ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/26jun2028

An Android Device-Based Wi-Fi Home Automation System's Design and Implementation

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Publication Date: 2026/08/01

Abstract: This work presents the design and implementation of a home automation system using an Android device, aimed at providing users with a convenient and efficient way to control household appliances remotely. The system leverages IoT (Internet of Things) technologies and integrates a combination of hardware and software components to achieve seamless automation. The hardware setup includes an ESP8266 Node MCU microcontroller, chosen for its cost-effectiveness, low power consumption, and built-in Wi-Fi capabilities, enabling wireless communication with the Android app. The system also incorporates a 4-channel relay module to control high-voltage appliances such as lights, fans, and sockets. Each relay is rated at 5V, 10A/250V, ensuring safe and reliable switching of household devices. Additionally, the system utilizes a 5V power supply to power the ESP8266 and relay module, while the appliances are connected to the main AC supply.The Android application, developed using the Blynk platform, serves as the user-friendly interface for controlling and monitoring the system. The app communicates with the ESP8266 microcontroller via Wi-Fi, using the Blynk library for efficient data exchange. The system was tested for responsiveness, reliability, and energy efficiency. Results showed that the system could handle simultaneous control of multiple appliances without delays or failures. The project demonstrates the practical application of modern technologies, such as IoT and Android app development, to create a scalable and user-friendly home automation solution.

Keyword: *Home Automation, Android App, Internet of Things, Microcontrollers, Blynk Platform.*

How to Cite: Ugwuda A. U.; Nwaogaidu S. O.; Ugwu S. A. (2026) An Android Device-Based Wi-Fi Home Automation System's Design and Implementation. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology,* 11(6), 3963-3968. https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/26jun2028

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of home automation dates back several decades, evolving from simple remote-controlled appliances to fully integrated smart homes. Early home automation systems were limited to wired connections and required extensive installations, making them expensive and inaccessible to most consumers. However, the rapid growth of wireless technology, cloud computing, and mobile applications has transformed the industry, making home automation more affordable and accessible[1-3].With the rise of Android smartphones, home automation has become more convenient and scalable. Numerous studies have explored Android-based home automation systems utilizing Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and cloud-based architectures for device control and monitoring. Bluetooth-based solutions provide energy-efficient short-range communication but are limited by range constraints, making them less effective for large homes. Wi-Fi-based systems offer higher data transfer rates and broader coverage, enabling real-time control through mobile applications [4-7]. Cloud computing has further revolutionized home automation by providing remote access, data storage, and analytics capabilities. Cloud-integrated home automation systems allow users to monitor and control appliances from anywhere using an internet connection. Such systems leverage Internet of Things (IoT) frameworks, enabling real-time data exchange between devices and cloud servers. Several researchers have developed IoT-based home automation frameworks using Android applications to manage smart devices through cloud platforms like Firebase, AWS IoT, and Google Cloud [8-12].

Security and privacy concerns remain a major challenge in home automation systems. Unauthorized access, data breaches, and cyber-attacks pose significant risks to smart home infrastructures. Researchers have proposed various encryption techniques, multi-factor authentication mechanisms, and intrusion detection systems to mitigate

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/26jun2028

these risks. Secure communication protocols such as Transport Layer Security (TLS) and blockchain-based authentication mechanisms have been explored to enhance security in Android-based home automation systems [13-17].

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) have introduced new dimensions to home automation by enabling predictive analytics and autonomous decision-making. AI-powered automation systems can learn user preferences, optimize energy consumption, and enhance security through real-time anomaly detection. Deep learning models have been utilized to recognize voice commands, gestures, and facial recognition for smart home control. Several studies have highlighted the effectiveness of AI-driven automation in improving user experience and energy efficiency [18-22].

Energy efficiency is a key aspect of home automation, as smart devices can help reduce power consumption through intelligent scheduling and adaptive control. Research has demonstrated that integrating renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, with smart home automation systems can significantly enhance sustainability. Android-based applications provide user-friendly dashboards for monitoring energy usage, allowing homeowners to make informed decisions regarding power consumption. Smart meters and IoT-enabled sensors play a crucial role in energy management by providing real-time insights and automated control over connected devices [23-26].

II. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

The system comprises an Android application, a central microcontroller, sensors, and the appliances to be controlled. Smart Home Automation System was implemented using an ESP8266 NodeMCU, a four-channel relay module, four bulbs. All four loads are controlled through the Blynk app using button widgets. This setup allows user to turn appliances ON or OFF remotely over Wi-Fi, making the system both convenient and efficient. . The performance of the system will be evaluated through experimental analysis, focusing on factors such as responsiveness, reliability, and energy efficiency. The study will also assess the feasibility of implementing the system in real-world applications, considering factors such as cost-effectiveness, scalability, and ease of installation.

➢ *Software Tools*

The software for the home automation system consists of.

- Android Application – Developed using Java/Kotlin in Android Studio for controlling appliances.
- Firmware for Microcontroller – Written in C/C++ (Arduino IDE) to process commands.
- Communication Protocols: Wi-Fi (MQTT/HTTP) – Used for cloud-based automation

➢ *Hardware Components*

The system requires the following hardware components:

- *Microcontroller (ESP8266):*

The ESP8266 is a low-cost, Wi-Fi-enabled microcontroller that serves as the central processing unit for the home automation system. It receives commands from the Android application via Wi-Fi and controls connected electrical appliances through relays. It can only receive 5V as input.

- *4- Channel Relay Module:*

This is an electromechanical switch rated 5V, 10A/250V used to control high-power electrical appliances with low-power signals from the ESP8266. It allows the microcontroller to turn ON/OFF lights, fans, or other home devices safely.

- *Zener Diode:*

A Zener diode is a type of semiconductor diode designed to allow current to flow in the reverse direction when a specific voltage, called the Zener breakdown voltage, is reached. It is primarily used for voltage regulation and protection in electronic circuits.

- *Voltage Regulator:*

A voltage regulator LM317 is an electronic component or circuit that helps maintain a consistent voltage level in a device or system, despite changes in the input voltage or current. Its primary function is to regulate the output voltage to a predetermined value, ensuring that it remains stable and within a specified range.

➢ *System Architecture*

The system architecture consists of both hardware and software components that work together to control the appliances.

- *ESP8266 NodeMCU:*

This is the brain of the project. It connects to Wi-Fi and communicates with the Blynk app to control the relays.

- *Four-Channel Relay Module:*

This module acts as a bridge between the microcontroller and the high-voltage appliances (the bulbs and fan).

- *Blynk App:*

We used this mobile app to create a simple interface with four buttons, each controlling one appliance.

- *Power Supply:*

The ESP8266 and relays are powered using a 5V power source, while the appliances are connected to the main AC supply.

Block diagram of home automation system is shown in ‘’fig 1’’.

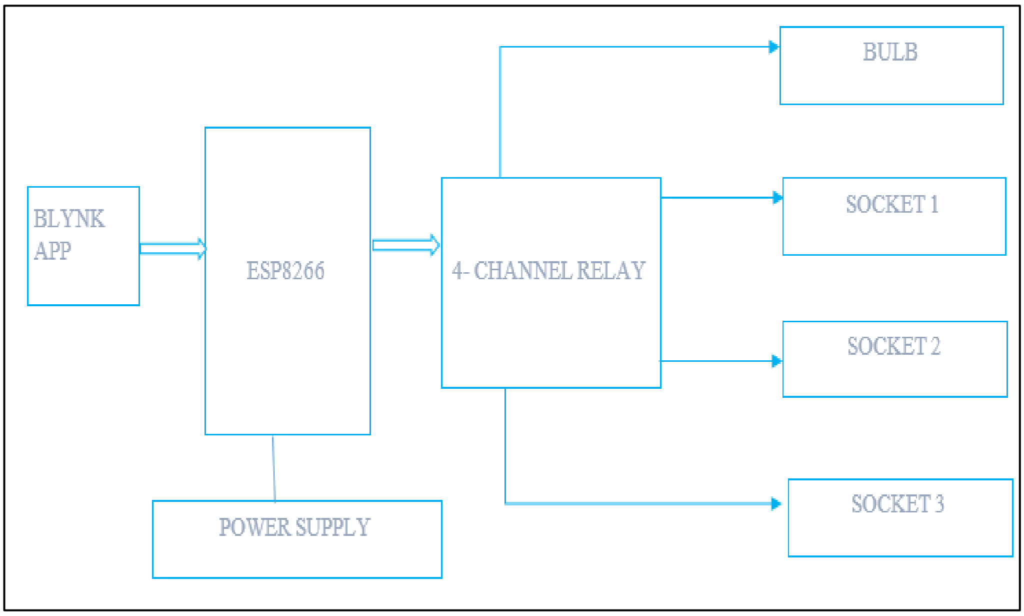

Fig 1 Block Diagram of Home Automation System Using Android Device

➢ *Hardware Implementation*

- *ESP8266 NodeMCU Setup*

The ESP8266 NodeMCU was programmed using the Arduino IDE. After uploading the code, the ESP8266 is connected to phone Wi-Fi network, allowing the control of the appliances remotely via the Blynk app.

✓ *Relay Connections*

- Relay 1: Connected to Socket 1
- Relay 2: Connected to Socket 2
- Relay 3: Connected to Socket 3
- Relay 4: Connected to Bulb 4

Each relay was connected to the corresponding GPIO pins of the ESP8266, and the appliances were wired to the relay module for switching.

- *Power Supply Setup*

We used a 5V regulator to power the ESP8266 and the relay module. The appliances were powered through the household AC supply.

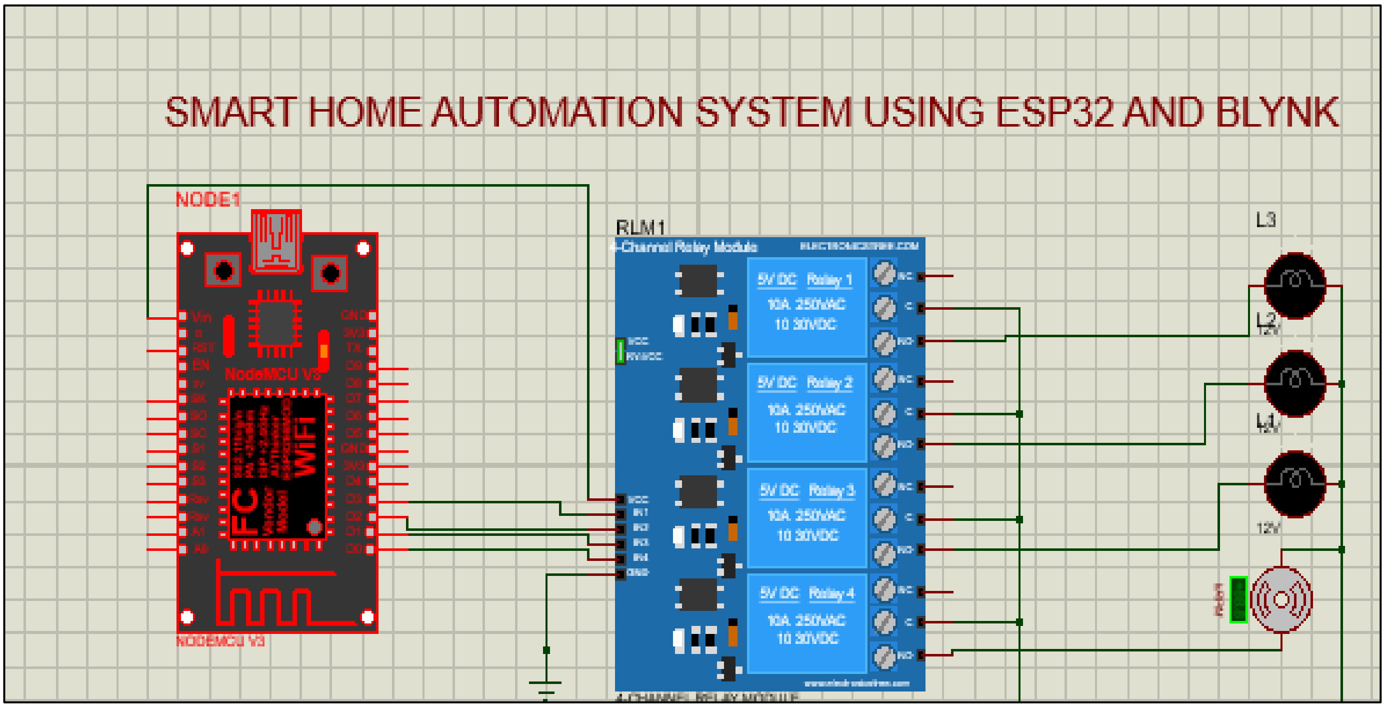

Fig 2 Simulated Circuit Diagram of the Smart Home Automation System

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/26jun2028

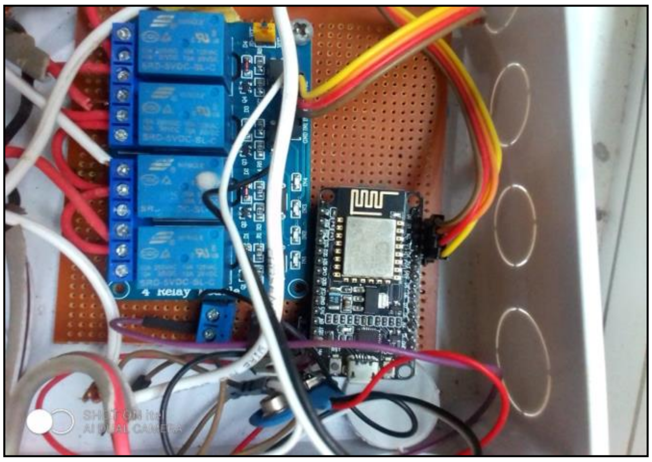

Fig 3a: Practical Circuit Diagram of the Home Automation System

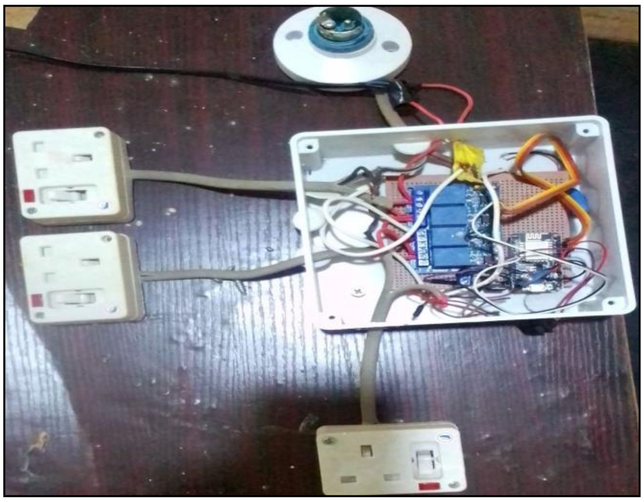

Fig 3b Diagram of the Home Automation System

➢ *Software Implementation*

The software part of the project was developed using the Arduino IDE and the Blynk library for IoT functionality.

- *Blynk App Setup*

In the Blynk app, four button widgets were added, each assigned to a virtual pin to control a specific relay:

✓ V1: Controls Socket 1;
✓ V2: Controls Socket 2 ;
✓ V3: Controls Socket 3;
✓ V4: Controls the Bulb 4

- *Arduino Code*

We wrote the code to connect the ESP8266 to the Wi-Fi and receive commands from the Blynk app. When a button is pressed in the app, the ESP8266 toggles the corresponding relay, switching the appliance ON or OFF.

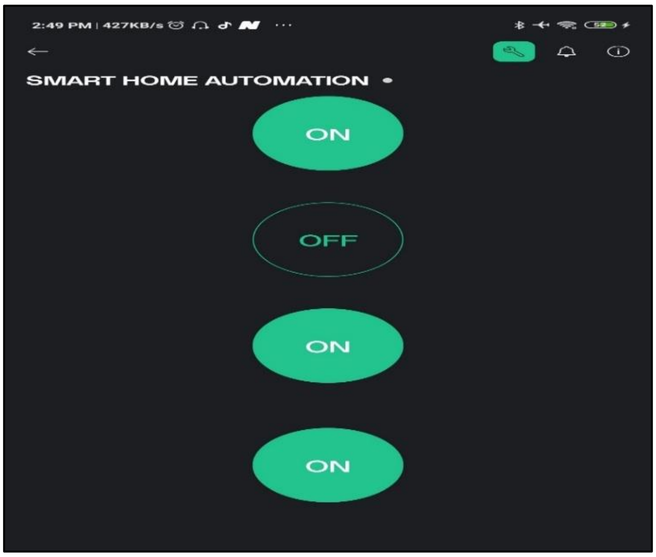

Fig 4 Screenshot of the Blynk App Interface with Button Widgets

➢ *Arduino Code*

The software code is shown below.

```
#define BLYNK_TEMPLATE_ID "TMPL2BKCv-5YB"
#define BLYNK_TEMPLATE_NAME "SMART HOME AUTOMATION"
#define BLYNK_AUTH_TOKEN "Ax5ZII5yo37ySUUL5urWtrI5YmA9_7MP"

#include <ESP8266WiFi.h>
#include <BlynkSimpleEsp8266.h>

// Your WiFi credentials
char ssid[] = "MTN_4G_3490B0";
char pass[] = "ttttttt";
// Define relay pins
#define RELAY1 D1
#define RELAY2 D2
#define RELAY3 D3
#define RELAY4 D4
void setup()
{  // Start serial communication
Serial.begin(115200);
// Configure relay pins as output
pinMode(RELAY1, OUTPUT);
pinMode(RELAY2, OUTPUT);
pinMode(RELAY3, OUTPUT);
pinMode(RELAY4, OUTPUT);
// Ensure relays are off initially
digitalWrite(RELAY1, HIGH);
digitalWrite(RELAY2, HIGH);
digitalWrite(RELAY3, HIGH);
digitalWrite(RELAY4, HIGH);
// Connect to Blynk
Blynk.begin(BLYNK_AUTH_TOKEN, ssid, pass);}
// Virtual pins to control relays
BLYNK_WRITE(V1) {digitalWrite(RELAY1, param.asInt
() ? LOW: HIGH); }
BLYNK_WRITE(V2) {digitalWrite(RELAY2, param.asInt
() ? LOW: HIGH);}
```

ISSN No:-2456-2165 https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/26jun2028

```
BLYNK_WRITE(V3){digitalWrite(RELAY3, param.asInt () ? LOW : HIGH);}
BLYNK_WRITE(V4){digitalWrite(RELAY4, param.asInt () ? LOW : HIGH);}
void loop() { // Run BlynkBlynk.run();}
```

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Android application, developed using the Blynk platform, serves as the user-friendly interface for controlling and monitoring the system. The app communicates with the ESP8266 microcontroller via Wi-Fi, using the Blynk library for efficient data exchange. The system was tested for responsiveness, reliability, and energy efficiency. Results showed that the system could handle simultaneous control of multiple appliances without delays or failures. After the design, the Blynk app in the phone was used to turn ON and OFF Socket 1, Socket 2, Socket 3 and Bulb individually. Each of the four appliances responded accurately to the button presses without any delays.

IV. CONCLUSION

This project successfully demonstrated how to build a smart home automation system using the ESP8266 and Blynk app. All four appliances (three Socket and one Bulbs) were controlled seamlessly through the app, providing a practical solution for home automation. The system is not only efficient but also cost-effective, making it a good foundation for more advanced smart home projects in the future.

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