WWW.IJRPR.COM

International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

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

RFID-Based Bus Tracking System

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ABSTRACT—

The Bus Tracking System offers a secure and streamlined method for monitoring public transportation. Using RFID technology, it facilitates real-time tracking and improves the overall efficiency of transit operations ensuring accurate tracking of their locations and improving the overall efficiency of the public transport system. RFID tags installed on buses are detected by readers installed at key locations such as bus stops or terminals, providing real-time updates on the bus's location and estimated arrival time. This system is equipped with a user-friendly interface, allowing passengers to access the bus's current location and track its progress via a mobile app or display screens at bus stations. Additionally, the system helps transport authorities monitor bus schedules, optimize routes, and ensure timely service. The proposed solution aims to reduce delays, enhance passenger experience, and increase operational efficiency. With potential future advancements, the system could be integrated with other technologies, such as GPS, for enhanced tracking and real-time updates.

Keywords— RFID, Bus Tracking, Real-Time Monitoring, Public Transport, Automation, Location Tracking, Passenger Information, Transport Optimization.

INTRODUCTION

In the modern era, ensuring the safety, efficiency, and real-time management of transportation systems is critical, particularly in environments such as school buses, public transportation, or corporate fleets. Traditional bus tracking systems often face challenges such as inefficient monitoring, lack of precise passenger data, and delayed communication with stakeholders. These limitations can compromise passenger safety, hinder route optimization, and reduce the overall reliability of transportation services. The project, "RFID-Based Bus Tracking System," aims to develop a secure, efficient, and automated solution for monitoring bus operations and passenger activities using RFID technology integrated with GPS and real-time communication capabilities. This system utilizes RFID tags assigned to passengers, enabling seamless and accurate identification as individuals board or alight from the bus. By pairing RFID data with GPS tracking, the system ensures real-time updates on bus locations and passenger statuses, addressing concerns such as delays, unauthorized access, and safety assurance for passengers. The RFID-based bus tracking system eliminates the need for manual log entries or roll calls, reducing human errors and operational inefficiencies. The integration of real-time feedback through notifications and alerts to parents, guardians, or transportation managers improves transparency and communication. Additionally, stakeholders can monitor the bus's movement and passenger activities remotely, providing a sense of security and confidence. This innovative approach ensures tamper-proof passenger identification and offers enhanced safety features such as emergency alerts and deviation warnings. Furthermore, the system supports route optimization by leveraging GPS data to minimize delays and fuel consumption, making transportation operations more sustainable and cost-effective. The RFID-based bus tracking system is adaptable to various transportation environments, from school buses to large-scale public transit systems, addressing challenges such as safety, operational inefficiency, and monitoring accuracy.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Tiwari, P., & Gupta, A. (2020) Design and Implementation of an IoT-Based "Voting System using RFID Technology". Springer. This book covers the design and implementation of an IoTbased voting system, including RFID technology and related architectures.
Described:

Tiwari and Gupta's (2020) paper propose an innovative solution for modernizing the electoral process using RFID for voter identification and IoT for secure data management and real-time vote monitoring. This combination of technologies significantly enhances the speed, security, and transparency of elections, making the process more efficient and reducing the risk of fraud. This system is especially useful in contexts where voter authentication and data security are critical, and the integration of IoT provides the ability to monitor elections remotely, offering better accessibility and transparency Traditional voting systems are often prone to fraud, errors, and delays in the election process. They are also cumbersome, involving manual efforts in both registration and vote counting. The paper addresses the need for an automated, secure, and efficient voting system. The proposed system leverages RFID for voter authentication and IoT for data storage and real-time monitoring.

Patel, S., & Patel, H. (2021). RFID-Based Voting System: Design, Implementation, and Applications. Wiley-IEEE Press. This reference explores the application of RFID in voting systems and how RFID technology is integrated with other IoT devices for secure and accurate voting.

Described:

The RFID-Based Voting System proposed by Patel and Patel (2021) demonstrates a promising approach to modernizing electoral systems. By combining RFID for secure voter identification with IoT devices for real-time vote management and monitoring, the system ensures accurate, secure, and efficient voting processes. The integration of these technologies not only addresses the challenges of traditional voting systems but also provides a scalable and costeffective solution for future elections. The paper highlights the growing need for modernized election systems that can improve voter authentication, prevent fraud, and increase efficiency in the voting process. Traditional voting methods, such as paper ballots, are prone to errors, inefficiencies, and manipulation. The authors propose using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology as a solution to address these issues. RFID-based systems ensure accurate voter identification, faster authentication, and streamlined vote collection.

Jain, A., & Arora, A. (2019). RFID-Based Authentication and Voting Systems. Journal of Computer Science and Technology, 34(2), 115-124.This paper explains the integration of RFID technology for secure user authentication and vote casting in electronic voting systems.

Described:

This paper explores the application of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology in electronic voting systems. It addresses the challenges of voter authentication and ballot integrity in conventional e-voting mechanisms. The authors propose a secure and user-friendly RFID-based framework for reliable vote casting. Each voter is issued an RFID card linked to a secure database. The system verifies voter identity through RFID card scanning before granting voting access. This eliminates impersonation and ensures only authorized individuals can vote. The architecture includes microcontroller units, RFID readers, and an LCD interface. The proposed model also features real-time vote counting and monitoring. Security measures like encryption and unique ID mapping are incorporated. Experimental results demonstrate increased efficiency and reduced voting time. The system minimizes human intervention, reducing chances of manipulation. It also allows scalability for larger electoral processes. The research highlights RFID's potential to enhance democratic processes. Limitations and future improvements are also discussed. Overall, the study presents a cost-effective and secure voting solution. It is especially suitable for institutions and small-scale elections. Lee, J., & Kim, S. (2020). An Advanced **Electronic Voting System Using RFID and Blockchain Technology. International Journal of Computers and Applications, 42(5), 382-391.Discusses the use of RFID alongside block chain technology to improve the security and transparency of electronic voting systems**

Described:

This paper presents an innovative electronic voting system combining RFID and block chain technologies. The system aims to enhance security, transparency, and trust in electronic voting processes. FID is used for fast and secure voter authentication. Each voter is assigned a unique RFID card linked to their digital identity. Blockchain is implemented to ensure vote integrity and immutability. Once a vote is cast, it is encrypted and recorded on a decentralized blockchain ledger. This prevents tampering, duplication, and unauthorized access to voting data. The system architecture includes RFID readers, secure nodes, and cryptographic protocols. A consensus mechanism validates and confirms vote entries across the network. Blockchain enables endto-end verifiability without compromising voter anonymity. The authors conduct simulations to test the system's performance under different scenarios. Results show improved efficiency, transparency, and resistance to cyber-attacks. The model reduces dependency on centralized authorities. It also provides a transparent audit trail for all vote transactions. Voter privacy is protected through encryption and digital signature techniques. The study emphasizes the importance of combining physical and digital security layers. This dual technology approach strengthens the credibility of voting systems. The system is suitable for national and institutional-level elections. Challenges like scalability and cost are acknowledged with suggestions for future work. The paper concludes that RFID and block chain can revolutionize digital democracy. It offers a secure, trustworthy, and modern voting alternative.

Smith, R. (2018). ESP32: Internet of Things Projects with Micro Python. Pack Publishing. This book provides comprehensive knowledge on the ESP32, detailing how it can be used for IoT applications, including integration with RFID systems.

Described:

This book offers an in-depth guide to developing IoT projects using the ESP32 microcontroller. It focuses on programming the ESP32 with Micro Python, a lightweight Python implementation. The author introduces the core features and capabilities of the ESP32 chip. Readers are guided through setting up the development environment for Micro Python. The book covers key IoT concepts such as sensor integration, wireless communication, and automation. It provides hands-on projects to build practical skills in real-time data handling. One major focus is using ESP32 in combination with RFID modules. The book explains how RFID readers can be interfaced with ESP32 for identification systems. These applications include smart access control, attendance tracking, and security systems. It also covers working with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and cloud services for IoT data exchange. MQTT protocol and REST APIs are used for remote monitoring and control. Projects are presented with clear schematics, wiring diagrams, and source code examples. The author emphasizes low-power operation and real-time responsiveness. Readers also learn debugging techniques and performance optimization tips. Security practices for IoT systems are discussed, including data encryption and secure boot. The book is suitable for students, hobbyists, and professionals entering IoT development. Its project based approach enhances learning by doing. By the end, readers can confidently build and deploy IoT systems using ESP32 and MicroPython. It bridges the gap between embedded systems and modern networked applications. RFID integration makes it especially useful for identity and automation projects. The book empowers readers to innovate with ESP32 in real-world scenarios.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed system utilizes Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to enable accurate and efficient real-time monitoring of buses and passenger management. The system uses an ESP32 microcontroller as the central control unit, which coordinates the operations of RFID scanners, GPS modules, communication interfaces, and the central server. The ESP32 is selected for its built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities, ensuring seamless communication across different components in the system. The bus tracking process begins with the scanning of the RFID tag by passengers when they board or de board the bus. The RFID scanner reads The ESP32 reads the tag's unique identifier and checks it against a preloaded database to confirm the passenger's identity. It also logs the time of boarding or alighting. This information is then transmitted to a backend server for live monitoring. At the same time, the GPS module updates the current location of the bus, which is also sent to the server to enable real-time tracking. Simultaneously, the GPS module provides the current location of the bus, which is transmitted to the server, allowing for real-time monitoring of the bus's route and position. The system updates the central server and the onboard display with information such as the next stop, current location, and the number of passengers on board. The system also incorporates a notification mechanism, sending alerts to the relevant authorities or parents when passengers board or deboard, or when the bus deviates from its route. This ensures passenger safety and effective route management. By utilizing RFID for passenger authentication and GPS for real-time location tracking, the proposed methodology addresses issues such as manual tracking errors, delays, and security concerns in traditional bus management systems. The RFID-Based Bus Tracking System ensures a smooth, secure, and efficient tracking process, improving passenger safety and enhancing overall bus service management.

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