International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

IoT Integrated Smart Waste Management System Namely Trash.ly 2.0

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ABSTRACT—

With the rapid pace of urbanization, effective waste management has become increasingly critical for ensuring public health and environmental sustainability. Trash.ly 2.0, an IoT-based smart waste management system, is designed to revolutionize how waste is collected in urban settings. The system leverages ultrasonic sensors and Arduino microcontrollers to monitor bin levels in real-time and employs Firebase Cloud Messaging to alert collection staff when bins reach capacity. Through an intuitive mobile application and admin dashboard, municipal authorities can track collection efficiency, analyze waste patterns, and engage the public through feedback features. The system has been developed and tested in a prototype environment as part of an academic research project, and although constrained by resources, it offers a scalable framework adaptable to real-world deployment. Challenges such as network reliability, sensor accuracy, and user adoption have been addressed through smart design choices and system simulations. Future developments include integration of AI for route optimization, solar-powered modules, and large-scale deployment across smart cities. This project aligns with initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and provides a feasible, data-driven pathway to more sustainable urban waste management practices.

Keywords - Smart waste management, IoT-based garbage monitoring, real-time notification, urban cleanliness, waste collection optimization, AI-driven route planning.

Introduction

Waste mismanagement leads to overflowing garbage bins, pollution, and health hazards. The existing system of manual waste collection is inefficient and lacks real-time monitoring. *Trash.ly 2.0* addresses these issues by integrating IoT and mobile technology to automate waste bin monitoring and optimize collection routes. As this is a college project, the system has been tested within a controlled prototype environment rather than real-world deployment.

The rapid urbanization of Indian cities has intensified the need for a smart waste management system that can optimize garbage collection. The *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* campaign emphasizes technological solutions to keep cities clean, and *Trash.ly 2.0* aligns with this initiative by introducing a structured, automated, and efficient approach to waste collection.

Project Scope & Goals

The scope of this project is to develop an IoT-based Smart Waste Monitoring System that automates the process of garbage collection using real-time sensors. The system aims to enhance waste collection efficiency by notifying garbage van drivers when bins reach their capacity, ensuring timely collection and reducing delays. By implementing this solution, urban cleanliness can be significantly improved by minimizing instances of overflowing waste bins, leading to a healthier and more hygienic environment. Additionally, the system will enable data-driven decision-making for municipal corporations by providing analytics on waste collection patterns, allowing for better resource allocation and optimized waste management strategies. To ensure the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed system, a prototype will be developed and tested within a controlled environment before considering potential real-world implementation.

Literature Survey

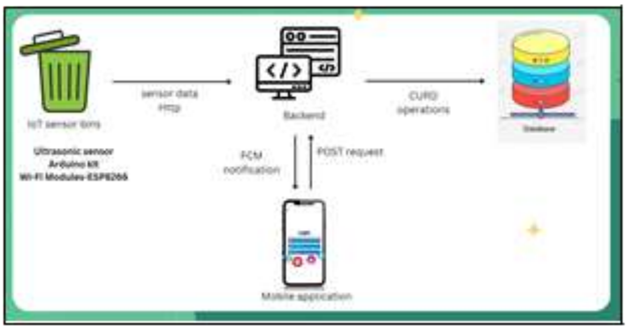
[1] 4) Several studies have explored the integration of IoT in waste management, highlighting its potential to optimize garbage collection processes. [1] and colleagues (2023) discussed an IoT-based centralized waste management system at Telkom University, emphasizing the role of IoT devices in

creating sustainable solutions for smart campuses. Similarly, [2] 4) [2] and co-authors (2023) proposed a system utilizing ultrasonic sensors to monitor trash levels in urban areas, focusing on real-time alerts to prevent waste overflow, which aligns with the objectives of Trash.ly 2.0. [3] 4)Another relevant study by [3] and his research team (2023) addressed the Vehicle Routing Problem (VRP) to optimize waste collection routes. Trash.ly 2.0 shares a similar goal by providing notifications and tracking garbage collection to minimize unnecessary trips and operational costs.

[4] 4) [4] and fellow researchers (2023) developed a smart dustbin equipped with ultrasonic and infrared sensors, highlighting the significance of remote monitoring via a web interface, a feature also incorporated into Trash.ly 2.0's admin dashboard. Lastly, (S et al. 4) [5] and their team (2024) introduced a smart dustbin system based on Arduino and IoT principles, utilizing ultrasonic sensors to detect bin levels and automate notifications to garbage collectors, which is similar to the approach adopted in Trash.ly 2.0. These studies collectively demonstrate the effectiveness of IoT in waste management and provide valuable insights that reinforce the design and functionality of Trash.ly 2.0.

System Architecture & Implementation

fig 1 Overview of Trash.ly System



Each municipal dustbin in the system is equipped with an ultrasonic sensor connected to an Arduino microcontroller. The ultrasonic sensor continuously monitors the fill level of the bin and transmits this data wirelessly using a Wi-Fi module to the backend system. To validate the functionality of the system, a prototype was developed and tested using a small-scale model that simulated real-world waste collection conditions. The architecture is designed to ensure seamless data flow from the sensor nodes to the cloud, enabling automated decision-making. When a bin reaches its threshold, the system triggers appropriate notifications, ensuring timely waste collection.

The notification system is powered by Firebase Cloud Messaging (FCM), which ensures that garbage van drivers receive alerts as soon as a bin is full. These notifications are sent directly to the mobile application assigned to the designated driver, allowing for immediate action. By automating the notification process, the system minimizes response delays, preventing overflowing garbage and ensuring efficient waste disposal. This approach enhances urban cleanliness and reduces the environmental impact of uncollected waste.

The Trash.ly 2.0 mobile application is designed to streamline the waste collection process for van drivers. The driver app displays pending waste collection tasks and allows drivers to mark bins as emptied once the collection is complete. The user-friendly interface ensures real-time updates and efficient task management. The admin dashboard, developed using Spring Boot, provides municipal administrators with real-time tracking of garbage collection activities and analytical insights. Through the dashboard, admins can monitor driver efficiency, track the status of bins, and optimize waste collection routes based on data-driven decision-making.

Additionally, a public feedback interface is integrated into the system, allowing local residents to report overflowing bins and provide ratings on the efficiency of garbage collection services. This feature fosters community participation and ensures that waste management efforts align with public expectations, further improving the overall cleanliness and sustainability of the urban environment.

User Interface of the Application

The user interface of Trash.ly 2.0 is designed to provide an intuitive and seamless experience for all users, including admins, van drivers, and common people. The admin dashboard offers real-time monitoring of garbage collection activities, displaying bin statuses, driver efficiency, and feedback from residents. The admin login ensures secure access to the system, allowing only authorized personnel to manage operations and make data-driven decisions.

fig 2 Main page of Application

For van drivers, the driver login screen enables secure authentication before accessing their assigned tasks. Once logged in, the driver view presents a list of pending waste collection tasks, real-time bin status updates, and an option to mark bins as emptied upon collection. This streamlined interface enhances operational efficiency and ensures timely waste disposal.

Common people, who play a crucial role in monitoring waste collection services, can securely access the system through the user login. Once logged in, the user view allows residents to check the status of local bins, provide feedback, and report overflowing waste, contributing to improved municipal waste management.

fig 3 Admin Dashboard

fig 4 User view

fig 5 User Login

fig 6 Registration

These UI components are designed with simplicity and efficiency in mind, ensuring that each user type can navigate the system effortlessly while contributing to a cleaner and smarter waste management ecosystem.

One of the critical challenges in developing Trash.ly 2.0 is ensuring real-time notification delivery, especially for van drivers who depend on these alerts to manage efficient garbage collection. Network instability can result in delayed or lost notifications, which in turn impacts the entire collection process. Addressing this requires the use of robust communication protocols and fallback mechanisms, such as temporary data storage when connectivity issues arise, to ensure that alerts are eventually delivered even if initial attempts fail.

Another significant hurdle lies in the accurate detection of when a dustbin is full. The reliance on IoT sensor data means that any inaccuracies or malfunctions can lead to false alarms or missed notifications. This issue necessitates not only the selection of high-quality sensors but also the implementation of calibration and threshold-based alert systems. By fine-tuning these systems, developers can minimize errors and provide more reliable data to the backend, ultimately resulting in a more efficient collection process.

Integration between the hardware components (such as sensors and Wi-Fi modules) and the software backend also presents a complex challenge. In a college project setting, the lack of real IoT sensor setups means that simulated data must be used for testing and demonstration purposes. This simulation, while useful, may not perfectly capture the unpredictability of real-world sensor behavior, thus posing a risk when transitioning from prototype to a real-world scenario. Ensuring seamless integration through thorough testing using tools like Postman and logging mechanisms becomes essential in bridging this gap.

User adoption remains a key challenge in Trash.ly 2.0, especially given that the project targets various stakeholders, including municipal admins, van drivers, and local residents. While the system is designed to be intuitive, persuading a diverse user base to transition from traditional methods to a digital platform requires careful consideration of usability and accessibility. The design must focus on a straightforward interface and seamless interactions, ensuring that users are not overwhelmed by complex features.

Lastly, resource constraints inherent in college projects add an extra layer of difficulty. Limited funding for hardware, hosting services, and real-world testing environments means that many components of the system must be simulated or scaled down. This restriction not only affects the breadth of testing but also the confidence in the system's performance under actual operating conditions. A modular development approach and the use of free-tier cloud services can help mitigate some of these challenges, yet they also underscore the importance of clearly communicating the theoretical versus practical aspects of the project in the final report.

Conclusion

The development of Trash.ly 2.0 marks a significant step toward efficient and automated waste management using IoT technology. By integrating ultrasonic sensors, Arduino, and Firebase Cloud Messaging, the system successfully monitors dustbin fill levels in real-time and ensures timely waste collection. The mobile application and admin dashboard provide a user-friendly interface for garbage van

drivers, municipal administrators, and local residents, enhancing communication and overall system efficiency.

Throughout the project, several challenges were encountered, such as sensor inaccuracies, notification delays, and power supply issues, which were systematically addressed through optimized algorithms, priority-based messaging, and sustainable power solutions. Despite the limitations of a controlled testing environment, the prototype was rigorously evaluated using simulated data, demonstrating its feasibility and potential scalability.

In conclusion, Trash.ly 2.0 offers a smart, data-driven approach to waste management, reducing instances of overflowing bins and improving urban cleanliness. With future enhancements such as solar-powered sensors, AI-based route optimization, and large-scale deployment, the system can serve as a practical solution for smart cities, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

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