weight and fill level readings locally.
Power Supply: Provides the necessary power to operate all the electronic components.

IV. HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

1. ESP32 MICROCONTROLLER:

The ESP32 is a versatile and powerful microcontroller that has gained popularity in the maker and IoT (Internet of Things) communities. Here are some key features and information about the ESP32.

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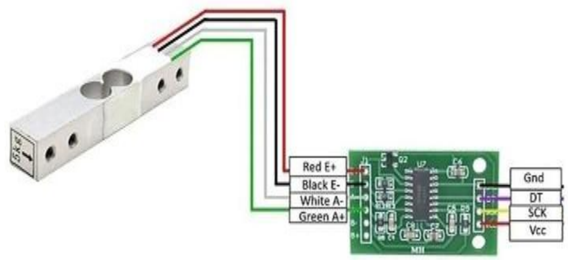
2. 1kg Load Cell and HX711:

A load cell is a transducer that converts force (or weight) into an electrical signal. The 1kg load cell is designed to measure weights up to 1kg. It typically uses strain gauges attached to its structure. When weight is applied, the strain gauges experience a small deformation, causing a change in their electrical resistance.



3. I2C LCD Display (16x2) :

I2C (Inter-Integrated Circuit) is a communication protocol widely used in various electronic devices. It's a serial communication protocol, meaning data is transferred bit by bit over a single wire, reducing the number of pins required for communication. In the context of LCDs, an I2C LCD display incorporates an I2C module directly on the LCD, simplifying the wiring and control process.

4. ULTRASONIC SENSOR:

Ultrasonic transducers and ultrasonic sensors are devices that generate or sense ultrasound energy. They can be divided into three broad categories: transmitters, receivers and transceivers. Transmitter convert electrical signals into ultrasound, receivers convert ultrasound into electrical signals, and transceivers can both transmit and receive ultrasound.

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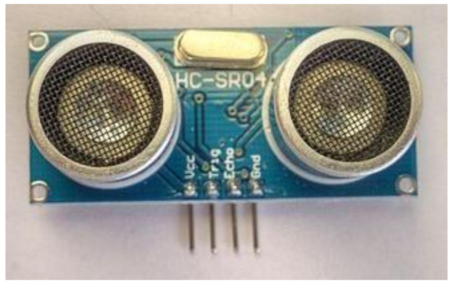

V. SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

The following software tools and libraries are required for the development and operation of the Safe Drive system:

a. Arduino IDE:

i. Purpose: The primary software for programming the ESP32 It provides an integrated development environment to write, compile, and upload the code to the microcontroller.

ii. Link: Arduino IDE

b. Arduino Libraries:

i. Purpose: Libraries are used to interface with the hardware components like the ultrasonic sensor, Load cell , and LCD display. These libraries simplify the coding process by providing predefined functions for hardware control. Some commonly used libraries are:

ii. Servo Library: For controlling servo motors (if applicable in the project).

iii. Relay Module Library (if using a specialized relay module): To control relays easily.

c. Serial Monitor (Arduino IDE Tool):

i. Purpose: Used for debugging the system by displaying real-time sensor readings and system status messages during development.

VI. ADVANTAGES

Smart dustbins utilize sensors to monitor fill levels in real-time, enabling waste management systems to optimize collection schedules and routes, thereby reducing unnecessary trips and conserving resources.

- Enhanced Hygiene and Cleanliness: By providing timely alerts when bins are nearing capacity, smart dustbins help prevent overflows, reducing the risk of pest infestations and the spread of diseases, contributing to a healthier environment.
- Resource Optimization: Real-time data allows for efficient allocation of manpower and vehicles, leading to cost savings in waste collection operations.
- Environmental Benefits: Optimized collection routes result in lower fuel consumption and reduced carbon emissions, supporting environmental sustainability efforts.
- Data-Driven Decision Making: The data collected from smart dustbins can be analyzed to identify waste generation patterns, informing policy decisions and public awareness campaigns to promote better waste management practices.

VII. DISADVANTAGES

- Power Consumption: Continuous sensor operation and real-time data transmission drain power quickly. Requires either frequent battery replacement or an external power source.
- Sensor Accuracy & Maintenance: Sensors may provide inaccurate readings. due to dust, moisture, or misalignment. Regular maintenance is required to ensure proper functioning .
- Connectivity Issue: Dependence on Wi-Fi, Bluetooth can lead to network failures or delays in data updates. Unstable internet connections may cause data loss or inaccurate readings.

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VIII. FUTURE SCOPE

- IoT-Based Monitoring: Integrate with wireless communication (WiFi/Bluetooth) to track power generation remotely.
- Battery Optimization: Use supercapacitors for better energy storage and utilization.
- Large-Scale Urban Deployment: Implement in public parks, stadiums, and city squares for large- scale renewable energy production.
- Advanced Material: Investigate the use of advanced piezoelectric materials like nano composites for higher efficiency.
- Hybrid System: Combine with other energy harvesting methods like solar or thermal for continuous power generation.
- Smart Fabric Integration: Develop wearable systems by integrating piezoelectric sensors into clothing.

IX. CONCLUSION

Waste management remains a pressing issue in both urban and rural areas, where inefficiencies in monitoring and collection contribute to environmental pollution, health hazards, and resource wastage. Traditional systems rely heavily on manual checks to determine the status of dustbins, often leading to delayed collection, overflowing bins, and underutilized resources.

These challenges highlight the need for a smarter, automated system that can provide real-time data on waste levels and optimize collection schedules. The lack of such solutions in many regions has created gaps in waste management efficiency, impacting both cleanliness and sustainability.

This project aims to address these issues by developing an IoT-enabled smart dustbin system, Eco Bin, which automates waste monitoring using advanced sensors and real-time data integration. The system will provide accurate, timely updates to users and waste management authorities, reducing manual effort and promoting a more sustainable approach to waste disposal.

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