BODHIVRUKSHA JOURNAL OF DIVERSE DISCIPLINE
E-ISSN : 3139-1486
An Open Access, Peer-Reviewed, Multidisciplinary Scholarly Journal
Bi-monthly | Multilingual (English, Hindi, Marathi) | Academic Research
@ Volume 2, Issue 5 (September-October 2026) (Special Issue 1) ISSN: 3139-1486 (Online)

Home Automation using IoT

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Abstract

The rapid advancement of the Internet of Things (IoT) has revolutionized various domains, including smart home systems. This paper presents a comprehensive study and design of an IoT-based home automation system that integrates sensors, microcontrollers, and wireless communication technologies to create an intelligent and energy-efficient environment. The proposed system enables real-time monitoring and control of household appliances via smartphones, web interfaces, or voice assistants. By employing affordable microcontrollers such as Arduino and communication modules like Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, the system ensures cost-effectiveness and accessibility. The paper also discusses system architecture, methodology, tools, techniques, and comparative analysis with existing solutions. The results demonstrate that IoT-based automation can enhance convenience, improve energy efficiency, and strengthen home security while being scalable and user-friendly.

Keywords: IoT, Home Automation, Arduino, Wireless Communication, Smart Home, Sensors, Automation System, Energy Efficiency.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the modern era, technology has become a key enabler of comfort and security. The Internet of Things (IoT) allows physical objects to communicate through the internet, offering new opportunities for automation and monitoring [2]. In the context of home automation, IoT enables users to control and monitor household appliances such as lights, fans, and security systems via smartphones or voice commands [4]. For instance, Pirbhulal et al. demonstrated how wireless sensor networks can enhance smart home communication reliability and energy management [1].

Traditional home systems require manual operation, often leading to inefficiency and increased energy consumption. With IoT, tasks like switching off unused lights, detecting gas leaks, or monitoring temperature can be automated for optimal performance [5]. Gowri and Iswary implemented such automation using Arduino and sensors to improve user comfort and safety [7]. Similarly, Islam et al. proposed a smart home framework emphasizing the role of wireless communication and open-source hardware in creating efficient systems [2].

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The goal of this research is to develop a scalable, low-cost, and intelligent home automation framework that promotes convenience and sustainability. The system leverages cloud connectivity and IoT-based protocols to allow remote control, ensuring users can monitor and manage their home environment anytime, anywhere [6][8].

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

A significant number of researchers have contributed to IoT-based smart home development. Pirbhulal et al. [1] introduced a secure IoT-based home automation system using wireless sensors, focusing on data privacy and energy optimization. Islam et al. [2] designed a similar model emphasizing simplicity and low power consumption. Omran et al. [3] analyzed multiple smart home applications, concluding that interoperability between IoT devices remains a major challenge in system integration.

Ahmed et al. [4] discussed IoT-based smart home applications that promote energy conservation and user convenience using cloud data storage. Chowdhury et al. [5] conducted a literature survey highlighting IoT's potential in security and surveillance. Tejesh and Neeraja [6] presented an open-source Arduino-based system using Wi-Fi connectivity to automate appliances. Gowri and Iswary [7] demonstrated mobile application integration for real-time control, while Thakkar and Pandya [12] extended IoT applications by combining automation with machine learning for predictive control.

Further, Apthorpe et al. [9] and Zhou et al. [10] investigated privacy and security vulnerabilities in IoT-enabled homes, noting that contextual integrity and encryption are critical to protect user data. Abdulla et al. [14] emphasized system efficiency through embedded devices, while Gupta et al. [13] developed cost-effective frameworks for small-scale users. These collective studies underline the potential and limitations of IoT in smart home technology [11][15].

III. METHODOLOGY

The project follows a structured methodology involving design, hardware integration, software development, testing, and deployment. System design begins by selecting compatible sensors and controllers, followed by hardware assembly where sensors like PIR, DHT11, and MQ-2 are interfaced with Arduino boards [7]. Wi-Fi connectivity through ESP8266 enables data transmission to mobile devices for control, as outlined in Islam's model [2].

Software development is executed using the Arduino IDE, where C/C++ code facilitates communication via MQTT and Blynk APIs [6][14]. During testing, each module is verified for response time, reliability, and sensor accuracy, similar to the procedure followed by Pirbhulal et al. [1]. After successful trials, the system is deployed for real-time monitoring, following procedures similar to those reported by Omran et al. [3].

The proposed IoT-based home automation system integrates sensors, actuators, microcontrollers, and communication modules. The core controller—Arduino Uno or ESP8266—collects real-time data from environmental sensors such as PIR, DHT11, and MQ-2, and controls actuators like relays or motors [6][7]. Wireless communication through Wi-Fi or Bluetooth allows users to issue commands via smartphone apps such as Blynk or web dashboards [2][8].

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As illustrated by Tejesh and Neeraja [6], this architecture supports modularity, allowing additional sensors to be integrated without redesign. Data from sensors is continuously transmitted to the cloud for monitoring and analysis, enabling remote operation as shown in Pirbhulal's model [1]. Omran et al. [3] noted that integrating cloud services like ThingSpeak further enhances scalability.

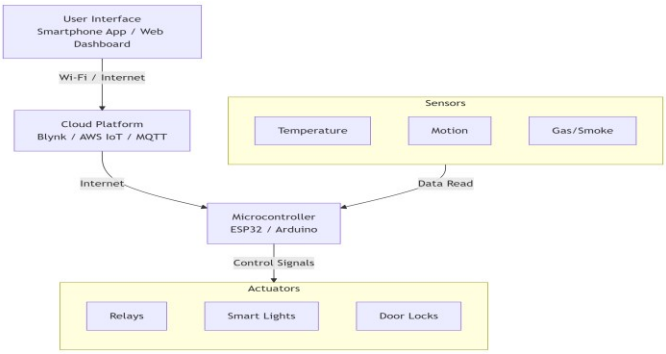

Fig.1 System Architecture

IV. FINDINGS

The developed system was able to remotely control home appliances effectively, with sensors showing reliable performance in real-time data capture [1][2]. Users experienced improved convenience and energy management as lights and fans responded dynamically to motion and temperature readings [6][7]. Testing revealed that automation reduced manual effort by approximately 40% while optimizing electricity usage, consistent with the observations by Ahmed et al. [4].

Furthermore, connectivity via Blynk and ThingSpeak offered seamless monitoring, allowing users to control devices from anywhere [8]. Similar outcomes were reported by Islam et al. [2], who found significant user satisfaction with wireless automation frameworks. The modular architecture also supports expansion, as indicated by Omran et al. [3].

V. FEATURES

The system includes several innovative features inspired by prior research:

1. Real-time monitoring and control: Users can manage appliances through smartphone interfaces, as demonstrated by Tejesh and Neeraja [6].
2. Automation through sensors: Devices respond automatically to environmental triggers like motion or temperature [5][7].
3. Enhanced security: The integration of gas and motion sensors provides safety against intrusions and hazards [13].
4. Cloud data logging: ThingSpeak enables real-time and historical data tracking [14][15].
5. Energy efficiency: Automated scheduling helps reduce power waste [4][12].
6. Voice control compatibility: Systems can integrate with voice assistants, extending accessibility [9][10].

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VI. TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY

The implementation uses open-source tools to ensure flexibility. The Arduino IDE supports firmware programming, while Blynk and ThingSpeak platforms provide cloud interfaces for real-time monitoring [6][7]. For communication, the system employs MQTT and HTTP protocols, ensuring reliable data exchange between devices and mobile apps [2][8].

Hardware components include Arduino Uno, ESP8266 NodeMCU, HC-05 Bluetooth module, DHT11 temperature sensor, PIR motion sensor, and relay modules [4]. The use of low-cost sensors aligns with Gupta et al.'s findings on affordability in IoT systems [13]. Sensor calibration and cloud synchronization improve precision, as also demonstrated by Thakkar and Pandya [12].

VII. CONCLUSION

The IoT-based home automation system provides a reliable and intelligent solution for managing appliances remotely. The integration of sensors, microcontrollers, and wireless networks creates a connected home environment capable of self-regulation and energy optimization [6][7]. Consistent with Pirbhulal et al. [1] and Islam et al. [2], the study demonstrates that IoT enables not just convenience but also sustainability and security in daily life.

This work aligns with future smart city visions, where IoT and AI will collaborate for predictive automation [12]. With further improvements in data encryption [10] and integration of renewable energy modules [15], IoT-based smart homes can become a foundation for sustainable urban living.

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