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IoT Based Spy Robot Using Night Vision Surveillance Camera

Roshan Omprakash Waghmare[1], Vaibhav Satish Kharde[2], Karan B Dahikar[3], Prajakta Virendra Ashtikar[4], Anjali Pramod Tayde[5], Ankita Sunil Sote[6], Prof. Snehal Chincholkar[7]
Students, Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering[1-6]
Assistant Professor, Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering[7]
Dr. Rajendra Gode Institute of Technology and Research Amravati, Maharashtra, India.

Abstract: *Security and surveillance have become critical requirements in modern society, particularly during night-time operations where visibility is limited. Conventional human-based surveillance systems are often inefficient and unreliable under such conditions. To address this issue, this paper presents an IoT-based Spy Robot integrated with a Night Vision Camera for effective remote surveillance. The proposed system consists of a miniature robotic platform equipped with a night vision camera that enables real-time monitoring in low-light and dark environments.*
The robot is capable of detecting and observing the activities of unknown persons and animals without the need for continuous human intervention or ground support. Using Internet of Things (IoT) technology, the system allows remote control and live video streaming over long distances. This approach enhances surveillance efficiency, improves security, and reduces human risk in sensitive and restricted areas. The proposed system provides a reliable, cost-effective, and flexible solution for modern surveillance applications..

Keywords: Internet of Things (IoT), Spy Robot, Night Vision Camera, Surveillance System, Remote Monitoring, Security Applications

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the demand for advanced security and surveillance systems has increased significantly due to rising safety concerns in public, industrial, and border areas. Effective surveillance is especially challenging during night-time and low-visibility conditions, where conventional monitoring methods fail to provide accurate and continuous observation. Human-based surveillance is often limited by fatigue, environmental conditions, and potential risk to life, making it unsuitable for prolonged or hazardous operations.

With the rapid development of embedded systems and Internet of Things (IoT) technology, smart surveillance solutions have become more practical and efficient. IoT enables devices to communicate, share data, and be controlled remotely over the internet, reducing the need for physical human presence. When combined with robotic platforms, IoT-based systems can perform monitoring tasks in areas that are difficult or unsafe for humans to access.

Robotic surveillance systems equipped with cameras offer mobility and flexibility compared to fixed CCTV systems. However, standard cameras are ineffective in dark environments. To overcome this limitation, night vision technology plays a crucial role by enabling clear visibility in low-light and no-light conditions. Integrating a night vision camera with a mobile robotic system significantly improves the effectiveness of surveillance during night operations.

This project focuses on the design and implementation of an **IoT-based Spy Robot with a Night Vision Camera** capable of real-time monitoring and remote control. The proposed system can detect and observe suspicious activities of unknown persons and animals during night-time without continuous human supervision. Such a system can be effectively used in security-sensitive areas such as borders, military zones, industrial sites, and remote locations, thereby enhancing safety, reliability, and operational efficiency.

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II. COMPONENTS REQUIRED

Node MCU : Node MCU used as a Controller NodeMCU is an IoT-enabled microcontroller platform with built-in Wi-Fi capability. It acts as the main control unit of the spy robot. NodeMCU receives control commands through the internet and processes them to control the motors and other peripherals. Its wireless connectivity enables remote operation and monitoring of the robot.

ESP32-CAM Module: The ESP32-CAM module is used for capturing and transmitting live video. It is a low-cost camera module with built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth features. In this project, the ESP32-CAM is configured to provide real-time video streaming, enabling surveillance in low-light and night conditions with the support of external illumination.

L293D MOTOR DRIVER IC : The L293D motor driver is used to control the direction and speed of the DC motors. Since the microcontroller cannot drive motors directly due to current limitations, the L293D acts as an interface between the NodeMCU and the motors. It allows bidirectional control of two motors simultaneously.

N20 GEAR MOTOR : N20 gear motors are compact DC motors with high torque output. These motors are responsible for the movement of the spy robot. Their small size and efficiency make them suitable for miniature robotic applications.

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LED : LEDs are used to provide illumination for night-time surveillance. They help enhance visibility in low-light environments and also serve as status indicators for system operation.

III. SOFTWARE REQUIRED

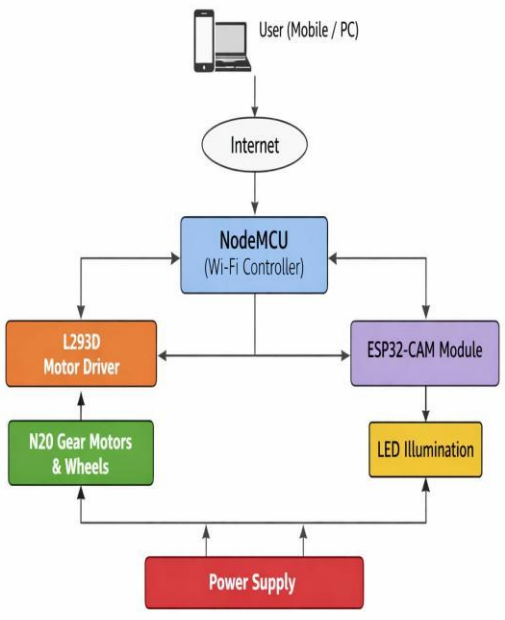
Arduino IDE : Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE) is used for writing, compiling, and uploading the program code to the NodeMCU and ESP32-CAM modules. It provides a user-friendly interface and supports various libraries required for Wi-Fi communication, motor control, and camera interfacing. The Arduino IDE simplifies embedded system programming and enables efficient debugging and testing of the system.

ESP32-CAM Firmware :ESP32-CAM firmware is used to configure and control the camera module for live video streaming. This firmware enables the camera to capture images and transmit video data over a wireless network. It supports real-time monitoring through a web interface, allowing the user to view surveillance footage remotely.

IoT Web Interface / Mobile Application : An IoT-based web interface or mobile application is used for remote control and monitoring of the spy robot. Through this interface, the user can send control commands to move the robot in different directions and view live video streaming from the ESP32-CAM module. This software eliminates the need for physical presence near the robot.

Embedded C Programming Language : Embedded C is used as the programming language for developing control logic and communication functions. It is suitable for real-time embedded applications due to its efficiency and low memory usage. Embedded C allows direct interaction with hardware components such as motors, LEDs, and communication modules.

IV. BLOCK DIAGRAM



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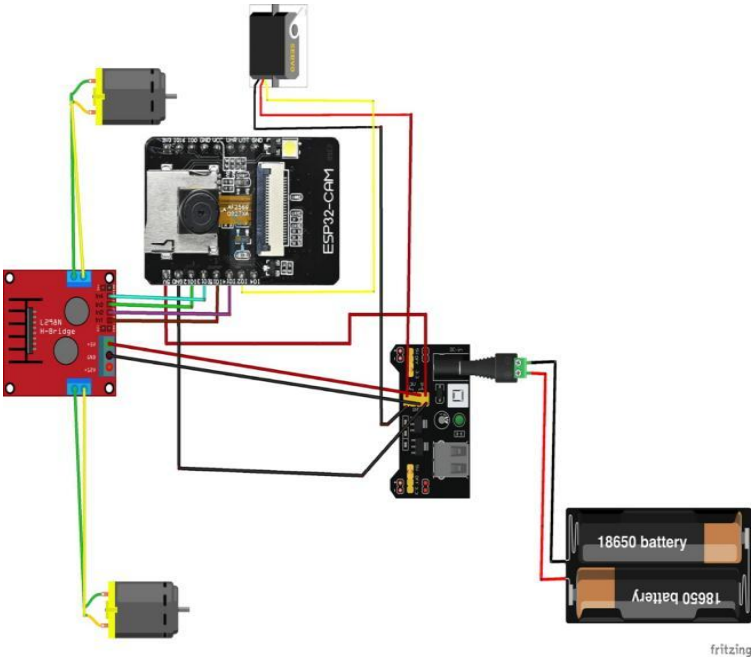
V. CIRCUIT DIAGRAM



VI. WORKING

When the robot is powered using a battery, the NodeMCU and ESP32-CAM modules turn ON.
The NodeMCU connects to Wi-Fi so that it can communicate with the user through the internet.
The user controls the robot using a mobile phone application.When the user presses a control button (like forward, backward, left, or right), the command is sent through the internet to the NodeMCU.
The NodeMCU receives the command and sends signals to the L293D motor driver. The motor driver then controls the N20 gear motors. Depending on the signal, the motors rotate in a specific direction and the robot moves accordingly.
At the same time, the ESP32-CAM captures live video of the surrounding area. This video is sent through Wi-Fi and can be viewed on a mobile or computer screen in real time.During night-time or in dark places, the LED provides light so that the camera can clearly capture images and videos.
In this way, the robot can be controlled from a long distance while providing live video monitoring without the need for a person to be physically present.

VII. ADVANTAGES

- **Remote Monitoring :** The system allows surveillance and control from any location using the internet, reducing the need for physical human presence.
- **Night-Time Surveillance :**The use of a night vision camera and LED illumination enables effective monitoring in low-light and dark environments.
- **Real-Time Video Streaming :** Live video transmission provides immediate visual feedback, allowing quick decision-making.
- **Cost-Effective Solution :**The use of low-cost components such as NodeMCU and ESP32-CAM makes the system affordable compared to traditional surveillance setups.
- **Reduced Human Risk :** The robot can be deployed in dangerous or restricted areas, minimizing risk to human life.

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- **Compact and Portable Design :**The small size of the robot allows easy movement in narrow and hard-to-reach areas.
- **Flexible and Scalable System :**Additional sensors and features can be integrated easily to enhance system functionality.
- **Low Power Consumption :**Efficient components ensure reduced power usage, making the system suitable for long-duration operation.

VIII. APPLICATIONS

- **Military and Defense Surveillance :**The system can be used to monitor border areas and sensitive military zones, especially during night-time operations.
- **Security and Surveillance :**It is suitable for monitoring restricted areas such as government buildings, warehouses, and industrial sites.
- **Search and Rescue Operations :**The robot can be deployed in disaster-affected areas to locate humans or animals in low-visibility conditions.
- **Wildlife Monitoring :**Night-time observation of animals in forests and wildlife reserves can be carried out without disturbing natural habitats.
- **Industrial Monitoring :**The system can be used for inspecting hazardous industrial environments where human access is risky.
- **Home and Office Security :**It can be used as a mobile security system for homes, offices, and campuses.
- **Educational and Research Purposes :**The project is useful for academic learning, research, and training in IoT and robotics applications.

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