International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET) e-ISSN: 2395-0056
Volume: 11 Issue: 10 | Oct 2024 www.irjet.net p-ISSN: 2395-0072

Smart Fleet Fuel Tracker-Monitoring of Mobile Fuel Tanks of Vehicles

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Abstract -*This paper presents the design and implementation of a real-time system for monitoring fuel levels and tracking vehicles, with a focus on enhancing vehicle fleet management. The system continuously tracks the fuel levels of vehicles and their geographic locations using a combination of a microcontroller, GPS module, fuel level sensor, and GSM communication module. The collected data is transmitted to a central server and accessed remotely via a web or mobile interface, enabling fleet managers to make data-driven decisions. Although the current system focuses on real-time fuel level monitoring and vehicle tracking, future enhancements include integrating a theft detection mechanism and identifying the nearest petrol stations based on vehicle location. These additional features will further optimize fleet operations by addressing fuel theft prevention and ensuring timely refueling. Overall, the system provides a scalable and flexible platform for improving fuel efficiency and vehicle management, with potential for further advancements through the integration of predictive analytics*

Key Words: *Fuel monitoring, GPS tracking, nearest petrol pump, fuel theft prevention, GSM module, fleet management.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The rising cost of fuel and the increasing demand for efficient fleet management have made real-time monitoring systems indispensable for modern automobiles. Monitoring fuel consumption plays a critical role in reducing operational costs and improving fuel efficiency, while GPS tracking helps optimize routes and enhance fleet performance. Additionally, fuel theft poses a significant challenge to fleet operators and vehicle owners, resulting in considerable financial losses. These issues underscore the need for an integrated system that not only monitors fuel levels but also provides alerts for timely refueling and addresses potential fuel theft.

In this paper, we propose a real-time fuel level monitoring and vehicle tracking system that combines GPS technology, fuel sensors, and GSM communication modules.

The current system continuously monitors fuel levels and vehicle locations, offering real-time data through a centralized platform. A key feature of this system is the ability to alert fleet managers when the fuel level drops below a predefined threshold, prompting timely refueling to prevent unexpected fuel depletion. Although the current focus is on fuel monitoring and tracking, future enhancements will include detecting nearby petrol stations and generating alerts for abnormal fuel consumption, potentially indicating fuel theft. These features make the system a valuable tool for optimizing fleet management, improving fuel efficiency, and enhancing vehicle security.

1.1 Related Work

Previous research and commercial systems in the domain of vehicle tracking and fuel monitoring have largely focused on one aspect of the problem, either GPS-based vehicle tracking or fuel level monitoring, without offering an integrated solution. Commercial vehicle tracking systems, such as those provided by Garmin and TomTom, enable efficient real-time location tracking but often fail to provide insights into fuel consumption, refueling needs, or fuel theft prevention, limiting their usefulness in comprehensive fleet management.

In terms of fuel level monitoring, several studies have explored the application of capacitive, ultrasonic, and pressure-based sensors to measure fuel levels within vehicle tanks. While these systems effectively measure fuel levels, they tend to operate as standalone solutions without integration into broader fleet management systems. As a result, they lack real-time tracking and communication capabilities necessary for issuing timely alerts, making them less suitable for fleet operators who require both fuel monitoring and location tracking simultaneously.

Recent advancements have introduced IoT-based systems for vehicle monitoring, which allow for remote access to vehicle data, including fuel consumption and location. However, many of these systems require significant infrastructure investments and are primarily tailored for large-scale operations.

Furthermore, they often lack essential functionalities such as real-time theft prevention or assistance in locating nearby refueling stations.

This paper addresses these gaps by proposing an integrated, real-time system that combines GPS-based vehicle tracking with continuous fuel monitoring. Although the current system focuses on monitoring fuel levels and

vehicle locations, future enhancements will include the ability to detect fuel theft and identify nearby petrol stations, providing a more holistic approach to fleet management.

2. SYSTEM DESIGN AND ARCHITECHTURE

The proposed system is built around four key components: the fuel sensor, GPS module, GSM module, and microcontroller. Together, these elements create an integrated solution for real-time fuel monitoring and vehicle tracking, as illustrated in the accompanying figure 1.

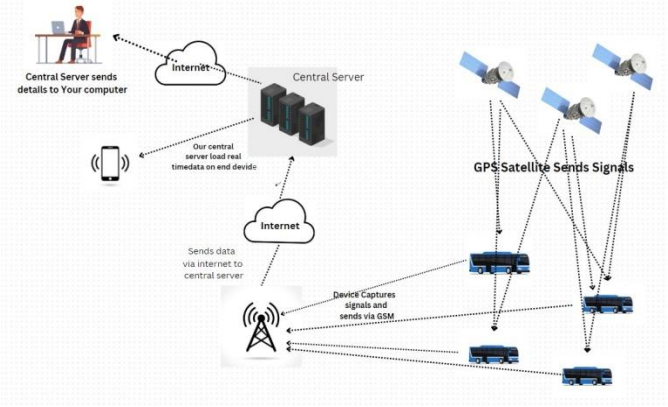

Fig-1:System Architechture of Fleet Mangagement Sytem.

2.1 Fuel Level Sensor

At the heart of our system is a capacitive fuel sensor that accurately measures the amount of fuel in the tank. This sensor continuously monitors fuel levels, providing an analog output that reflects the current fuel status. The data collected by the sensor is sent to the microcontroller, where it is processed and analyzed to determine fuel consumption patterns.

2.2 GPS Module

To track the vehicle's real-time location, we use a NEO-6M GPS module. This module captures latitude and longitude coordinates and relays them to the microcontroller. This location data is crucial not only for tracking the vehicle but also for future enhancements that will allow the system to identify the nearest petrol stations.

2.3 GSM Module

For communication purposes, the system incorporates a SIM800L GSM module. This component is responsible for transmitting fuel level data, vehicle location, and alerts to a remote server. With the GSM module in place, fleet operators or vehicle owners can access real-time information through a web-based or mobile application, ensuring they stay informed about their vehicle's status at all times.

2.4 Microcontroller

An Arduino UNO microcontroller acts as the central processing unit for the entire system. It collects data from both the GPS and fuel sensors and controls the GSM module. The microcontroller is programmed to analyze the incoming data and trigger alerts if it detects any irregular fuel consumption or potential theft scenarios. This functionality enhances the system's overall effectiveness in managing fuel level and vehicle safety.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of our system involves several key stages, each contributing to the overall functionality of real-time fuel monitoring and vehicle tracking.

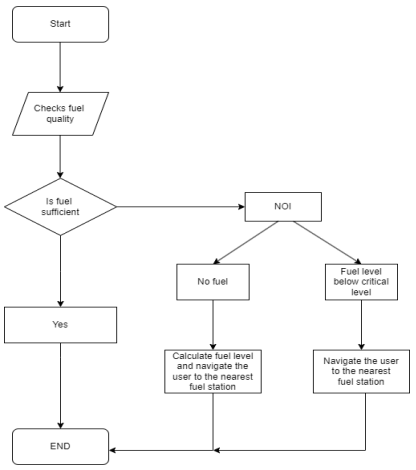

Fig-2:Flowchart of proposed system

3.1 Fuel Level Monitoring

The fuel sensor continuously provides an analog output, which is read by the Arduino UNO through its analog input pin A0. This output is then mapped to a percentage representing the fuel level in the tank. If the system detects a sudden or unusual drop in fuel levels—such as during a theft—an alert is triggered and sent to the vehicle owner via the GSM module.

3.2 Vehicle Tracking and Nearest Petrol Station Detection

The GPS module captures the vehicle's real-time location, sending this data to the microcontroller for processing. The system maintains a database of petrol stations, allowing it to identify the nearest one using the Haversine formula, which calculates the distance between two geographic points. When requested, the system can display the nearest petrol station and provide directions if necessary.

3.3 Fuel Theft Prevention

If the system detects a significant drop in fuel levels without corresponding vehicle movement, it identifies this as a potential theft attempt. In such cases, an alert is sent via SMS to the vehicle owner or fleet manager, detailing the time and location of the suspicious activity. Furthermore, the current GPS coordinates of the vehicle are transmitted, enabling immediate action if needed.

3.4 Data Transmission and User Interface

The GSM module plays a crucial role in transmitting the fuel level, vehicle location, and any alerts to a central server. Users can monitor their vehicle's fuel consumption, track its location, and receive notifications about potential theft or low fuel levels through a web interface or mobile application. This user-friendly access ensures that vehicle owners stay informed about their fleet's status at all times.

4. LITERATURE SURVVEY

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the integration of technology into vehicle tracking and fuel management systems. Various studies have explored different aspects of this field, aiming to enhance operational efficiency and reduce costs.

One significant area of research has focused on vehicle tracking solutions, with companies like Garmin and TomTom leading the way in offering real-time GPS tracking systems. These systems provide fleet operators with the ability to monitor the location of their vehicles at any given time. However, they often fall short in terms of fuel management capabilities, leaving vehicle owners without crucial insights into their fuel consumption patterns.

In parallel, numerous studies have investigated fuel level monitoring technologies. Traditional methods of measuring fuel levels, such as capacitive, ultrasonic, and pressure-based sensors, have been extensively explored. While these sensors can accurately detect fuel levels, they are often standalone solutions. They lack integration with

GPS tracking and communication systems, making them less effective for applications that demand real-time data and alerts. This gap in the market highlights the need for a more comprehensive solution that combines both functionalities.

The rise of the Internet of Things (IoT) has ushered in new possibilities for vehicle monitoring systems. Researchers have begun to develop IoT-based solutions that allow for remote access to vehicle data. These systems enable fleet operators to monitor various parameters, including fuel levels and vehicle locations, from anywhere. However, many existing IoT solutions require substantial infrastructure investments and are not designed to provide alerts for fuel theft or assist in locating nearby refueling stations.

Recent work has sought to bridge these gaps by proposing integrated systems that combine GPS tracking, fuel level monitoring, and communication capabilities. For example, several studies have reported on systems that leverage GSM technology to send alerts and data to users. Such systems offer a more holistic approach to vehicle management, but they often lack the simplicity and affordability needed for widespread adoption, especially among small businesses or individual vehicle owners.

This paper aims to build upon this existing body of work by presenting a cost-effective solution that integrates GPS tracking, fuel monitoring, and theft prevention features. By addressing the limitations of current systems, our proposed solution will provide a practical tool for both fleet operators and individual vehicle owners, ultimately leading to better fuel management and reduced operational costs.

5. RESULTS

The proposed system will undergo testing in a simulated environment where we can manipulate fuel levels to evaluate the sensor's accuracy and responsiveness. During these tests, we will monitor how effectively the fuel sensors detect changes in fuel levels. The system will also demonstrate its capability to identify the nearest petrol stations based on the vehicle's location. Additionally, if a significant drop in fuel is detected, theft alerts will be triggered immediately, showcasing the system’s prompt response. The GSM module will facilitate the transmission of data to the central server, ensuring that alerts are sent in real-time. This comprehensive testing will help validate the system’s reliability and effectiveness in real-world scenarios.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we introduced a robust real-time fuel level monitoring and vehicle tracking system aimed at enhancing vehicle management and preventing fuel theft. By integrating key features such as GPS tracking, fuel level monitoring, identification of the nearest petrol stations, and theft prevention alerts, our system presents a practical and cost-effective solution for both fleet operators and individual vehicle owners. Looking ahead, future developments could explore the integration of additional vehicle parameters, such as speed and engine diagnostics, further expanding the system’s capabilities and improving overall vehicle management.

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