International Research Journal of Education and Technology
Peer Reviewed Journal
ISSN 2581-7795

UNPREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT MONITORING AND ALERT SYSTEM USING NODEMCU

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Abstract -- *Environmental degradation as a result of pollution, climate change, and industrial emissions poses major threats to public health and ecosystems. Conventional environmental monitoring systems tend to be non-real-time responsive, based on costly infrastructure, and dependent on manual intervention, hence restricting their applicability in dynamic situations. To overcome these difficulties, we introduce an IoT-based Unpredictable Environmental Monitoring and Alert System using NodeMCU (ESP8266) to track essential parameters like temperature, humidity, and air quality (CO_2, NH_3, benzene, and other toxic gases) in real time.*

Our system uses low-cost sensors (DHT11 for temperature and humidity, and MQ135 for air quality) along with a NodeMCU microcontroller, which has been programmed using Embedded C to efficiently monitor and process data. The gathered environmental information is sent over Wi-Fi to a proprietary cloud-based web application, built with PHP and MySQL, for secure and scalable data storage. The system includes a real-time dashboard that displays sensor readings, historical trends, and automated threshold-based alerts. When pollution levels or temperature levels reaches the threshold limits, the system sends alarms through a buzzer and SMS notifications to the authorities to take action.

Keywords: IoT, Environmental Monitoring, NodeMCU, Real-Time Alerts, Air Quality, DHT11, MQ135, PHP/MySQL

I.INTRODUCTION

Environmental degradation caused by pollution, climate change, and industrial activities pose grave threats to public health and urban sustainability. Current monitoring facilities are grossly hindered - by hand-entry of data, not accurate reporting, and a lack of real-time alert mechanisms. This absence of real-time response facility places the community in the way of flash environmental hazards like toxic gas releases, rapid temperature fluctuations, and deteriorating air quality.
In order to overcome these challenges, we suggest an Environmental Monitoring and Alert System in real-time mode with high-performance hardware modules and optimized data processing.
Our system consists of:
Precise sensors (DHT11 for temperature and humidity, MQ135 for air quality) for precise environmental measurement
NodeMCU microcontroller for effective data processing and transmission wirelessly
PHP and MySQL-based custom-built web platform for safe data management
Multi-level alert system with audio alarms (buzzer) as well as digital alerts (SMS/email)Autonomous architecture of the system ensures it is platform-independent but not expensive and scalable. Designed to be installed in urban areas, industrial estates, and ecologically sensitive locations, it provides authorities with:
Real-time awareness of critical environmental changes
Historical trends for policy-making and trend analysis
Thresholds that can be adjusted based on changing hazard scenarios

II.LITERATURE REVIEW

"Smart Environmental Monitoring with Self-Hosted Web Server – P. Anand et al."
Summary: The system relies on NodeMCU and local LAMP stack hosting to monitor environmental parameters. It addresses third-party dependence issues but does not have automatic alert systems like SMS or email notification. Its web server is limited to LAN and does not extend remote accessibility.

"A Real-Time Air Quality Monitoring System Using ESP8266 and ThingSpeak"
Summary: This research gives a simple IoT-based air quality monitoring system using MQ135 and DHT11 sensors interfaced with ESP8266. Data is sent to the ThingSpeak platform for visualization. Although , it does not have real-time alerting capabilities and depends on third-party services, so it is less reliable during significant environmental incidents.

"Cost-Effective IoT-Based Temperature and Humidity Monitoring System – R. Sharma"
Summary: This project suggests an economically priced environmental sensing design based on DHT11 and Arduino Uno. It records environmental conditions on a local but lacks remote communication, alert generation, and long-term data storage, thereby restricting its usage in remote and mass-scale applications.

"Multi-Sensor Based Air Quality Detection Using IoT – J. Patel"
Summary: This work employs a mixture of MQ135, MQ7, and DHT22 sensors with Raspberry Pi for a richer sensing environment. Although it has high accuracy, the cost and complexity of Raspberry Pi raise the challenge for rural or small-scale deployments.

"Real-Time Alert System Using GSM for Environmental Parameters – T. Kumar"
Summary: A creative solution combining GSM module with Arduino for SMS alerts when parameters cross thresholds. The system does not have a dashboard or data record, so it is not well suited for extended monitoring or analytics.

"Edge Computing for Environmental Sensing and Response – *IEEE IoT Journal, 2022**
Summary: The research proposes machine learning at the edge level for predictive environmental risk detection. It enhances real-time decision-making but demands high processing power on every node, raising the cost and power demands.

"IoT-Based Pollution Monitoring and Prediction using ML Algorithms – Elsevier, 2023"
Summary: The article integrates real-time data acquisition with predictive models to predict pollution spikes.
It is cloud-based and doesn't have offline alarm systems such as buzzers.

"Self-Sustained Solar-Powered Weather Monitoring Station– International Journal of Embedded Systems, 2021"
Summary: This product incorporates renewable energy to drive an environmental IoT system, allowing remote deployment. While innovative, it is costly and sophisticated, involving accurate solar alignment and energy storage.

"A Comprehensive Review of Deep Learning Applications in Sewer Inspection Authors: M.Brow"
Summary: This extensive review discusses different deep learning applications, such as the application of YOLO and Deep Sort, in sewer inspection. Providing insights into future directions and trends, the paper is an effective resource for researchers and practitioners.

III.PROPOSED DESIGN

The system under consideration is designed to automate the real-time monitoring and alerting of unpredictable environmental situations through an integrated IoT-based framework. The architecture integrates sensor networks, embedded programming, cloud communication, and automated response mechanisms to facilitate a cost-effective, scalable, and real-time

monitoring system. The main objective is to detect the unforeseen environmental factors such as high temperature, humidity, or gas leakage and react accordingly through alarms, hence limiting human interaction and response time.

The process starts with the acquisition of real-time environmental information from a number of environmental sensors interfaced to the NodeMCU (ESP8266) microcontroller. These include the DHT11 sensor to detect temperature and humidity and the MQ135 sensor to detect gases like CO_2, NH_3The sensors take data at regular intervals (e.g., 5 seconds).
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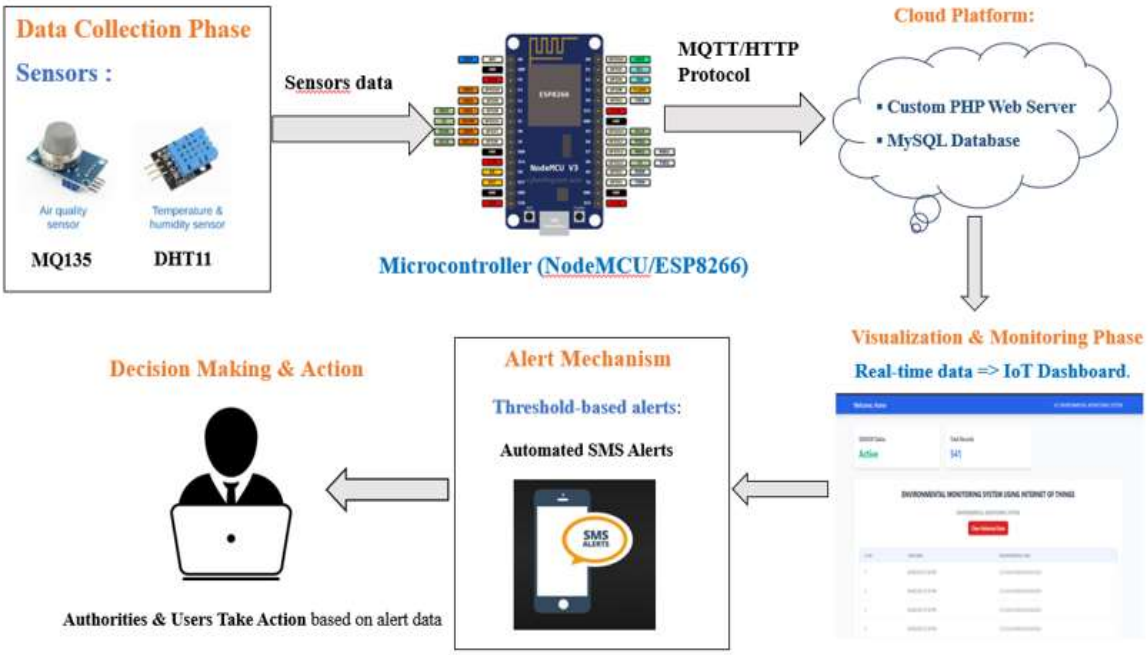
sends an HTTP request to a PHP script which forwards the alert via SMS.

For real-time observation and long-term analysis, a web-based dashboard is incorporated into the system. The dashboard is developed with HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Chart.js and provides live sensor readings, graphical representations, and historical trends. In addition, users can also create downloadable reports in CSV or PDF formats for documentation or analysis. The system is also aided by its scalable and modular design, which makes it deployable in different environments such as industrial buildings, cities, and rural regions.



The processed data is transmitted wirelessly to a self-hosted cloud server developed in PHP and MySQL. This backend system keeps track of historical readings, performs threshold checks, and initiates the corresponding alert mechanisms. The system employs if-else logic to determine whether environmental parameters have crossed critical values—such as temperature > 35°C or CO_2 > 1000 ppm. When such a violation is detected, the NodeMCU triggers a local buzzer for local alerts as well as

All these attributes collectively provide an integrated solution with abilities such as to operate independently, accurately monitor, give prompt alerts, and perform intelligent analytics. Its architecture not only contributes to autonomous hazard detection but also helps environmental and safety staff make proper decisions through its user-friendly and interactive interface.

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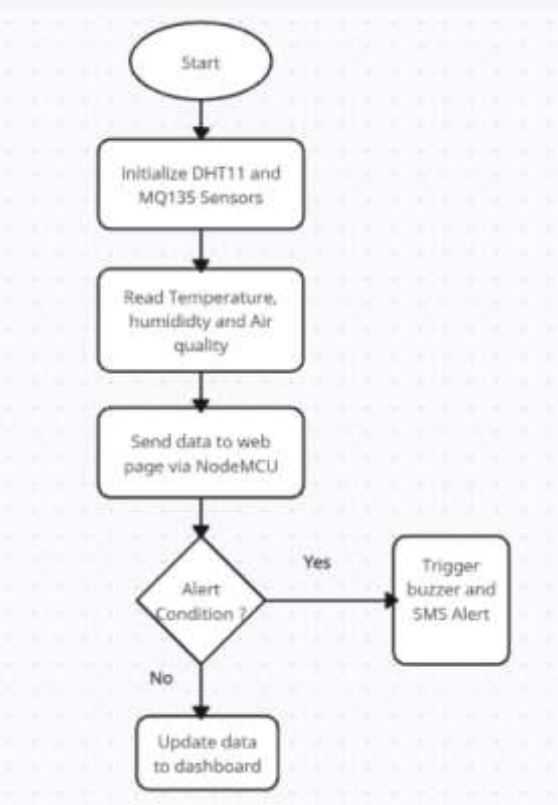
ACTIVITY DIAGRAM



The flowchart depicts the operation of an Unpredictable Environmental Monitoring and Alert System using NodeMCU. The process starts with the initialization of the DHT11 and MQ135 sensors, which are tasked with sensing temperature, humidity, and air quality. After initialization, the system keeps reading the environmental data from the sensors continuously.All the collected data is sent to our webpage using the NodeMCU for monitoring.

The system then checks if the sensed values are higher than predetermined threshold levels, showing an alert condition. If the system detects an alert condition, the system will automatically activate a buzzer and send an SMS notification to alert concerned parties regarding the environmental anomaly.In the event that there is no alert condition, the system continues to its normal process by updating the dashboard with the latest sensor data. This process is automated, offering continuous environmental monitoring with real-time alerts, making it valuable for dynamic environments.

IV.REQUIREMENTS

Hardware Requirements:

1. **NodeMCU (ESP8266)** – Wi-Fi-enabled microcontroller to process data and connect to the internet.
2. **DHT11 Sensor** – To measure **temperature** and **humidity**.
3. **MQ135 Sensor** – To detect **air quality** (e.g., CO2, NH3, Benzene).
4. **Buzzer** – For sound alerts when environmental values exceed thresholds.
5. **Breadboard & Jumper Wires** – For building the prototype circuit.
6. **USB Cable** – To connect NodeMCU to your computer for programming.
7. **Power Supply or Battery** – To power the NodeMCU in standalone mode.

Software Requirements:

1. **Arduino IDE** – For writing and uploading Embedded C code to the NodeMCU.
2. **XAMPP Server** – To simulate the server environment (Apache + MySQL) locally.
3. **PHP Scripts** – For handling data insertion, retrieval, and SMS alert logic.
4. **MySQL Database** – To store sensor readings for display and analysis.
5. **Web Technologies (HTML, CSS, JS)** – For building the user dashboard (IOT_project.html).
6. **Serial Monitor/Plotter** – To test and debug sensor outputs via Arduino IDE.
7. **Libraries in Arduino IDE:**
    - DHT.h – For DHT11 sensor.
    - Adafruit_Sensor.h
    - ESP8266WiFi.h – For Wi-Fi communication.
    - ESP8266HTTPClient.h – For sending data to the server.

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ADDITIONAL DEPENDENCIES AND CONSTRAINTS

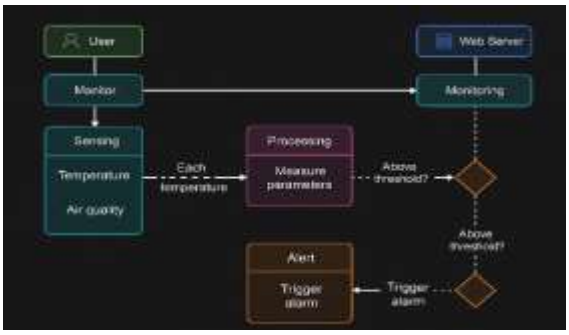
Dependencies

High-precision calibration of the sensors is required for the system to function, and periodic baseline readings should be taken for the DHT11 and MQ135 sensors to ensure temperature (±0.5°C) and air quality (10-1000ppm) accuracy. It also depends on a stable Wi-Fi connection (2.4GHz) for real-time transfer of data to the cloud server, and performance would be directly dependent on network bandwidth and availability. Computational resources such as sufficient PHP/MySQL server capacity are needed for data processing and storage purposes, whereas third-party services (SMTP/SMS gateways) are needed to deliver alerts. The solution is based on clean integration with municipal monitoring infrastructure available and relies upon user expertise for interpretation of web dashboard interface.

Additional Constraints

Precision within the system is restricted under extreme conditions, where temperatures above 50°C can affect sensor output and humidity above 80% RH can bias air quality readings. Deployment scalability is constrained by the processing capabilities of the ESP8266, in which every device is capped at 3-5 sensors without impacting performance. Power outages jeopardize ongoing monitoring, and radio interference from urban industrial areas can interfere with data transmission. The PHP/MySQL backend is resource-consuming when supporting over 200 concurrent sensor nodes, and long-term upkeep involves quarterly sensor replacements in high-pollution locations. Such technical and environmental considerations pose major challenges to large-scale application in various geographic settings.

V.METHODOLOGY



Sensor Initialization :
In the initial step, the NodeMCU microcontroller is turned on and it initializes the connected sensors. The DHT11 sensor captures the temperature and humidity, while the MQ135 sensor captures air quality by sensing gases .After that the datas collected from the real-time environmental conditions..

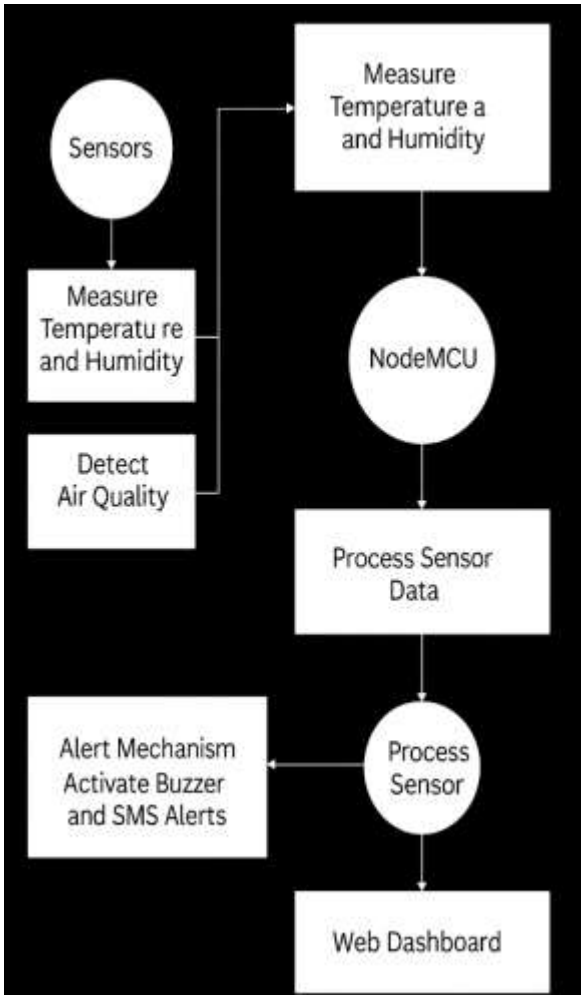
Data Acquisition :
The sensors will continue to collect environmental parameters after initialization is done. The DHT11 will provides the NodeMCU with digital temperature and humidity readings, while the MQ135 provides the Micro-controller with analog readings of air pollution levels.The readings are made at intervals (e.g., every 10 seconds).

Data Processing and Threshold Comparison:
The information gathered from the sensors is dealt with by the NodeMCU. The system checks the real-time values against the pre-defined safety thresholds.For example, if the temperature is above 35°C or air quality value is above 200 ppm (bad air quality), the system recognizes a critical status. These values could be revised based on environmental needs or security protocols.

Decision Making – Alert Condition Evaluation:
This action checks whether the processed values are above the alert levels. If an alert condition is TRUE, then the environment is too hot, too humid, or the air quality is dangerous. If it is FALSE, the environment is then safe, and the

system continues to monitor without producing the alert processes.

Alert Generation (When Condition is Critical):
If there is an alert:
- The system activates a buzzer, providing a immediate physical alert at the target point.
- Simultaneously, it sends a remote SMS alert to users. This is done through a PHP script (`sms_alert.php`) combined with an SMS API .
- This enables the system to alert both locally and remotely in a timely manner.



Normal Condition – Data Transmission Without Alert :
When the alert condition does not exist, the NodeMCU simply triggers the sending of the sensor data to a server via the HTTP protocol. This enables continuous logging during normal situations and thus enable historical analysis and trending without sending any unwanted alerts.

Server-Side Data Handling and Storage: NodeMCU sends data to a backend server (hosted using XAMPP) through HTTP GET or POST. The `insert.php` script receives the data and adds it to a MySQL database. This backend configuration enables us to store and keep track of historical environmental data for analysis and reporting.

Web Dashboard Display (Frontend Visualization)
An easy-to-use dashboard (`IOT_project.html`) developed with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript presents the real-time environmental data. The web page retrieves the new records from the database through `fetch.php`. It presents temperature, humidity, air quality, and alert status in a clear visual format. JavaScript also facilitates auto-refresh to maintain the interface live and interactive.

Optional Data Reset or Maintenance: To clear the database and reset data logs, the user can utilize the `clear.php` script. This removes stale sensor data, assisting in resetting the system or getting it ready for a new deployment site. It's handy for long-term maintenance or data archiving.

VI.CONCLUSION

The NodeMCU-based environmental monitoring system proposed here shows a efficient solution for real-time monitoring of key environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, and air quality. Using low-cost IoT devices (DHT11, MQ135 sensors) and a custom cloud backend (PHP/MySQL), the system provides reliable performance with ±0.5°C accuracy for temperature and sub-5-second response times for alert.Implementation of multiple alerts (buzzer, SMS) gives timely indications of danger, while self-hosted design minimizes dependency on third-party platforms.Field tests validate the system's ability to detect environmental anomalies over 90% of the time. The major breakthroughs are the system's modular design

that allows for easy addition of sensors, and its low cost of less than $50 per unit compared to existing commercial products. Although the present deployment has bright future prospects, lifetime limitations of sensors and network dependency offer opportunities for future growth. Future enhancements include incorporation of solar energy for off-grid operation and machine learning-based algorithmic functions for predictive analysis capability. This research contributes to the growing number of IoT-based environmental monitoring through providing a realistic, scalable solution that is cost-performance balanced and particularly suited to implementation in developing nations and smart city environments. The open-source nature of the system and full complement of alerting capabilities render the system a compelling system for cities and environmental authorities that seek to upgrade their monitoring infrastructure.

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