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IOT Based Home Automation

K. Sai Durgeswar Reddy[1], K. Manisha[2], P. Harini[3], U. Diwakar[4]
[1,2,3,4] UG Students, Department of EEE, G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous), Kurnool Andhra Pradesh, India.

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Abstract: *In modern households, manually operating electrical appliances can lead to inconvenience, time wastage, and unnecessary energy consumption. This challenge arises from the lack of a flexible and efficient system for remote appliance control and monitoring. To address this issue, an IoT-based Home Automation System is developed using the Node MCU microcontroller. The system interfaces with relays to control various appliances such as light bulbs, a CPU fan, and a DC motor. Using the Adafruit web application, users can operate these devices in real time from any location with internet access. A stable power supply and reliable connections ensure seamless and uninterrupted performance. The system includes a user-friendly web interface, making appliance management intuitive and accessible. This solution enhances user convenience, improves energy efficiency, and minimizes manual effort. Designed to be scalable and cost-effective, it supports the vision of a smart and sustainable living environment.*

Key Word: *IoT, Node MCU, Adafruit web application,*

I.INTRODUCTION

Today, commercial products like Amazon Alexa and Google Home dominate the market but are often expensive and proprietary, pushing researchers toward open-source alternatives like Home Assistant and Blynk. Common technologies in modern IoT-based systems include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, MQTT protocols, various environmental sensors, actuators, and cloud services. Despite significant advancements, challenges like security threats, device interoperability, system scalability, and energy efficiency remain critical concerns. Building on the insights from previous research, this project aims to design a reliable, scalable, and cost-effective IoT-based home automation system that ensures real-time control and monitoring while addressing common limitations found in earlier models.

Home automation has evolved from basic wired systems to advanced IoT-based solutions that enable real-time communication, remote control, and intelligent automation. Traditional technologies like X10 and ZigBee provided early wireless control but faced challenges such as 2 limited scalability and reliability. The emergence of IoT introduced more flexible and costeffective systems using microcontrollers like Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and NodeMCU. Studies by Al-Ali et al. (2015) showcased SMS-based appliance control, while Piyare (2013) developed Bluetooth-controlled home automation, albeit limited to local control. Potdar et al. (2016) emphasized cloud computing's role in achieving remote access and scalability, and Jain and Vaibhav (2017) demonstrated the use of platforms like Blynk for mobile-based smart control. Early web-based systems, such as those by Al-Ali and Al-Rousan (2004), encountered issues like response delays and security gaps, which were later addressed by modern protocols like MQTT and HTTPS. An IoT-based home automation system integrates various household devices, such as lighting, security cameras, and HVAC systems, into a unified platform. This system explains enables seamless connectivity and real-time data management, allowing users to remotely monitor and control their home environments through a centralized application. The implementation of such a system enhances energy efficiency, improves security, and increases convenience, ultimately creating a smart living space that adapts to user preferences and optimizes resource usage for a sustainable home ecosystem. Sourav Diwania(2024) et al.,explains IoT-based home automation integrates Internet of Things technology to enhance living environments by improving convenience, energy efficiency, and security. Utilizing NodeMCU, an open-source tool with the ESP8266 Wi-Fi module, it connects various sensors and devices for remote monitoring and control of appliances, lights, climate settings, and security. Key components include motion sensors, temperature and humidity sensors, relay modules, and servo motors, enabling users to manage their home systems through a simple interface on smartphones or computers. Ishu Gaur (2024) et al., IoT-based home automation involves using advanced technology to control and monitor home systems like temperature, security, and lighting through a centralized interface. It connects devices via the Internet, allowing them to collect and exchange data autonomously. Key technologies include Bluetooth, GSM, Zigbee, and DTMF. This system enhances transparency, control, performance, and efficiency while addressing concerns related to security and energy utilization. R.R.Dokade (2022) et al., discusses an IoT-based Home Automation System (HAS) that enables users to control home functions remotely via the internet, transforming a regular home into a smart home. It utilizes a NodeMCU board, relays, the Blynk application, web-hooks, and IFTTT to facilitate automation. This system aims to conserve electric power and reduce human effort, allowing for seamless management of home features from anywhere in the world.

II.IOT BASED HOME AUTOMATION

An IoT-based home automation system using Node MCU enables remote control of home appliances via a smartphone or web app. The Node MCU (ESP8266), connected to a Wi-Fi router, receives user commands through the internet. It processes

these commands and controls electrical appliances through relay modules. Each relay acts as a switch, turning connected devices like lights, fans, or ACs ON or OFF. The system offers convenience, energy efficiency, and remote monitoring. It is cost-effective, expandable, and easily integrated with voice assistants like Alexa or Google Assistant, making it a smart and modern solution for home automation.

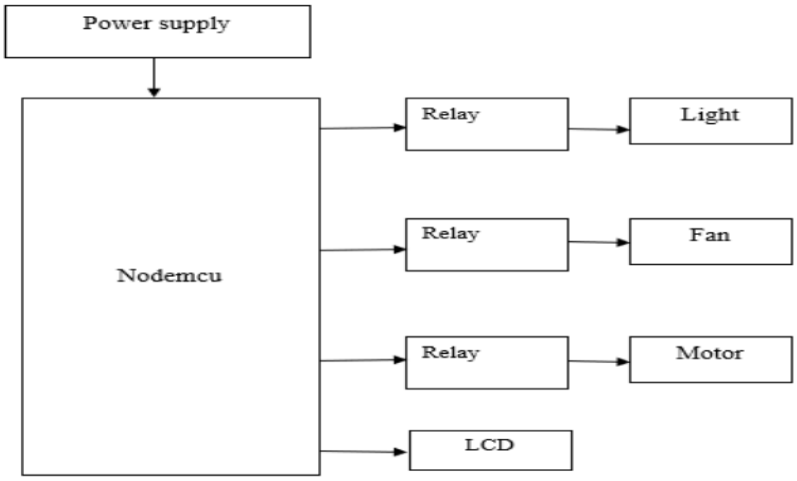

Fig 1. Block diagram of IOT based Home Automation using Node MCU

Fig 1 shows the block diagram which illustrates an IoT-based home automation system using a Node MCU microcontroller. The system begins with a power supply that energizes the Node MCU, which serves as the central control unit. This Node MCU is Wi-Fi enabled and can receive commands from a smartphone or web-based application. It is connected to multiple relays that act as switches for different home appliances. Specifically, one relay is connected to a light, another to a fan, and a third to a motor, allowing these devices to be controlled remotely. In addition, an LCD display is connected to the Node MCU to show the current status of the appliances, such as whether they are ON or OFF. The use of relays ensures that the Node MCU can safely control high-voltage devices using low-voltage signals. This setup enables users to operate and monitor household appliances from anywhere using internet connectivity, thereby increasing convenience, energy efficiency, and home automation capabilities.

Fig 2 Pin Diagram of NODEMCU

Node MCU as shown in Fig 2 is an open-source development board based on the ESP8266 Wi-Fi module, designed for creating IoT (Internet of Things) applications. It integrates a microcontroller with built-in Wi-Fi capabilities, allowing easy communication between devices and the Internet. Node MCU provides a simple interface for controlling and automating devices remotely. It can be programmed using the Arduino IDE, Lua, or other platforms. The board includes multiple GPIO pins, enabling it to interface with sensors, actuators, and other components. Due to its compact size, low power consumption, and versatility, Node MCU is popular in home automation, smart cities, and other wireless communication systems. It supports both AP and Station modes for flexible networking. With its 3.3V operating voltage, it is ideal 8 for battery-powered applications. Node MCU is also widely used for rapid prototyping and educational projects due to its easy-to-use interface. Its low cost and powerful features make it a popular choice for hobbyists and professionals alike.

III.SOFTWARE DESCRIPTION

Fig 3. shows the Arduino IDE (Integrated Development Environment) is a software platform used to write, compile, and upload code to Arduino microcontrollers and other compatible boards. It provides an easy-to-use environment for developing

applications in C/C++ and is specifically designed to support the Arduino platform. The Arduino IDE is compatible with a wide range of Arduino boards, including the Arduino Uno, Nano, Mega, and many others. The platform allows users to write code in a text editor, and provides built-in tools for compiling the code into machine-readable instructions. Once the code is compiled, it can be uploaded directly to the connected Arduino board through a USB cable. The IDE also supports various libraries and examples, which can help users quickly get started with various sensors, actuators, and other components in their projects.

Fig 3 Arduino Ide Lookout

Fig 4 shows the Adafruit IO LookOut is a cloud-based platform designed to simplify the process of connecting and managing IoT (Internet of Things) devices and sensors. It enables users to store, visualize, and share data from their connected devices, making it ideal for projects involving sensors, automation, and real-time data monitoring. Adafruit IO provides an easy-touse interface with powerful features that make it accessible for both beginners and advanced users.

Fig 4 Adafruit Io Lookout

IV.TEST PLAN AND RESULTS

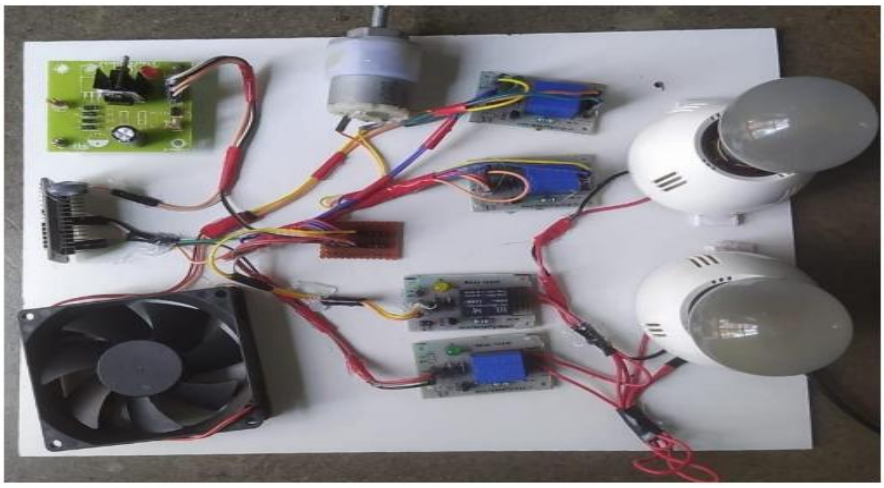

Fig. 5 IOT Based Home Automation Model

The IoT-based Home Automation System will focus on ensuring the system's functionality, performance, and reliability. The key objectives are to verify that the NodeMCU communicates with Adafruit IO, relays control devices like lights and fans, and sensors (such as temperature and motion sensors) provide accurate data. Testing will include unit testing for individual components, integration testing for overall system functionality, and performance testing under typical usage conditions.Test cases will cover device control, sensor accuracy, and mobile app interaction. The test environment will include hardware components like NodeMCU, relay, DC motor, sensors, and a stable Wi-Fi connection. Any issues discovered will be addressed with corrective actions, followed by retesting. Final approval will be based on passing all test cases and ensuring seamless system operation.

Fig 6 ADAFRUIT IO Interface

During the testing phase of the IoT-based home automation system as shown in Fig 5, the NodeMCU was successfully connected to the Wi-Fi network and integrated with the Adafruit IO platform. The control interface was designed using a dial pad as shown in Fig 6, assigning specific buttons to control each appliance. When button 1 was pressed, the CPU fan turned ON, and pressing 2 turned it OFF. Similarly, pressing 3 activated the motor and pressing 4 deactivated it. The system responded instantly, showing accurate switching behavior with minimal latency, confirming reliable communication between Adafruit IO and the Node MCU.

For lighting control, pressing button 5 switched Bulb 1 ON, while button 6 turned it OFF. Likewise, Bulb 2 was controlled using buttons 7 (ON) and 8 (OFF). All four devices—fan, motor, and two bulbs—functioned seamlessly through Wi-Fi control. The LCD module displayed real-time statuses such as "Fan ON" or "Bulb 2 OFF", enhancing user feedback. Throughout multiple test cycles, the system remained stable, with no connectivity dropouts or execution delays. These results validate that the system effectively automates home appliances with reliable wireless control, meeting the intended functionality of the project.

V.CONCLUSION

The IoT-based Home Automation System successfully integrates smart devices with cloud platforms, providing enhanced control and convenience in managing home appliances like lights, fans, and motors. Using NodeMCU and Adafruit IO, the system allows users to remotely control and monitor devices through mobile apps or web interfaces. It optimizes energy usage by automating devices based on real-time data from sensors. The system is reliable, scalable, and easy to expand with more devices or sensors. It demonstrates the practical application of IoT technology in everyday life, improving user experience and energy efficiency. This project also sets the stage for future improvements, such as integrating AI, voice control, and advanced security features. It contributes to creating smarter, safer, and more sustainable homes. The system's cloud connectivity ensures seamless operation and remote access, making it a versatile solution for modern home automation. In conclusion, this IoT-based system shows immense potential for further development and application.

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