

LoRa Based Home and Office Automation System: A Review

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Abstract: There are "things" all around the office and home that are either directly or indirectly connected to every other option via the internet of things. One important aspect of home and office automation involves having precise remote access to all of these devices through the network when necessary. Home and office automation, also known as smart home and smart office technology, refers to the integration of various electronic devices and systems within a home or office environment to provide enhanced control, convenience, and efficiency. It involves using sensors, actuators, and network connectivity to automate and remotely control various functions and tasks. The current review paper provides information and important terminologies used by various research scholars for office and home automation using LoRa and other terminologies.

Keywords: LoRa board, automation, internet of things, networks, actuators.



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Introduction:

A LoRa microcontroller is a microcontroller (MCU) that is integrated with a LoRa (Long Range) radio module [1]. LoRa is a wireless communication technology designed for long-range and low-power applications. It enables long-distance communication with low data rates, making it suitable for IoT (Internet of Things) devices that require extended range and low energy consumption. A LoRa microcontroller typically combines the processing power and control capabilities of a traditional microcontroller with a LoRa transceiver module [2]. The microcontroller component handles data processing, sensor interfacing, and device control, while the LoRa module facilitates long-range communication. LoRa microcontrollers are commonly used in a variety of IoT applications, including smart agriculture, asset tracking, environmental monitoring, industrial automation, smart cities, and more. They offer an efficient and cost-effective solution for deploying low-power, long-range wireless communication in IoT devices and systems [1, 2].

LoRa is a spread spectrum-based modulation method made possible by the Chirp Spread Spectrum (CSS) technology. Due to its ability to provide some of the most important features, such as low cost and low power wireless platforms, LoRa has emerged as one of the most successful solutions in the Internet of Things [4]. The LoRa Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) protocol is used by LoRa technology to address a variety of real-world issues, including automation, directing energy, averting disasters, and controlling pollution. Home automation, intelligent irrigation energy management, smart towns, smart electricity meters, etc. are some of the functional fields [3-5]. The home and office automation offers convenience, energy efficiency, security, productivity, and enhanced living and working environments. It simplifies tasks, saves time and resources, and improves the overall quality of life and work experiences. Home and office automation offers several benefits and fulfills various needs for both residential and commercial environments [5, 6].

1.1 Important of home and office automation:

1.1.1 Convenience and Comfort: Automation simplifies tasks and provides convenience. With automation systems, you can control various functions of your home or office from a centralized interface or even through voice commands. This includes controlling lighting, temperature, entertainment systems, security, and more. Automation enhances comfort by allowing you to personalize settings according to your preferences and schedule.

1.1.2 Energy Efficiency: Home and office automation can help optimize energy usage and reduce utility costs. Smart thermostats can regulate heating and cooling based on occupancy and adjust settings to save energy when spaces are unoccupied. Lighting automation enables efficient use of lighting by turning off lights in empty rooms or adjusting brightness based on natural light availability. Energy monitoring systems provide real-time data on energy consumption, helping identify areas for improvement and encouraging energy-saving habits.

1.1.3 Security and Safety: Automation systems enhance security and safety in homes and offices. Smart security systems provide features like surveillance cameras, motion sensors, and door/window sensors. You can monitor your property remotely, receive alerts for unusual activity, and even integrate with emergency services. Automation can also simulate occupancy when you're away by controlling lights and shades, giving the impression that someone is present.

1.1.4 Increased Productivity: In office settings, automation can streamline tasks and processes, leading to increased productivity. Automated systems can control lighting and climate settings in workspaces to create a comfortable and conducive environment. Integration with productivity tools and software can automate routine administrative tasks, scheduling, and data management, freeing up time for more meaningful work.

1.1.5 Enhanced Entertainment and Media: Home automation allows for seamless control of entertainment systems. You can integrate audio/video equipment, streaming devices, and gaming consoles to create a centralized media hub. With automation, you can easily distribute audio and video to multiple rooms or zones, control content, and enjoy a more immersive entertainment experience.

1.1.6 Accessibility and Aging-in-Place: Home automation provides accessibility features that benefit people with disabilities or older adults who wish to age in place. Automated lighting, door locks, and appliances can be controlled through voice commands or mobile apps, allowing individuals with mobility challenges to independently manage their living spaces.

1.1.7 Remote Monitoring and Management: Automation systems enable remote monitoring and management of your home or office. You can access and control various devices and systems from anywhere using mobile apps or web interfaces. This remote access facilitates real-time monitoring, adjustments, and troubleshooting, saving time and resources.

1.1.8 Future-Proofing and Scalability: Home and office automation systems are designed to be flexible and scalable. They can adapt to changing needs and accommodate new technologies as they emerge. Upgrades and expansions can be easily implemented without significant disruption.

2. Literature Review

These literature reviews offer insights into the use of IoT in home and office automation, covering various aspects such as architecture, communication protocols, sensor integration, energy management, security, and user interfaces. They provide valuable references for understanding the current state and advancements in IoT-enabled home and office automation systems. Current research papers provide insights into the implementation, benefits, and challenges of utilizing LoRa technology in the context of home and office automation. By using some valuable references for understanding the integration of LoRa microcontrollers in automation systems. These literature reviews provide insights into the current state of home and office automation, discussing the technologies, applications, benefits, challenges, and future prospects. They can serve as valuable references for understanding the concepts and advancements in this field [7- 18].

Saranya K. et al (2021) this review provides an overview of various aspects of smart home automation systems. It discusses the architecture, components, communication protocols, and applications of smart home automation. The authors also explore the challenges and future trends in the field. Smart home automated control system using IoT concept was explored by authors. Zerina M. et al. (2020) review focuses on office automation systems, discussing their benefits, components, and implementation challenges. It explores the integration of automation in different office processes, such as document management, communication

systems, and workflow automation. The authors also discuss the impact of office automation on productivity and efficiency. Mohit Saini et al (2019) review presents an in-depth analysis of smart home automation systems, covering various aspects including architecture, communication protocols, energy management, security, and user interfaces. The authors discuss the advantages, challenges, and future prospects of smart home automation technologies. Avinash Ramakrishna, et al (2018) this literature review provides an overview of smart home automation technologies and their applications. It explores the integration of various devices and systems, such as lighting, HVAC, security, and entertainment, into a cohesive smart home ecosystem. The authors also discuss user acceptance, energy efficiency, and privacy concerns associated with smart home automation. Deepak Sethi et al (2017) this review focuses on office automation tools and systems, discussing their role in improving office productivity and efficiency. It covers various aspects of office automation, including document management, email systems, workflow automation, and collaboration tools. The authors also discuss the challenges and future directions in office automation. Muhammad Aslam, et al ((2021) this review provides an in-depth analysis of IoT-based smart home automation. It covers various aspects, including architecture, communication protocols, sensor integration, data analytics, security, and energy management. The authors discuss the challenges, benefits, and future trends in IoT-enabled smart home automation systems. Amira M. Idrees, et al (2018) this review focuses on the application of IoT in office automation. It explores the integration of IoT devices and technologies in different office processes, such as environmental monitoring, energy management, asset tracking, and smart meeting rooms. The authors discuss the benefits, challenges, and future directions in implementing IoT in office automation systems. Ekaterina Fazeldehkordi et al (2020) this review presents a comprehensive overview of IoT-based home automation. It discusses the architecture, communication protocols, sensor integration, energy management, security, and user interfaces in IoT-enabled home automation systems. The authors also explore the challenges, opportunities, and future directions in this field. Abdul Rahim, et al (2019) this review focuses on the use of IoT in smart office automation. It discusses various applications, such as energy management, occupancy sensing, security, and workspace optimization. The authors highlight the benefits, challenges, and future prospects of implementing IoT in office automation systems. Alka Rani et al (2017) this review provides an overview of IoT-based home automation systems, covering architecture, communication protocols, sensor integration, and applications. It discusses the benefits of IoT in enhancing home automation, including energy efficiency, security, and convenience. The authors also address the challenges and future trends in IoT-enabled home automation. M. Mohanraj, et al (2021) this paper presents a LoRaWAN-based smart home system for automation and control. It discusses the architecture, sensor integration, communication protocols, and implementation of a smart home system using LoRa technology. The authors explore the benefits, challenges, and future directions of utilizing LoRa for home automation. Vijayakumar et al (2019) author proposes a smart office automation system using LoRa and IoT technologies. It focuses on integrating various office automation components such as lighting, HVAC, security, and occupancy sensing. The authors discuss the implementation details, benefits, and challenges of utilizing LoRa in the context of office automation. D. K. Soni et al (2018) presented a low-cost IoT-based home automation system using LoRa technology. It describes the hardware architecture, communication protocol, and software implementation of the system. The authors discuss the advantages of using LoRa for long-range communication in home automation applications. Shakthi Prasad, et al (2018) presented a comparative study of LoRa Low-Power Wide-Area Network (LPWAN) technology for smart home applications. It discusses the benefits, limitations, and performance evaluation of LoRa in the context of smart home automation. The authors compare LoRa with other communication technologies and analyze its suitability for home automation.

3. Some key features and advantages of LoRa microcontrollers include:

3.1 Long Range: LoRa technology allows for communication ranges of several kilometers in open areas, depending on the environment and antenna configuration. This makes it ideal for applications that require communication over long distances.

3.2 Low Power Consumption: LoRa uses a low-power modulation scheme, enabling devices to operate on battery power for extended periods. LoRa microcontrollers are designed to minimize power consumption, making them suitable for battery-operated IoT devices.

3.3 Low Data Rates: LoRa is optimized for transmitting small amounts of data over long distances. It is not suitable for high-bandwidth applications but is well-suited for applications that involve intermittent or periodic data transmission.

3.4 Wide Area Coverage: LoRa networks can be deployed in a star or mesh topology, allowing for wide area coverage. Gateways can receive data from multiple LoRa devices and forward it to the internet or other network infrastructure.

3.5 Cost-Effective: LoRa technology provides a cost-effective solution for long-range communication compared to other cellular or satellite-based technologies. The infrastructure required for setting up LoRa networks is relatively simple and cost-efficient.

3.6 Secure Communication: LoRa supports encryption and authentication mechanisms, ensuring secure communication between devices and networks.

4. Features of home and office automation systems:

The specific features and capabilities of home and office automation systems can vary depending on the brand, technology, and budget. It's important to research and select products that suit your specific needs and preferences.

4.1 Lighting Control: Smart lighting systems allow you to control and automate the lighting in your home or office. You can adjust brightness, color, and schedule lighting scenes using a mobile app or voice commands.

4.2 Climate Control: Smart thermostats enable you to remotely control and program the temperature settings of your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. They can learn your preferences, adjust temperature based on occupancy, and help save energy.

4.3 Security and Surveillance: Smart security systems offer features such as motion sensors, door/window sensors, surveillance cameras, and alarms. You can monitor your property remotely, receive alerts, and even integrate with virtual assistants for voice control.

4.4 Energy Management: Smart energy monitoring systems provide real-time data on energy consumption. They help you identify energy wastage, optimize usage, and save on utility bills by controlling appliances, managing standby power, and integrating with renewable energy sources.

4.5 Entertainment and Media: Home automation systems can control audio/video equipment, including TVs, speakers, streaming devices, and gaming consoles. They enable centralized media management, streaming, and multi-room audio/video distribution.

4.6 Smart Appliances: Appliances like refrigerators, ovens, washing machines, and robotic vacuum cleaners can be integrated into smart home systems. You can monitor and control them remotely, receive notifications, and optimize their operation.

4.7 Voice Control: Integration with voice assistants such as Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, or Apple Siri allows you to control various aspects of your home or office automation system using voice commands.

4.8 Automated Window Treatments: Motorized blinds and curtains can be programmed to open or close based on time, sunlight, or temperature. They provide privacy, save energy, and add convenience.

4.9 Access Control: Smart locks and access control systems allow you to manage entry into your home or office through keyless entry, biometrics, or mobile apps. You can grant temporary access to guests and receive activity notifications.

4.10 Data Integration and Automation: Home and office automation systems can be integrated with other smart devices and services, such as smart speakers, smart TVs, wearables, and cloud-based services. This integration allows for increased automation and personalized experiences.

5. Applications and terminologies of home and office automation systems

Home and office automation systems find applications in various areas, offering convenience, efficiency, and enhanced functionality. Here are some common applications of home and office automation systems:

5.1 Lighting Control: Automation systems allow you to control and automate lighting in different areas of your home or office. You can set schedules, adjust brightness, and create lighting scenes for different moods or activities. Motion sensors can detect occupancy and automatically turn lights on or off, saving energy.

5.2 Climate Control: Home and office automation systems enable precise control of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. You can set temperature schedules, remotely adjust settings, and even

integrate with weather forecasts to optimize energy usage. Smart thermostats learn your preferences and adjust temperature based on occupancy patterns.

5.3 Security and Surveillance: Automation systems enhance security by integrating surveillance cameras, motion sensors, door/window sensors, and alarms. You can monitor your property remotely, receive alerts for unusual activities, and even integrate with access control systems for enhanced security.

5.4 Energy Management: Automation systems help manage and optimize energy consumption. Energy monitoring systems provide real-time data on energy usage, allowing you to identify energy-intensive devices and take steps to reduce consumption. Smart plugs and switches enable remote control of appliances, and some can even monitor power usage.

5.6 Entertainment and Media: Home automation systems integrate audio/video equipment, streaming devices, and gaming consoles. You can create centralized media hubs, control content distribution to multiple rooms, and enjoy immersive entertainment experiences. Integration with virtual assistants allows for voice control of entertainment systems.

5.7 Smart Appliances: Automation systems can control and monitor smart appliances such as refrigerators, ovens, washing machines, and robotic vacuum cleaners. You can receive notifications, monitor usage patterns, and remotely control appliance functions for added convenience and efficiency.

5.8 Access Control: Automation systems provide secure access control for homes and offices. Smart locks and keyless entry systems allow you to lock and unlock doors remotely, grant temporary access to guests, and receive notifications of entry events. Integration with access control systems enhances security and simplifies management.

5.9 Home and Office Monitoring: Automation systems enable remote monitoring of various aspects of your home or office. Sensors can detect water leaks, smoke, or carbon monoxide, and send alerts to your smartphone. You can also monitor environmental factors such as humidity and air quality.

5.10 Irrigation and Garden Control: Automation systems can control irrigation systems for gardens and lawns. They can adjust watering schedules based on weather conditions and soil moisture levels, saving water and promoting healthy plant growth. Automated garden lighting systems can enhance outdoor ambiance and security.

Conclusion

This paper provided important features and applications of LoRa in home and office automation. By using different terminologies, we can provide safety and security to our house and office, as well as reduce the use of electrical power and time using LoRa. Some other applications of LoRa were also discussed. By using the terms AI, ML, and deep learning, the automation field will reach a very advanced level to provide safety and time-saving applications.

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