

Optimizing workplace performance by using ESP32 to monitor and enhance environmental quality in smart office solutions

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Abstract— A smart office system based on the ESP32 microcontroller provides an innovative approach to enhancing workplace security, comfort, and operational efficiency. With its efficient processing power, low energy usage, and integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities, the ESP32 serves as the central controller, automating key office functions. This system seamlessly integrates IoT devices—such as occupancy sensors, smart lighting, climate control, and access management—all controlled remotely through a centralized platform. By optimizing energy use and adapting to employee needs, it promotes a flexible and productive work environment. Its scalability allows for implementation in both small offices and large corporate spaces. Leveraging the ESP32's features, the system enables real-time monitoring and efficient device communication, transforming traditional offices into affordable, energy-efficient, and adaptive smart spaces.

Keywords—Smart office, ESP32, Internet of Things, FID

I. INTRODUCTION

This paper presents the practical implementation of a smart office system using the ESP32 microcontroller, displaying an advanced approach to creating intelligent, responsive workspaces. The ESP32, a versatile and energy-efficient microcontroller featuring dual-core processing, integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, and multiple GPIO ports, serves as an ideal hub for IoT-based office automation. This system utilizes a network of connected devices to manage various office environmental parameters, such as occupancy, temperature, lighting, and security, transforming traditional workspaces into dynamic, adaptive environments [1][22].

For instance, the ESP32 can control smart lighting through LED lights, adjusting them according to pre-set schedules or occupancy sensors to maximize energy efficiency and enhance user comfort [15]. HVAC systems can be regulated through temperature and humidity sensors connected to the ESP32, creating a more comfortable environment while reducing energy usage. The ESP32 also enables integration with smart windows and shutters, which can be adjusted automatically for optimal temperature control and natural lighting [5].

Security is another vital aspect of the smart office system. By connecting the ESP32 to motion detectors, security cameras, and smart locks, the system provides real-time monitoring and access control, ensuring that only authorized personnel can access specific areas and enhancing overall security. The ESP32's networking capabilities allow for centralized and remote management through cloud platforms or local servers, enabling administrators to monitor and control all connected devices via a single interface accessible from computers or smartphones [12]. This remote access makes the office environment highly adaptable, allowing real-time adjustments, troubleshooting, and updates.

One of the standout features of the ESP32 is its edge computing capability, which allows for local data processing. This reduces latency and decreases reliance on cloud resources, making it ideal for applications requiring quick responses, such as emergency alerts or real-time environmental adjustments [2][33]. Scalability is also a key benefit of the ESP32-based system; it can be expanded to accommodate large corporate offices or smaller workspaces simply by adding more sensors and devices as needed [6][35].

Despite its limited processing, power (160–240 MHz) and 512 KB of RAM, the ESP32 can handle sensor data, including camera inputs, by using efficient local processing techniques. For instance, it utilizes edge processing to handle data locally—compressing images or performing basic tasks like motion detection—reducing the need to send large data to the cloud. The ESP32 can also operate on an event-driven basis, processing data only when specific events occur, such as motion detection or RFID access, minimizing workload and power consumption. Techniques like circular buffers and, in some cases, external PSRAM allow the ESP32 to manage larger datasets. Optimized libraries, specifically designed for the ESP32, enable efficient image scaling and lightweight processing tasks, while task partitioning allows it to handle simpler tasks, like temperature monitoring, locally, reserving complex processes for other resources.



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In conclusion, the ESP32-based smart office system offers a comprehensive solution that enhances security, productivity, and energy efficiency in a scalable, cost-effective manner [24]. Leveraging the ESP32's features, including low power consumption, processing capabilities, and connectivity, this system enables conventional office spaces to become secure, responsive, and dynamic environments suitable for modern workplace demands [18][36][37][41].

II. ESP32

Espresso Systems produced the ESP32, a potent and adaptable microcontroller that is frequently utilized in embedded systems and Internet of Things (IoT) applications. It is an improvement over the ESP8266, providing increased processing power, better connection, and extra capabilities that make it appropriate for a wide range of uses, including as industrial automation, wearable technology, smart office settings, and smart home systems[3][19].

A. Comparison between ESP32 and Arduino

There are some significant differences between a smart office system built on the Arduino (Uno, Nano, Mega) platforms and one based on the ESP32 microcontroller, especially when it comes to processing power, communication, and overall system capabilities. Although they serve different demands and levels of complexity, both platforms are well-liked in the embedded systems and Internet of Things domains [11].

TABLE I. COMPARISON BETWEEN ARDUINO AND ESP32

ESP32	Arduino
Processing Power and Performance	
When compared to Arduino boards, the ESP32's dual-core microcontroller, which has a clock speed of up to 240 MHz, offers a significant boost in computing capability. This makes it possible for the ESP32 to perform more difficult tasks, which are crucial in a dynamic smart office setting, like multi-threading, real-time data processing, and executing complex algorithms.	The Arduino Uno and most other Arduino boards feature an 8-bit AVR microcontroller that runs at 16 MHz. Although adequate for fundamental functions such as light control or basic sensor readings, Arduino boards are not powerful enough to manage more complex applications, such as artificial intelligence (AI) or machine learning, which are becoming more and more important in smart office systems.
Connectivity	
Since the ESP32 has Bluetooth and Wi-Fi built in, it's a great choice for Internet of Things applications that need wireless connection. The ESP32's connectivity facilitates its easy integration with other systems and devices, allowing for cloud connectivity, communication between various devices in a smart office setup, and remote monitoring and control.	Conventional Arduino boards, such as the Uno, lack integrated Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. External modules (such as the ESP8266 for Wi-Fi or the HC-05 for Bluetooth) must be added in order to obtain comparable connection, which raises the system's complexity, cost, and power consumption. An Arduino-based system may become less efficient and more difficult to maintain as a result of the requirement for these extra parts.

Power Consumption	
The ESP32, with its multiple power-saving modes, is suitable for battery-operated devices and applications where energy efficiency is crucial, like in a smart office system with multiple sensors and devices running continuously, even though it has a higher processing power.	Adding more connectivity modules to an Arduino board usually results in a higher power consumption. While Arduinos are generally less tuned for low-power IoT operations compared to the ESP32, they can be more power-efficient in simple applications.
Scalability and Integration	
The ESP32 is simpler to scale and incorporate into bigger systems because to its wide range of I/O capabilities and integrated communication functions. It includes sophisticated smart office features that can be upgraded and managed centrally, including energy management, security systems, and real-time environmental monitoring.	Arduino boards work well for smaller, more straightforward projects, yet they can also be utilized in smart office setups. Expanding an Arduino-based system to handle more sophisticated smart office applications may necessitate a more intricate device network, more hardware, and more coding, which would prolong development time and raise the risk of mistakes.
Development Environment and Libraries	
Both the Arduino IDE and the ESP-IDF (Espressif IoT Development Framework) support and allow programming of the ESP32. It has several libraries and examples designed for IoT and sophisticated applications, which helps developers, integrate advanced features in a smart office system more easily.	Beginners will find the Arduino platform accessible due to its vast community and extensive library ecosystem. However, implementing more sophisticated IoT features that are more natural for the ESP32 could take more work, especially when it comes to complicated sensor integration and wireless communication.
Cost	
Given its features, the ESP32 is reasonably priced, which makes it a viable option for smart office systems where connectivity and excellent performance are critical without substantially raising costs.	Basic Arduino boards are often less expensive, but when more modules like Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or other features are added, the price of the board may increase. While Arduino might be less expensive for straightforward tasks, the cost advantage might disappear for a more extensive smart office system.

III. SYSTEM DESIGN

A complete smart office or access control system can be designed with an ESP32, an RFID card reader, an ultrasonic sensor, and temperature and pressure sensors.

A. Types of sensors

- The ESP32 Microcontroller is the central unit in charge of processing sensor data and managing actuators. serves as the system's brain, managing sensor inputs, analyzing data, coordinating with the central server, and regulating actuators in addition to processing data from sensors and managing linked devices[3][25].

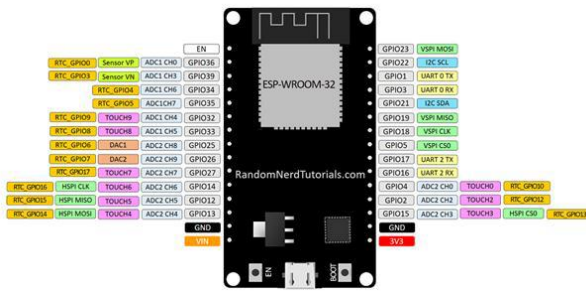


Fig. 1. ESP32 Sensor [3].

- **Ultrasonic Sensor:** This device measures distance and is used to estimate room occupancy and detect presence [17]. Determines the separation between an object and its occupant by detecting a person's presence. used to automate presence-based tasks (such turning on lights and regulating HVAC) [4].

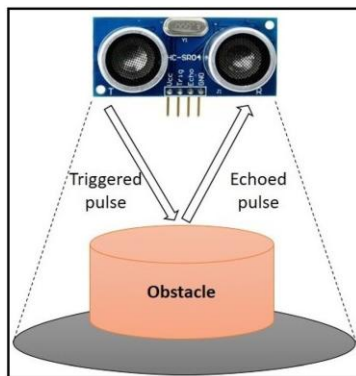


Fig. 2. Ultrasonic Sensor [4].

The trigger pin needs to be supplied with a high voltage of 5 V for 10 μ s in order to produce a pulse. After that, it will reach a high value for T_t s and begin transmitting 8 cycles of ultrasonic pulses at a 40 kHz frequency (HCSR-04). As soon as the echo pin detects the reflected pulse from the closest obstruction, it will rise. The following formula can be used to calculate the distance from the barriers in relation to sound speed [4].

$$d_{object} = \frac{29 \times T_{echo}}{2} \quad (1)$$

- **RFID Card Reader:** This device reads RFID cards to enable secure access control while enabling users to authenticate using RFID cards[9][30]. Moreover, entry to restricted regions is granted or denied depending on RFID card data[7][8][13][16].



Fig. 3. RFID Card [21].

- The DHT22 temperature and humidity sensor is used to monitor the environment and ensure a safe and comfortable working environment. It monitors its surroundings. Additionally, supply temperature and pressure data, which are helpful for safety inspections and HVAC system modifications. [20] [32]. According to research, the temperature rises by 0.5°C for every ten individuals and the humidity rises by 2% for every ten individuals [42].

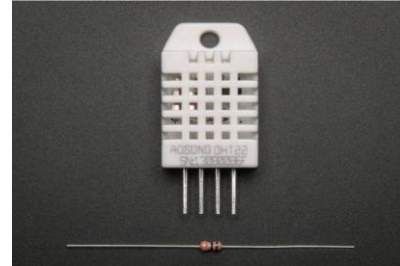


Fig. 4. DHT22 Sensor [20].

- The thin, polymer-based FSR402 sensor is flexible and adaptable to a wide range of surfaces. When pressure is applied, it reacts by becoming less resistant as the force acting on the sensor increases. Microcontrollers such as the ESP32 can measure the analog voltage produced by the sensor to ascertain the force exerted. The FSR402's active sensing area has a diameter of around 0.5 inches. The FSR402 could be used in smart offices to monitor the pressure applied when pushing keys on keypads or under chairs to identify occupancy [10][26][29].

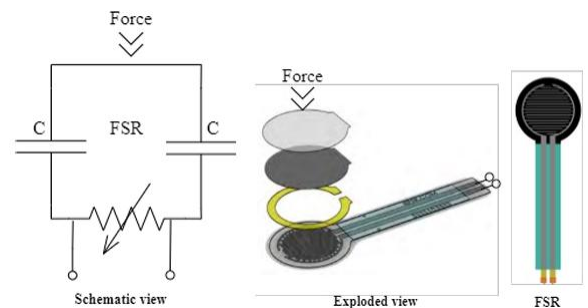


Fig. 5. FSR402 Sensor [26]

- **Blynk Application:** Blynk is an IoT platform that enables remote control of electronic equipment through its iOS and Android applications. It offers a dashboard where users can use various widgets to create a graphical user experience. Sensor data can also be displayed and stored by Blynk. For the majority of widely used hardware platforms, including Arduino, ESP8266, Raspberry Pi, SparkFun, etc., Blynk offers libraries [28] the Blynk application can be installed on multiple mobile devices, allowing you to control and monitor your IoT projects from more than one device simultaneously. The app is available on both Android and iOS platforms.



Fig. 6. Blynk Application [14].

- **User Interface:** To interface with the system, use the web dashboard or optional mobile app. The graphical user interfaces used on smartphones and tablets are created by combining buttons, LCDs, graph-plotters, and sensor-value displays with iOS and Android applications. All the user needs to do is download the app, log in, and then watch and manage all of her household appliances. The user interface should allow the user to check and control the status of the devices [38][39][40].

IV. HARDWARE DESIGN

In order to develop a smart office system that can monitor environmental conditions, regulate access, and automate reactions based on real-time data, this hardware design connects the ESP32 with a number of sensors and actuators. Effective power management, reliable communication, and simple integration of extra sensors or modules are given top priority in the design.



Fig. 7. Hardware design of smart office system.

We connected the other sensors to the ESP32 and the ultrasonic sensor to the Arduino separately because it needs five volts. Next, we uploaded the data to the cloud using the Blynk program. The ESP32 can connect to the Blynk application through several methods, such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth/BLE, Ethernet (via external module), Cellular (via GSM module), and USB (Serial). We using Wi-Fi, the ESP32 connects to the internet through a Wi-Fi network and communicates with the Blynk cloud server, allowing for remote monitoring and control of IoT devices via the Blynk app from anywhere with internet access. We set up the project in the office and collected the data, as seen in fig 8.



Fig. 8. Installing the project in the office.

A. Block Diagram

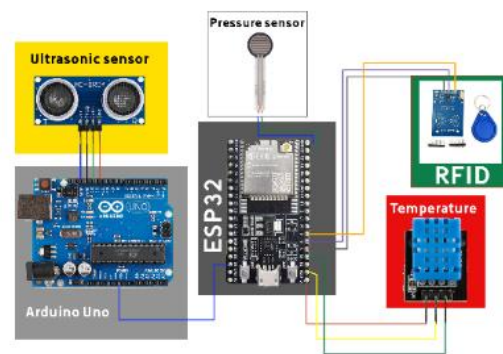


Fig. 9. Hardware circuit design.

The system being designed is a smart office system prototype created by an IoT project builder. Collecting data with Blynk, a remote-control tool, and ESP32 software. The graphic shows the connections within the system.

B. Flow Chart

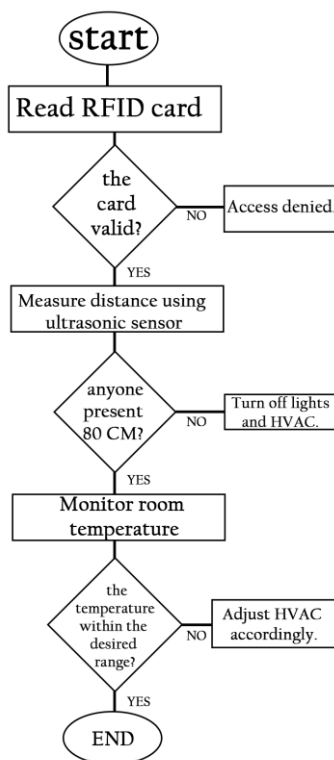


Fig. 10. Flow Chart Of The System

It is simpler to comprehend and debug the smart office system when there is a clear, step-by-step guide provided by the flowchart.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The outcomes show that the ESP32-based smart office system is capable of efficiently monitoring and managing a number of office-related factors. The system is a strong option for contemporary office automation because of its real-time processing, dependable sensor data collecting, and smooth interaction with cloud services. Although climatic conditions and sensor calibration presented certain difficulties, these were effectively overcome by design modifications and iterative testing. This conversation sheds light on the benefits of using the ESP32 in smart office systems, stressing its advantages over alternative microcontrollers and outlining potential directions for development and growth in the future.

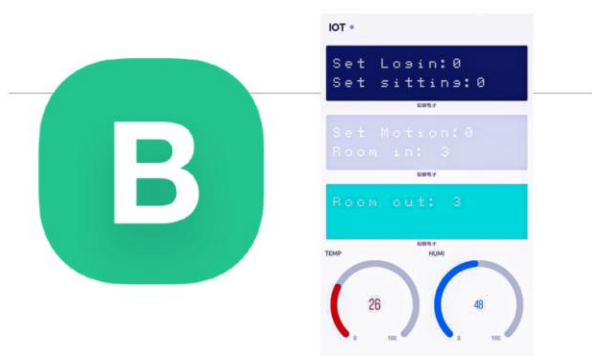


Fig. 11. Example Result in Blynk Application.

The data are displayed in figure 12, and they include the number of employers, the exact minute each employer arrives at work using an RFID sensor and an FSR402 sensor, the number of people who enter the office, and the average length of time that each person spends there. In addition, we have control over the humidity and temperature of the space. In a small office with one humidity and temperature sensor, if 100 employees enter sequentially, not at the same time the readings may still not change significantly due to factors like room size and ventilation. A larger room with a high air volume can gradually absorb the heat and moisture added by each person, minimizing the impact. Additionally, effective ventilation or air conditioning systems can continuously regulate and stabilize the temperature and humidity. The sensor's placement might also limit its ability to detect localized changes, especially if it is positioned away from high-traffic areas where people are gathering.

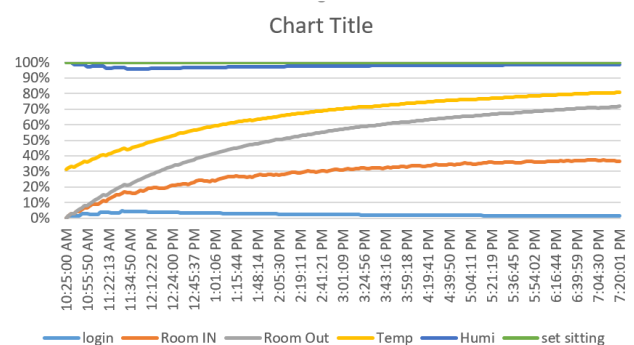


Fig. 12. Data Result Chart

CONCLUSION

The ESP32 is typically a better option for a smart office system because of its increased processing capability, integrated networking, energy efficiency, and scalability. It works especially effectively with intricate, integrated systems that need reliable operation and smooth device connection. Conversely, an Arduino-based system would probably need more parts and complexity to match the capabilities of an ESP32-based system, but it would be sufficient for smaller, more straightforward projects or particular functions within a smart office. An extensive array of smart office applications can be built around the sturdy and adaptable ESP32 platform. Its computing power, energy efficiency, and connectivity to a wide range of devices and systems allow it to be used to create intelligent, responsive, and efficient workplace environments that increase productivity, lower expenses, and promote employee well-being.

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