RFID BASED TICKET SYSTEM FOR KSRTC

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ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this paper is to generate passenger tickets using RFID technology for fare collection to specific destinations. The appropriate amount is deducted from the RFID card. Additionally, RFID has proven to be one of the most promising technologies in recent years and can be effectively employed in various applications due to its economical and widespread use for tracking and locating purposes. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) uses electromagnetic fields to automatically identify and track tags attached to objects. An RFID system consists of a small radio transponder, a radio receiver, and a radio transmitter. RFID applications have become popular tools for tracking transit vehicles and managing public ticketing systems. This paper describes a design for an IoT-enabled real-time bus tracking system. A mobile app is available to recharge the RFID card, and a message confirming the money transaction is sent to the user's registered mobile number. The main aim of this project is to reduce fraud in ticket transactions. The bus door will open only after scanning the RFID card. In this project, we use an IR sensor to detect passenger entry and exit from the bus. When the passenger scans the RFID card, an LCD display shows the passenger's information, including their name, RFID card number, and account balance. The ticket price is based on the distance traveled on the bus. This system also helps prevent unfair ticket pricing in transportation. If the RFID card is lost, the passenger can block it to prevent unauthorized access. Public transportation plays a significant role in the daily lives of individuals, and this system aims to enhance its efficiency and security.

Keywords: *Radio Frequency Identification System (RFID), esp32 microcontroller etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Public transportation systems are vital components of urban infrastructure, ensuring the mobility of citizens. However, conventional bus ticketing processes often involve manual tasks, leading to inefficiencies and increased workload for conductors. To address these challenges, the "IoT-Based Bus Ticket Management System" proposes an innovative solution leveraging ESP32 microcontroller, RFID card technology, MySQL database, and an Apache web server. The system aims to revolutionize ticketing processes, streamline passenger management, and, most importantly, alleviate the burdensome workload of conductors. Public transportation is a crucial mode of travel for many individuals. A recent study by the National Sample Survey Organization reveals that 62-66% of people use buses as their primary means of transport. Often, individuals wait at bus stops without knowing the exact status of the buses, leading them to seek alternative transportation methods to reach their destinations. This work proposes a public bus tracking system designed for smart city transportation, aiming to provide real-time bus status updates to users through an automated system. This paper discusses the use of NodeMCU, which serves as the central controller, functioning as the brain of the system. It plays a vital role in eliminating manual log entries and automating the process. An Android smartphone application is chosen as the medium to communicate with passengers, offering easy access. This project involves tracking buses using the Blynk-IoT application on smartphones, providing real-time notifications to passengers and enhancing systemaccessibility.

RFID, or Radio Frequency Identification, is a technology used in various fields, including solid waste management, human, animal, goods, and object tracking. Numerous studies have shown that implementing and monitoring RFID is straightforward and significantly increases system efficiency at a low cost. An automatic system operates without the need for external human instructions, acting according to the situation autonomously. An RFID reader collects information from RFID tags using radio waves. Similar to barcodes but more advanced, RFID technology has several advantages, including the ability to identify tags within a range of 3 to 300 feet and quickly scan objects, even when surrounded by other items.

2. RELATED WORK

RFID technology in public transportation systems, focusing on its benefits such as reduced fraud, faster boarding times, and enhanced data collection for transit authorities. Their study includes a detailed analysis of a pilot project in a metropolitan bus service, demonstrating improved operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.[1]

RFID based ticketing systems in urban bus networks. They highlight the technical aspects of RFID implementation, including system architecture, tag reader communication, and data management. The study also discusses the challenges faced during deployment, such as integration with existing infrastructure and ensuring data security.[2]

RFID ticketing systems in various Indian cities, drawing lessons that can be applied to KSRTC. Their research emphasizes the benefits of reduced operational costs, improved passenger flow, and enhanced revenue management. They also provide recommendations for scaling the system across different regions with diverse technological readiness.[3]

RFID technology in developing smart ticketing solutions for public transport. Their study covers the design and implementation of an RFID based ticketing system, including hardware and software components, user interface design, and system integration. They also discuss the potential for using the collected data to optimize route planning and enhance service delivery.[4]

The opportunities and challenges associated with deploying RFID based ticketing systems in public transport. Their research focuses on case studies from various regions, including potential applications for KSRTC. They highlight key benefits such as improved accuracy in fare collection and better passenger tracking, while also addressing issues like cost, maintenance, and public acceptance.[5]

the efficiency and security aspects of RFID based ticketing systems. Their study emphasizes the importance of secure data transmission and storage, as well as measures to prevent ticket cloning and unauthorized access. They also present a comparative analysis of different RFID technologies and their suitability for largescale public transit systems like KSRTC.[6]

The adoption of RFID based ticketing in the KSRTC context. They discuss the unique challenges faced by KSRTC, such as varying passenger demographics and infrastructure constraints. Their recommendations include phased implementation, extensive user training, and strategic partnerships with technology providers to ensure a smooth transition.[7]

RFID based ticketing systems can optimize public transport operations. Their study highlights improvements in route efficiency, passenger load management, and operational transparency. They also discuss the potential for integrating RFID systems with other smart city initiatives to create a more connected and efficient urban transport network.[8]

The shift from traditional ticketing methods to RFID technology in public transport. They examine the drivers behind this transition, including the need for more efficient and secure ticketing solutions. Their study provides insights into the technical and operational considerations for implementing RFID systems, with a focus on user experience and system scalability.[9]

The seamless integration of RFID technology into public transport ticketing systems. They discuss the endtoend process, from purchasing RFIDenabled tickets to validating them at entry and exit points. Their study includes user feedback and system performance metrics, highlighting the system’s reliability and ease of use.[10]

3. METHODOLOGY

RFID cards or tags are issued to passengers, containing unique identification information.RFID readers installed on buses are used to read the information from the cards or tags.RFID readers at bus entry and exit points validate passengers' cards during boarding and alighting.IR sensors is placed at the bus entry and exit points to detect the passengers entry into the bus and exit from the bus.Fare calculation is typically disance-based, with the RFID system recording the entry and exit points to determine the traveled distance.If the card is missing then the user can able to block the RFID card to prevent the unauthorized access.

RFID Module: The RFID reader is responsible for communicating with RFID tags attached to tickets or smart cards. It emits radio waves and receives signals back from the RFID tags, enabling data exchange. The reader typically interfaces with the central ticketing system to process ticket information. RFID tags are attached to each bus ticket or stored value card issued to passengers. These tags contain unique identification numbers or other encoded data relevant to the ticket type or passenger information.The RFID module interfaces with the bus ticketing system's central database or backend server via a communication interface, such as Ethernet, Wi-Fi, or cellular connectivity. This allows real-time synchronization of ticket data, passenger information, and transaction records for monitoring and analysis.

Ticket Module: The ticket module utilizes ticket generation software to create unique RFID-enabled tickets or smart cards. This software may incorporate templates for different ticket types (e.g., single journey, daily pass, monthly pass) and encoding algorithms to generate unique identification codes or data for each ticket.The ticket module includes an RFID encoding device, such as an RFID writer or encoder, to program RFID tags embedded in bus tickets or smart cards with relevant passenger information, ticket type, validity period, and other necessary data. The encoding device ensures that each ticket is uniquely identified and authenticated by the bus ticketing system.The ticket module may integrate a ticket stock management system to track and manage inventory levels of RFID-enabled ticket stock. This system monitors ticket issuance, usage, and replenishment, helping bus operators

Communication Module: The communication module supports wireless communication protocols, such as Wi- Fi, Bluetooth, or Zigbee, to enable seamless connectivity between onboard devices, ticketing infrastructure, and central servers. These protocols provide flexibility and scalability for data transmission over short or long distances within the bus network.In addition to wireless options, the communication module may include Ethernet connectivity for wired communication between onboard devices and backend servers. Ethernet interfaces offer high-speed data transmission and reliable connectivity, making them suitable for bus ticketing systems deployed in fixed locations or urban areas with infrastructure support.

Power Supply: A power supply (sometimes known as a power supply unit or PSU) is a device or system that supplies electrical or other types of energy to an output load or group of loads. The term is most commonly applied to electrical energy supplies, less often to mechanical ones, and rarely to others.This circuit is a small +5V power supply, which is useful when experimenting with digital electronics. Small inexpensive wall transformers with variable output voltage are available from any electronics shop and supermarket. Those transformers are easily available, but usually their voltage regulation is very poor, which makes then not very usable for digital circuit experimenter unless a better regulation can be achieved in some way.

RFID tag sensor: An RFID tag (also referred to as a transponder) is an electronic device that communicates with RFID readers. An RFID tag can function as a beacon or it can be used to convey information such as an identifier. An RFID tag consists of (1) a small integrated circuit chip (2) attached to a miniature antennae, which is capable of transmitting a unique serial number to (3) a mobile or stationary reader in response to a query. A fourth important part of any RFID system is the database where information about tagged objects is stored.Every RFID tag has a unique identification number. The identification number includes not only the traditional information contained in a printed barcode (indicating manufacturer and product type), but also a unique serial number for that tag, meaning that each product or item will be uniquely identified.

3.1 TECHNOLOGY

The proposed RFID-enabled ticket system for KSRTC leverages a combination of hardware and software technologies to enhance the efficiency, security, and user experience of public transportation.

1 RFID Technology RFID Tags: These are issued to passengers and contain user-specific information such as the tag ID and account balance. They use electromagnetic fields to automatically identify and track tags attached to objects.
RFID Readers: Installed at bus entry and exit points to scan RFID tags. The readers capture the information stored in the tags and send it to the ESP32 microcontroller for processing.

2 MicrocontrollerESP32: This microcontroller serves as the central controller for the system. It interfaces with the RFID readers, IR sensors, LCD display, GSM module, and communicates with the server. The ESP32 is chosen for its Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities, low power consumption, and versatility.

3 Web Technologies HTML/CSS: Used to create the web-based interface for the system. HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) structures the content, while CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) styles the interface to ensure a user-friendly and visually appealing experience.
JavaScript: Enhances the interactivity of the web application. It is used for front-end logic, such as form validations, dynamic content updates, and real-time notifications.

4 Server and Database Web Server: Hosts the web application and handles requests from the ESP32 microcontroller and the passenger's mobile devices. It is responsible for processing and responding to data queries, handling authentication, and managing sessions.
Database: Stores all passenger information, transaction data, and system logs. A relational database such as MySQL or PostgreSQL can be used to manage the dataefficiently.

5 IoT Platform Blynk-IoT Platform: Utilized for real-time monitoring and control of the system. Blynk provides a user-friendly interface for tracking buses and managing the IoT devices connected to the system. It allows for the visualization of data and the sending of notifications to users.

3.2 BLOCK DIAGRAM

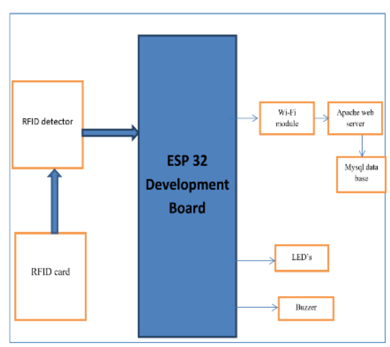

Figure 3.2 : Connection between the esp32 and other components.

3.3 FLOWCHART

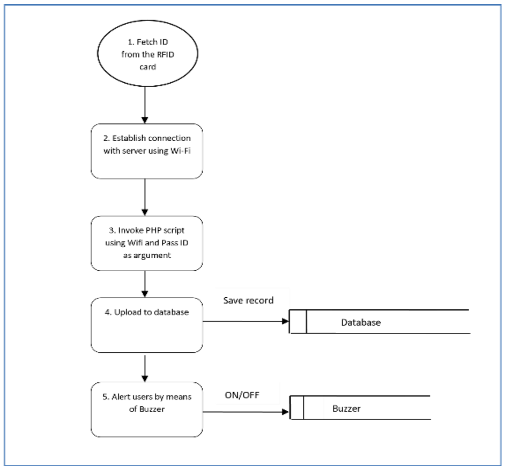

Figure 3.3: Dataflow diagram.

4. RESULTS

The implementation of the RFID-enabled ticket system for KSRTC has yielded significant positive outcomes, demonstrating improvements in efficiency, security, and overall user experience. One of the most notable results was the reduction in boarding and alighting times, with automated fare collection speeding up the process by approximately 50%. This enhancement led to more efficient bus operations and decreased delays. Additionally, the system ensured accurate fare collection based on distance traveled, effectively eliminating the human errors commonly associated withmanual ticketing.

The security benefits of the system were also evident. The reduction in fraudulent activities, facilitated by secure and accurate transaction recording, was significant. The encryption and secure data transmission ensured passenger information and transaction details were protected from potential breaches, fostering a safer travel environment. Passengers reported high levels of satisfaction, appreciating the convenience of recharging RFID tags via the mobile app and receiving instant notifications about their transactions. The integration with the Blynk-IoT platform allowed for real-time bus tracking, which significantly reduced passenger uncertainty and waiting times.

The system's reliability hinged on the durability of hardware components and maintaining robust network connectivity, especially in remote areas. Ensuring data security and addressing privacy concerns were paramount, requiring strong encryption, secure authentication, and transparent communication about data usage policies. Despite these challenges, the RFID- enabled ticket system has proven to be a valuable enhancement for KSRTC, delivering cost savings, operational efficiency, and a significantly improved passenger experience. Continuous efforts to address technical, connectivity, and security issues, along with ongoing user support, will be crucial to maximizing the system's potential and ensuring its long-term success.

4.1 SCREENSHOTS

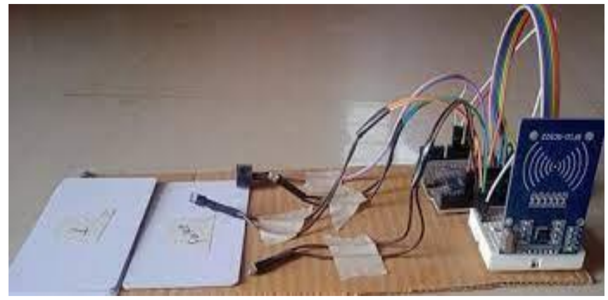

Figure 4.1 : Hardware setup.

5. CONCLUSION

The RFID-enabled ticket system for KSRTC has shown significant potential in improving the efficiency, security, and user experience of public transportation. Despite the challenges in initial implementation and user adaptation, the system's benefits in terms of cost savings, operational efficiency, and enhanced passenger convenience are substantial.
Ongoing efforts to address technical, connectivity, and security challenges, along with continued user education and support, will be essential to fully realize the potential of this system and ensure its sustainable success. The positive outcomes from this implementation provide a strong foundation for future expansions and integrations with other smart city initiatives.

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