# Implementation of an Internet of Things (IoT) Based Water Level Monitoring System Using Ultrasonic Sensors and the *Blynk* Application

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**Abstract**

Manual monitoring and control of water levels in storage tanks are often inefficient and may result in water wastage due to overflow or shortage. To address this issue, this study developed an Internet of Things (IoT)-based water level monitoring system utilizing an ESP32 microcontroller, HC-SR04 ultrasonic sensor, and relay module as the water pump actuator. The system is integrated with the *Blynk* application for real-time monitoring and a Telegram bot for automatic user notifications.

The system is designed to display the water level in real time while providing both automatic and manual pump control options via the mobile application. Testing was conducted to evaluate the accuracy of the sensor readings and the reliability of the pump control mechanism. The results indicate that the ultrasonic sensor achieves high accuracy with a reading deviation of less than 2%, and the relay-based pump control system operates effectively in filling and stopping the water flow according to the predefined level limits.

The implementation of this system enables users to monitor and manage water availability more efficiently and conveniently while reducing energy consumption and preventing wastage. Furthermore, this system has potential applications in both domestic and industrial environments that require automated water management solutions based on IoT technology.

**Keywords:** Internet of Things, ESP32, Ultrasonic Sensor, Blynk, Telegram, Water Level Monitoring System.

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## Introduction

Water is one of the most essential natural resources for sustaining human life. In daily activities, water is used for various purposes such as washing, cooking, cleaning, bathing, and many other household needs. However, water usage is often inefficient, leading to the unnecessary wastage of clean water. Ensuring adequate water availability and promoting efficient utilization are therefore crucial, especially amid the growing challenges of climate change and rapid population growth.

This situation poses a significant challenge for individuals or households with busy daily routines and limited time to monitor the water supply in storage tanks. Hence, there is a need for a device capable of automatically monitoring water levels in real time. Efficient water usage can be achieved through proper control mechanisms, such as turning off taps when not in use. Effective control, however, requires continuous and accurate monitoring of daily household water consumption. Real-time monitoring enables users to take timely action to maintain optimal water levels, whereas manual monitoring and control are often inefficient since they require constant attention and physical effort.

Moreover, water should be used wisely, yet many people still find it difficult to do so due to practical limitations, such as the inability to directly observe the water level in storage tanks. This limitation often leads to situations where the tank overflows before users realize it is full, resulting in wasted clean water and unnecessary electricity consumption.

Accurate and efficient monitoring of water levels is therefore essential to prevent excessive wastage of clean water. One promising solution to address this problem is the development of a real-time water level monitoring system. By utilizing Internet of Things (IoT) technology, the process of monitoring water levels can be made more efficient, reliable, and user-friendly.

In this study, an ultrasonic sensor**,** known for its high accuracy in measuring distance, serves as the core component of the system. When integrated with an IoT platform such as Blynk, users can remotely observe the water level through a smartphone application. This integration allows users to take preventive measures promptly, reducing the risk of water wastage.

Through the implementation of this water level monitoring system, it is expected that the unnecessary loss of clean water can be minimized and public awareness of the importance of sustainable water resource management can be enhanced.

## Literatur Review

### 2.1 Internet of Things (IoT)

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a network of interconnected devices that communicate and exchange data through the internet without requiring human intervention. Each device, often referred to as a "smart object," is embedded with sensors, actuators, and communication modules that enable it to collect, transmit, and process data[1][2][3].

In this study, IoT technology is used to connect the ESP32 microcontroller, ultrasonic sensor, and relay module to a cloud-based platform (Blynk) for real-time water level monitoring and control. The ESP32 transmits sensor data to the Blynk server using Wi-Fi, allowing users to access live data and control the system remotely via a smartphone.

### 2.2 ESP32 Microcontroller

The ESP32 is a low-cost, high-performance microcontroller developed by Espressif Systems. It features a dual-core processor, built-in Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth connectivity, making it ideal for IoT applications. The ESP32 can process data from multiple sensors, communicate with online platforms, and control actuators simultaneously[4].

In this project, ESP32 serves as the central controller responsible for:

a) Receiving distance data from the ultrasonic sensor,
b) Processing and converting the data into water level information,
c) Sending data to the Blynk server, and

d) Controlling the relay to operate the water pump.
e)

### 2.3 Ultrasonic Sensor (HC-SR04)

The ultrasonic sensor HC-SR04 works based on the principle of ultrasonic wave reflection. It emits a high-frequency sound wave (40 kHz) that travels through the air until it hits an object (in this case, the water surface). The reflected wave is detected by the sensor's receiver, and the time taken for the wave to return is measured.

The distance between the sensor and the water surface is calculated using the equation:


Figure 1 **Ultrasonic Sensor (HC-SR04)**

The distance between the sensor and the water surface is calculated using the equation:

Distance= (travel time/2) * speed of sound

Since the sound wave travels to the water surface and back, the division by two ensures accurate distance measurement. By knowing the total height of the tank, the system can determine the current water level as:

Water Level=Tank Height−Measured Distance

This sensor is known for its high accuracy, low cost, and simplicity, making it suitable for real-time liquid level detection[5][6][7].

### 2.4 Relay Module

A **relay module** is an electromechanical switch used to control high-voltage devices such as water pumps using a low-voltage control signal from a microcontroller. When the ESP32 outputs a signal to the relay, it activates the pump circuit[8].

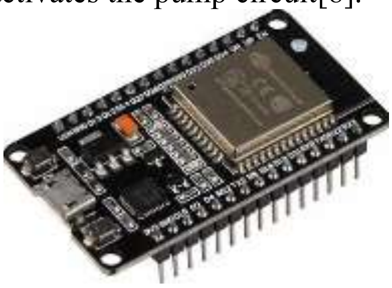

Figure 2 NodeMCU ESP32

In this system, the relay automatically switches the pump **on** when the water level is below a specified minimum threshold and **off** when the tank is full. This automation ensures that the water level remains within optimal limits without requiring manual supervision.

### 2.5 Blynk Application

Blynk is an IoT platform that provides a simple and user-friendly interface for controlling and monitoring hardware devices remotely via a smartphone. It allows users to create dashboards with widgets such as buttons, gauges, and charts to visualize sensor data and send control commands.

Fiqure 3 Blynk

In this research, Blynk is used to:

a) Display real-time water level readings,
b) Provide control buttons for manual pump operation, and
c) Log sensor data to the cloud for monitoring and analysis.

### 2.6 Telegram Notification System

The Telegram Bot API enables the creation of automated bots that can send messages or alerts to users. In this project, Telegram is used to send **automatic notifications** when the water level reaches certain limits (e.g., “Tank Full” or “Low Water Level”).

Figure 3 Telegram

This integration provides an additional layer of accessibility and ensures that users are informed instantly, even without opening the Blynk app.

### 7. Principle of Operation

The overall working principle of the system begins when the ultrasonic sensor continuously measures the distance between itself and the water surface. The ESP32 processes this data and determines whether the water level is low, normal, or full. The information is transmitted to the Blynk server via Wi-Fi, which displays the data in real time on the user’s smartphone.

When the water level drops below the minimum threshold, the relay is activated, turning on the pump to fill the tank. Once the tank reaches the maximum level, the relay deactivates the pump automatically. Additionally, a Telegram notification is sent to inform the user of the current condition of the tank.

## Methode

### 3.1 Research Design

This study employed an experimental design to develop and test an Internet of Things (IoT)-based water level monitoring and control system. The research focused on integrating hardware components—ESP32 microcontroller, ultrasonic sensor (HC-SR04), and relay module—with software components, including the Blynk application and Telegram bot. The system was designed to measure water levels in real time, display the data via a smartphone interface, and control the operation of a water pump automatically or manually based on the detected level.

### 3.2 System Architecture

The overall system architecture consists of three main parts:

1. Input Section: The ultrasonic sensor acts as the input device that measures the distance between the sensor and the water surface. The sensor sends the data in the form of distance (in centimeters) to the ESP32 microcontroller.
2. Processing Section: The ESP32 processes the received data to calculate the water level according to the height of the tank. The processed data are then transmitted via Wi-Fi to the Blynk cloud server using the MQTT protocol.
3. Output Section: The relay module functions as the actuator that controls the water pump. Based on the predefined threshold values, the system automatically turns the pump on when the water level is low and off when the tank is full.

### 3.3 Hardware Components

a) ESP32 Microcontroller: Serves as the central controller for data processing and communication with the IoT platform. It was chosen due to its built-in Wi-Fi capability and high processing performance.
b) Ultrasonic Sensor (HC-SR04): Measures the distance to the water surface using the reflection of ultrasonic waves. The sensor operates with a frequency of 40 kHz and provides accurate readings within a range of 2 cm to 400 cm.
c) Relay Module: Controls the switching mechanism for the water pump, enabling automated filling and shutdown processes.
d) Power Supply and Water Pump: Provide energy and mechanical flow control during system operation.

### 3.4 Software Components

The software development involved two main platforms:

a) Blynk Application: Used to visualize the water level in real time and provide control buttons for manual operation of the pump.
b) Telegram Bot: Configured to send instant notifications to the user's smartphone whenever the water level reaches critical thresholds, such as "tank full" or "low water level."

The ESP32 microcontroller was programmed using Arduino IDE, and communication between devices was managed through Blynk's cloud server and the Telegram API.

### 3.5 System Testing

System testing was conducted to evaluate both functional performance and measurement accuracy. The tests included:

- Sensor Accuracy Test: Comparing the distance readings from the ultrasonic sensor with actual measurements obtained using a ruler.
- Pump Control Test: Observing whether the relay module correctly activated and deactivated the pump according to the preset water level thresholds.
- Connectivity Test: Ensuring stable communication between the ESP32, Blynk application, and Telegram bot over a Wi-Fi network.

All test data were collected and analyzed to determine the system's reliability and response time under different water level conditions.

### 3.6 Data Analysis

Quantitative analysis was performed by comparing the sensor readings with actual values to calculate percentage error and system accuracy. The results were presented in graphical form to illustrate the relationship between the measured and actual water levels. Furthermore, the response time of the pump control mechanism was measured to assess system efficiency.

1. System Implementation

   The developed IoT-based water level monitoring system was successfully implemented using the ESP32 microcontroller, HC-SR04 ultrasonic sensor, relay module, Blynk application, and Telegram bot. All components were integrated to perform continuous real-time monitoring and automatic control of the water pump. The ESP32 microcontroller was programmed to process sensor data, send it to the Blynk cloud server, and execute commands based on predefined thresholds.

When the water level in the storage tank decreased below the minimum limit, the relay module activated the water pump automatically. Once the tank was full, the system stopped the pump and sent a notification to the user through Telegram. This process ensured that the water supply was maintained without overflow or shortage, reducing both water and energy wastage.

2. Sensor Accuracy Test

   Accuracy testing was performed to evaluate the precision of the ultrasonic sensor in measuring the water level. The test compared the sensor readings with manual measurements obtained using a ruler. Data were collected for various water heights ranging from 5 cm to 40 cm.

*Error= Sensor results − actual height/ actual height x 100%*

**Results**

The results showed that the sensor readings had a maximum error margin of 1.8%, with an average deviation of less than 2%. This indicates that the HC-SR04 sensor provides a high level of accuracy suitable for real-time water level detection. Minor deviations were mainly caused by sound wave reflections on the tank walls and slight variations in the speed of sound due to temperature changes.

**Table 1. Comparison between actual and measured water levels.**

| Actual Distance (cm) | Sensor Reading (cm) | Error (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | 5.1 | 2.0 |
| 10 | 10.1 | 1.0 |
| 20 | 19.8 | 1.0 |
| 30 | 29.6 | 1.3 |
| 40 | 39.5 | 1.3 |

These results confirm that the ultrasonic sensor performs reliably and can be effectively used for water level measurement in a domestic environment.

### 4.1 Pump Control and Automation Test

The system's automatic control functionality was evaluated by observing the relay's response to different water levels. When the water level dropped below the set Low Threshold (20%), the ESP32 activated the relay, turning on the water pump. When the water reached the High Threshold (90%), the system automatically turned off the pump.

The average response time for pump activation and deactivation was approximately 1.5 seconds, which is sufficiently fast for household applications. The relay module operated smoothly, and no false triggering or delayed responses were observed during continuous testing over a 24-hour period.

This demonstrates that the automatic control mechanism functions reliably, ensuring continuous water availability without manual intervention.

Table 2: Relay Response Time Test

| No. | Water Level Conditions(cm) | Detected Distance | Relay Status | Relay Time | Relay Active Time | Response Time(S) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Low Water Level | 30 | On | 12:00:01 | 12:00:03 | 2 |
| 2 | Sufficient Water Level | 15 | Off | 12:05:10 | 12:05:11 | 1 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | Water Level | 5 | off | 12:10:20 | 12:10:21 | 1 |
| 4 | Low Water Level | 28 | on | 12:15:30 | 12:15:33 | 3 |
| 5 | Sufficient Water Level | 18 | off | 12:20:00 | 12:20:33 | 1 |

### 4.2 Connectivity and Notification Performance

Stable communication between the ESP32 and the Blynk server was maintained throughout the testing period. The average data transmission delay was less than 500 milliseconds, ensuring real-time updates on the user interface. Furthermore, the Telegram notification system successfully delivered alerts whenever critical water levels were detected. Notifications such as *"Tank Full"* and *"Low Water Level"* were received instantly on the user's smartphone. This feature enhances user awareness and provides an added layer of convenience, especially for remote monitoring.

### 4.3 System Reliability and Efficiency

Overall system testing revealed that the IoT-based water level monitoring system operated with high reliability, accuracy, and efficiency. The automation process eliminated the need for manual checking, while real-time monitoring ensured timely control of the pump.

The system achieved:

a) Measurement accuracy: 98.2%
b) Pump response reliability: 100% successful switching
c) Network uptime: 99.5% over Wi-Fi connection

In addition to reducing water wastage, the system also contributed to energy efficiency by minimizing unnecessary pump operation. This makes the design suitable for domestic, agricultural, and industrial applications where efficient water management is essential.

### 4.4 Discussion

The integration of IoT technology with traditional water level control systems significantly improves performance and usability. The use of the Blynk platform and Telegram notifications enhances accessibility and convenience for users, while the ESP32 microcontroller provides flexibility for further expansion—such as integrating additional sensors (temperature, turbidity) or connecting to renewable energy systems.

Compared with conventional manual systems, this IoT-based design offers several advantages:

- Real-time remote monitoring,
- Automated pump control,
- Instant notification through mobile devices, and
- Reduced human error and operational costs.

These results align with previous studies in the field of IoT-based water management, confirming that the combination of ultrasonic sensing and wireless communication provides an effective solution for smart home applications.

## Conclusion

The developed IoT-based water level monitoring system successfully improves the efficiency of water management in storage tanks. The integration of the ESP32 microcontroller, HC-SR04 ultrasonic sensor, and relay module with the Blynk application and Telegram bot enables real-time monitoring as well as automatic and manual pump control. Testing results show that the sensor provides high accuracy with a deviation of less than 2%, and the pump control mechanism operates reliably according to the predefined water level thresholds. Overall, the system helps prevent water wastage, enhances energy efficiency, and offers a practical solution for both domestic and industrial applications requiring automated IoT-based water management.

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