SMART SHOES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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College: H.K. E' S.L.N. College Of Engineering, Raichur
Branch: Department Of Computer Science And Engineering
Guide : Prof.Sumangala. Itagi
Student(s): Ms. M.C. Sindhuja
Ms. Gouthami
Ms. Archana
Ms. C. Mahitha Sree

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Introduction:

The "Smart Shoe for visually impaired System with Blynk Integration" is a cutting-edge wearable solution aimed at enhancing personal safety, navigation, and situational awareness through IoT technologies. Built around the ESP32 microcontroller, the system integrates three primary sensors: an ultrasonic proximity sensor for obstacle detection, a GPS module for real-time location tracking, and a piezoelectric sensor to measure foot pressure and generate power. Data from these sensors is processed in real-time and displayed via the Blynk mobile application, enabling users to monitor their environment and activities remotely.

This smart wearable is especially beneficial for the visually impaired, elderly individuals, and people navigating unfamiliar or hazardous environments. The ultrasonic sensor detects nearby obstacles and alerts the user using a buzzer, while the GPS module shares live location coordinates. Simultaneously, the piezoelectric sensor not only tracks physical activity but also contributes to powering the system.

The ESP32's built-in Wi-Fi enables seamless communication with the cloud, making the solution highly portable and low-power. The Smart Shoe stands as a proof of concept for wearable assistive technology, bridging safety, mobility, and smart connectivity through real-time feedback and cloud-based monitoring. This system illustrates how everyday items like shoes can be transformed into intelligent devices enhancing human ability and safety.

Objectives:

List of Four Core Objectives:

• To enhance user safety by detecting obstacles in real-time.

• To track and transmit the user's live GPS location.

• To provide real-time, remote monitoring through the Blynk app.

• To develop a cost-effective, energy-efficient, and user-friendly smart wearable.

• To monitor foot pressure using piezoelectric sensors for activity analysis.

List of Four Core Objectives:

1. Real-time obstacle detection and buzzer alert using ultrasonic sensors
2. Continuous GPS-based location tracking displayed on Blynk
3. Pressure detection through piezo sensors for motion and activity tracking
4. IoT-based remote monitoring using ESP32 and Blynk integration.

Methodology:

1. System Design and Planning

- *Requirement Analysis*: Identifying key features like obstacle detection, pressure monitoring, location tracking, and real-time alerts.
- *Hardware Selection*: Choosing ESP32, ultrasonic sensor, piezo sensors, GPS module, battery, and buzzer.
- *Software Selection*: Using Arduino IDE for firmware development and Blynk platform for real-time monitoring.

2. Hardware Integration

- *ESP32 Setup*: Programming the microcontroller for sensor communication and Wi-Fi connectivity.
- *Sensor Integration*: Connecting ultrasonic, piezo, and GPS sensors to collect obstacle, pressure, and location data.
- *Power Supply*: Integrating a rechargeable battery for continuous operation.
- *Buzzer Setup*: Providing alert sounds for obstacle detection.

3. Testing and Validation

- Sensor & Microcontroller Testing: Verifying sensor accuracy and ESP32 functionality.
- System Integration Testing: Ensuring data flow from sensors to the app works correctly.
- User Testing: Testing the smart shoe in real-life scenarios and gathering user feedback.

4. Deployment and Maintenance

- Deployment: Final system installation for real-time usage.

Post-Deployment Monitoring: Performing regular maintenance, software updates, and troubleshooting

Result and Conclusion:

The Smart Shoe successfully demonstrated its ability to detect nearby obstacles, track real-time location, and monitor walking pressure. Testing confirmed the ultrasonic sensor accurately alerted users about obstacles within 20 cm using a buzzer. The GPS module reliably transmitted location data to the Blynk app outdoors. The piezoelectric sensor produced consistent voltage readings based on foot pressure, providing insights into user activity.
The Blynk app interface efficiently displayed sensor outputs, enabling remote monitoring

with minimal latency. The ESP32 operated smoothly under real-time conditions, confirming its suitability for wearable IoT applications.
In conclusion, the Smart Shoe system is a viable, functional prototype addressing safety, navigation, and environmental awareness. It has significant potential for assistive technology, especially for the visually impaired and elderly. The successful integration of hardware, software, and mobile connectivity marks this as a practical, scalable solution for smart wearables.

Project Outcome & Industry Relevance:

The Smart Shoe system stands out as a working prototype that merges IoT with wearable technology, offering real-time feedback, location tracking, and energy harvesting. It addresses critical issues in personal mobility and safety.
Industries like healthcare, sports, logistics, and defense can benefit from this innovation. In healthcare, it can assist in elderly monitoring and gait analysis. In logistics, field workers can be tracked and protected in real time. Fitness and sports industries can adapt it for tracking and performance enhancement.
With further development, it could be mass-produced, bringing smart, connected footwear into mainstream use and creating new opportunities in the wearable tech market.

Working Model vs. Simulation/Study:

- **Working Model:** Implemented with real hardware components (ESP32, sensors, Blynk integration) and tested in real-world scenarios.
- **Simulation/Study:** Not purely theoretical; the project goes beyond simulations, involving practical deployment and validation.
  The Smart Shoe is a **functioning prototype** with tangible hardware-software integration, making it a real-world IoT solution rather than a simulated study.

Project Outcomes and Learnings:

- Developed a functional wearable integrating multiple sensors.
- Achieved real-time monitoring and user alerts via cloud and mobile.

- Gained practical experience in ESP32 programming, sensor interfacing, and app development.
- Understood power management for battery-operated IoT devices.
- Highlighted the importance of user-centric design in assistive wearables.

Future Scope

• Health **Monitoring:** Adding sensors for heart rate, temperature, and gait analysis.

• AI **Integration:** Implementing machine learning for predictive analysis and intelligent obstacle classification.

• Enhanced **Object Detection:** Replacing ultrasonic sensors with LiDAR or infrared sensors for 3D mapping.

• Emergency **Alert System:** Auto alerts to contacts during falls or injuries.

• Improved **Power Solutions:** Using energy-efficient modules and super capacitors for better energy storage.

• Smart **Ecosystem Integration:** Synchronizing with wearables like smartwatches, fitness bands, or home assistants.

• Miniaturization**:** Making components more compact for increased comfort.

• Sustainability**:** Using eco-friendly materials and enhancing piezoelectric harvesting for greener tech.