EcoLogic: IoT Platform for Control of Carbon Emissions

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Abstract: Today, the sensors and the Internet of Things (IoT) presence naturally in the people’s lives. Billions of interactive devices exchange information about variety of objects in the physical world. The IoT technologies affect the business processes of all major industries such as transportation, manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, etc. Despite the fact that the IoT has a positive impact to both people and industry, it also provides benefits for the environment. The IoT is recognized as a powerful tool in the fight against climate change. More specially, it has a significant potential in saving carbon emissions. Taking into account the promising areas of IoT application, this paper proposes a solution for real-time monitoring of vehicles and detection of rising levels of carbon emissions, called EcoLogic. The EcoLogic consists of hardware module that collects sensor data related to vehicles’ carbon emissions and cloud based applications for data processing, analysis and visualisation. Its primary purpose is to control the carbon emissions through smart notifications and vehicle’s power limitations.

1 INTRODUCTION

Today, the Internet of Things (IoT) is incorporated in people’s lives providing an ecosystem in which applications and services are driven by data collected from devices that interact with the physical world. The IoT paradigm exists in everyday physical objects responding to human’s motion, presence, commands and physiological behaviour. It plays a fundamental role in economic and social development. The combination of network connectivity, sensors, devices and people enable a new way of conversation between persons and machines as well as between software and hardware systems. The growth of sophisticated data analysis techniques inspired by the artificial intelligence and machine learning allows devices to anticipate, react, respond and enhance the physical world. Advanced applications are developed to collect and process large amounts of data generated by the IoT devices in all economic sectors such as transportation, agriculture, health and education. According to the IoT forecast of the International Data Corporation 30 billion connected devices are expected in the market by 2020 (MacGillivray, 2016). The economic value of IoT is evaluated around 1.46 trillion (Turner, 2016). For the same time period Gartner expects 20.8 billion connected things and 3 trillion IoT endpoint spending (Gartner, 2015).

One of the sectors that is most affected by the IoT is automotive industry. IoT technologies enable production of highly automated and connected vehicles that will change the global automotive market. Recently, tens of millions of cars are said to be connected to the Internet and their number is expected to become hundreds of millions in the near future (Automotive IT-Kongress, 2015). At the same time, mobile communication technology is recognized to have considerable potential to enable carbon emissions reduction across a variety of applications in a wide range of sectors (Stephens, Iglesias and Plotnek, 2015). According to Global e-Sustainability Initiative, 70% of the carbon savings currently being made come from the use of machine-to-machine (M2M) technologies. The greater savings comes from buildings (29%) and transportation (28%). The survey data shows that 68% of smartphone users are willing to adopt behaviours that could result in even more substantial future reductions to personal carbon emissions. IoT is pointed as a key lever to reduce the carbon emissions in a statistic of A.T. Kearney (A.T. Kearney, 2015). In particular, car sharing, automotive telematics and smart home are the most
promising cases. The current software solutions for tracking and monitoring vehicles give evidence for the efforts of using IoT technologies in automotive industry. Geotab provides a service for monitoring and analysis of vehicles using integrated hardware module that sends data to private cloud platform. The hardware module is directly connected to the onboard diagnostic system of the vehicle and collects data about fuel consumption, travelled distance and other parameters (GO7, 2017). The analysis provided by the cloud platform allows identification of vehicles with suboptimal fuel consumption (MyGeotab, 2017). Unfortunately, Geotab solution does not provide control over vehicle’s parameters and detect anomalies related to increasing rate of carbon emissions. The data logger of Madgetech provides functionality for regular monitoring of carbon dioxide levels (Data Loggers). It measures the carbon emissions in exhaust system of vehicles and sends data to private cloud platform through a wireless network. The measured data is visualized by mobile application, but further analysis are not supported. In addition, functionality for control of the carbon emissions is not provided. The CanTrack solution provides a system for real-time GPS tracking of vehicles (CanTrack GPS). Its Driver Behaviour Module support driver profiling based on 5 key driving elements including driving style, speeding and idling. The drivers are assisted to avoid traffic delays, blocked roads and accidents through real-time and directional traffic information. After a collision has been detected system alerts are generated in order to provide accurate location information to emergency services if required. A drawback of the CanTrack solution is that it works only with GPS data and does not takes into account the vehicle’s parameters related to carbon emissions.

Inspired by the low-carbon economy roadmap of European commission and the grate opportunity provided by the IoT technologies for reducing the carbon emissions, this paper proposes a solution for real-time monitoring of vehicles and detection of rising levels of carbon emissions, called EcoLogic. The proposed solution includes hardware module, which collects sensor data related to vehicle’s carbon emissions such as air pressure, air temperature and fuel mixture and sends it to a cloud-based application for further analysis. The results from the analysis are used to control the carbon emissions through smart notifications and vehicle’s power limitations.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents the architecture of EcoLogic, while Section 3 describes its components. Section 4 shows a case study that validates the feasibility of the proposed solution. Finally, section 5 concludes the paper and gives directions for future work.

## 2 ECOLOGIC ARCHITECTURE

The EcoLogic is composed of hardware modules, which are installed on vehicles and applications providing services, which are deployed on a cloud platform. Its architecture is shown in Figure 1.

![EcoLogic general architecture](image_url)
The hardware module measures several physical parameters by sensors or extracts them from the onboard diagnostic system of the vehicle. The data is sent to the cloud platform. The measured physical parameters are:
- Air/fuel ratio, which is measured by lambda sonde sensor, which is located into the exhaust system of the vehicle.
- Absolute pressure of the air that is consumed by the engine.
- Temperature of the air that is consumed by the engine.

The cloud applications are implemented as microservices, which are designed in a platform independent way in order to have the possibility for deployment on different cloud platforms. The cloud applications are communicating with a relational database, which is provided by backing service from the cloud platform. They process the incoming data, store it into the database and analyse it. The hardware modules communicate with the cloud platform with wireless network via HTTPS or MQTT protocols. The following physical parameters are calculated on the base of the incoming sensor data:
- Mass of the consumed air by the engine;
- Mass of the consumed fuel by the engine;
- Mass of the carbon dioxide emissions, exposed into the atmosphere.

All measured and calculated physical parameters are stored in the database. A cloud-based Analytics application performs an anomaly detection on the streamed data by searching for vehicles that have not optimal amount of carbon dioxide emissions or system failures. The anomaly detection process is based on clustering analysis. When some vehicle is detected by the system as an anomaly, with not optimal amount of emissions, the hardware module is notified automatically by the cloud platform and hardware actuator is activated to reduce the amount of emissions. In this way the system monitors and controls the amount of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere in real time. The hardware modules are equipped with three actuators:
- Liquid crystal display (LCD), which visualize the measured and calculated physical parameters to the driver.
- Light-emitting diode (LED), which indicates to the driver that the amount of carbon dioxide emissions is not optimal or there is a system failure (not optimal parameters).
- Actuator, which controls the amount of injected fuel in the engine and regulates the amount of emissions.

Currently, the EcoLogic has only the display and LED actuator. The purpose of the LED actuator is to notify the driver to manually reduce the speed and change the driving behaviour, which leads to reduction of the amount of emissions.

The cloud platform provides web user interface, which is a set of HTML5, JavaScript and CSS resources. The web user interface is publicly available and accessible by clients via HTTPS protocol.

The user management of the system is composed of two roles: driver and operator. The process flow of the system is the following:
- Driver buys a hardware module from a dealer.
- The driver installs the hardware module into vehicle.
- The driver registers the vehicle with the hardware module and sensors in the system. All components have unique identification numbers.
- Drivers are authorized to monitor, analyze and control their own registered vehicles.
- Operators are authorized to monitor, analyze and control all registered vehicles by regions.
- Each driver gets score points proportional to the amount of carbon dioxide emissions exposed in the atmosphere by their vehicles. Drivers can participate in greenhouse gas trading and decrease pollution taxes with their score points.

## 3 ECOLOGIC COMPONENTS

This section outlines the main components of EcoLogic. First, the components of the hardware module are presented. After, the cloud applications are described.

### 3.1 Hardware Module

The hardware module is composed of two embedded systems: Arduino Uno and Raspberry Pi B+. The Arduino embedded system handles the low-level hardware sensors and actuators in the vehicles, while the Raspberry Pi embedded system works on higher level and communicates with the cloud platform.

#### 3.1.1 Arduino Embedded System

The Arduino Uno embedded system provides a functionality to measure physical parameters, visualize the measured parameters on 4x16 liquid crystal display, control of actuator (light emitting diode) and communication with Raspberry Pi.
embedded system. The physical parameters are measured by sensors or extracted from the onboard diagnostic system (OBD2), which is provided by the electronic control module of the vehicle. If the vehicle provides the necessary parameters in the onboard diagnostic interface, no additional sensors will be installed. If the vehicle does not provide the necessary parameters in the onboard diagnostic interface, additional sensors, which measure these parameters, will be installed. In this way the hardware module is platform independent and can be installed on different vehicles. The amount of carbon dioxide emissions is calculated from the measured physical parameters as follows.

The law of ideal gas (Clapeyron, 1834) is presented with Equation 1.

\[ P V = n R T = m R_{\text{specific}} T, \]

where \( P \) is the absolute pressure of gas [Pa], \( V \) is the volume of gas [m\(^3\)], \( n \) is the amount of substance of gas [mol], \( m \) is the mass of gas [kg], \( R_{\text{specific}} \) is a specific gas constant for dry air (287.058 J kg\(^{-1}\) K\(^{-1}\)) and \( T \) is the temperature of gas [K].

The mass of the consumed air by the engine is calculated by the ideal gas law as shown on Equation 2.

\[ m_{\text{air}} = \frac{P V}{R_{\text{specific}} T} \]

The air fuel ratio (AFR) is calculated according to Equation 3:

\[ AFR = \frac{m_{\text{air}}}{m_{\text{fuel}}} \]

The mass of the consumed fuel by the engine is calculated by the measured air/fuel ratio (AFR) as follows:

\[ m_{\text{fuel}} = \frac{m_{\text{air}}}{AFR} = \frac{P V}{R_{\text{specific}} T AFR} \]

The relation between mass of carbon dioxide emissions and mass of consumed unleaded petrol fuel is given on Equation 5 (Carbonfund, 2017).

\[ m_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.73 \times m_{\text{fuel}} \]

The final equation of the mass of the carbon dioxide emissions exposed into the atmosphere is calculated according to Equation 6.

\[ m_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.73 \times \frac{P V}{R_{\text{specific}} T AFR} \]

The application, which is deployed on the Arduino embedded system, is implemented using C++ programming language and consumes the API provided by the Wiring library, which is part of the Arduino platform. The Wiring library communicates with the appropriate microcontroller via drivers. Currently, the Arduino Uno is used, which has Microchip ATmega328 microcontroller with RISC architecture.

### 3.1.2 Raspberry Pi Embedded System

The Raspberry Pi B+ embedded system is a proxy between the Arduino embedded system and the cloud platform. Its architecture is shown in Figure 2.

![Raspberry Pi Architecture](image)

**Figure 2: Raspberry Pi Architecture.**

The Raspberry Pi B+ embedded system communicates with the Arduino embedded system via serial communication (UART – Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter) over a custom protocol. It is connected to the cloud platform via 802.11n wireless network. The Raspberry Pi B+ embedded system consumes the measured physical parameters by the Arduino embedded system, stores the last data in a local storage for further processing to the cloud platform. It sends the data to Adapter application in the cloud platform via HTTPS or MQTT protocol and receives response that contain information about the state of the vehicle, including the amount of the carbon dioxide emissions. The state can be optimal (eco) or not optimal (not eco). If the emissions are not optimal, the Raspberry Pi module notifies the Arduino embedded system to...
activate the hardware actuator in order to reduce the amount of emissions. The Raspberry Pi embedded system is composed of System on a Chip (SoC) with ARM architecture and Linux based operation system – Raspbian. VehicleAgent application is deployed on it. The VehicleAgent application is implemented using Java programming language and runs on Java Virtual Machine.

The VehicleAgent application uses the Pi4J and WiringPi libraries, which are used for implementing the hardware serial communication between the Raspberry Pi and Arduino embedded systems. The wireless communication with the cloud platform is provided by 802.11n WiFi adapter connected to one of the USB ports of the Raspberry Pi. It can communicate to the cloud platform via several application layer protocols: HTTPS or MQTT, depending on the supported protocol by the cloud platform. The application has a modular architecture and enables extension with other protocols. If the wireless network is faulty and the communication to the cloud platform is constrained, the application stores the last data in the local storage. After successful connection with the cloud platform, the locally stored data is sent to the cloud platform. The application consumes configuration file (config.xml), which is located into the local file system and contains identification strings for the vehicle, sensors and type of the communication with the cloud platform (HTTPS, MQTT). The configuration file should be filled by the driver or by operator, who registers the vehicle into the system.

### 3.2 Cloud Applications

The EcoLogic consists of several cloud applications, namely Controller application, Adapters applications and Web user interface.

#### 3.2.1 Controller Application

The Controller application is the main cloud application, which handles all vehicles with their hardware modules with sensors, calculates data, stores data into database, analyze the data and provides HTTP REST API. It is implemented using the Java Enterprise Edition programming language on top of JPA and Apache CXF services framework. The Controller application has the following functionality:

- Represents the data model by users, vehicles, sensors and measurements. Each user has vehicles, each vehicle has sensors, each sensor has measurements of physical parameters.
- Manages the lifecycle of all users, vehicles, sensors and measurements.
- Stores the data into relational database, which is provided as a backing service by the cloud platform. The application is platform independent and can work with any relational database, which provides Java connectivity. The database contains four tables: User, Vehicle, Sensor and Measurement.
- Calculates the mass of the carbon dioxide emissions exposed into the air by vehicles.
- Handles the state of each vehicle: optimal (eco) state and not optimal (not eco) state.
- Communicates with Analytics application, which make anomaly detection – vehicles which have not optimal amount of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Exposes HTTP REST API which is consumed by the Adapter applications and web user interface.

#### 3.2.2 Adapter Applications

The Adapter applications are cloud applications, which adapt the data coming from the vehicle hardware modules to the Controller cloud application. They are implemented using the Java programming language. There are two types of Adapter applications that handle different types of network protocols: ControllerAdapterHttps and ControllerAdapterMqtt for HTTPS and MQTT protocols respectively. ControllerAdapterMqtt application communicates with MQTT broker. The MQTT broker can be: Mosquitto, HiveMQ, Mosca or other. The MQTT broker and the Adapter applications have public URLs and can be accessed by the vehicle hardware modules. The cloud platform routes the traffic to the appropriate application depending on the application layer protocol that is used. In case of HTTPS traffic, the cloud platform routes the traffic to the ControllerAdapterHttps application. In case of MQTT traffic, it routes the traffic to the MQTT broker. This routing capabilities of the cloud platform are based on TCP routing. TCP routing enables cloud platforms to support applications, which communicate with different non-HTTP protocols. Cloud Foundry platform is an industry standard cloud platform and it is a typical example for platform, which uses TCP routing (Cloud Foundry).

The lifecycle of the MQTT traffic is the following: when a new vehicle is created, the Controller application registers a topic with name
vehicles/{id}/sensors/{id}/measurements and subscribes to the ControllerAdapterMqtt application for that topic. The appropriate hardware module also subscribes to that topic and publish measurements related to it. The ControllerAdapterMqtt application receives the measurements and sends them to the Controller application, but via the HTTP protocol. The response from the request contains information whether the corresponding vehicle is in optimal state or not. Finally, the ControllerAdapterMqtt application publish the state to the topic vehicles/{id}/state and the appropriate vehicle is notified. In this way the ControllerAdapterMqtt application adapts the data from MQTT to HTTP and vice versa.

### 3.2.3 Web User Interface

The web user interface is provided by static HTML5, JavaScript and CSS resources that are served by a web server. The web resources contain only front-end code without back-end functionality. Most of the cloud platforms support serving of static web resources. The web user interface in the EcoLogic is implemented by the open-source JavaScript-based front-end web application framework OpenUI5 (OpenUI5). The web user interface makes AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML) calls to the HTTP REST API provided by the Controller application. It provides public access and it is used by the drivers and operators of the system. The web user interface and the Controller application have different domain names, which means that they have different origins. Most of the cloud platforms provide way for resolving the problem of the same-origin policy (OpenUI5), which states that one web application can access web resources from the same origin or only permitted web resources from different origin.

The web user interface has model-view-controller architecture and provides the following functionality:

- Management of the lifecycle of the users, vehicles, sensors and measurements: performs create, read, update, and delete operations.
- Visualization of all measured parameters and historic data in real-time.
- Manual control of the state of all vehicles, which leads to control of the vehicle’s actuator.
- Automatic control of the state of the vehicles, based on the amount of emissions or parameters that are not optimal.
- Static limitation of emissions for all vehicles, which can be enabled or disabled.
- Visualization of all anomalies (outliers) – vehicles with not optimal emissions or parameters.

### 3.2.4 Analytics Application

The Analytics application makes a clustering analysis on the stored data by two parameters: engine capacity of the vehicles and amount of carbon dioxide emissions. In this way it places vehicles that have adjacent engine capacity and emissions amount in clusters and detects the vehicles with anomalies. The analytics application uses K-Means algorithm for clustering analysis, where the number of clusters (K) is the number of engine capacities of the registered vehicles. The application is connected to the backing service with the relational database.

### 4 CASE STUDY

In order to prove the feasibility of the EcoLogic solution, a case study with two datasets is performed. The goal of the cases study is to validate the ability of EcoLogic to detect anomalies in the vehicles’ behaviour related to increased carbon dioxide emissions. One hardware module installed on a real vehicle is used for the experiment. The cloud platform and services that are configured for the case study are as follows:

- SAP Cloud platform for deployment of all described cloud applications (SAP Cloud platform).
- HANA database – SAP cloud platform provides backing service with HANA relational database, which is used for storing the data (SAP HANA database).
- SAP cloud platform predictive service, providing an algorithm for clustering analysis and anomaly detection, which serves as Analytics application (Morzaria, 2016).

#### 4.1 Validation on a Dataset with Known Anomalies

In order to validate the correctness of the anomaly detection algorithm it should be tested with a test dataset, which contains known anomalies. An official test dataset is used for that purpose (Mugglestone, 2014). It contains information for customers with the following parameters: id, name, lifespend, newspend, income and loyalty. The test
The dataset contains 152 rows. The results from application of the clustering analysis on the test dataset are presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Clusters of Dataset with Known Anomalies.

The income of the customers is placed on the x-axis. The loyalty of the customers is placed on the y-axis. Two clusters (K1 and K2) and one anomaly detection are obtained. The clusters define two types of customers: customers with low income and low loyalty and customers with high income and high loyalty. The anomaly, marked in Figure 3 as Outlier, corresponds to a data point, which is outlying from the centres of the clusters K1 and K2.

4.2 Validation on a Real Dataset

The hardware module of the EcoLogic is integrated into a real vehicle with internal combustion engine that works on petrol and has a capacity of 1800 cubic centimetres. The collected real data for it is extended proportionally with appropriate simulated data in order to obtain bigger dataset. The final dataset contains data for vehicles with different engine capacities. The engine capacity measured in cubic centimetres (cc) is placed on the x-axis. The mass of the carbon dioxide emissions, measured in milligrams (mg) is placed on the y-axis. The obtained clusters after application of the clustering algorithm are presented in Figure 4. The data points corresponds to the vehicles, which have unique IDs.

In the most preferable case, the clustering algorithm should place vehicles, which have equal engine capacity and different amount of emissions in the same cluster. Thus, the vehicles, which have not optimal emissions will not be placed in cluster and should be detected as anomalies. For the current dataset 8 clusters (K1-K8) are obtained. The distance from the vehicle with ID 8759305 to the nearest cluster K4 is 38 milligrams. The maximal internal cluster distance in the cluster K4 is 18 milligrams. The distance from vehicles with IDs 6947228 and 5915180 to their nearest cluster K8 is 54 and 56 milligrams respectively. The maximal internal cluster distance in cluster K8 is 24 milligrams. The anomalies are detected for the vehicles with IDs 8759305, 6947228 and 5915180, since the distance from them to their nearest clusters is bigger than the internal cluster distance. These vehicles don’t have optimal amount of carbon dioxide emissions in contrast to the rest of the vehicles, which are placed into clusters K1-K8. The values of the anomalies are measured on cold engine of the vehicle. The hardware modules successfully notify the actuators for the detected anomalies.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The paper presents an IoT platform, called EcoLogic, for real-time monitoring and control of carbon dioxide emissions of vehicles with internal combustion engines.

It has the following benefits:

- High scalability, resilience and possibility to work with big amounts of data due to cloud computing model used.
- Platform independence – possibility to work with different vehicles and cloud platforms. The hardware modules can work with variety sensors or extract data from the onboard diagnostic system of the vehicles. The implemented cloud applications are microservices, which can be deployed on different cloud platforms.
- Fully completed solution for monitoring and control of vehicles’ carbon dioxide emissions, which is ready for production usage to solve a global problem such as reduction of the carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere.

The following directions for further improvements are identified during the validation on the real dataset:

- The measured parameters on cold engine are not consistent with the measured parameters...
on hot engine (with normal working temperature). The detected anomalies are obtained based on measurements on a cold engine. The EcoLogic solution could be optimized to split the data in two subsets: data, which is taken on cold engine and data, which is taken on normally working engine.

- The data, which is taken from cold engine could serve as a training dataset, which defines not optimal amount of carbon dioxide emissions.
- Integration of new application protocols such as CoAP, DDS and AMQP that can be used by default.
- Implementation of analytics functionality for prediction of potential failures in vehicles, based on the current and historical data.
- Intergradation of EcoLogic with third party systems and services such as emissions trading systems, vehicle tax institutions and smart cities systems. For example, the drivers of the more ecological vehicles could get bigger tax discounts. The traffic lights in smart cities could be controlled depending on the amount of carbon dioxide emissions detected in a region. Adaptation mechanisms for service selection based on criteria like geographic location, price, load balancing, etc. will be considered.

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