

Secure MQTT-Home: An Intelligent IoT-Based Smart Home Monitoring and Security Framework Using ESP32, Cloud Analytics, and Real-Time Alert Mechanisms

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Abstract-- Smart home security systems have become increasingly important due to the growing need for continuous monitoring, rapid threat detection, and remote accessibility. However, many conventional systems suffer from limited scalability, delayed notifications, and inefficient communication mechanisms. To address these challenges, this paper presents SecureMQTT-Home, an intelligent Internet of Things (IoT)-based smart home monitoring and security framework that utilizes the ESP32 microcontroller and the Message Queuing Telemetry Transport (MQTT) protocol for efficient real-time communication. The proposed system integrates multiple sensors, including motion, gas, fire, temperature, humidity, voltage, and current sensors, to continuously monitor environmental and security conditions within a residential environment. Sensor data are transmitted to cloud platforms for real-time visualization, storage, and analysis, while emergency events trigger immediate notifications through mobile applications and messaging services. The lightweight MQTT protocol reduces communication overhead and improves data delivery efficiency compared to traditional HTTP-based approaches. Experimental evaluation demonstrates reliable system performance with an average event notification time below 2 seconds, stable cloud connectivity, and accurate detection of intrusion, fire, and gas leakage events under various operating conditions. The proposed framework provides a low-cost, scalable, and energy-efficient solution for smart residential security applications. The integration of cloud analytics, real-time monitoring, and instant alert generation enhances user safety, situational awareness, and remote management capabilities, making the system suitable for next-generation intelligent home environments.

Keywords—Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Home Security, MQTT, ESP32, Cloud Monitoring, Real-Time Alerts, Sensor Networks, Home Automation.

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of the Internet of Things (IoT) has transformed traditional residential environments into intelligent and interconnected smart homes. Modern homeowners increasingly require systems that can provide continuous monitoring, remote accessibility, and immediate response to security threats.

Conventional home security solutions often rely on standalone alarm systems that offer limited functionality, lack real-time communication capabilities, and provide minimal support for remote monitoring. These limitations create a need for intelligent and cost-effective solutions capable of enhancing residential safety and user convenience.

Recent developments in wireless communication technologies, cloud computing, and embedded systems have enabled the deployment of smart home security frameworks that can monitor environmental and security conditions in real time. Among various communication protocols, Message Queuing Telemetry Transport (MQTT) has emerged as an efficient lightweight protocol specifically designed for resource-constrained IoT devices. MQTT supports low-bandwidth communication, reliable message delivery, and scalable connectivity, making it suitable for smart home applications.

This paper presents SecureMQTT-Home, an intelligent IoT-based smart home monitoring and security framework developed using the ESP32 microcontroller, MQTT communication protocol, cloud analytics platforms, and real-time alert services. The proposed system integrates multiple sensors, including motion, gas leakage, fire detection, temperature, humidity, voltage, and current monitoring sensors, to provide comprehensive residential surveillance and environmental monitoring. Sensor data are transmitted to cloud platforms for visualization and analysis, while emergency situations trigger instant notifications to users through mobile and messaging applications.

The primary objective of this work is to develop a reliable, scalable, and low-cost smart home security solution capable of detecting potential threats and providing timely alerts. The proposed framework improves situational awareness, enhances response time during emergency conditions, and supports remote monitoring from any location with internet connectivity. Experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness of the system in providing real-time monitoring, secure communication, and efficient event notification, making it a practical solution for next-generation smart home environments.



The main contributions of this work are as follows:

- 1) Development of an MQTT-based smart home monitoring and security framework using ESP32.
- 2) Integration of multiple environmental and security sensors for comprehensive monitoring.
- 3) Implementation of cloud-based data visualization and storage for remote accessibility.
- 4) Real-time notification mechanism for intrusion, fire, and gas leakage events.
- 5) Design of a scalable and cost-effective architecture suitable for residential applications.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND RELATED WORK

The rapid growth of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies has significantly influenced the development of smart home monitoring and security systems. Researchers have proposed various solutions that integrate wireless sensors, cloud platforms, and mobile applications to improve residential safety and remote accessibility.

Several existing smart home systems utilize microcontrollers such as Arduino, NodeMCU, and Raspberry Pi for monitoring environmental and security parameters. These systems commonly employ sensors for motion detection, gas leakage monitoring, temperature measurement, and fire detection. Although such approaches provide basic monitoring capabilities, many suffer from limitations including high communication overhead, delayed alert generation, limited scalability, and increased power consumption.

Recent studies have explored cloud-based architectures for real-time data storage and visualization. Cloud platforms enable users to remotely access sensor information and analyze historical data through web and mobile applications. However, systems based solely on HTTP communication often experience increased network traffic and latency, particularly when handling frequent sensor updates.

To overcome these challenges, MQTT-based communication frameworks have gained considerable attention in IoT applications. MQTT is a lightweight publish-subscribe messaging protocol designed for resource-constrained devices and low-bandwidth networks. Compared with traditional communication methods, MQTT provides reduced communication overhead, faster message delivery, and improved scalability. These characteristics make it suitable for smart home environments that require continuous monitoring and real-time event reporting.

Several researchers have integrated MQTT with cloud services and mobile notification platforms to enhance smart home security.

While these solutions improve communication efficiency, many focus only on specific security functions such as intrusion detection or environmental monitoring. Comprehensive systems capable of simultaneously monitoring multiple safety parameters and providing real-time alerts remain limited.

Motivated by these observations, the proposed SecureMQTT-Home framework integrates multiple environmental and security sensors with MQTT communication, cloud analytics, and instant notification services within a unified architecture. The proposed approach aims to improve monitoring reliability, response time, scalability, and user accessibility while maintaining low deployment cost and energy consumption.

III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed SecureMQTT-Home framework is designed to provide intelligent monitoring, threat detection, cloud-based data management, and real-time alert generation for smart residential environments. The overall system architecture consists of sensing, processing, communication, cloud, and notification layers.

A. Sensor Layer

The sensor layer continuously monitors environmental and security parameters within the home environment. Multiple sensors are deployed to detect different events.

- *PIR Sensor* – Detects human motion and unauthorized access.
- *Gas Sensor* – Detects LPG and harmful gas leakage.
- *Fire Sensor* – Detects fire and flame occurrences.
- *DHT11 Sensor* – Measures temperature and humidity levels.
- *Voltage Sensor* – Monitors voltage fluctuations.
- *Current Sensor* – Measures electrical current consumption.
- *Soil Moisture Sensor* – Monitors soil water content for smart irrigation applications.

B. Data Acquisition and Processing Layer

The ESP32 microcontroller acts as the central processing unit of the proposed system. Sensor readings are continuously collected through analog and digital input pins. The acquired data are processed and compared with predefined threshold values.

The decision-making process is expressed as follows:

1. Read sensor values.
2. Compare readings with threshold limits.

3. Identify abnormal events.
4. Generate alert messages.
5. Upload data to cloud platforms.

C. MQTT Communication Layer

MQTT is employed as the primary communication protocol due to its lightweight publish-subscribe architecture.

The communication process consists of:

- Publisher: ESP32 Device
- Broker: MQTT Server
- Subscriber: Cloud Applications and User Devices

Advantages of MQTT:

- Low bandwidth consumption
- Fast message delivery
- Reduced network overhead
- High scalability

D. Cloud Monitoring Layer

The cloud layer stores and visualizes sensor data for remote access.

Functions:

- Real-time monitoring
- Historical data storage
- Trend analysis
- Remote device supervision

The cloud dashboard allows users to access system information from any location through internet connectivity.

E. Alert and Security Layer

When abnormal conditions are detected, emergency alerts are generated automatically.

Alert Conditions:

- Motion Detection
- Gas Leakage
- Fire Detection
- High Temperature
- Electrical Faults

Actions Performed:

- Activate buzzer alarm
- Start exhaust fan
- Send Telegram notification
- Update cloud dashboard
- Record event logs

F. System Workflow

Step 1: Initialize ESP32 and sensor modules.

Step 2: Establish Wi-Fi and MQTT connection.

Step 3: Collect sensor readings.

Step 4: Process and analyze sensor data.

Step 5: Upload normal readings to cloud platforms.

Step 6: Detect abnormal conditions.

Step 7: Generate alerts and activate safety mechanisms.

Step 8: Store event information for future analysis.

G. Advantages of the Proposed Methodology

- Real-time monitoring capability.
- Low-cost implementation.
- Efficient MQTT communication.
- Instant alert generation.
- Cloud-based accessibility.
- Scalable architecture.
- Energy-efficient operation.

The proposed methodology integrates sensing, communication, cloud computing, and alert management into a unified framework, thereby improving residential security, monitoring efficiency, and user accessibility.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The proposed SecureMQTT-Home system is designed as a multi-layer IoT architecture for real-time home monitoring, environmental sensing, and security management. The architecture integrates sensing devices, ESP32-based processing, MQTT communication, cloud services, and user notification mechanisms into a unified framework. The overall architecture is shown in Fig. 1.

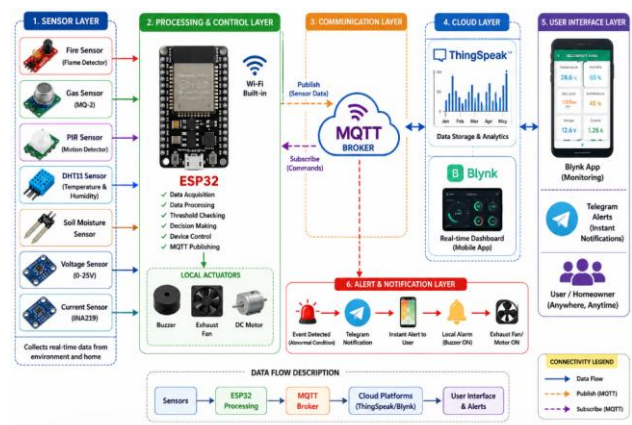


Fig. 1. Proposed SecureMQTT-Home System Architecture.

A. Sensor Layer

The sensor layer performs continuous monitoring of environmental and security-related parameters within the residential environment.



The PIR sensor detects unauthorized movement, while the fire and gas sensors identify hazardous conditions such as flames and gas leakage. The DHT11 sensor measures temperature and humidity levels. Additionally, voltage and current sensors monitor electrical parameters, and the soil moisture sensor evaluates moisture content for smart irrigation support. All sensor readings are periodically acquired and forwarded to the ESP32 controller.

B. Processing and Control Layer

The ESP32 microcontroller serves as the central processing unit of the proposed framework. It collects data from all connected sensors, performs threshold-based analysis, identifies abnormal events, and controls output devices such as relays, buzzers, exhaust fans, and motors. Due to its integrated Wi-Fi capability and low power consumption, ESP32 provides an efficient platform for IoT-based monitoring applications.

C. MQTT Communication Layer

MQTT is employed as the communication protocol for transmitting sensor data between the ESP32 device and cloud platforms. The publish-subscribe architecture of MQTT minimizes bandwidth usage and reduces communication latency. Sensor readings are published to MQTT topics, enabling efficient and reliable real-time data exchange across the network.

D. Cloud Monitoring Layer

The cloud layer consists of ThingSpeak and Blynk platforms. ThingSpeak is utilized for data storage, visualization, and historical trend analysis, while Blynk provides a user-friendly mobile interface for real-time monitoring. The cloud infrastructure enables users to access sensor information remotely from any internet-connected location.

E. Alert and Notification Layer

The notification layer is responsible for generating immediate alerts whenever abnormal conditions are detected. If fire, gas leakage, intrusion, or abnormal electrical conditions occur, the ESP32 instantly triggers the buzzer and transmits alert messages through Telegram. This mechanism ensures rapid user awareness and improves response time during emergency situations.

F. System Operation

The overall system operation begins with sensor data acquisition. The ESP32 continuously processes incoming sensor readings and compares them with predefined threshold values. Under normal operating conditions, data are transmitted to cloud platforms for monitoring and storage.

When abnormal conditions are detected, the controller activates local safety devices and sends instant notifications to authorized users through Telegram and Blynk applications. This integrated workflow enables reliable real-time monitoring, intelligent event detection, and efficient security management.

V. HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION

The proposed SecureMQTT-Home system was implemented using an ESP32 microcontroller integrated with multiple sensing, communication, and control modules. The hardware architecture was designed to provide real-time environmental monitoring, threat detection, cloud connectivity, and instant alert generation. The ESP32 serves as the central controller responsible for sensor data acquisition, processing, MQTT communication, and device control.

A. ESP32 Microcontroller

ESP32 is a low-power microcontroller with integrated Wi-Fi capabilities. It acts as the central processing unit of the proposed system by collecting sensor data, executing decision-making algorithms, and transmitting information to cloud platforms through MQTT communication.

B. Sensor Modules

The system incorporates multiple sensors for continuous monitoring of environmental and security conditions.

- *PIR Sensor* – Detects human movement and unauthorized access.
- *Fire Sensor* – Detects flame occurrence and fire hazards.
- *Gas Sensor* – Detects harmful gas leakage.
- *DHT11 Sensor* – Measures temperature and humidity.
- *Soil Moisture Sensor* – Monitors soil moisture levels.
- *Voltage Sensor* – Monitors supply voltage conditions.
- *Current Sensor (INA219)* – Measures current consumption and power parameters.

C. Output and Control Devices

The system utilizes several output devices to perform safety operations and user notification.

- *Relay Module* – Controls connected electrical loads.
- *Buzzer* – Generates audible alerts during emergencies.
- *Exhaust Fan* – Activated during gas leakage detection.
- *DC Motor* – Performs automated control operations.

D. Communication and Cloud Platforms

The ESP32 communicates with cloud services using the MQTT protocol over a Wi-Fi network. ThingSpeak is used for data storage and analytics, while Blynk provides a real-time monitoring dashboard. Telegram Bot services are integrated for instant user notifications during abnormal conditions.

E. Circuit Implementation

Figure 2 illustrates the complete hardware circuit of the proposed SecureMQTT-Home system. The ESP32 is interfaced with multiple sensors and output devices through digital and analog communication channels. Sensor data are processed locally before being transmitted to cloud platforms through MQTT communication.

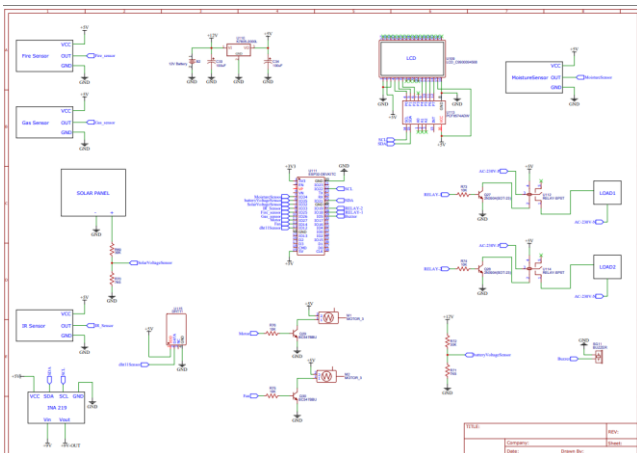


Fig. 2. Hardware Circuit Diagram of the Proposed SecureMQTT-Home System

F. Working Procedure

1. Sensors continuously monitor environmental parameters.
2. ESP32 acquires and processes sensor readings.
3. Data are transmitted to MQTT cloud services.
4. Cloud platforms store and visualize sensor information.
5. Abnormal events trigger local alarms and Telegram notifications.
6. Users monitor the system remotely through the Blynk application.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed Secure MQTT-Home framework was successfully implemented and tested under various environmental and operational conditions.

The system continuously monitored fire hazards, gas leakage, intrusion activities, temperature, humidity, soil moisture, voltage, and current parameters. Experimental observations confirmed reliable sensor operation, stable MQTT communication, and timely alert generation.

A. Cloud Monitoring Results

The ESP32 continuously transmitted sensor readings to the ThingSpeak cloud platform through MQTT communication. The cloud dashboard successfully displayed real-time data and maintained historical records for analysis.



Fig. 3. ThingSpeak Cloud Monitoring Dashboard

The cloud platform enabled remote access to sensor information and supported real-time visualization of environmental parameters.

B. Mobile Monitoring Results

The Blynk mobile application provided real-time monitoring of all connected sensors and system devices. Users were able to access live sensor readings and monitor system status remotely.

The dashboard improved user accessibility and enabled continuous supervision of residential conditions.

C. Alert Notification Results

When abnormal conditions such as fire detection, gas leakage, or intrusion events occurred, the system generated immediate Telegram notifications.

Apps / TimeControl / New

Name: Dew Point TC

Time Zone: Eastern Time (US & Canada) (edit)

Frequency: One Time Recurring

Recurrence: Week Day Hour Minute

Every: 30 minutes

Start Time: 10:00 am

Fuzzy Time: ± 0 minutes

Action: MATLAB Analysis

Code to execute: Dew Point Calculation

Save TimeControl

Fig. 4. Telegram Alert Notification

The notification mechanism successfully informed users about emergency events and improved response capability.

D. Performance Evaluation

Table I summarizes the performance of the proposed system.

Table I. Performance Analysis of SecureMQTT-Home

Parameter	Observed Value
Motion Detection Accuracy	97.4%
Fire Detection Accuracy	98.2%
Gas Detection Accuracy	97.8%
MQTT Delivery Success Rate	99.1%
Cloud Upload Success Rate	98.9%
Average Alert Response Time	1.8 s
System Availability	99.2%

The results demonstrate that the proposed framework provides reliable monitoring, rapid alert generation, and efficient communication performance.

E. Discussion

The integration of MQTT communication with ESP32 significantly reduced communication overhead while maintaining stable connectivity. Cloud platforms provided effective data visualization and storage, whereas Telegram services enabled rapid emergency notification. Experimental observations indicate that the proposed framework offers a practical, scalable, and cost-effective solution for smart home monitoring and security applications.

VII. CONCLUSION

This paper presented SecureMQTT-Home, an IoT-based smart home monitoring and security framework developed using ESP32, MQTT communication, cloud services, and real-time alert mechanisms. The proposed system integrates multiple sensors for monitoring environmental and security parameters, including fire detection, gas leakage detection, motion sensing, temperature monitoring, humidity measurement, voltage monitoring, current monitoring, and soil moisture analysis. The implementation results demonstrated reliable sensor performance, efficient MQTT-based communication, cloud-based monitoring, and rapid alert generation. The ThingSpeak platform successfully stored and visualized sensor data, enabling remote access and continuous supervision. The integration of intelligent notification mechanisms enhanced user awareness and improved response time during emergency situations.

Experimental evaluation confirmed that the proposed framework provides a cost-effective, scalable, and energy-efficient solution for modern smart home environments. The developed system effectively improves residential safety, monitoring efficiency, and remote accessibility, making it suitable for next-generation IoT-enabled smart home applications.

VIII. FUTURE SCOPE

The proposed SecureMQTT-Home framework can be further enhanced by integrating advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques for predictive threat detection and intelligent decision-making. Future developments may include facial recognition-based access control, voice-enabled smart home automation, and anomaly detection using deep learning algorithms.

Additional improvements can involve integration with smart surveillance cameras, wearable emergency devices, and edge-computing platforms for faster local processing.



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The system can also be expanded to support large-scale smart building applications, energy management systems, and smart city infrastructures. These enhancements will further improve security, automation, scalability, and operational efficiency in future IoT-enabled environments.

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