

Volume 1, Issue 2

Research Article

Date of Submission: 04 Oct, 2025

Date of Acceptance: 24 Oct, 2025

Date of Publication: 03 Nov, 2025

A simulation-based Smart City Architecture using Arduino and Cisco Packet Tracer

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Citation: Nahin, M. R. I. (2025). A simulation-based Smart City Architecture using Arduino and Cisco Packet Tracer. *Int J Evol Sus Renew Energy Sol*, 1(2), 01-16.

Abstract

With rapid technological progress, modern cities increasingly demand real-time responses to ensure convenience, cost-efficiency, and public safety. The IoT-Based Smart City Management project addresses this need by integrating smart technologies with civil infrastructure through a model developed in Cisco Packet Tracer, supported by Arduino Uno and relevant modules. The system combines intelligent traffic control, air pollution regulation, automated fire response, IP-based communication, and smart parking. Motion detectors enable adaptive traffic signals and real-time parking availability updates via LEDs and banners, while a pollution sensor activates a blower and CO₂ purifier to maintain air quality. Fire detection systems instantly trigger alarms and extinguishers, enhancing safety response. IP phones replace traditional telephony to reduce costs and delays. These systems function collaboratively to streamline urban management, reduce manual intervention, and enhance service delivery across multiple domains. By enabling automation and continuous monitoring, the framework not only improves urban infrastructure responsiveness but also contributes to long-term sustainability goals. As such implementations may vary by context, a trial-and-error approach is advised before wide-scale adoption.

Keywords: Traffic Control System, Air Pollution Control System, Smart Parking System, Smart Fire Safety System, IP-telephones

Introduction

The development and management of modern urban environments changes significantly with the advent of Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled smart cities as a new concept. A city's infrastructure is equipped with systems in its technologically advanced state, such as semi automated traffic lights, wired telecommunication poles, and unsophisticated industrial fire safety features, which are used manually. Although very basic, these systems have kept up functionality with growing cities and met their demands, in parallel to supporting urban ecosystems, but are completely inflexible and unresponsive to the multitude of modern problems.

In Singapore and United Arab Emirates, some of the most advanced smart cities are being constructed. These cities aim at increasing urban effectiveness through interconnected smart systems by refining public services and enhancing the overall life standards. Singapore uses Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras for monitoring traffic violations in real-time, while Dubai has a mobile application which provides real time information about transport, food places, and civic services (Smart Dubai Government, GovTech Singapore). These examples embellish the implementation of smart technologies and their advantages at a practical level.

The impact of such initiatives has started to reach the developing countries thus adding scope to innovation and investment in the IoT sector. CISCO and other industry leaders have already played their part by aiding in the development and implementation of modular IoT solutions to numerous sectors ranging from commercial offices to local shops. Based

on a thorough literature review from traffic signal control to air quality monitoring as well as fire safety systems, this research aims to simulate an IoT-enabled smart city using Cisco Packet Tracer and Arduino UNO microcontrollers for additional computing power.

The designed structure adds an array of sophisticated urban management that enhance metropolitan regions' dynamic governance and smooth contouring of cities in planning to resolve the challenges generated by the static system urban spillovers effect. Notable assets comprise a sensor-based traffic control system that precisely controls the traffic through motion detection; an automated air pollution controller module that enables purification system in reaction to surging CO₂ concentration; and an intelligent car park that controls the occupancy level of a parking space in real-time with motion and LED services. Moreover, the communication structure is improved with the incorporation of low-cost IP telephony that also enhances internet connectivity. The core innovation lies in the design and simulation of these interconnected modules within Cisco Packet Tracer, forming a scalable, low-cost, and practical framework for future smart city deployment.

Literature Review

Technological innovation has played a vital role in addressing contemporary challenges across environmental and urban domains, such as forest fire detection, air quality monitoring, and traffic control systems. A review of existing literature reveals the integration of IoT, sensor networks, and intelligent systems as common themes across these application areas.

● **Integrated internet of things (IoT) solutions for early fire detection in smart agriculture [1].**

The integration of IoT technologies in agriculture has revolutionized traditional farming practices, enabling real-time monitoring and efficient resource management. With the increasing risk of fire due to climate change, early fire detection systems have become essential to protect crops and minimize damage. IoT-based systems utilize sensors like temperature, humidity, and smoke detectors, often powered by Raspberry Pi, to monitor environmental conditions and detect anomalies that signal a fire. By combining real-time data with historical records through cloud computing and tools like MATLAB, these systems provide actionable insights and early warnings. Cloud and edge computing further enhance the system's capability by allowing predictive analytics and real-time response, ensuring swift intervention. However, challenges like sensor reliability in harsh environments, scalability in large farms, and cybersecurity concerns remain. Despite these hurdles, IoT-based fire detection systems offer a promising solution to protect agricultural assets and improve overall farm safety in an era of climate uncertainty.

● **Real-time Air Quality Monitoring in Smart Cities using IoT-enabled Advanced Optical Sensors [2].**

This research focuses on the development of a real-time air quality monitoring system for smart cities, utilizing IoT-enabled advanced optical sensors to measure various pollutants like PM2.5, NOx, CO, and VOCs with high sensitivity and precision. The system provides continuous, real-time data transmission, allowing city authorities to track air quality fluctuations and respond quickly when pollution levels exceed safe thresholds. By identifying pollution hotspots and analyzing trends over time, the system helps urban planners make data-driven decisions to improve air quality management and develop targeted interventions. Additionally, the integration of cloud computing enables historical data analysis, supporting long-term policy planning and sustainable urban development. Ultimately, the system enhances public awareness, empowers citizens with real-time pollution information, and plays a vital role in creating healthier, more livable cities by addressing urban air quality challenges.

● **Smart Traffic Control System [3].**

This smart traffic control system is a cutting-edge solution designed to streamline urban traffic management and alleviate congestion. It integrates a variety of advanced technologies, including sensors, cameras, and computer systems, to monitor traffic conditions in real time, identify unusual activity, and make automatic adjustments to traffic signals for smoother vehicle movement. Infrared sensors, radar, and loop detectors are deployed to measure the number of vehicles on the road and their speeds, allowing the system to collect accurate traffic data. Cameras enhance this capability by capturing images and videos that can help detect accidents, track vehicle movements, and provide real-time visual information to traffic control centers. In addition, RFID and Bluetooth technologies are used to gather data directly from vehicles, offering a more detailed view of traffic conditions and enabling better-informed decision-making. The system utilizes machine learning algorithms to predict traffic patterns and optimize signal timings based on real-time data, enabling it to adapt to changing traffic flow and respond to problems, such as congestion or accidents, swiftly. By continuously learning from traffic data, the system improves its predictive capabilities, offering long-term benefits for urban mobility. This comprehensive approach helps to reduce traffic congestion, minimize delays, enhance road safety, and create a more efficient transportation system in rapidly growing cities, ultimately improving the overall experience for commuters and reducing the environmental impact of traffic.

Synthesis and Insights

A common thread across research in smart traffic control, air pollution monitoring, and fire detection is the growing integration of embedded systems, wireless communication, and data analytics. These technologies are coming together to reshape how modern cities function. By combining these systems under one smart infrastructure, cities can become more efficient, responsive, and sustainable. A smart city powered by the Internet of Things (IoT) not only improves daily

operations but also helps save time, reduce costs, and enhance the quality of life for its residents.

Smart Traffic Control System Using Motion Sensor

Conventional methods that are being used nowadays are becoming more inefficient and costly. With the advancement of IOT the modern cities are now being more depended on real-time responses to avoid unnecessary delay and cost. The system is mainly built-up for coordinating traffic specially in road intersections. A simple, well-structured version of the system is built using Arduino-uno.

Key concept

This system consists of Arduino-Uno, motion sensors, and LEDs. The basic principle of this system is "React when Detect" — that is, when any motion is detected, the LED (in the real environment, it will be a traffic light simulated in Packet Tracer) that is green by default will turn red. It is to be noted that the LED that turned red will be in the other junction — this will happen vice versa.

Now, upon considering some scenarios, such as during rush hour, it may happen that the car congestion ratio on the road is 1:50. Thus, a single car will need to wait for 50 other cars to pass provided we are using the motion detection method. Because once motion is detected, it will remain active for approximately 5 seconds (depending on the junction size), allowing the car to pass. In the meantime, another car may come, and this may continue for the next subsequent cars, whereas the car that came just after the first car on the other side of the road will still keep waiting.

So, a counter is introduced in the code that will count up to 50 and then automatically shift its mechanism to the other motion detector on the other side of the road. Thus, even if one road is over congested other road will not face disruptions. Lastly, if both motions are idle, then both lights will be green.

System architecture

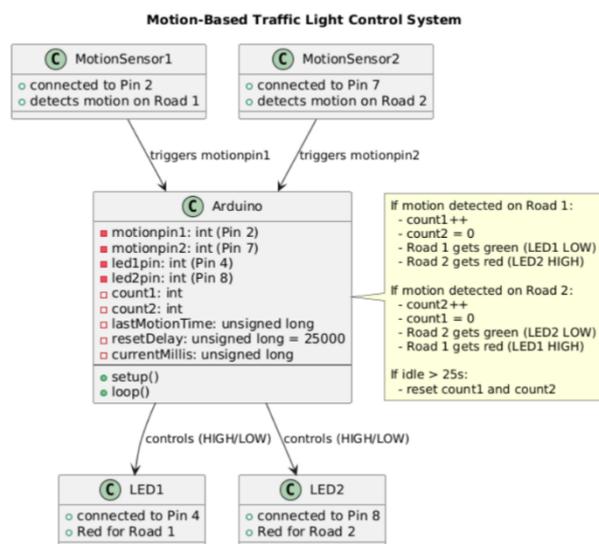


Figure 1: System Architecture of Motion-Based traffic light control using Arduino-uno

Components Used:

o Arduino-Uno

Main microcontroller to process data and control outputs.

● MG811-CO₂-Sensor-Module

Detects carbon dioxide concentration (analog output).

● 5V-Relay-Module

Controls the high-power exhaust fan using a low-power Arduino signal.

● Exhaust-Fan-(DC/AC)

Pulls in polluted air for filtration.

● Green-LED

Indicates that air is safe (CO₂ below threshold).

● 220Ω-Resistor

Current limiting resistor for the LED.

● Power

Powers the exhaust fan safely without overloading Arduino.

● Wires

For making the connections.

Algorithm used in arduino-uno

- Initialize count1, count2 to 0
- if count1 > 50
- Setup Light for road 1 to RED and Light for road 2 to GREEN.
- Delay for 5 seconds.
- else if (motion detected in road 1, count1 < 50 and count1++)
- Setup Light for road 2 to RED and Light for road 1 to GREEN, reset count2.
- Delay for 5-7 seconds for cars to cross.
- if count2 > 50
- Setup Light for road 2 to RED and Light for road 1 to GREEN.
- Delay for 5 seconds.
- else if (motion detected in road 2, count2 < 50 and count2++)
- Setup Light for road 1 to RED and Light for road 2 to GREEN, reset count1.
- Delay for 5-7 seconds for cars to cross.
- if no motion is detected in either of the roads for 10 seconds reset both counters.
- Set both the Lights to GREEN.

Overall Functionalities

- Detects motion on Road 1 using PIR sensor (Pin 2).
- Detects motion on Road 2 using PIR sensor (Pin 7).
- Controls LED 1 (Pin 4) as red light for Road 1.
- Controls LED 2 (Pin 8) as red light for Road 2.
- Gives green signal to the road where motion is detected.
- Resets the opposite road's counter when motion is detected.
- Limits motion count to a maximum of 50 to avoid overflow.
- Uses a delay (e.g., 5–7 seconds) for cars to safely cross.
- If no motion is detected on either road for 10 seconds, resets both counters.
- Ensures only one road is allowed at a time (prevents conflicts).
- Uses millis() for non-blocking time tracking between motions.

Block Diagram

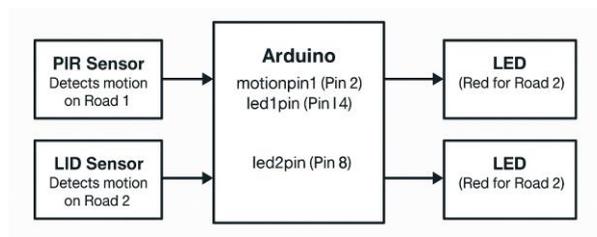


Figure 2: Block Diagram of Traffic Control System Using Arduino

Simulation in Packet Tracer

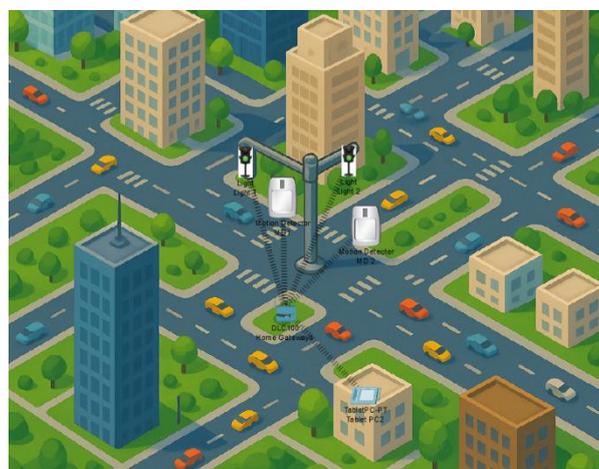


Figure 3: In this Stage both the Signals are Idle as no Motion is Detected



Figure 4: In this Stage the Signal which didn't Detect Motion is Red



Figure 5: In this Stage the Other Signal which didn't Detect the Motion is Red

Iot Based Smart Air Pollution Control

Air pollution is a major concern of the present-day world. Due to this air pollution green-house gas, air-borne disease and overall unhealthy environment became a big issue in today's world. The present modern cities are now struggling to fight against the emission of Carbon-di-oxide as well as continuing to expand the industries. In this situation it is inevitable to maintain the Carbon-di-oxide emission in the modern cities for a sustainable development.

Key concept

The aim of this system is to monitor carbon-di-oxide level continuously and as per the level of the sensor the blower becomes functional. The blower absorbs the air and sends the air to carbon-di-oxide purifier. This continues until the sensor value is above the threshold limit.

System architecture

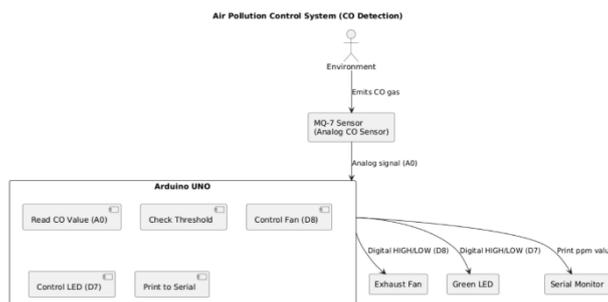


Figure 6: System Architecture of Motion-Based Traffic Light Control Using Arduino-uno

Components Used:

- **Arduino-Uno**

Main microcontroller to process data and control outputs.

- **MG811-CO₂-Sensor-Module**

Detects carbon dioxide concentration (analog output).

- **5V-Relay-Module**

Controls the high-power exhaust fan using a low-power Arduino signal.

- **Exhaust-Fan-(DC/AC)**

Pulls in polluted air for filtration.

- **Green-LED**

Indicates that air is safe (CO₂ below threshold).

- **220Ω-Resistor**

Current limiting resistor for the LED.

- **Power**

Powers the exhaust fan safely without overloading Arduino.

- **Wires**

For making the connections.

Algorithm used in arduino-uno

- Start system:
- Initialize serial communication.
- Set up sensor input and output pins for exhaust fan and LED.
- Continuously monitor air quality:
- Read analog value from the MG811 CO₂ sensor.
- Display sensor reading on the Serial Monitor.
- Analyze CO₂ level:

If sensor value is above threshold (e.g., 400):

- Turn on exhaust fan to remove polluted air.
- Turn off green LED (air is not clean).

Else:

- Turn off exhaust fan (air is clean).
- Turn on green LED to indicate safety.
- Repeat every 0.5 seconds.

Overall Functionalities:

- Monitors CO₂ concentration in real-time using the MG811 sensor.
- Analyzes air quality by comparing sensor data to a predefined threshold.
- Activates the exhaust fan automatically when CO₂ levels are high.
- Pulls in polluted air toward a filtration container when fan is on.
- Purifies air using optional electrodes or filters inside the container.
- Deactivates the fan when CO₂ levels return to a safe range.
- Indicates clean air with a green LED when air quality is acceptable.
- Continuously loops to ensure ongoing air monitoring and response.
- Displays CO₂ levels via the Serial Monitor for real-time debugging.

Block Diagram:

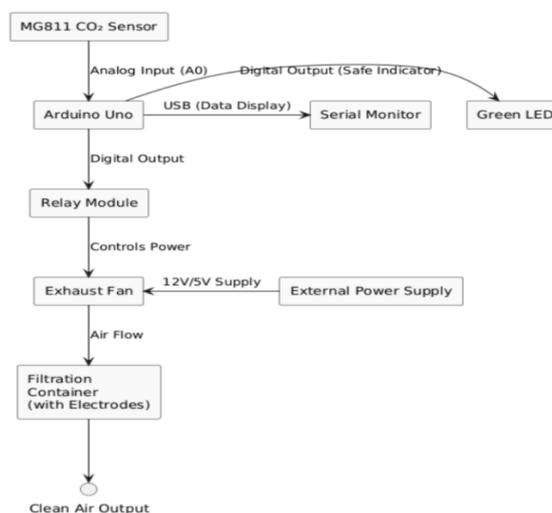


Figure 7: Block Diagram of CO₂ Monitoring and Purification System

Simulation in Packet Tracer:

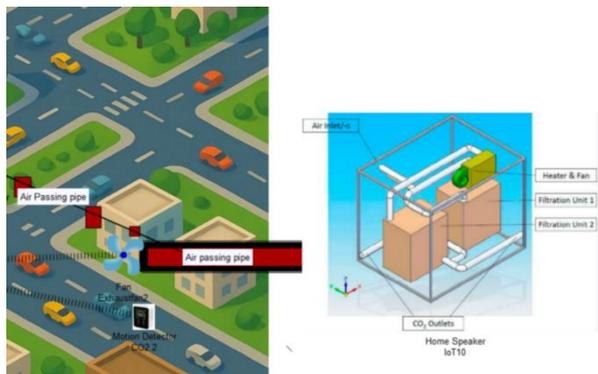


Figure 8: In this Stage CO2 is not Detected

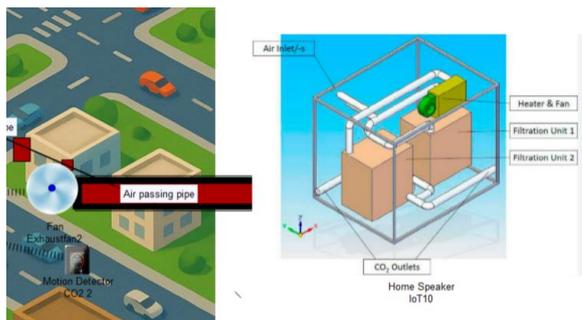


Figure 9: In this Stage CO2 Is Detected

A Brief Concept of CO2 Purifier:

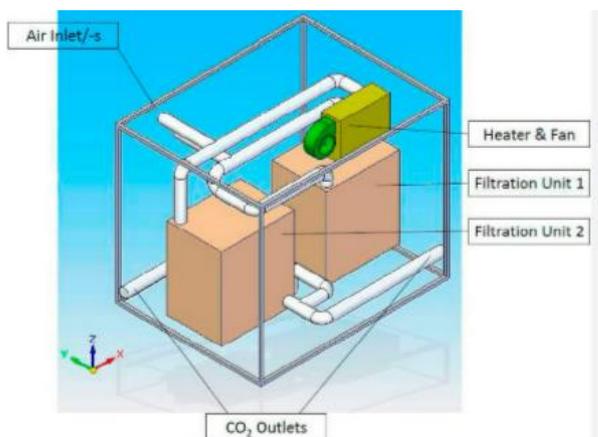


Figure 10: CO2 Purifier

Through the inlet portion of the container (Air Inlet) harmful air containing CO2 enters after that it passes through various electrostatic filters to reduce the CO2 in the air the fresh air is then passed out through CO2 outlets.

Smart Parking System

In the present modern cities cars often find it difficult to search for the parking zone and available parking slot in the place. A lot of cars need to move round the cities to search for a suitable parking zone and move round the zone for a suitable parking slot. IOT based smart parking system in cities will reduce the time of drivers to search for parking zones.

Key concept

In this system the parking zone and parking slot will be managed by the motion detector. If a car is parked at a parking-slot then motion will be detected which will cause the LED light (which should be noticeable) to turn off. If the motion is not detected or if the parking slot is free the LED light will turn on enabling the driver to optimize time for searching parking slots. If all the parking slots are filled a noticeable banner will turn red allowing the drivers to understand that the parking area is filled, if not green banner will remain.

Simulation in Packet Tracer



Figure 11: In this Stage both the Parking Area are Available



Figure 12: In this Stage the Parking Area-1 is not Available



Figure 13: In this Stage the Parking-slot 4 is Available

Overall Functionalities:

- Motion sensors are installed in each parking slot will detect the presence of vehicles.
- LEDs will indicate slot status if the LED is ON the slot will be available.
- A digital and noticeable banner displays GREEN if slots are available and RED in case of vice-versa.
- Helps the drivers to locate the free slots quickly, thus time and congestion is maintained.
- Optimizes parking area usage and supports smart urban infrastructure.

Smart Fire Safety System

Due to the advancement of industries and electrical equipment. Now, it is a necessity to remain cautious and use responsive measures for detecting, avoiding and confronting the fire to reduce the harm and damage caused by it. Considering this issue developing a smart fire detection and control system is an indispensable requirement in the

present modern cities.

Key concept

This system primarily consists of a fire detector and a lawn sprinkler. A fire alarm is connected to the fire detector and is automatically activated when a fire is detected. This setup is commonly used in conventional buildings. Additionally, a sprinkler is positioned toward sensitive areas to respond immediately and help minimize damage in the event of a fire.

System architecture

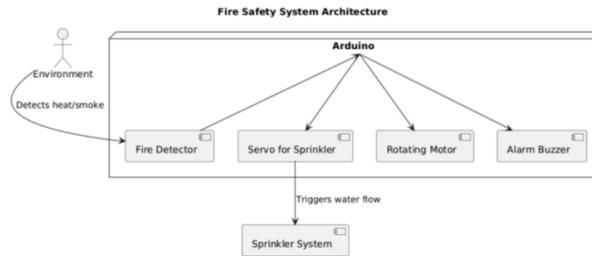


Figure 14: Fire Safety System Architecture

Components Used:

- **Arduino Uno:** Microcontroller
- **Fire Detector Sensor (Analog):** e.g., Flame sensor, MQ-2, or LM35
- **Servo Motor (e.g., SG90):** To activate sprinkler
- **Sprinkler System:** Triggered mechanically by the servo
- **Alarm Buzzer:** Audible fire alert
- **DC Motor:** For rotation (e.g., aiming sprinkler or ventilation)
- **Resistors & Wires:** For connections and signal stability
- **Power Supply (Battery or USB):** To power the Arduino and peripherals
- **Breadboard:** For prototyping connections

Algorithm used in arduino-uno:

- Initialize servoPin, firePin, alarmPin, motorPin
- Attach servo to servoPin
- Set alarmPin and motorPin as OUTPUT
- Loop forever:
- Read analog value from firePin
- If fire value > 150:
- Rotate servo to 180° (activate sprinkler)
- Turn ON alarm
- Turn ON motor
- Else:
- Rotate servo to 0°
- Turn OFF alarm
- Turn OFF motor

Block diagram

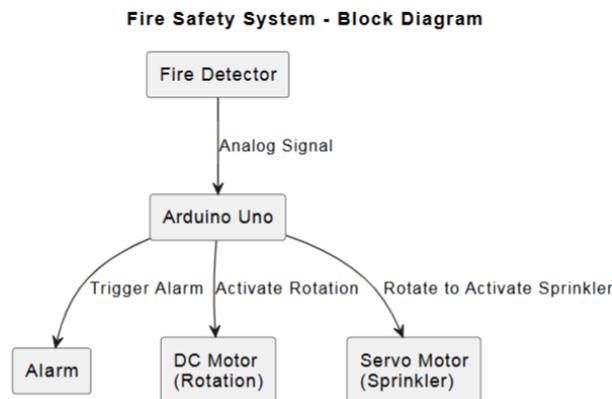


Figure 15: Block Diagram of Fire Safety System

Simulation in Packet Tracer



Figure 16: In this Stage Fire is not Detected thus the Sprinkler is off



Figure 17: In this Stage Fire is Detected and the Sprinkler is on

Overall Functionalities

- Fire detector continuously monitors the environment.
- Fire Alarm is triggered when fire is detected.
- Sprinkler system for controlling the fire.
- Rapid Automated response system that will minimize impacts.
- Combination of detection, alert, suppression.
- Suitable for modern cities.

Advanced Communication System Using Ip-Telephones

IP-Telephones are evolving in smart cities as it is more cost effective and efficient than the traditional telephony line system due to its effectiveness of long-distance communication over the internet.

Key concept

This system primarily consists of router, switch, communication wires and IP-phones. IP-phones are connected with a switch which is connected to a router. DHCP on the router assigns IP addresses to each phone. A VLAN is configured on the switch specifically for the IP phones, and their numbers are assigned through the switch.

Simulation in Packet Tracer

Overall Functionalities

- IP-telephones used to establish internal and external communications using IP-based technology.
- IP address assigned through DHCP configuration.
- Switch connection imposed for ensuring organized and centralized connection.
- VLAN used to separate voice traffic from other networks.
- Unique phone number assigned for easy identification.
- Communication becomes more reliable and cost effective.

The Smart City Discussion

In today's world, developed nations are increasingly shifting their focus toward building smarter, more convenient cities. The integration of traffic control using motion detectors, advanced fire alarm and response systems, smart parking management, air pollution control systems, and IP-based communication through IoT technologies adds a new dimension to traditional urban infrastructure. These innovations pave the way for transforming conventional cities into smart cities.

With the growing demand for real-time systems driven by increasing human needs and expectations, companies like Cisco are gaining momentum in the IoT sector. The smart city project designed using Cisco Packet Tracer aims to enhance user satisfaction, improve convenience, and elevate city-wide safety measures. Furthermore, it contributes to cost efficiency and better urban structuring, laying a foundational framework for transitioning from conventional to smart cities.

In this smart city model, IoT modules are primarily connected via wireless gateways and are controlled through tablet PCs. Key modules used include motion detectors, LEDs, blowers, sprinklers, fire detectors, and IP phones. Where necessary, modules have been customized and enhanced using Arduino Uno boards. For traffic control, motion detectors regulate signals, with logic implemented to reduce driver wait times during congestion—such as when a single driver is waiting against more than 50 cars. In the air pollution control system, the blower activates automatically when CO₂ levels exceed a certain threshold. Smart parking is managed through motion sensors linked to digital banners that inform drivers in real time about parking slot availability.

Additional IoT features include a fire safety system, where sprinklers are activated automatically upon fire detection, and IP phones that ensure seamless communication over the internet. The IoT-based smart city holds great potential for transforming traditional urban systems into more efficient and intelligent infrastructures. However, its success will depend on integration with well-coordinated civil engineering efforts and effective governance to ensure safety, security, and public convenience.

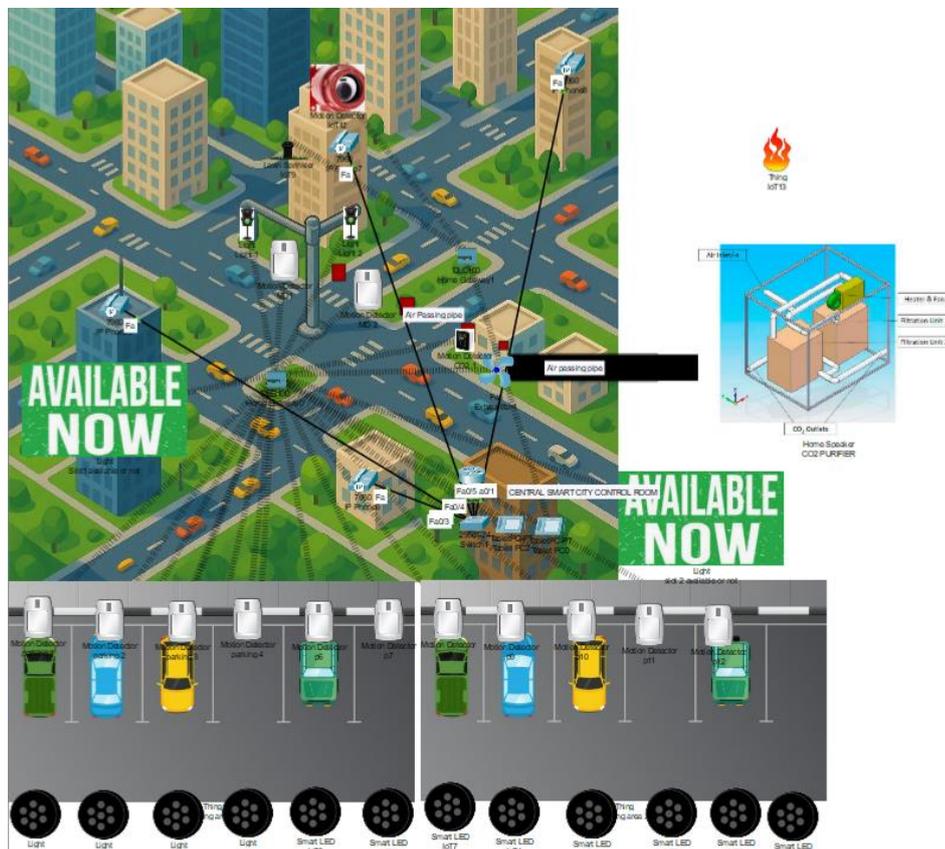


Figure 22: Smart City Implemented by Packet Tracer

Result and Analysis

Smart Traffic Control System

This analysis is conducted based on simulated traffic data from a major intersection in Dhaka, Mohakhali where traffic congestion is a common challenge.

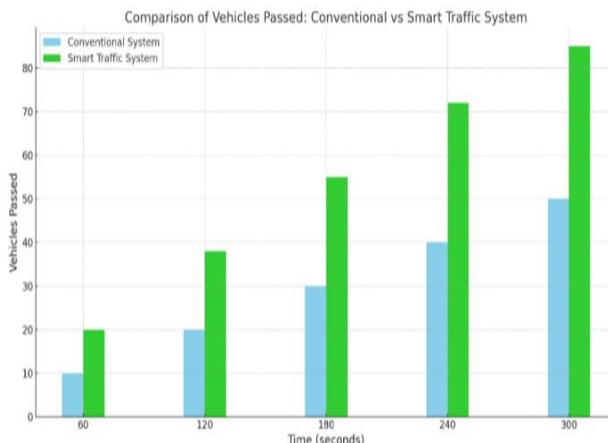


Figure 23: Comparison of Vehicles Passed over Time in Conventional vs Smart Traffic System

Description:

The histogram compares the number of vehicles passed under the Conventional and Smart Traffic Systems over time.

Smart Parking System:

This analysis is conducted based on simulated parking behavior data from a busy commercial parking zone in Dhaka, Banani, where drivers often face challenges in locating available parking slots due to high vehicle density and lack of real-time slot information.

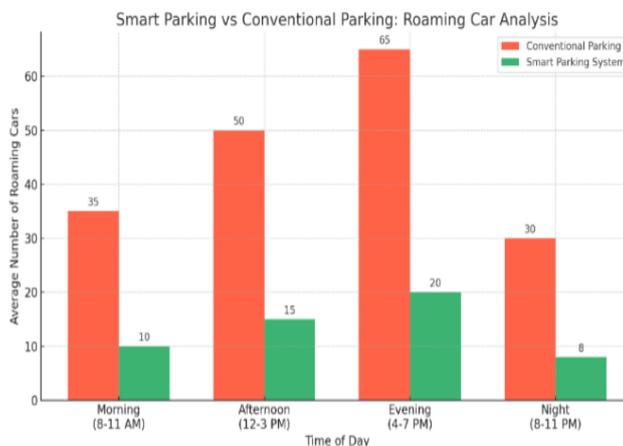


Figure 24: Comparison of Vehicles Roaming around in Parking areas over time in Conventional vs Smart Parking System

Description:

The histogram compares the number of cars roaming in Conventional vs Smart Parking Systems across different times of the day. It clearly shows that smart parking significantly reduces internal parking congestion by guiding drivers directly to available slots.

Air Pollution Control System:

Analysis of CO₂ concentration levels before and after implementation of smart air pollution control system. The test is being conducted in Bashundhara Residential Area, Dhaka.

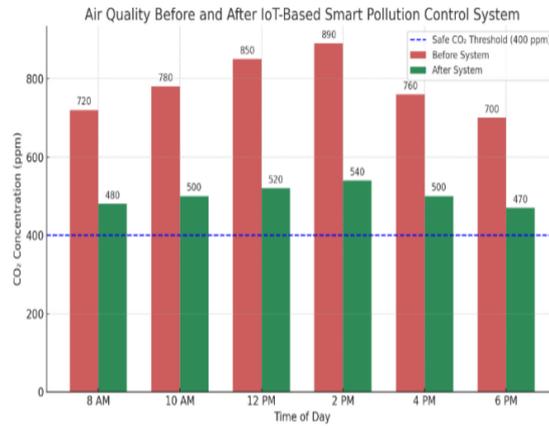


Figure 25: Comparison of Air Quality Before and After the Implementation of Smart Air Pollution Control System

Description:

Here’s the histogram showing CO₂ concentration levels before and after implementing the IoT-based smart air pollution control system. It illustrates a significant improvement in air quality, with CO₂ levels consistently reduced to safer ranges throughout the day.

IP-Telephone System:

This analysis is based on overall cost comparison between conventional telephony system and IP-Telephones. This is a hypothetical Analysis.

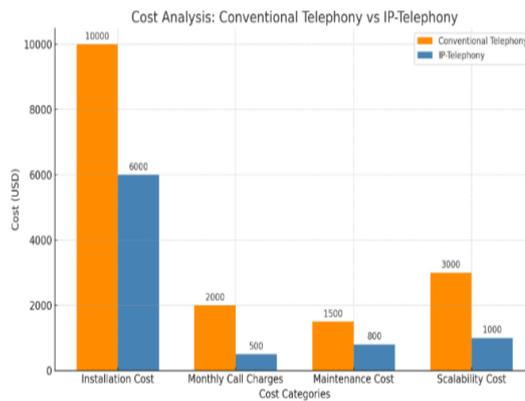


Figure 26: Comparison of Cost Between Conventional Telephony system and IP-Telephony

Description:

The cost analysis histogram comparing Conventional Telephony with IP-Telephony. The chart clearly shows that IP-Telephony significantly reduces monthly call charges, maintenance, and scalability costs, making it a more efficient and sustainable choice for modern communication systems.

Conclusion

The vision of the smart city is rapidly becoming a reality, driven by innovation, connectivity, and purposeful design. By integrating IoT technologies such as motion detectors, smart traffic control, automated parking, fire safety systems, and intelligent air quality monitoring, cities are evolving toward greater functionality, efficiency, and citizen convenience. This paper addresses the limitations of traditional urban systems by proposing a simulation-based smart city framework utilizing IoT modules, Arduino Uno, and Cisco Packet Tracer. The results showcase dynamic, automated responses across key urban domains, offering a scalable and cost-effective model for real-time city management.

The success of IoT-based smart cities depends not only on advanced networking technologies but also on interdisciplinary collaboration—particularly between civil engineering and effective governance. With clear vision and coordinated efforts, smart cities hold the potential to significantly enhance daily life and foster a sustainable, human-centered future [4-25].

Opportunities for Further Study

The combination of technological advancement and redefined urban societal needs continue to propel the construction of smart cities. In order to realize the full benefits provided by such systems, continuous improvement through research and development activities is needed. Especially highly prioritized areas of focus due to the fusion of the Fourth Industrial Revolution are the embedding of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) into real-time Internet

of Things (IoT) systems. With a broader perspective, the following areas of focus for the research and development initiatives describe a clear vision for the future:

- **Embedded AI and Machine Learning in Real-Time System Integration**

The installation of AI and Machine Learning frameworks into smart city infrastructures will incur higher levels of adaptation along with predictive insights and automated decisions devoid of human intervention when processing data. Achievement of this goal will mark a milestone in evolution of urban systems that offer smarter adaptability.

- **IoT devices Firewalls and Cyber Security Protection**

As the degree of connectivity and interrelations amid IoT ecosystems increases, adoption of reliable advanced Cyber Security measures which incorporate firewalls and intrusion detection systems becomes imperative for protection of sensitive information and system maintains integrity.

- **System Module Performance Tuning**

Development and enhancement of the efficiency and scalability of system components is still the major objective. Ensured city frameworks or infrastructures, aided through automated features will stand to benefit from the incorporated optimization.

- **Enhanced Interconnectivity Across Smart City Subsystems**

The smooth intercommunication and fusion of various elements like transportation, energy, healthcare, and public safety will be crucial in realizing synchronized and efficient urban functioning.

- **Development of Administrative Tools for Monitoring and Management**

Admin responsibility will require these sophisticated systems for concurrent, automatic, or real-time monitoring, automated maintenance, and data analysis. Such frameworks will aid in achieving sustainability and enhance decision-making for managers in the city. At once, these gaps offer significant potential to increase the effectiveness, security, and resilience of the smart city technologies, and more fundamentally advance urban living by making it smarter, safer, and more sustainable.

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