

IoT SECURITY CAMERA

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Abstract

This research paper presents the design and development of an IoT-based smart security camera system that performs real-time monitoring and automated threat detection. Unlike conventional CCTV systems that only record video and require constant human supervision, the proposed system is capable of analysing live footage using computer vision techniques. It detects motion, captures images or video, and identifies individuals by comparing their faces with a stored database. Whenever an unknown or suspicious person is detected, the system automatically sends an alert to the concerned authority through email and logs the event for future tracking. By integrating Wi-Fi connectivity, face recognition, and automated notification, the system reduces manual effort, improves response time, and enhances overall security. The proposed solution demonstrates how intelligent surveillance can transform traditional monitoring into a proactive and efficient security mechanism suitable for modern environments.

Keywords: IoT, Smart Surveillance, Face Recognition, Motion Detection, Computer Vision, Real-time Alerts.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the modern era, the rapid growth of urbanization has made security a primary concern for both residential and commercial sectors. Traditional surveillance systems, while widely deployed, often act as passive recording devices that require constant human intervention to detect anomalies [1]. The main limitation of these conventional setups is their inability to distinguish between routine movements and actual security threats in real-time. With the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence, there is a transformative shift towards autonomous monitoring solutions that can "think" and "react" without fatigue [3].

The core motivation of this research is to develop an IoT-based Smart Security Camera that bridges the gap between simple video recording and intelligent threat detection. By leveraging the YOLOv4-tiny (You Only Look Once) deep learning architecture, the system is designed to achieve high-speed object detection with significant accuracy [2]. Unlike standard motion sensors that often trigger false alarms due to environmental changes, our proposed system utilizes the OpenCV library to perform sophisticated image processing, ensuring that alerts are only generated when a human presence or unauthorized activity is confirmed [5].

What sets this intelligent framework apart is its seamless integration of edge computing and cloud communication. When a potential breach is detected, the system does not merely log the event; it actively communicates [4]. Through the Twilio API, the system bridges the physical and digital worlds by sending instantaneous SMS and email notifications to the user's registered device [7]. This ensures that the property owner remains virtually present at their premises, regardless of their geographical location [6].

By utilizing a robust hardware stack—including an Intel Core i5 processor and 8GB of RAM—the system manages complex mathematical computations locally to maintain real-time performance while using the cloud for remote alerts [8]. This research aims to provide a scalable, cost-effective, and highly reliable

security framework [9]. Ultimately, the goal is to make "Smart Security" an accessible reality, empowering users with proactive awareness and peace of mind in an increasingly unpredictable world [10].

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Title: Through the Lens: IP Camera Security & Privacy

Author: H. El-Tajet al. Year: 2025

This research provides a comprehensive analysis of the security and privacy landscape of modern IP cameras. It highlights how lens-based vulnerabilities can lead to unauthorized access and data breaches. The paper suggests advanced encryption and firmware hardening as primary defenses against emerging privacy threats in IoT-connected surveillance devices.

Title: Unmasking Vulnerabilities of Smart IoT Cameras

Author: S. Bhardwaj et al. Year: 2024

The study focuses on identifying hidden security flaws in popular smart IoT cameras. It discusses how weak authentication protocols allow attackers to gain control of camera feeds. The authors propose a security framework that includes multi-factor authentication and regular vulnerability scanning to protect end-users from cyber-attacks.

Title: Security & Privacy Evaluation of IP Camera on Shodan

Author: K. Ng and A. Mehrnezhad Year: 2024

This paper evaluates the exposure of unsecured IP cameras globally using the Shodan search engine. It reveals that thousands of cameras remain accessible due to default credentials and unpatched software. The study emphasizes the need for user awareness and automated security configuration tools to minimize public exposure.

Title: IoT Cameras Exploited in Financial Crimes

Author: D. Siwakoti et al. Year: 2024

This research explores the role of compromised IoT cameras in facilitating financial crimes, such as monitoring ATM PIN entries or unauthorized surveillance in banking sectors. It demonstrates how attackers use camera exploits to gather sensitive information, stressing the importance of physical and digital security integration in financial institutions.

Title: PETIoT: Penetration Testing IoT

Author: G. Bella et al. Year: 2023

The authors introduce a specialized penetration testing framework called PETIoT specifically for IoT devices. The paper applies this framework to smart cameras to test their resilience against common attack vectors like DDoS and Man-in-the-Middle (MitM) attacks. The findings suggest that many consumer-grade cameras lack basic penetration resistance.

Title: Survey on IoT & Embedded Firmware Security

Author: Various Authors Year: 2023

This survey provides an extensive overview of the security challenges within the embedded firmware of IoT devices. It details how outdated firmware versions serve as the weakest link in camera security. The paper advocates for the implementation of automated firmware update mechanisms to ensure long-term device safety.

Title: Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing on IP Cameras

Author: Pietro Biondi et al. Year: 2022

The study performs a detailed vulnerability assessment and penetration testing on specific camera models, such as the TP-Link Tapo C200. It identifies several critical security gaps and provides recommendations for improving security defaults. The research highlights the need for rigorous testing of diverse camera models before market release.

Title: IoT Security: End-to-End View & Case Study

Author: Z. Ling et al. Year: 2018

This work provides an end-to-end perspective on IoT security, using smart cameras as a primary case study. It tracks the data path from the camera sensor to the cloud, identifying potential leak points at each stage. The

paper concludes that securing the entire ecosystem is more effective than securing individual components in isolation.

Title: Facial Recognition & IoT Camera Vulnerabilities

Author: A. Ravula et al. Year: 2018

studied the integration of cloud APIs. Research in [6] and [7] showed how the Twilio API could be used to bridge the gap between detection and action. Their findings confirmed that sending an instant SMS or The paper discusses the intersection of facial recognition technology and IoT camera vulnerabilities. It explores how spoofing attacks can bypass recognition systems if the camera hardware is compromised. The authors recommend the use of liveness detection and spatio-temporal filters to enhance the accuracy and security of recognition systems.

Title: Automated Dynamic Firmware Analysis at Scale

Author: A. Costin et al. Year: 2015

This foundational research introduces a method for automated dynamic analysis of firmware across a large number of IoT devices. By testing thousands of firmware samples, the study identified widespread security issues in IP cameras that had been overlooked for years. It remains a key reference for understanding large-scale firmware auditing.

3.1 System Architecture

1. Sensing and Data Acquisition Layer

The first stage of the architecture involves the continuous capture of the physical environment. An HD Camera module is deployed as the primary sensing unit, which records a live video stream of the monitored area. Unlike conventional systems that store raw footage without analysis, this layer provides a real-time data feed to the processing unit.

2. Intelligent Processing Layer (YOLO & OpenCV Module)

This layer acts as the "brain" of the system. The captured video frames are processed locally on an Intel Core i5 processing unit. First, the OpenCV library is used to pre-process the frames, and then the YOLOv4-tiny deep learning model scans the frames in real-time to identify human presence. This ensures that the system only reacts to genuine security threats.

3. IoT Communication and Cloud Layer

Once a potential threat is detected, the system transitions to the communication phase. Using a WiFi/Internet gateway, the local processing unit connects to the cloud. This layer interfaces with the Twilio API, which handles the cloud-to-mobile communication, ensuring the notification reaches the user regardless of their location.

4. Automated Response and Logging Mechanism

The final layer is responsible for output and record-keeping. The system automatically triggers an instant SMS and Email notification to the owner's registered mobile device. Simultaneously, the system performs data logging by saving the event details and video snippets to a 500GB HDD for future forensic evidence.

3.2 Working Procedure

- The system operates through a seamless flow that starts with the continuous capture of HD video frames, which are then pre-processed by OpenCV to ensure image clarity. These frames are analyzed in real-time by the YOLOv4-tiny deep learning model to accurately detect human presence and filter out false alarms. Once an intruder is confirmed, the system uses a WiFi gateway to connect with the Twilio API, triggering instant SMS and email alerts to the owner's mobile device. Simultaneously, the event is logged and saved to a 500GB HDD, providing the user with both immediate notification and a permanent record for future forensic evidence.

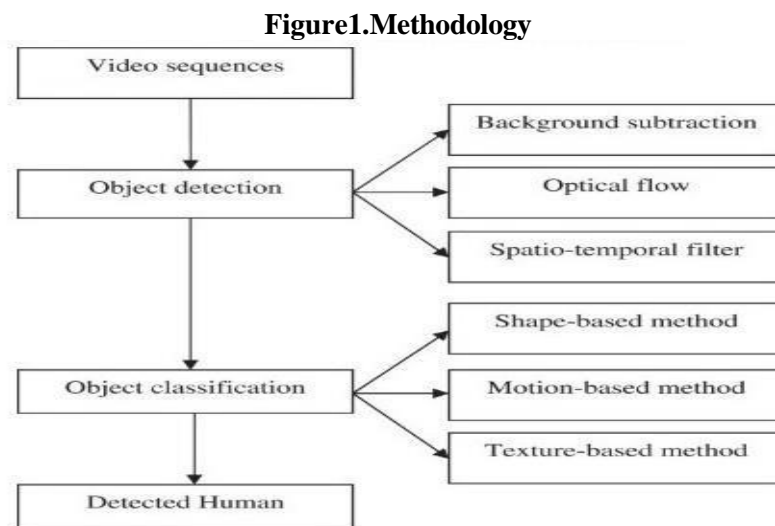
3.3 Key Features of the Proposed System

- Real-time live surveillance
- Intelligent person detection
- Reduced security labor cost
- Faster emergency response
- Secure local data storage.

4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology begins with real-time video data collection using an HD camera module installed in the monitored area. The proposed system follows a modular design approach, allowing individual components such as sensing, edge intelligence, and cloud communication to operate independently. This modularity improves system scalability and simplifies maintenance and future upgrades. Data preprocessing techniques such as noise removal and frame resizing via OpenCV are applied before analysis. The YOLOv4-tiny model generates an initial detection of objects based on motion and visual features. Deep learning layers further refine the classification by learning complex patterns from spatial and temporal data. The final output triggers the automated notification system and logs the evidence locally.

The flow diagram illustrates the working of the proposed IoT-based smart security system.



The Video sequences captured by the camera serve as the primary input. During the Object detection phase, techniques like background subtraction, optical flow, and spatio-temporal filters are utilized to identify moving entities. Once an object is isolated, it undergoes Object classification using shape-based, motion-based, and texture-based methods to distinguish between routine activity and a Detected Human. Based on this analyzed data, the system triggers the Twilio API to send real-time alerts. This automated process ensures precise threat identification, reduced false alarms, and improved home security.

Step 1: Collect live video sequences and environmental visual data using the HD camera. Step 2: Preprocess frames and apply filters for noise removal using OpenCV.

Step 3: Apply object detection methods like background subtraction to identify moving entities.

Step 4: Use object classification (YOLOv4) and texture-based methods to accurately identify human presence.

Step 5: Activate the notification and logging mechanism based on the final detection.

5. RESULTS

The proposed system demonstrates significant improvement in security monitoring efficiency compared to traditional surveillance methods. The experimental observations indicate that the system responds effectively to varying environmental conditions and lighting levels. Although the current implementation focuses on human detection for home security, the same approach can be extended to industrial monitoring or restricted zone alerts with minor modifications. Automated threat detection reduces the need for constant manual observation and ensures rapid response through instant mobile notifications. The integration of OpenCV and YOLOv4-tiny improves adaptability to different background noises and motion patterns. The system also reduces human labor dependency and supports scalable smart city or private security solutions.

6. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the proposed IoT-based smart security camera demonstrates how intelligent sensing and data-driven decision-making can significantly enhance premises monitoring and threat management. By integrating an HD camera module with OpenCV and YOLOv4-tiny deep learning algorithms, the system enables precise, real-time human detection and automated cloud-based notifications through the Twilio API. This approach minimizes human error, reduces the reliance on constant manual surveillance, and ensures that owners receive alerts based on actual human detection rather than generalized motion triggers.

Furthermore, the automation of threat detection and instant alerting contributes to faster response times, improved safety, and reliable evidence collection on a 500GB HDD. By optimizing resource utilization and lowering the rate of false alarms, the system supports sustainable and smart security practices. The integration of IoT with advanced predictive models represents a scalable and efficient solution for modern home surveillance, paving the way for smarter, technology-driven security systems in the future.

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