Vehicle Monitoring and Intelligent Data Analysis using GPS Based open Source Software

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Abstract- This paper proposes the recorded details of a vehicle’s trip using a passive GPS tracking device. Using a GPS receiver and a logger in the vehicle can be used to show the position of the vehicle such as latitude and longitude. It also stores the values in SD card, using the stored value a report can be generated using PC and effectively viewed in a map. Open source software called openGTS is used to generate customizable report and can be viewed in Google maps, also separate database can be generated for each user to maintain their own records.

Keywords- GPS, Vehicle tracking, PIC, Open GTS, MYSQL

1. INTRODUCTION

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a satellite-based navigation system developed by the US Department of Defense. The first GPS system was tested in 1960’s using a constellation of five satellites. This system was implemented for military purposes and provided navigational data. In 1993 the number of satellites are increased to 24. The system became fully operational and it was also made available to the civilians. Initially, the accuracy of the civilian GPS system was deliberately disturbed using a method called Selective Availability (SA). GPS has now become a widely used aid to navigation and it is commonly used in many applications such as shipping, piloting, route guidance, map making, precise time reference and hobbies and games such as geocaching. In the present fast moving urban life, transportation is among the most common and frequent needs.

With the technological advancement in the transportation sciences [1] the need of secure dynamic and highly efficient system is felt. Use of radio navigation system best fit these entire high end requirements of transportation community. With the implementation of radio navigation system in vehicles they become capable of transmitting the information about their current geodetic position. Use of this information can be done in many systems like real time intelligent dynamic vehicle tracking and navigation system, mobile asset management system, fleet management system, travel time studies, traffic control etc. The multipath effect is caused by reflection of satellite signals from objects on Earth’s surface. The multipath error in GPS systems appear when there are large buildings near a GPS receiver and the signal reflects from these buildings. The reflected signal takes more time to reach the receiver than the direct signal and this result in accuracy errors. The multipath errors can be avoided by moving the receiver away from nearby large buildings or trees.

The three major parts of GPS system is shown in Figure 1, and is classified as:
- Space segment
- Control segment
- User segment

Space segment: The space segment consists of the orbiting satellites. The number of satellites is increasing all the time. As of March 2011, there were 31 actively broadcasting satellites in the GPS constellation. With the increased number of satellites, the reliability and availability of the overall system has been improved. Each satellite contains several atomic clocks. The satellites transmit low radio signals with a unique code on different frequencies, allowing the GPS receiver to identify the signals. The main purpose of these coded signals is to allow the GPS receiver to calculate travel time of the radio signal from the satellite to the receiver. The travel time multiplied by the speed of light equals the distance from the satellite to the GPS receiver.

Figure 1. Block Diagram of GPS Logger
**Control segment:** The control segment consists of the monitoring stations located on Earth. These stations constantly monitor the operational status of all the GPS satellites and also synchronize the atomic clocks of on board satellites to within a few nanoseconds of each other and adjust the orbital model of each satellite. The unmanned stations monitor GPS satellite signals and then send that information to the Master Control Station where anomalies are corrected and sent back to the GPS satellites through ground antennas.

**User segment:** The user segment consists of the user GPS receivers. A GPS receiver is a small battery-operated portable device similar in size to a mobile phone. The device receives signals from the GPS satellites and then displays user’s position, altitude, speed, heading and several other navigational parameters. Few sophisticated receivers also incorporate street level maps where the position of the user is shown on the map dynamically.

2. NMEA

The data output from a GPS receiver is in ASCII text format [2] and is known as the NMEA 0183, or simply the NMEA (National Marine Electronics Association) format. According to this format, navigational information are sent in the form of “sentences”, where each NMEA sentence starts with a “$” sign, the navigational parameters are separated by commas and each sentence is terminated with two hexadecimal checksum characters.

An Example of NMEA sentence, SGPRMC, 220704, A, 5127.3506, N, 00003.2307, E, 0.0, 74.7, 051108, 2.5, W, A*30

Here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>220704</td>
<td>Fix taken at 22:07:04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Navigational data is correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5127.3506, N</td>
<td>Latitude 51 deg. 27.3506 min. North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00003.2307, E</td>
<td>Longitude 0 deg. 3.2307 min. East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Speed over ground (Knots)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>Course made good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>051108</td>
<td>Fix taken on 5 November, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Magnetic variation 2. deg West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Checksum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. HARDWARE SPECIFICATION

A Parallax GPS module is used in the design. This is a small, low-cost GPS with the following features:

- On-board passive patch antenna;
- Single wire, 4800 baud serial TTL interface;
- Provides either raw NMEA output, or specific data can be requested via a command interface;
- Operates with single +5V supply;
- The GPS module has four pins;
- Pins 1 and 2 are the ground and the supply voltage respectively;
- Pin 3 is the TTL compatible, non-inverted serial input-output pin. The data format is 4800 baud, 8 data bits, no parity.

From Figure 2. Pin four is the output format selection bit, called the RAW pin. When RAW is low, the GPS module sends out NMEA sentences automatically every second. When RAW is high (or unconnected), specific GPS data (e.g. the latitude) can be requested from the device by sending commands. In this project the GPS module is operated in the automatic mode.

The SD card is connected to port pins RC2 to RC5 of the microcontroller and is operated in SPI mode. A card holder is used to physically make connections to the card pins. The voltage at output pins of the micro-controller is too high and can damage the input circuitry of the SD card.
collection. During the data collection the LED flashes at a rate of about once a second. If the SD card is not inserted into its holder, the LED will flash quickly to show an error condition. The switch should be kept pressed for about five seconds to terminate the data logging and wait until the LED turns OFF before removing the SD card from its holder.

4. SOFTWARE SPECIFICATION

Mainly GPS based open source software is used, which is called openGTS (GPS Tracking System). It is intended to provide a generic back-end web-based service [4] for querying and viewing GPS related data. It is designed to operate independently of any specific GPS tracking device or protocol, but comes with support for several device protocol formats (such as OpenDMTP- Open Source Device Monitoring and Tracking Protocol).

![Open Source OpenGTS GPS Tracking](image)

**Figure 4.** OpenGTS Login Page

It is specifically designed for use in small to medium sized commercial enterprises wishing to take advantage of GPS tracking for "fleets" of vehicles. However, OpenGTS is highly configurable and scalable to larger enterprises as well.

On the server side, OpenGTS (Figure 4.) is designed to be device and protocol independent. In order to use the features of Open GTS, a specific device/protocol communication server will need to be implemented to communicate with the remote device and place the data in the SQL database. Open GTS is completely implemented in Java and should run fine on any system that fully supports the Java Runtime Environment.

GPS receiver [5] stores the data in GPX format which is an XML schema. OpenGTS software can read these xml file format from the memory card where the files are stored. OpenGTS can be easily integrated with Google Maps, or any other mapping software.

![GTS diagram](image)

**Figure 5.** Architecture

With the help of co-ordinates, the position can be represented in map form so that it will be easy to identify the vehicle’s trip. This will be helpful for call taxi offices who has to manage many number of vehicles. So a database can be created for each user and maintain their own records separately.

As shown in Figure 5. MySQL is the world's most used open source relational database management system (RDBMS) that runs as a server providing multi-user access to a number of databases. When Mysql [6],[7] and Apache tomcat server are integrated a separate username and password can be generated for each user and act as a server or administrator.

Apache Tomcat (or simply Tomcat) is an open source web server and servlet container. Apache Tomcat includes tools for configuration and management, but can also be configured by editing XML configuration files. With custom coding, other devices can also be integrated as well using the included example "template" device communication server.

- **Customizable web-page decorations:** The look and feel of the tracking web site can easily be customized to fit the motif of the specific company.
- **Customizable mapping service:** OpenGTS comes with support for OpenLayers/OpenStreetMap in addition to support for Google Maps, Microsoft Virtual Earth, and Maps traction (which provides mapping support for MultiMap, Map24, MapQuest, and more). Within the OpenGTS (framework, other mapping service providers can also easily be integrated.
- **Customizable reports:** Using an internal XML-based reporting engine, detail and summary reports can be customized to show historical data for a specific vehicle, or for the fleet.
- **Customizable geofenced areas:** Custom geofenced areas (geozones) can be set up to provide arrival/departure events on reports. Each geozone can also be named to provide a custom 'address' which is displayed on reports when inside the geozone (for instance “Main Office”).
- **Operating system independent:** OpenGTS itself is written entirely in Java, using technologies such as Apache Tomcat for web service deployment, and MySQL for the datastore. As such, OpenGTS will run on any system which supports these technologies (including Linux, Mac OS X, FreeBSD, OpenBSD, Solaris, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 20XX, and more).

So as per the requirement of the user the software can be re-designed. Also cost of software is none as it is an open source and also independent of platforms, so it is flexible for all type of customers.

4.1 **NMEA Conversion**

The NMEA protocol shown in Figure 6 is received using GPS device.

After accepting the IMEI (International Mobile Station Equipment Identity) and NMEA data from the device by the web server, a method is used for tokenizing all the particular data. This is done after verifying the IMEI number of the device that the NMEA formatted data
converted to the decimal format. After converting NMEA formatted data to decimal Latitude and longitude, it changes as following: 2345.3522N = 23.75589 09022.0288E = 90.367205

With the help of co-ordinates a report can be generated as shown in the Figure 7. From that we can convert the report to any format like html, doc, and text. So that it will be portable and can be used anywhere.

5. RESULTS

The result shows the vehicle’s trip from one place to another place is shown in Figure. 8 and the green marker represents the waypoints which are recorded at particular interval of time. The yellow marker shows the origin and the red marker shows the destination of the vehicle.
6. CONCLUSION

This paper proposes passive tracking of a vehicle and analysis of recorded details using open source software. This will be essential in future for any organisation running with much number of vehicles in a city. In future active tracking can be done with the help of GSM module attached to it. By using active tracking this method will be more efficient and will be successful in automobile industries. With the help of GPS, it may avoid trespassing restricted areas and critical borders. This system used to find the shortest path to reach the destination. Travelers will not lose their path, if they have GPS system installed. Software cost is not necessary as it is open source software. This kind of approach avoids the usage of company vehicles for personal works. Implementation of GPS in vehicles can certainly bring a revolutionary impact in transportation science in a developing country like India where there is an extremely high urban as well as rural vehicular transition every day. A rial ion wide integrated business plan for including automobile companies and GPS system providers is desired to bring this revolution.

REFERENCES