IJNRD.ORG ISSN : 2456-4184
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NOVEL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (IJNRD) | IJNRD.ORG
An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Site Monitoring In The Construction Industry Using IoT

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Abstract : The construction industry is known for its high-risk environment, where safety hazards such as falling objects, gas leaks, and dust accumulation can lead to accidents and injuries. IoT-based site monitoring solutions offer a promising approach to mitigating these risks by providing real-time data on site conditions and enabling early detection of potential hazards. This research paper explores the use of various sensors such as PIR, soil moisture, gas, and DHT11 sensors, coupled with IoT platforms like Blynk to monitor and ensure the safety of workers in the construction industry. By integrating these sensors with a microcontroller like Arduino Uno, the system provides a reliable and cost-effective solution for continuous site monitoring, enabling timely response to hazards and ensuring a safer working environment. This research paper highlights the technical specifications and potential applications of these sensors in the construction industry, providing insights into the design and implementation of IoT-based safety and site monitoring systems. By implementing IoT-based safety and site monitoring solutions in the construction industry, the benefits go beyond just ensuring the safety of workers, it also helps reduce the operational costs of the project, and improve efficiency and overall productivity.

IndexTerms **- Arduino Uno, Ultrasonic Sensor, PIR Sensor, Soil Moisture Sensor, DHT11 Sensor, Relay Module, DC Pump**

I.INTRODUCTION

In construction, digital transformation is a slow, incremental process — partly because most decision-makers are a part of a generation that is not used to operating digital tools, partly due to low tech-savviness among employees. To have the upper hand, construction managers can no longer hold on to outdated systems — adopting innovative technologies will allow business owners to have control over management and competitive advantage within the customer base. The impact of the challenges described above can be minimized once the Internet of Things is introduced to the field Additionally, connected fleet management systems help project managers keep tabs on material deliveries, improving the precision of deadline estimates. By gathering real-time data about the progress of the project, construction managers will be able to identify the causes of setbacks and optimize the team's day-to-day operations. By implementing a range of sensors, construction site managers can ensure safety in the area, predict and minimize the damage dealt by natural disasters, and respond to on-site accidents promptly. Being able to predict and prevent job-site issues will help business owners reduce the cost of accident management. By connecting building machinery to the web, business owners can manage the construction process remotely.

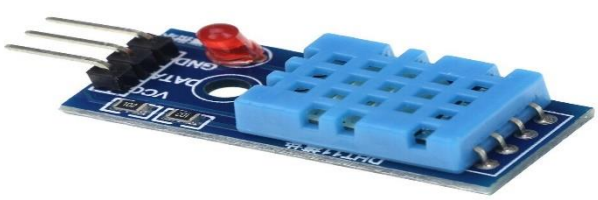
II. HARDWARE SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 Ultrasonic Sensor

Ultrasonic sensor transforms the electrical energy into acoustic waves or sound waves and conversely. An ultrasonic wave is also an acoustic wave signal which is travelling at a frequency more than 18kHz. The generation of ultrasonic waves at 40 kHz frequency is done by HC SR04 ultrasonic sensor. A microcontroller is used for transmission with an ultrasonic sensor and further direct a signal to the ultrasonic sensor for the measuring of distance. As the Duty cycle of this trigger signal is 10µS and when triggered, the sensor used to generate the eight acoustic wave bursts and initiates a time counter. As soon as the reflected signal received the timer stops. The HC-SR04 ultrasonic sensor is shown in figure 6.

2.2 DHT11 Sensor

The DHT11 sensor is a digital temperature and humidity sensor that is commonly used in site monitoring applications in the construction industry. It operates on a voltage range of 3.5V to 5.5V and has a maximum operating current of 2.5mA. The DHT11 sensor can accurately measure temperatures ranging from 0°C to 50°C with an accuracy of ±2°C, and humidity levels ranging from 20% to 90% with an accuracy of ±5% RH. The sensor outputs a single-bus digital signal output and has a sampling rate of 1 Hz. The sensor is compact with dimensions of 12mm x 15.5mm x 5.5mm, making it easy to install and integrate with IoT platforms. The data collected by the DHT11 sensor can be used to optimize project performance, improve worker safety, and reduce costs associated with site monitoring.

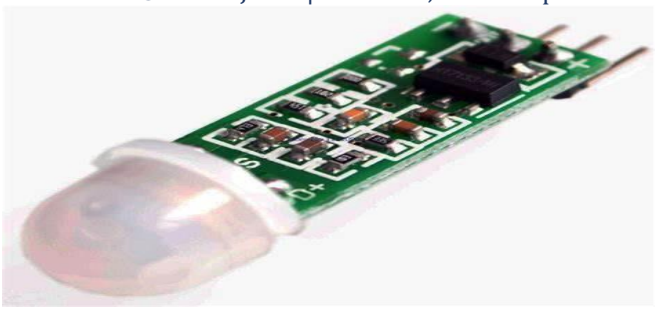


2.3 Soil Moisture Sensor

A soil moisture sensor is a device used to measure the water content of soil. In the construction industry, these sensors are often used for site monitoring to ensure proper soil moisture levels for construction projects. Soil moisture sensors typically work by measuring the electrical conductivity or capacitance of the soil, which is then correlated to the soil moisture content. These sensors can provide valuable data for site monitoring, allowing construction firms to optimize their project performance, improve worker safety, and reduce costs associated with overwatering or underwatering. Soil moisture sensors can be integrated with IoT platforms, allowing for real-time monitoring and data analysis. Some common specifications of soil moisture sensors include a moisture range of 0-100%, an accuracy of ±3% to ±5%, and an operating voltage of 3.3V to 5V. The sensors are often compact and easy to install, making them an ideal choice for site monitoring applications. By using soil moisture sensors for site monitoring in the construction industry, firms can ensure the long-term stability and durability of their projects, reduce risks associated with soil instability, and minimize the environmental impact of their construction activities.

2.4 PIR Sensor

A PIR (Passive Infrared) sensor is a digital motion sensor commonly used for site monitoring in the construction industry. It detects the presence of objects in its detection range through the use of infrared radiation. The sensor has a detection range of up to 7 meters (23 feet) and a detection angle of 110 degrees. It operates on a voltage range of 4.5V to 20V DC, making it suitable for a variety of construction applications. By using PIR sensors for site monitoring, construction firms can detect unauthorized access to their sites, monitor the movement of equipment and personnel, and improve the safety of their workers. The sensors can be easily integrated with IoT platforms, allowing for real-time monitoring and alerts when motion is detected. PIR sensors can also be used in conjunction with other sensors, such as temperature and humidity sensors, to provide a more comprehensive picture of site conditions. Additionally, PIR sensors can be used to detect falling objects such as bricks or debris, providing an early warning to workers and visitors to take safety measures. By using PIR sensors for site monitoring in the construction industry, firms can increase security, improve safety, and optimize their project performance.



2.5 Relay Module

A relay module is an electronic switch used to control high-power devices using low-power signals in IoT applications. The relay module has a 1-channel design with a control voltage of 5V DC. It can switch a maximum voltage of 250V AC / 30V DC and a maximum current of 10A. The interface is a high-level trigger with a range of 3.3V-5V. In the construction industry, relay modules can be used for site monitoring applications such as controlling lighting systems, security cameras, and other equipment. For instance, if an IoT sensor detects movement on a construction site, the relay module can be used to activate a security camera to capture footage of the movement. It can also be used to control lighting systems, turning lights on or off based on certain site conditions such as the presence of workers. By using relay modules in IoT site monitoring applications, construction firms can automate their processes, reduce energy costs, and improve site security.

2.6 DC Pump

DC pumps are commonly used in IoT applications for site monitoring in the construction industry. These pumps are designed to operate on low voltage and have a flow rate of 2-3 liters per minute. They consume very low power and can be easily integrated with other IoT sensors and modules for real-time monitoring of site conditions. In the construction industry, DC pumps can be used to control the flow of water during the curing process, which is critical for the strength and durability of concrete structures. By integrating DC pumps with IoT sensors, construction firms can optimize the curing process by monitoring the temperature, humidity, and flow of water in real-time, ensuring that the concrete sets correctly and reaches its maximum strength.

2.7 Arduino Uno

Arduino Uno is a microcontroller board based on the ATmega328P. It has 14 digital input/output pins, 6 analog inputs, a 16 MHz quartz crystal, a USB connection, and a power jack. It also has a reset button and an ICSP header for programming. In the construction industry, Arduino Uno can be used to control various IoT sensors and modules for site monitoring applications. For example, it can be used to collect data from soil moisture sensors, temperature sensors, humidity sensors, and PIR sensors to monitor site conditions. It can also be used to control DC pumps for regulating the flow of water during the curing process. With its compact size, low power consumption, and ease of use, Arduino Uno can be an excellent tool for construction firms to automate their processes and optimize site monitoring for increased efficiency and cost savings.

2.8 Gas Sensor

MQ-2 gas sensors are widely used in the construction industry for monitoring gas levels and air quality in enclosed spaces. These sensors are equipped with a sensing element that responds to different types of gases, including carbon monoxide, methane, and propane. The sensing element consists of a metal oxide semiconductor that changes its electrical conductivity when exposed to different gas concentrations. As the gas concentration increases, the resistance of the sensing element decreases, which is then measured by the sensor circuitry to determine the gas concentration. The detection range of the MQ-2 sensor is 300-10,000 ppm for LPG, propane, and hydrogen, and 100-10,000 ppm for butane, methane, and alcohol. Additionally, the sensor has a range of 10-1,000 ppm for carbon monoxide. The MQ-2 sensor can be connected to a microcontroller or IoT platform to enable real-time monitoring of gas levels and provide early warnings in the event of a gas leak or buildup. This can help prevent accidents and ensure the safety of workers on construction sites.

III. SOFTWARE SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Blynk

Blynk is a popular software platform used for building IoT applications. It enables users to control IoT devices remotely using a smartphone app or web interface. Blynk provides a drag-and-drop interface to build a custom user interface, making it easy to create custom IoT applications without any coding experience. In the construction industry, Blynk can be used to monitor and control various IoT devices such as sensors and pumps. For example, it can be used to remotely monitor and control the temperature and humidity of a construction site, detect movement using PIR sensors, and send alerts if there is a risk of falling debris. By using Blynk, construction firms can have real-time access to site monitoring data, making it easier to make informed decisions and optimize site processes. Additionally, Blynk can be used to remotely monitor and control equipment, ensuring that construction sites are operating efficiently and safely.

3.2 Arduino IDE

The Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE) is a software platform used to program Arduino boards. It provides an intuitive interface for writing, compiling, and uploading code to Arduino boards. The Arduino IDE is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems and supports several programming languages including C, C++, and Assembly. With the Arduino IDE, users can write code, upload it to their Arduino board, and monitor the board's output. It also includes a built-in serial monitor that allows users to communicate with their Arduino board in real-time. The Arduino IDE is an open-source software platform that has a large community of developers, which means that users have access to a wide range of libraries, examples, and tutorials. In the construction industry, the Arduino IDE can be used to program sensors and other IoT devices used for site monitoring and control. For example, users can use the Arduino IDE to program a soil moisture sensor to send data to a cloud platform for remote monitoring and analysis. The Arduino IDE is a versatile and powerful tool for programming Arduino boards and is an essential component of the Arduino ecosystem.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The efficiency and profitability of construction directly impacts the global economy as the construction market is highly saturated and project managers need to beat competitors on the market, both by time and quality of completed work. IoT could help site managers provide the workforce with real-time education and reduce the number of additional costs and medical-care-related expenses in the field. In this project, we implemented a range of sensors like temperature and humidity sensor, PIR sensor, soil moisture sensor and GPS module. We have used the moisture sensor and temperature connected to a pump for the purpose of curing to detect the humidity content in the slab to prevent cracks during days when the temperature is high. We have used the PIR sensor which detects the motion of falling particles from the top of buildings which in turn indicates the people with the help of a LED

glow as the PIR sensor is connected to a light indicator. Therefore, being able to predict and prevent job-site issues will help business owners reduce the cost of accident management. On the other hand, construction business owners are obliged by the law of disposing of debris and recycle waste regularly which allows property owners to create more space on the construction site and reduce the risks of hazards. For this purpose, we will implement sensor-based tools such as ultrasonic sensor for monitoring on-site trash levels and determine how waste loads vary across the year and optimize the operating mode to prevent debris pile-ups. All these sensor systems outputs are interfaced together with the help of a microcontroller – Arduino Uno and connected to a cloud platform-Blynk from which the site manager can monitor the surroundings accordingly. On the overall, this project offers business owners real-time on-site safety measures and waste management data for the sake of precise reporting. In short, the tech helps monitor construction sites and uses data to predict patterns and prevent problems rather than only focusing on corrective actions once something goes wrong. This preventative approach helps save time and money, providing a more efficient jobsite. They can share data about the site and the workers, offering the potential to improve productivity, workplace safety, and other standards.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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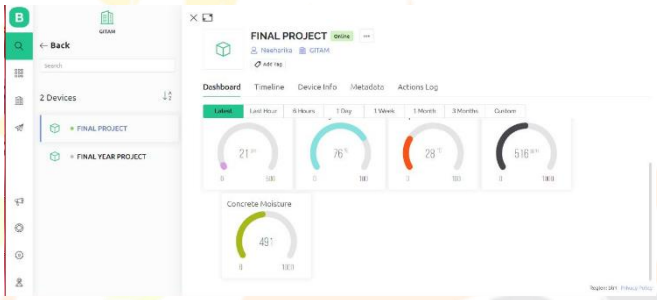

The results of the study showed that the use of IoT sensors, including the PIR sensor for detecting debris falling from the building, the soil moisture sensor, gas sensor, DHT11 sensor for monitoring the curing process, and ultrasonic sensor for measuring the level of debris, provided a comprehensive and real-time monitoring solution for the construction site. The sensor data was transmitted to the Blynk dashboard, which allowed the construction team to visualize and analyze the data remotely. The PIR sensor was particularly useful in detecting debris falling from the building, which is critical for ensuring the safety of workers on the construction site. When debris is detected, an alarm is triggered in the Blynk app to alert the workers to take appropriate action. The soil moisture sensor and DHT11 sensor provided valuable information on the curing process, which is important for ensuring the quality and strength of the final product. The sensors were placed in the concrete slab to monitor the moisture and temperature levels during the curing process. The data obtained from the sensors can be used to determine the optimal curing time for the concrete, which can save time and reduce costs. The ultrasonic sensor helped in measuring the level of debris, which is important for maintaining a clean and safe construction site. The sensor was placed at a height of six feet above the ground, and it can detect the level of debris up to five feet away. Overall, the use of IoT sensors and the Blynk dashboard improved the efficiency and safety of the construction site by providing real-time monitoring of various environmental parameters. The data obtained from the sensors can be used to optimize the construction process and minimize risks to workers and the environment.

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