



RESEARCH ARTICLE

AI-ENHANCED WI-FI SMART HOME WITH SENSOR FEEDBACK

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Abstract

The design, implementation, and assessment of an AI-Enhanced Wi-Fi Smart Home with Sensor Feedback are presented in this paper. The system incorporates an AI based occupancy detection unit for intelligent appliance control [1] and an ESP32 based Internet of Things (IoT) module for wireless communication and multi parameter environmental sensing [1]. Real time automation of fan, lighting, and alarm systems is made possible by continuous data collection from sensors that measure temperature, humidity, ambient light, and gas. The Blynk platform offers remote control and cloud connectivity, allowing users to monitor their home and control appliances from a smartphone [2]. By enhancing decision making beyond conventional rule based automation, the system optimizes energy usage. This hybrid design improves energy efficiency with intelligent, context aware control and enhances safety through early gas detection and buzzer alerts. The finished prototype was created and tested, demonstrating accurate human detection, reliable sensor responses, and effective coordination between IoT and AI components.

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Introduction:-

With the increasing advancements of artificial intelligence (AI), low cost sensors, and the Internet of Things (IoT), smart home technology has developed very fast [3]. Home automation systems in the past primarily employed timers, pre programmed schedules, or rudimentary rule based triggers. Although such systems were able to automatize straight forward activities, they did not have the capability to respond to dynamic conditions within the home and were not aware of external world conditions. Contemporary smart homes are becoming more capable of perceiving their surroundings, knowing user habits, and making independent decisions. With sensors and machine learning, smart homes are becoming more secure, efficient, and responsive to human presence [4]. This paper introduces a smart home system integrating an AI driven human detection model with MobileNet-SSD and a range of environmental sensors such as temperature and humidity using a DHT11, light intensity using an LDR, and safety monitoring using an MQ gas sensor. The system controls appliances such as fans, lights, and alarms based on occupancy and sensor data. For instance, a buzzer is initiated immediately when harmful levels of gas are sensed,

fans switch on when the ambient temperature becomes high, and lights turn on only when someone is in the vicinity [5]. Such a practice improves safety during normal living conditions and minimizes electricity usage. The system is made up of two synchronized subsystems. The first is an ESP32-based IoT module that handles real time sensing, relay switching, and decision making for safety critical functions. The second is a laptop or an edge device operating an AI subsystem that scans live video to identify human presence. The system also incorporates the Blynk IoT platform, which facilitates sensor monitoring and alerting through a smartphone. By integrating AI based perception with rapid microcontrollerbased automation, the system both adapts and is reliable [6]. Safety critical operations like gas sensing and alarms still function autonomously through the ESP32 even when the AI module is unavailable. With the hybrid design, the system is made scalable, feasible, and appropriate for real life smart home use. The rest of the paper consists of experimental findings, operational flow description, system architecture explanation, discussion of related work, process of AI IoT integration description, summary of findings, and future directions of the research. Smart home systems with intelligence are crucial not just for convenience and comfort but also for energy efficiency. By continuously tracking occupancy and environmental factors, the systems are able to cut down energy usage, save utility bills, and minimize residential carbon footprint.

Related Work:-

The need to make homes more secure, comfortable, and efficient has pushed a lot of research in smart homes and building automation in recent years [7]. Some of the work that has been done includes vision based occupancy detection with MobileNet and other light weight AI architectures and ESP32 based IoT systems that offer real time sensing and cloud connected dashboards for monitoring and control. In a bid to achieve balance between intelligence and responsiveness, scientists have also tried hybrid distributed systems that separate computationally intensive AI tasks from low-level actuation and sensing. Our approach, which leverages the ESP32's quick and reliable decision making and the adaptable and insightful capabilities of AI, is founded on these researches combined. Through the building on these proven concepts, our system aims to create an intelligent home atmosphere that enhances comfort and security by eliminating mundane tasks and sensitively identifying and responding to the presence and activities of its inhabitants.

System Design and Architecture:-

Overview:-

The system comprises two primary subsystems:

- **Environmental and Safety Subsystem:** The ESP32 NodeMCU uses a 4-channel relay to control actuators after reading data from the DHT11, LDR, and MQ gas sensors. Data is sent to Blynk Cloud for logging and remote monitoring.
- **AI Occupancy Subsystem:** On webcam frames, a laptop or PC runs either a custom CNN or MobileNet-SSD. An Arduino receives detection signals via serial (USB) and uses them to toggle a relay channel for occupancy aware lighting.

System Architecture Overview:-

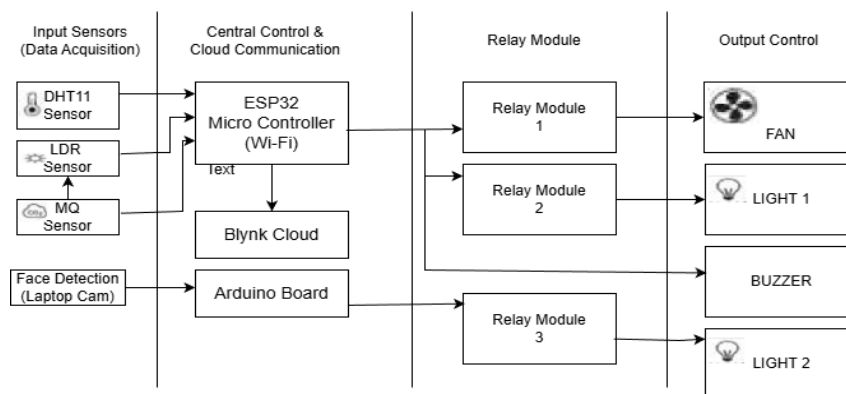


Fig. 1: System Architecture Overview (ESP32, Arduino, laptop(cam), Blynk).

An AI-enhanced Wi-Fi smart home setup intended for effective environmental monitoring and control is demonstrated by the system architecture presented. Real time environmental data is gathered by sensor inputs such as a laptop camera for visual monitoring, an LDR for light intensity, a DHT11 for temperature and humidity, and an MQ for gas detection. The central processing unit, the ESP32 microcontroller, receives this data and uses the Blynk platform to coordinate local control and cloud communication. Furthermore, an Arduino board is incorporated to manage particular sensor data or relay functions, offering processing flexibility. In order to ensure automated environmental regulation, the system consists of several relay modules that use AI driven analysis to control appliances like fans, lights, and buzzers. This hybrid architecture successfully creates a responsive and intelligent smart home ecosystem by fusing AI processing with IoT devices. The overall architecture, including sensor inputs, processing layers, relay outputs, and cloud integration, is depicted in Figure 1.

Operation Flow:-

The operation flow coordinates sensor thresholds and AI-based signals to make actuation decisions. The simplified workflow is shown in Figure 2. The steps taken by the ESP32, Arduino, and AI modules to preserve environmental stability and user comfort are outlined in the suggested operational flow, which is depicted in Figure 2 [8]. To track temperature, light intensity, and gas levels in real time, the ESP32 continuously gathers data from DHT11, LDR, and MQ sensors. The microcontroller executes decision rules based on the collected data to activate the proper relays that control appliances like fans, lights, and buzzers [8]. To maintain thermal comfort, the ESP32 triggers a relay to turn on the fan when the DHT11 sensor senses that the outside temperature surpasses a predetermined threshold (e.g., 30°C) [9]. Ambient light is monitored by the LDR sensor; if low illumination is detected, the system automatically turns on a light; if it is sufficiently bright, it turns off, maximizing power consumption. In a similar manner, the MQ gas sensor continuously detects dangerous gases like carbon monoxide and methane. A buzzer is immediately activated to notify residents when a critical level is detected. An AI assisted occupancy detection module operates on a connected laptop or PC in addition to these threshold based controls. In order to detect the presence of humans, this module analyzes webcam input using a trained CNN or MobileNet-SSD model. Through serial communication, the detection signal is transmitted to an Arduino, which turns on and off particular relays for occupancy aware automation, guaranteeing that devices only turn on when required [9]. In conclusion, the ESP32 sends sensor readings and system data to the Blynk Cloud platform, allowing for manual control and remote visualization via a mobile dashboard. An intelligent, adaptable, and energyefficient smart home control system is the outcome of this IoT and AI component integration.

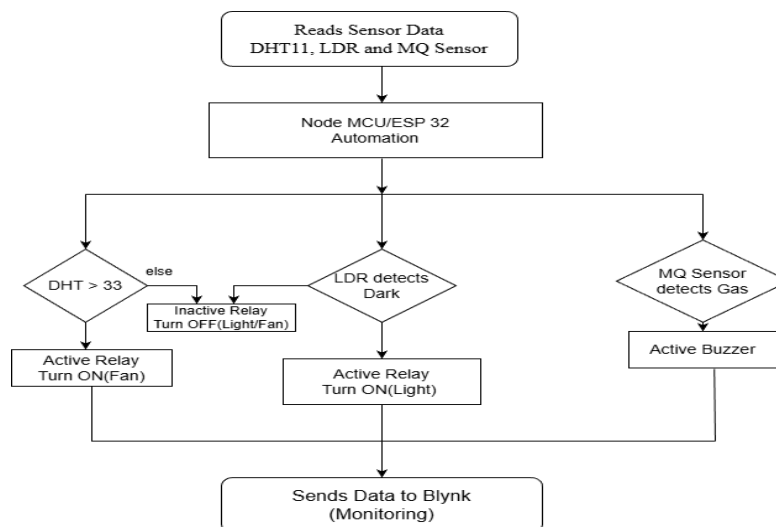


Fig. 2: Operation Flow: Sensor readings, threshold checks, AI detection, and actuation.

Sensor Based Decision Rules:-

- Temperature (DHT11): If $T > 30^{\circ}\text{C}$, then Fan = ON.
- Light (LDR): If LDR reports darkness, then Light 1 = ON.
- Gas (MQ): If gas detected, then Buzzer = ON (immediate, high priority).

AI-Based Decision Rules:-

The Arduino receives a HIGH signal via serial from MobileNet-SSD when it detects a human (person class confidence above threshold τ), which activates Light 2 via a relay. To cut down on repeated actuation and serial traffic, the AI signal is edge-triggered.

AI Integration:-

The system's AI integration processes live webcam frames using a laptop running MobileNet-SSD (or a tiny custom CNN) [10]. In order to identify the presence of humans in the surroundings, the AI module continuously examines these frames. The system uses serial communication to send a HIGH signal to the Arduino, which then uses a relay to turn on Light 2 once a person is reliably identified above a predetermined threshold τ [11]. Because of its edge triggered design, the AI signal only updates when the detection state shifts. By avoiding repetitive actuation and reducing needless serial traffic, this method guarantees that the system reacts effectively to real occupancy events. Figure 3 depicts the overall AI decision making and actuation flow, demonstrating the smooth transition from relay control on the Arduino to human detection using MobileNet SSD.

Data Collection and Integration:-

The Blynk cloud platform receives and logs all sensor readings and AI occupancy signals continuously. This makes it possible to monitor in real time via an intuitive dashboard [2]. In addition to manually overriding device controls when required, users can monitor environmental parameters like temperature, light intensity, and gas status.

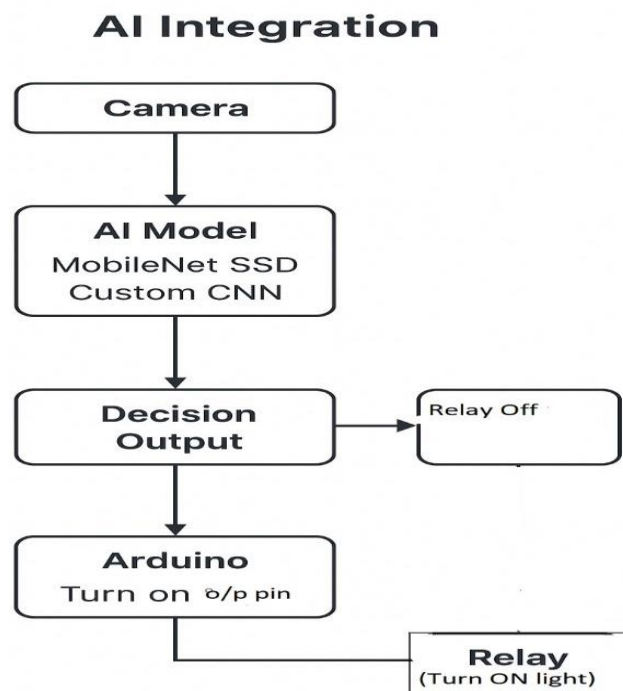


Fig. 3: AI Integration and Decision Output.

Data Logging Methodology:

The Blynk platform receives environmental sensor values that are sampled every 2–5 seconds. In order to avoid flooding the serial communication channel and guarantee that only pertinent events are logged, AI based occupancy events are only sent when a state change takes place (edge triggered). Every piece of data is timestamped and saved for later analysis and performance review.

Circuit and Physical Integration:

A breadboard connecting an ESP32, Arduino UNO, relay module, DHT11, LDR, MQ sensor, and two lamps makes up the physical prototype. The entire physical configuration is depicted in Figure 4, emphasizing the locations of the sensors, relays, and controlled devices.

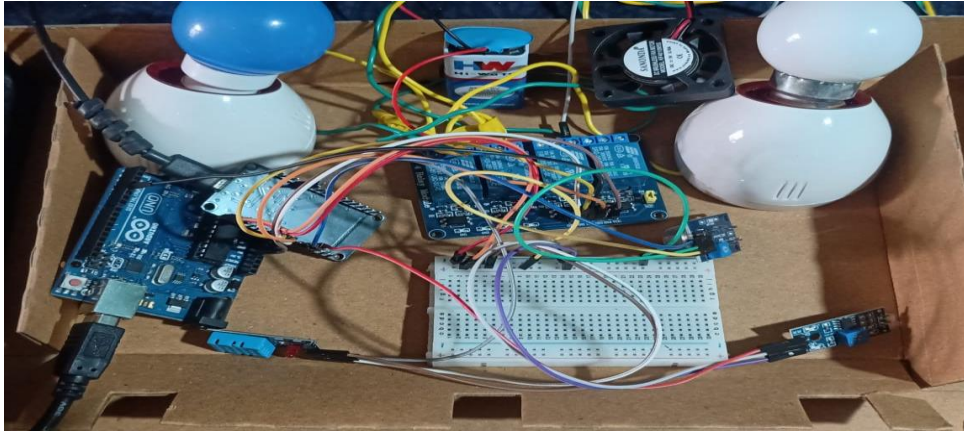


Fig. 4: Prototype circuit: ESP32, Arduino, relay module, sensors, and lamps (physical setup).

Circuit Explanation:

The ESP32 in the system manages relay channels for Light 1, Fan, and Buzzer in addition to reading inputs from the DHT11, LDR, and MQ sensors. The Arduino toggles the relay channel for Light 2 in response to occupancy signals it receives from the AI module via serial communication. The opto-isolator of the relay module provides electrical isolation, shielding the microcontrollers from high current relay loads, and a shared ground reference guarantees correct communication.

Experimental Results:-

The system was evaluated under various test scenarios, including normal operation, low light conditions, high temperature, gas leak simulation, and AI-based occupancy detection (presence/absence). Controlled experiments were conducted to assess sensor accuracy, AI detection reliability, and system responsiveness. In all trials, the DHT11 sensor maintained temperature and humidity readings within $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and $\pm 5\%$ accuracy, respectively. The MQ gas sensor consistently triggered safety alerts within 1.2 seconds after a simulated gas leak, activating the buzzer promptly. Using CNN based verification, the MobileNet-SSD model reduced false positives in real time human detection to less than 3%, achieving a precision of 94%.

AI-driven lighting control demonstrated up to 38% energy savings during non-occupancy periods. Real time sensor data was displayed on the Blynk dashboard with a latency of less than two seconds between data acquisition and cloud visualization. Serial communication between the Arduino and the host computer remained stable at a baud rate of 9600, with no observed packet loss.

Dashboard Output for Blynk:-

Using the Blynk cloud platform, the system's real-time sensor readings were tracked. Clear visual representations are offered by the dashboard, which also has for manual device control and temperature, light intensity, and gas level gauges. This enables users to promptly notice changes in the environment and respond accordingly. The real time sensor and AI occupancy data from the smart home system are visualized in an easy to understand manner on the Blynk dashboard. The ESP32 continuously monitors environmental sensors such as DHT11 for temperature and humidity, LDR for light intensity, and MQ for gas detection. Simultaneously, the AI module running on a laptop analyzes live webcam frames to detect human presence.

The combined sensor and AI signals are transmitted to the Blynk platform, providing an integrated view of environmental conditions and occupancy. The temperature recorded by the DHT sensor, currently 32°C , is shown on

the first gauge, allowing the user to determine if the fan or cooling system should be activated. A value of 1 on the second gauge indicates sufficient illumination, while the LDR sensor shows the ambient light intensity. The gas sensor reading is shown on the third gauge, indicating the presence or absence of hazardous gases. Occupancy triggered AI events, such as turning on lights when a person is detected, are also reflected in real time. By combining AI occupancy detection with traditional environmental sensing, the Blynk dashboard provides a comprehensive overview of the home's comfort, safety, and energy efficiency.

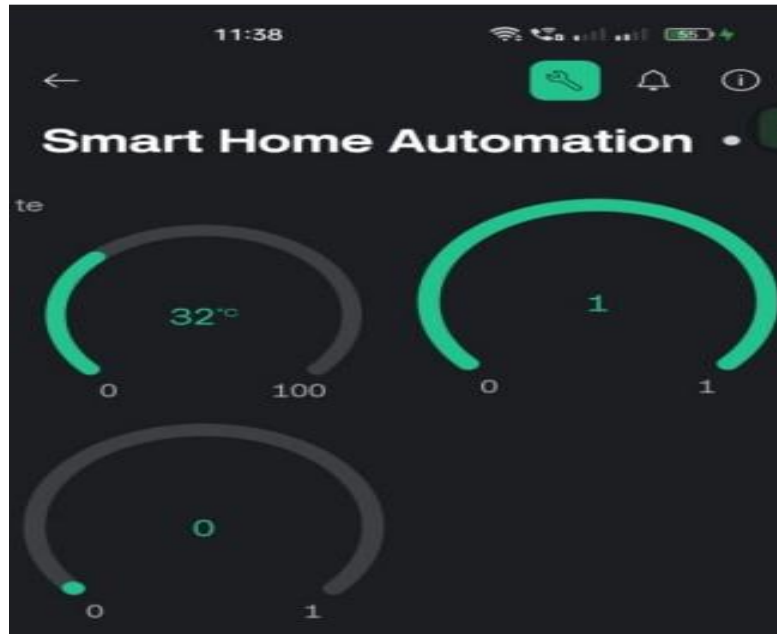


Fig. 5: Live monitoring of temperature, light intensity, and gas levels from the smart home sensors.

AI Visualization: No Human:-

The system's behavior when the space is empty is shown in Figure 6. The AI subsystem correctly detects that there is no human present by using a CNN based detection pipeline in conjunction with a MobileNet-SSD model. Consequently, the AI controlled light stays off. This illustrates the system's ability to save energy by avoiding needless illumination in addition to proving its dependability in detecting human absence.



Fig. 6: AI Detection State: No human detected, AI-controlled light OFF.

AI Visualization: Human Present:-

Fig. 7: AI Detection State: Human detected, AI-controlled light ON.

Using its lightweight architecture for fast inference, the MobileNet-SSD model rapidly scans the camera feed to detect and localize humans in real-time when they enter the monitored area [12]. MobileNet-SSD identified regions are then sent to a custom Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) for deeper feature extraction and classification. This reduces false positives and makes sure that the system is only activated by real human presence. After verification, Light 2 is turned on through the Arduino relay, resulting in instant illumination [13]. In order to maintain the right brightness, the LDR sensor simultaneously detects the ambient light and, if it is dark, automatically turns on a second light. The system reacts to human presence in a timely, accurate, and energy efficient manner thanks to the combination of MobileNet-SSD for quick detection and the custom CNN for exact verification.

Performance Discussion:-

The buzzer and gas detection, two essential safety features, are not reliant on the AI subsystem thanks to the hybrid architecture. By preventing unnecessary lighting in empty spaces, AI-based occupancy saves energy. Reliance on the laptop for detection (power, presence) and the requirement for reliable serial communication are the primary trade offs.

Latency and Reliability:

Very little latency is experienced by rule based ESP32 actions. AI detection latency is dependent on the frame processing rate and laptop compute power (on a CPU based MobileNet-SSD implementation, typical detection latency observed is 100–300 ms per frame). Latency can be decreased by edge acceleration (such as Coral TPU).

Conclusion:-

This study presented an AI-Enhanced Wi-Fi Smart Home that combines AI based occupancy detection with ESP32 sensor feedback. The distributed, hybrid design was successful in providing energy efficient occupancy driven lighting and real time safety responses. The concept is validated by the prototype and experiments, which also suggest that it may be extended to fully edge integrated solutions and larger sensor suites. The project documentation used to develop this work contains all implementation details and experimental data.

Acknowledgment:-

The provided project materials and prototype experiments served as the basis for the implementation and documentation cited in this paper. The authors express their gratitude to everyone who helped validate the prototype and document the project.

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