DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR POWERED CCTV CAMERA USING ESP32 MICROCONTROLLER WITH WEB APP VIEWING OVER WIFI

BY

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HND/23/SLT/FT/0040

SUBMITTED TO:

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

(PHYSICS UNIT), INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SCIENCES (IAS),

KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN.

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND)

IN SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY (SLT)

SUPERVISED BY:
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2024/2025 SESSION

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work has been written by**OHIANI AHUOIZA FATIMAT**with matric number **HND/23/SLT/FT/0040** and has been read and approved as meeting the parts of the requirements for the award of Higher National Diploma (HND) in Science Laboratory technology Department, Institute of Applied Sciences, Kwara State Polytechnic.

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DEDCATION

This project work is sincerely dedicated to Almighty Allah for His mercy and blessings upon my life.

To my late father, though you are no longer here to witness this milestone, your love, sacrifice, and unwavering belief in me have brought me this far. This project is dedicated to you, your memory, and your dreams for me, and the strong foundation you laid for my success.

Death may have taken you from this world, but your spirit lives on in every step I take.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Almighty Allah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful, for His immense support, grace, and the gift of life. I thank Him sincerely for granting me the privilege and strength to begin and complete this project. He is the Giver of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, and without His guidance, this achievement would not have been possible.

I would like to express my deep and heartfelt gratitude to my project supervisor, **Mr. Agboola A.O,** for his consistent support, guidance, and constructive criticism throughout this project. His encouragement and expert advice played a significant role in helping me complete this work successfully. I am also grateful to all my lecturers in the Science Laboratory Technology Department for their dedication, commitment, and valuable input during the course of my studies. May Almighty Allah reward and favor you all abundantly, and may He continue to bless you and your families.

I wish to acknowledge the unending love, support, and sacrifices of my beloved guardians, **Mr.** and **Mrs. Ohiani.** From the day I was born up until this stage of my academic journey, you have stood by me morally, financially, and spiritually. Your care and devotion mean the world to me, and I pray that Almighty Allah grants you long life, good health, and the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of your labor. May His blessings be upon you always. Amen.

My sincere appreciation also goes to **Engr. Yakubu Adajah (EDC of PEEMADI)**, **Mr. Lah (CEO of HAIRSENSE)**, **ENGR.OTUNBA** and **DR SUNDAY** for their contributions and support in making sure I succeed on this journey. I am deeply thankful to everyone who has played a part in the realization of this project. Your kindness and encouragement will never be forgotten.

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ABSTRACT

Security surveillance is a critical component in protecting lives and property, especially in areas lacking reliable electricity and internet infrastructure. This project presents the design and construction of a solar-powered CCTV camera system using the ESP32-CAM microcontroller, with real-time video streaming accessible via a web application over WiFi. The system was developed to offer a cost-effective, energy-efficient, and easily deployable solution for continuous surveillance in both rural and urban environments. The core of the system is the ESP32-CAM module, which integrates a microcontroller and camera for image capturing and processing. A 6V solar panel, in conjunction with a TP4056 charging module and a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, powers the system. The ESP32 hosts a local web server, allowing users to view the live video feed on any device connected to the same WiFi network, either in station mode or access point mode. The prototype was successfully built and tested. It provided stable video streaming, sustained power through solar charging, and user-friendly access via a browser interface. Performance tests showed that the system could operate reliably for several hours without sunlight, making it suitable for 24/7 monitoring. Although the system lacked advanced features such as night vision and cloud integration, it laid a solid foundation for future improvements. This project demonstrates the potential of combining renewable energy with IoT-based surveillance technology to create sustainable and scalable security systems. It is ideal for deployment in homes, farms, construction sites, and other remote areas where traditional power supply is not guaranteed.

Keywords: ESP32-CAM, Solar Power, CCTV, WiFi Surveillance, Web Streaming, IoT, Renewable Energy, Wireless Camera System.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

The increasing need for effective and reliable surveillance systems has become a global priority, especially with the rise in security challenges in urban and rural areas. Traditional CCTV systems rely heavily on grid electricity, which limits their applicability in remote locations or regions with unstable power supply (Smith et al., 2020). As a result, solar-powered CCTV cameras have emerged as an innovative solution to provide consistent surveillance in off-grid and underserved areas, leveraging renewable energy sources to ensure uninterrupted operation.

Solar CCTV systems combine photovoltaic technology with modern surveillance equipment to create self-sustaining security solutions. These systems are equipped with solar panels, rechargeable batteries, and advanced cameras that operate efficiently without requiring a direct connection to the electrical grid (Chen et al., 2021). This integration has gained significant attention due to its potential to reduce operational costs and promote environmental sustainability by utilizing clean energy sources.

Moreover, the adoption of solar CCTV cameras aligns with global efforts to combat climate change and reduce carbon footprints in the security sector. According to Olatunji and Ibrahim, (2022), the shift toward solar-powered security systems has seen substantial growth in developing countries, where access to electricity is limited. These systems not only address energy challenges but also enhance security in critical areas such as highways, construction sites, and remote communities.

Recent advancements in technology, such as improved solar panel efficiency and enhanced camera capabilities, have further driven the adoption of solar CCTV systems. For instance, artificial intelligence integration into these systems now enables features such as motion detection, facial recognition, and real-time alerts, making them more efficient and user-friendly, (Martins et al., 2023). This innovation ensures that solar CCTV systems are not only cost-effective but also capable of meeting modern surveillance demands.

Overall, solar CCTV cameras present a sustainable and practical solution to current security challenges, particularly in regions facing power supply issues. As noted by Kalu and Adetayo (2024), their adoption is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years due to their environmental benefits, operational reliability, and adaptability to various use cases. This study explores the technological advancements, applications, and challenges of solar CCTV systems, providing insights into their role in modern security infrastructure.

Figure 1.1: 4G Solar Powered CCTV Camera

https://www.amazon.sa/-/en/Security-Monitoring-Intrusion-Solar-Powered-Waterproof/dp/B0C8DJKGRS

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Security challenges have become a pressing concern in both urban and rural areas, with an increasing demand for effective surveillance systems to deter criminal activities and ensure safety. Traditional CCTV systems, while effective, often rely heavily on uninterrupted grid power, making them impractical in remote locations and areas with unreliable electricity supply. This limitation poses significant challenges in providing adequate security coverage, especially in developing countries where power infrastructure is in consistent, (Olatunji& Ibrahim, 2022).

Furthermore, the high operational costs associated with electricity-powered surveillance systems and their susceptibility to power outages limit their efficiency and accessibility. In rural and off-grid communities, the lack of affordable and sustainable security solutions exacerbates the vulnerability to crimes and hinders economic development (Martins et al., 2023). Addressing these issues requires innovative solutions that do not depend on conventional energy sources.

Solar-powered CCTV systems have emerged as a potential solution to these challenges. However, their adoption faces several barriers, including high initial installation costs, performance variability due to weather conditions, and limited awareness of their long-term benefits. Additionally, questions remain regarding their efficiency, durability, and ability to meet the evolving demands of modern surveillance, such as high-definition recording and real-time monitoring (Kalu&Adetayo, 2024).

This study seeks to address these gaps by exploring the technological, economic, and environmental implications of solar CCTV systems. It aims to identify how these systems can provide reliable and cost-effective surveillance solutions in areas with limited power infrastructure while contributing to the global push for sustainable energy practices.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The primary objective of this study is to explore the viability and impact of solar-powered CCTV systems as a sustainable and effective solution for modern surveillance challenges.

- To evaluate the technological advancements in solar CCTV cameras.
- To examine the economic feasibility of implementing solar CCTV systems.
- To identify the key applications and use cases of solar CCTV cameras.
- To investigate the challenges associated with solar-powered CCTV systems.
- To assess the environmental and social benefits of adopting solar CCTV systems.
- To provide recommendations for optimizing the adoption and performance of solar CCTV cameras.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

This study on solar-powered CCTV cameras holds significant importance across multiple dimensions, addressing critical technological, economic, environmental, and social concerns.

1.4.1 Technological Advancement

The project highlights the innovative integration of renewable energy with modern surveillance systems. It showcases how advancements in solar technology, battery storage, and smart surveillance features can provide efficient and sustainable solutions to security challenges. This contributes to the growing body of knowledge on renewable energy applications in technology-driven sectors, (Olatunji& Ibrahim, 2022).

1.4.2 Economic Impact

By examining the cost implications of solar CCTV systems, the study provides insights into how these systems can reduce long-term operational costs compared to conventional CCTV systems. It offers valuable information for businesses, government agencies, and property owners seeking cost-effective and energy-efficient security solutions, particularly in regions with unstable power infrastructure (Martins et al., 2023).

1.4.3 Environmental Benefits

The project underscores the role of solar-powered systems in promoting environmental sustainability. By reducing reliance on fossil fuels and grid electricity, solar CCTV cameras help lower carbon emissions and support global efforts to combat climate change. This aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 7, which advocates for affordable and clean energy, (Kalu&Adetayo, 2024).

1.4.4 Social Relevance

In areas where traditional surveillance systems are impractical due to power limitations, solar CCTV cameras offer a viable alternative for enhancing security. This study demonstrates how these systems can improve safety in remote communities, protect critical infrastructure, and support law enforcement efforts. Enhanced security contributes to social stability, economic growth, and overall quality of life, (Smith et al., 2020).

1.4.5 Policy and Implementation Guidance

The findings of this study can serve as a guide for policymakers, urban planners, and private sector stakeholders in developing frameworks for adopting solar-powered CCTV systems. It offers recommendations for addressing implementation challenges, making it a valuable resource for promoting sustainable security solutions.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE PROJECT

This project focuses on the exploration and analysis of solar-powered CCTV systems as a sustainable solution for modern surveillance needs. It examines the technological, economic, environmental, and social dimensions of these systems, with an emphasis on their application in regions with limited or unreliable access to grid electricity. The project covers key aspects such as the components of solar CCTV systems, their functionality, and their benefits in different environments, including urban, rural, and remote areas.

The scope includes an evaluation of the technological advancements in solar panels, energy storage solutions, and smart surveillance features like motion detection and facial recognition. The study also investigates the economic feasibility of solar CCTV cameras by analyzing installation costs, maintenance requirements, and long-term savings. Furthermore, it addresses the environmental impact of adopting renewable energy for security purposes, highlighting its role in reducing carbon footprints and supporting sustainable development goals.

However, this study has certain limitations. First, it focuses primarily on the general principles, design, and performance of solar CCTV systems rather than the specific brands or models available in the market. Second, while the study includes a discussion on the challenges of implementing solar CCTV systems, such as weather dependency and high initial costs, it does not provide exhaustive technical solutions to all identified challenges. Third, the study relies on secondary data, including case studies, reports, and academic literature from 2020 to 2024, which may limit the inclusion of the latest real-world implementation experiences or region -specific data.

Additionally, the geographical focus is broader, with examples drawn from global and developing country contexts, rather than being tailored to a specific location. This may restrict the study's direct applicability to local conditions or policies. Despite these limitations, the study provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the potential of solar CCTV systems and offers valuable insights for stakeholders in the security and renewable energy sectors.

1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Solar CCTV Camera: A solar-powered CCTV camera is a surveillance system that uses photovoltaic panels to generate energy for operation, eliminating the need for grid electricity. These systems often include energy storage solutions like batteries to ensure functionality during low sunlight conditions (Smith et al., 2020).

Photovoltaic (PV) Panel: A photovoltaic panel, also known as a solar panel, is a device that converts sunlight into electrical energy through the photovoltaic effect. It is a critical component of solar-powered systems, providing the energy required for continuous operation, (Chen et al., 2021).

Battery Storage: Battery storage refers to the use of rechargeable batteries to store energy generated by solar panels. In solar CCTV systems, battery storage ensures the system operates during nighttime or periods of low sunlight (Olatunji& Ibrahim, 2022).

Surveillance System: A surveillance system is a setup that monitors activities and environments for security purposes, typically using cameras, sensors, and recording devices. Solar CCTV cameras are a sustainable alternative to traditional surveillance systems, (Martins et al., 2023).

Weather Dependency: Weather dependency refers to the reliance of solar systems on adequate sunlight for optimal performance. Solar CCTV cameras may experience reduced efficiency during cloudy or rainy conditions, highlighting one of their primary limitations, (Kalu&Adetayo, 2024).

Carbon Footprint: A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly or indirectly by an individual, organization, or product. Solar-powered systems reduce carbon footprints by using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels, (United Nations, 2020).

Smart Features: Smart features in surveillance systems refer to advanced functionalities, such as motion detection, facial recognition, and real-time alerts, often enabled by artificial intelligence and machine learning (Martins et al., 2023).

Off-Grid System: An off-grid system operates independently of the central electrical grid, relying on alternative energy sources like solar power for its functionality. Solar CCTV systems are particularly beneficial in off-grid locations, (Olatunji& Ibrahim, 2022).

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW OF SOLAR CCTV CAMERAS

Solar CCTV cameras are advanced surveillance systems powered by renewable energy derived from solar panels. Unlike traditional CCTV cameras that rely on grid electricity, solar CCTV systems use photovoltaic technology to capture sunlight and convert it into electrical energy, enabling their operation in off-grid and low-power environments, (Smith et al., 2020). These systems are equipped with rechargeable batteries that store excess energy during the day, ensuring uninterrupted functionality during nighttime or cloudy conditions.

A standard solar CCTV camera system consists of three primary components: the solar panel, which captures solar energy; the battery, which stores the energy; and the camera unit, which includes various functionalities such as high-definition video recording, motion detection, and real-time monitoring (Chen et al., 2021). Some advanced models also incorporate smart features like facial recognition, AI-powered analytics, and cloud storage for seamless operation and enhanced security capabilities.

The primary advantage of solar CCTV cameras lies in their independence from the conventional power grid. This makes them particularly useful in remote or rural areas where electricity supply is either unavailable or unreliable. According to Olatunji and Ibrahim (2022), these systems are increasingly being adopted in infrastructure such as highways, farms, and construction sites, where consistent monitoring is crucial.

2.1.2 COMPONENTS OF SOLAR CCTV SYSTEMS

1. Solar Panel: The solar panel is the core component that captures sunlight and converts it into electrical energy through the photovoltaic effect. The efficiency of the panel depends on factors such as material quality, panel size, and sunlight availability. Monocrystalline panels are commonly used in solar CCTV systems due to their high efficiency and durability, (Chen et al., 2021).

2. Rechargeable Battery: The rechargeable battery stores excess energy generated by the solar panel during the day for use at night or during cloudy conditions. Lithium-ion batteries are often preferred for their high energy density, long lifespan, and fast charging capabilities. The battery capacity determines how long the system can operate without direct sunlight, (Martins et al., 2023).

3. CCTV Camera Unit: The camera unit is responsible for capturing video footage and transmitting it for storage or real-time monitoring. Solar-powered CCTV cameras typically feature high-definition video resolution, infrared capabilities for night vision, and smart features such as motion detection and facial recognition, (Smith et al., 2020).

4. Solar Charge Controller: The solar charge controller regulates the flow of electricity from the solar panel to the battery and camera unit. It prevents overcharging of the battery and ensures that the system operates efficiently. Advanced controllers may also provide data on energy usage and storage levels, (Olatunji& Ibrahim, 2022).

5. Mounting System: The mounting system secures the solar panel and camera unit in place, optimizing their exposure to sunlight and ensuring stability. Adjustable mounts allow the solar panel to be angled for maximum efficiency based on the geographical location and time of year, (Kalu&Adetayo, 2024).

6. Connectivity Module: The connectivity module facilitates communication between the camera and monitoring systems. Depending on the setup, this can include Wi-Fi, GSM, or wired connections. Advanced systems may include cloud-based storage and real-time alerting capabilities, (Chen et al., 2021).

7. Cables and Wiring: High-quality cables and wiring are used to connect the various components of the system. These are typically weatherproof and designed to withstand outdoor conditions. Proper wiring ensures minimal energy loss and efficient operation of the system, (Martins et al., 2023).

8. Monitoring and Storage System: Monitoring systems enable real-time viewing of footage, while storage systems, such as SD cards, hard drives, or cloud storage, allow users to archive recorded videos. Modern solar CCTV cameras often integrate with mobile apps or web platforms for remote access and control, (Smith et al., 2020).

2.1.3 TYPES OF SOLAR CCTV CAMERAS

1. **Standalone Solar CCTV Cameras**
    - These are self-contained systems that include the camera, solar panel, and battery in a single unit.
    - They are easy to install and require minimal setup since they don't need additional wiring for power.
    - Ideal for small areas or where there is limited infrastructure.
2. **Solar-Powered IP Cameras**
    - These cameras are connected to a network via Wi-Fi and powered by solar energy.
    - They allow for remote monitoring via smartphones or computers.
    - They are typically more advanced, offering features such as high-definition video, motion detection, and cloud storage.
3. **Solar PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) Cameras**
    - These cameras provide adjustable camera angles and zooming capabilities, making them ideal for large or wide surveillance areas.
    - They can be controlled remotely and are often used in areas requiring

extensive monitoring.
   - The solar panels ensure they can operate continuously in areas without reliable power.
4. **Solar Trail Cameras**
   - Solar trail cameras are commonly used for outdoor surveillance in remote locations, such as forests or farmlands.
   - They are designed to capture images or videos triggered by motion.
   - Solar trail cameras are equipped with high-capacity batteries to ensure longer usage periods.
5. **Hybrid Solar CCTV Cameras**
   - These systems combine solar power with traditional power sources like AC or DC electricity.
   - They are more reliable in areas with inconsistent sunlight, as they can switch to a backup power source when necessary.
   - These cameras provide enhanced flexibility and reliability.

2.2 TECHNOLOGY BEHIND SOLAR CCTV CAMERAS

Solar CCTV cameras are an advanced security solution that combines traditional surveillance technology with solar power to provide efficient, eco-friendly, and cost-effective monitoring. These cameras are equipped with solar panels, allowing them to operate without relying on external power sources or traditional electricity grids. The technology behind solar CCTV cameras integrates several components that make them reliable, sustainable, and highly adaptable for use in remote or off-grid locations. This section will explore the key technologies that power solar CCTV cameras, including solar power systems, camera components, and smart features.

2.2.1 SOLAR PANEL TECHNOLOGY

Solar panel technology is a critical component of solar CCTV cameras, as it enables them to operate independently without relying on external power sources. Solar panels convert sunlight into electricity through the photovoltaic (PV) effect, making them a sustainable and eco-friendly solution for powering surveillance systems, especially in off-grid or remote locations. The advancements in solar panel technology over the past few years have significantly improved their efficiency, durability, and cost-effectiveness. This section will explore the key developments in solar panel technology, highlighting recent innovations and their impact on the performance of solar CCTV cameras.

1. Photovoltaic Cells and Efficiency Improvements

The core technology behind solar panels is the photovoltaic (PV) cell, which converts sunlight into direct current (DC) electricity. Over the past few years, there have been significant improvements in the efficiency of these cells, which directly impact the overall performance of solar-powered systems like CCTV cameras. The efficiency of solar panels refers to the percentage of sunlight that can be converted into usable electricity. In 2020, the efficiency of monocrystalline silicon solar panels, which are commonly used in solar CCTV systems, reached about 20-22%. However, with advancements in materials and manufacturing processes, the efficiency of these panels has continued to improve. According to Zhang et al. (2023), recent innovations in perovskite solar cells have led to efficiency rates of up to 26%, offering even higher power conversion rates for solar-powered devices, including surveillance systems. This increase in efficiency allows solar CCTV cameras to function for longer periods with less exposure to sunlight, making them more reliable in varying weather conditions.

2. Bifacial Solar Panels

Bifacial solar panels are another significant development in solar panel technology that enhances the performance of solar-powered systems. Unlike traditional monofacial panels, which capture sunlight only from one side, bifacial panels can absorb light from both the front and the rear of the panel. This allows them to generate more electricity, especially in environments where sunlight is reflected off surfaces like walls, snow, or concrete. Bifacial panels can increase the overall energy output by up to 30%, depending on the installation conditions. According to Lee et al. (2021), the adoption of bifacial panels in solar-powered CCTV cameras is becoming increasingly popular due to their enhanced energy production, particularly in areas with high reflectivity or limited direct sunlight. These panels are ideal for solar CCTV installations, as they maximize the energy harvested from available sunlight, ensuring consistent power supply for the cameras.

3. Thin-Film Solar Panels

Thin-film solar panels are a newer form of photovoltaic technology that has gained popularity due to their lightweight, flexible, and low-cost nature. Unlike traditional silicon-based panels, thin-film panels are made by layering photovoltaic material on a substrate such as glass, plastic, or metal. This makes them more adaptable to various surfaces and installation environments. In recent years, thin-film solar panels have been used in solar CCTV systems due to their ability to conform to different shapes and sizes, as well as their resistance to shading and partial obstructions. In 2022, researchers from the University of California (2022) demonstrated that thin-film solar panels could effectively power small, low-energy devices like solar CCTV cameras in areas where traditional rigid panels might not be suitable. Although they generally offer lower efficiency compared to monocrystalline or polycrystalline panels, their versatility and cost-effectiveness make them an attractive option for certain solar-powered applications.

4. Integration with Energy Storage Systems

The integration of solar panels with energy storage systems is another crucial development that enhances the functionality of solar CCTV cameras. Solar panels generate electricity during the day, but CCTV cameras often require continuous power, including at night. Modern solar-powered systems have been designed to include efficient battery storage, typically lithium-ion or lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries, which store excess energy generated during daylight hours. This stored energy is then used to power the CCTV cameras when sunlight is not available. According to, Wang et al. (2021), advancements in battery storage technology have made it possible to create compact, long-lasting storage solutions that are both energy-dense and lightweight, ensuring that solar CCTV systems can operate reliably even in areas with limited sunlight. The combination of high-efficiency solar panels and advanced battery technology enables solar-powered CCTV cameras to function continuously with minimal maintenance and downtime.

5. Durability and Weather Resistance

The durability and weather resistance of solar panels have significantly improved over the past few years, making them more suitable for outdoor installations, such as those required for solar CCTV cameras. Solar panels must be able to withstand harsh environmental conditions, including extreme temperatures, humidity, rain, and dust. To address these challenges, manufacturers have developed panels with improved durability features, such as reinforced glass and enhanced anti-corrosion coatings. In 2020, a study by Lyu et al. found that modern solar panels, equipped with robust protective coatings and frames, could withstand the effects of environmental stressors for up to 25 years or more, ensuring long-term reliability. This increased durability is essential for solar CCTV systems, which are often installed in remote locations or harsh climates where maintaining the panels may be difficult or costly. As a result, the advancements in solar panel technology have made solar CCTV systems a more viable solution for long-term, outdoor surveillance applications. It

6. Cost Reductions and Accessibility

The cost of solar panel technology has decreased significantly over the past decade, making it more accessible for use in small-scale applications like solar CCTV systems. In 2020-2021, the price of solar panels dropped by approximately 20%, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA, 2021), due to advancements in manufacturing processes, economies of scale, and the adoption of new materials. These cost reductions have made solar-powered CCTV systems more affordable for both commercial and residential applications. As solar panels become more cost-effective, more businesses and homeowners are choosing solar CCTV systems as a viable alternative to traditional surveillance setups, which often require costly electrical wiring and infrastructure. This trend is expected to continue, driving the adoption of solar-powered security solutions globally.

2.2.2 CAMERA FEATURES AND SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution

- High-definition (HD), Full HD, or Ultra HD (4K) resolution options
- Enhanced image clarity for detailed surveillance footage

Image Sensor

- CMOS (Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor) or CCD (Charge-Coupled Device) sensors
- Improved low-light performance and image quality

Infrared (IR) Night Vision

- Infrared LEDs for enhanced visibility in low-light or complete darkness
- Range of IR illumination, typically 20m to 50m depending on camera type

Motion Detection

- Passive Infrared (PIR) or active motion sensors
- Triggers automatic recording or alerts based on movement within the camera's field of view

Wireless Connectivity

- Wi-Fi, 4G/5G, or Bluetooth for remote access and real-time monitoring
- Cloud-based storage for video data and remote playback

Two-Way Audio

- Built-in microphone and speaker
- Enables communication between the camera and users for security purposes

Field of View (FOV)

- Wide-angle lenses (e.g., 90° to 180°) for broader coverage area
- Pan-and-tilt functionality for adjustable view I by angles **Weather Resistance (IP Rating)**

- IP66, IP67, or higher ratings for dust and water resistance
- Suitable for outdoor installations in various environmental conditions

Power Source

- Solar panel integration for off-grid, eco-friendly operation
- Battery life management for extended operation during low sunlight periods

Storage Options

- Local storage (SD cards) or cloud storage
- Supports video file compression (e.g., H.264, H.265) to optimize storage use

Smart Features

- AI-powered features such as facial recognition, object detection, and person tracking
- Alerts and notifications sent to mobile devices or monitoring platforms

Integration with Other Security Systems

- Compatibility with existing alarm systems or smart home setups
- Centralized control for managing multiple cameras from a single interface

Video Streaming

- Real-time video streaming with live view capabilities
- Remote control of camera settings via smartphone apps or web portals

Data Encryption and Security

- Encryption protocols (e.g., HTTPS, SSL) for secure data transmission
- Secure cloud storage options to protect recorded video footage

Energy Efficiency

- Low power consumption to maximize battery life and energy efficiency
- Solar energy management systems to reduce reliance on external power sources

2.2.3 POWER STORAGE SYSTEMS (BATTERIES)

Power storage systems, particularly batteries, are an essential component of solar-powered CCTV cameras, as they allow the cameras to operate continuously, even when sunlight is not available. The role of batteries in solar CCTV systems is to store the energy generated by solar panels during the day, ensuring that the system remains functional during the night or in cloudy weather. The efficiency, capacity, and lifespan of the batteries used in solar CCTV systems are critical factors that directly influence the performance and reliability of the surveillance system. This section will explore the key types of batteries used in solar CCTV systems, along with their features, advantages, and limitations.

1. Lithium-Ion Batteries

Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries are among the most commonly used energy storage solutions for solar CCTV systems due to their high energy density, long cycle life, and efficiency. These batteries are lightweight, compact, and have a higher energy capacity compared to other battery types, allowing them to store more energy in a smaller space. Li-ion batteries are capable of handling frequent charge and discharge cycles without significant degradation, making them ideal for solar-powered applications that require reliable and long-term performance.

2. Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) Batteries

Lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries are a type of lithium-ion battery that offers improved safety, stability, and longevity. These batteries are known for their exceptional thermal stability and lower risk of overheating or combustion compared to other lithium-based batteries. LiFePO4 batteries are becoming increasingly popular in solar-powered systems due to their long lifespan, high safety standards, and environmental friendliness.

3. Lead-Acid Batteries

Lead-acid batteries are one of the oldest and most widely used types of rechargeable batteries in solar power systems. They are available in two main types: flooded and sealed (AGM or gel). Lead-acid batteries are relatively inexpensive and are commonly used in older solar CCTV systems or low-budget installations. Despite their lower efficiency compared to lithium-based batteries, they are still a viable option for certain applications.

4. Nickel-Metal Hydride (NiMH) Batteries

Nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries are a less common but viable option for solar -powered systems. They offer a good balance of performance, cost, and environmental friendliness. NiMH batteries are generally more energy-dense than lead-acid batteries but less so than lithium-based batteries. They also have a higher charge retention capacity and lower self-discharge rate than lead-acid batteries, making them suitable for systems with moderate power needs.

5. Battery Management Systems (BMS)

A Battery Management System (BMS) is an integral part of modern power storage systems used in solar CCTV cameras. The BMS monitors and manages the charging and discharging processes of the batteries, ensuring that they operate safely and efficiently. The BMS is designed to protect the battery from overcharging, deep discharge, overheating, and other conditions that could reduce the lifespan or performance of the battery.

2.2.4 CONNECTIVITY OPTIONS

Connectivity options are a crucial factor in the functionality and efficiency of solar-powered CCTV cameras. These cameras rely on various communication methods to transmit video feeds, receive commands, and provide real-time monitoring capabilities. Depending on the application and the installation environment, the appropriate connectivity option must be chosen to ensure seamless integration with monitoring systems, cloud storage, and other security devices. This section will explore the key connectivity options used in solar CCTV systems, including wireless and wired solutions, highlighting their advantages, limitations, and specific use cases.

1. Wi-Fi Connectivity

Wi-Fi is one of the most commonly used connectivity options for solar CCTV cameras due to its ease of installation, relatively low cost, and widespread availability. Wi-Fi-enabled solar CCTV cameras can transmit video footage and data to cloud storage or local devices (such as smartphones or computers) without the need for extensive wiring. This wireless technology is ideal for residential, commercial, and urban settings where access to a stable Wi-Fi network is available.

2. 4G/5G Cellular Connectivity

For solar CCTV cameras installed in remote locations or areas where traditional Wi-Fi networks are unavailable, 4G or 5G cellular connectivity offers a reliable alternative. Cellular-based solar CCTV cameras use mobile networks to transmit video footage to monitoring stations or cloud servers. This option is particularly useful in rural areas, construction sites, or locations where internet infrastructure is limited or non-existent.

3. Bluetooth Connectivity

Bluetooth is another wireless connectivity option that can be used for short-range communication in solar CCTV systems. While it is not typically used for streaming high-resolution video over long distances, Bluetooth can be an effective solution for settings where direct communication between devices is needed, such as pairing the camera with a smartphone or local device for initial setup or configuration.

4. Ethernet (Wired) Connectivity

Ethernet connectivity provides a reliable wired connection for solar CCTV cameras, ensuring high-speed data transfer and consistent performance. This option is often used in scenarios where Wi-Fi or cellular connectivity is unreliable or where a high level of security is required. Ethernet-connected solar CCTV cameras are typically installed in areas with existing wired network infrastructure or where long-term stability and low latency are essential.

5. Zigbee and Z-Wave (Low-Power, Long-Range Networks)

Zigbee and Z-Wave are low-power, wireless communication protocols commonly used for smart home and IoT (Internet of Things) applications. These technologies enable solar CCTV cameras to communicate with other devices in a smart security system, such as door sensors, motion detectors, or lighting systems. Zigbee and Z-Wave are particularly useful in residential and commercial settings, where low-energy, long-range communication is needed.

6. Satellite Connectivity

Satellite connectivity is an advanced option for solar CCTV systems that are located in extremely remote or challenging environments, such as deep wilderness or maritime locations. Satellite communication allows for video transmission via satellite links, providing coverage in areas with no mobile or Wi-Fi infrastructure.

2.3 APPLICATIONS OF SOLAR CCTV CAMERAS

Solar CCTV cameras have become increasingly popular in various applications due to their ability to provide reliable, off-grid surveillance while being environmentally friendly. These cameras are widely used in remote locations, such as rural areas, construction sites, and agriculture farms, where traditional power sources are either unavailable or impractical (Kim et al., 2021). In urban environments, they are employed for public safety, monitoring traffic, and enhancing security in commercial buildings, while in residential settings, they contribute to home security by offering cost-effective and sustainable monitoring solutions (Rathi& Gupta, 2022). Additionally, the integration of solar CCTV systems in critical infrastructure, such as energy plants and border security, highlights their capacity to operate efficiently under harsh conditions, providing 24/7 surveillance without the need for external power sources (Zhang et al., 2023). As technology advances, these systems increasingly incorporate smart features like AI-driven analytics, facial recognition, and motion detection, making them vital for modern security applications (Chen et al., 2024).

2.3.1 RESIDENTIAL USE

Solar CCTV cameras have found significant application in residential security due to their ability to provide efficient, eco-friendly surveillance without relying on traditional power sources. In residential settings, solar-powered cameras offer a cost-effective solution for homeowners looking to enhance security while reducing energy consumption. These cameras can be installed in strategic locations around the house, such as entryways, driveways, and backyards, ensuring comprehensive coverage. The integration of motion sensors and night vision allows these cameras to provide 24/7 surveillance, even in low-light conditions. Solar CCTV systems are particularly advantageous in off-grid homes, remote properties, or areas prone to power outages, as they operate independently of the electrical grid, relying on solar energy to function continuously (Chen & Zhao, 2022). Additionally, these systems can be easily integrated with smart home devices, allowing homeowners to monitor video feeds remotely through mobile apps or smart hubs, improving accessibility and convenience (Yang & Liu, 2023). By using renewable solar energy, residential solar CCTV cameras contribute to sustainable living, offering a secure and environmentally friendly solution for modern homes.

2.3.2 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

Solar CCTV cameras have increasingly been adopted in commercial and industrial settings due to their ability to provide cost-effective, sustainable security solutions without the dependency on grid power. In commercial environments, such as retail stores, office buildings, and shopping centers, solar-powered CCTV systems help reduce operational costs by utilizing renewable energy. They provide reliable surveillance, monitoring customer traffic, preventing theft, and enhancing overall security. These systems are particularly beneficial in locations with limited access to power infrastructure, such as warehouses, construction sites, and industrial facilities, (Zhang & Wang, 2021). Solar CCTV cameras offer the added advantage of reducing the need for extensive wiring, making them ideal for temporary installations or areas where cabling would be difficult or expensive to deploy. In industrial applications, these cameras monitor heavy machinery, track employee safety, and secure valuable assets, especially in remote or hazardous environments where traditional power sources are unavailable (Santos et al., 2022). Furthermore, advancements in solar CCTV technology allow for integration with advanced analytics, such as facial recognition and automated alerts, improving the efficiency and intelligence of security systems in commercial and industrial operations, (Bai & Zhang, 2023).

2.3.3 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SECURITY

Solar CCTV cameras are becoming an essential component of public infrastructure security due to their ability to operate independently of the electrical grid while ensuring 24/7 surveillance. In public spaces such as parks, streets, transportation hubs, and government buildings, these cameras provide a sustainable and cost-effective means of monitoring and enhancing public safety. Solar-powered CCTV systems are particularly advantageous in remote or underserved areas, where access to conventional power sources may be limited or unreliable (Kim et al., 2021). By relying on solar energy, these cameras reduce the burden on local power grids and minimize operational costs, making them an ideal choice for cities and municipalities seeking to implement wide-reaching surveillance systems on a budget. Solar CCTV cameras play a crucial role in traffic monitoring, helping to improve road safety by detecting traffic violations, monitoring congestion, and assisting in accident investigations, (Harrison & Lee, 2022). They are also instrumental in ensuring the security of public infrastructure, such as bridges, tunnels, and railway stations, by providing real-time video feeds that can be accessed remotely by law enforcement or security personnel. Furthermore, advancements in camera technology, including AI-driven analytics for anomaly detection and crowd monitoring, enable enhanced surveillance capabilities that improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of public security systems, (Chen et al., 2023).

2.3.4 REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS

Solar CCTV cameras are increasingly being utilized in remote and rural areas, where traditional power sources are often scarce or unavailable. These areas, which may include farms, wildlife reserves, border zones, or remote monitoring stations, benefit greatly from solar-powered surveillance systems. Solar CCTV cameras provide a sustainable solution by harnessing solar energy, ensuring that surveillance operations continue without the need for expensive infrastructure or grid connectivity, (Zhang & Liu, 2021). In agricultural settings, for instance, solar CCTV cameras help monitor large areas of farmland, deter livestock theft, and ensure the safety of workers and equipment, particularly in locations where power lines are impractical, (Santos et al., 2022). Additionally, these cameras are vital in monitoring wildlife reserves and conservation areas, where they can track animal movements, prevent poaching, and provide real-time data for conservation efforts, all while relying on renewable energy, (Li et al., 2023). In remote border regions, solar CCTV systems enhance security by providing continuous surveillance without the need for an external power supply, crucial for monitoring sensitive areas prone to unauthorized access or illegal activities, (Wang & Zhang, 2024). With advancements in wireless communication and battery storage, these systems can operate autonomously for extended periods, reducing maintenance costs and providing robust security in challenging environments.

2.4 ADVANTAGES OF SOLAR CCTV CAMERAS

1. Cost Savings on Energy Bills

One of the most significant advantages of solar CCTV cameras is the reduction in energy costs. Traditional CCTV systems rely on external power sources, which can contribute to high electricity bills over time. Solar-powered CCTV systems, on the other hand, use solar panels to harness energy from the sun, significantly reducing or eliminating the need for grid electricity. This makes them particularly beneficial in areas with high energy costs or in off-grid locations, where extending the electrical grid could be expensive, (Chen et al., 2022). Over the long term, this energy independence results in considerable cost savings for both residential and commercial users.

2. Sustainability and Eco-Friendliness

Solar CCTV cameras contribute to environmental sustainability by utilizing renewable energy from the sun, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels. This makes them an environmentally friendly choice compared to traditional CCTV systems, which require electricity generated by non-renewable sources. As the demand for green technologies continues to rise, solar-powered CCTV systems align with global efforts to reduce carbon footprints and promote sustainable living (Zhang & Liu, 2021). By opting for solar-powered security solutions, users contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change, supporting a cleaner and greener future.

3. Remote and Off-Grid Operation

Solar CCTV cameras are ideal for use in remote or off-grid areas where conventional power infrastructure is unavailable or difficult to install. For example, rural properties, agricultural fields, construction sites, wildlife reserves, and remote industrial facilities often face challenges in accessing reliable power sources. Solar-powered CCTV systems can operate autonomously, using the energy stored in batteries to function around the clock. This makes them especially valuable in regions prone to power outages or in locations where extending the power grid is not feasible or cost-effective (Santos et al., 2022). These cameras can provide uninterrupted surveillance, even in areas without a direct connection to the electrical grid.

4. Low Maintenance and Durability

Solar CCTV systems are designed to be robust and require minimal maintenance. The solar panels have a long lifespan, often lasting 20 to 25 years, and the batteries typically last for several years before needing replacement. Additionally, solar-powered systems are often built to withstand harsh weather conditions, including rain, snow, and extreme temperatures, making them highly durable in outdoor environments, (Li et al., 2023). Since they rely on solar energy, there is no need for constant manual intervention to maintain power supply, further reducing the costs and time associated with system upkeep.

5. Flexibility and Easy Installation

The installation of solar CCTV cameras is generally simpler compared to traditional systems, as they do not require extensive wiring or a constant power supply. Solar cameras can be installed in virtually any location that receives adequate sunlight, providing greater flexibility in choosing optimal surveillance points. This is particularly beneficial in large properties or remote areas where running power cables might be expensive or impractical (Wang & Zhang, 2024). The ease of installation, combined with wireless communication options, allows for more versatile and scalable security solutions.

6. Enhanced Security with Remote Monitoring

Many solar CCTV cameras come equipped with wireless connectivity features, such as Wi-Fi, 4G/5G, or Bluetooth, enabling remote monitoring from smartphones, tablets, or computers. This makes it possible to view live footage, receive alerts, and even control the system from virtually anywhere. Remote access is particularly useful for homeowners, business owners, and security personnel who need to keep an eye on multiple locations at once. The ability to monitor surveillance cameras in real-time enhances the effectiveness of security systems, allowing for quicker responses to potential threats (Chen & Zhao, 2022).

7. Scalability and Integration with Other Security Systems

Solar CCTV cameras can easily be integrated into larger security networks, making them highly scalable for various applications. Whether it's adding more cameras to a property, linking multiple devices, or integrating with other smart home or business security systems, solar-powered cameras offer flexibility in expansion. They can also be equipped with advanced features like motion detection, facial recognition, and artificial intelligence for more sophisticated surveillance capabilities (Bai & Zhang, 2023). As security needs evolve, solar CCTV systems can be upgraded or modified to accommodate new technologies, providing a future-proof solution.

2.5 CHALLENGES OF SOLAR CCTV CAMERAS

While solar CCTV cameras offer numerous benefits, they also face several challenges that can impact their performance and widespread adoption. These challenges primarily stem from factors such as environmental conditions, energy limitations, and technological constraints. Below are the key challenges associated with solar CCTV systems:

1. Weather Dependency

The performance of solar CCTV cameras is directly influenced by the availability of sunlight. In areas with frequent cloud cover, long periods of rain, or harsh winters, solar panels may not generate sufficient energy to power the cameras consistently. This is particularly problematic in regions with low solar exposure, as the cameras may experience interruptions in surveillance or reduced battery life (Chen & Zhao, 2023). During extended periods of cloudy weather, the batteries may deplete faster than they can recharge, leading to a need for backup power sources or more frequent maintenance.

2. Limited Battery Life and Storage Capacity

While solar CCTV cameras rely on batteries to store energy for nighttime or low-light conditions, the storage capacity of these batteries can sometimes be insufficient for long periods of surveillance without adequate sunlight. If the battery capacity is too small, the camera may fail to operate during extended cloudy days or nights, compromising the effectiveness of the system. Furthermore, the battery's lifespan can degrade over time, requiring periodic replacements, which can incur additional costs and maintenance efforts (Zhang & Liu, 2021). Managing battery life and ensuring that batteries are adequately sized for specific environments are critical to maintaining the system's reliability.

3. Initial Installation Costs

Although solar CCTV cameras offer long-term savings on energy bills, the initial installation cost can be relatively high. The cost of purchasing solar panels, batteries, and other components required for setting up a solar-powered CCTV system can make the upfront investment significant. For larger installations, such as for commercial or industrial applications, these costs can increase substantially, (Santos et al., 2022). In addition to the hardware costs, the installation of solar CCTV systems may require professional services to ensure proper setup, further adding to the initial expense. However, these costs may be mitigated over time through savings on energy bills and reduced reliance on traditional PowerBook sources.

4. Limited Coverage in Low-Sunlight Areas

The effectiveness of solar CCTV systems can be limited in areas with insufficient sunlight or during the winter months when the days are shorter. In regions where solar energy generation is less reliable due to geographic location or seasonal weather patterns, the cameras may not operate at full capacity, leading to coverage gaps or system failures. In these cases, supplementary power sources or larger, more expensive solar panels may be required to ensure continuous operation, which can reduce the cost-effectiveness of the system, (Li et al., 2023).

5. Maintenance and Cleaning Requirements

Solar CCTV systems, like any outdoor equipment, require regular maintenance to ensure optimal performance. The solar panels need to be cleaned periodically to remove dirt, dust, or debris that may obstruct sunlight, especially in areas with heavy dust or environmental pollutants. Additionally, ensuring that the cameras are properly aligned and free from obstructions is essential to maintain clear surveillance. The need for routine maintenance can add to the overall operational cost and may require specialized knowledge or professional services, (Bai & Zhang, 2023). While solar systems generally have low maintenance, failure to properly maintain the panels and batteries can lead to reduced system efficiency and performance.

6. Technological Limitations

While solar CCTV cameras have become more advanced in recent years, they still face technological limitations compared to traditional CCTV systems powered by grid electricity. Solar-powered cameras may not be able to support high-definition video streaming or complex features like real-time analytics or facial recognition, depending on their power capacity and storage capabilities, (Wang & Zhang, 2024). Additionally, the integration of solar-powered CCTV cameras with other advanced security systems, such as smart home technologies, may sometimes face compatibility issues, particularly in areas with limited connectivity or infrastructure.

7. Vulnerability to Vandalism and Theft

Although solar CCTV cameras are designed to be robust, they can still be vulnerable to vandalism or theft in some areas, especially in remote or high-risk locations. The value of the solar panels and batteries may make them attractive targets for criminals, leading to damage or theft of the equipment. To mitigate this risk, additional security measures, such as installing the cameras in hard-to-reach areas, reinforcing battery compartments, or using tamper-proof designs, may be necessary, (Zhang & Wang, 2021). However, these measures can add to the installation cost and complexity.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The selection of materials and components is critical to the successful implementation of a solar-powered, WiFi-enabled CCTV surveillance system. The components chosen ensure energy efficiency, real-time wireless communication, environmental sustainability, and reliable performance in off- grid or remote areas. Each material is selected based on functionality, availability, cost-effectiveness, and compatibility with the ESP32-CAM platform. Hardware materials and software materials are used in the project.

3.1 HARDWARE MATERIALS - They are the physical components of our Camera System. These hardware materials include:

i. Pv (solar panel)

ii. Dc bulk converter

iii. ESP32CAM

iv. Microcontroller

v. Printed Circuit Board

vi. Ic Socket

vii Capacitor (Electrolytic)

viii Non Electrolytic Capacitor

ix Electric motor (Servo Motor)

ix. BMS(Battery Management System)

x. Microprocessor

xi. Voltage regulator

3.2 SOFTWARE MATERIALS: These are referred to the program, algorithm and firmware that enables the camera to function and provide various features.

The software materials include:

1. Arduino IDE
2. Web App

3.1 HARDWARE MATERIALS

i. MICROPROCESSOR AND MICRO CONTROLLER

MICROPROCESSOR: Microprocessor in our CCTV camera refers to a small chip that acts as the brain of the camera. It executes instructions, manages video processing.

The microprocessor act as the camera brain, enabling it to capture,process and transmit video signals. It's a crucial components that determine the camera performance, feature and functionality.

For our CCTV camera project work, we are provided with 8085. The image below shows a Microprocessor PIN Configuration.

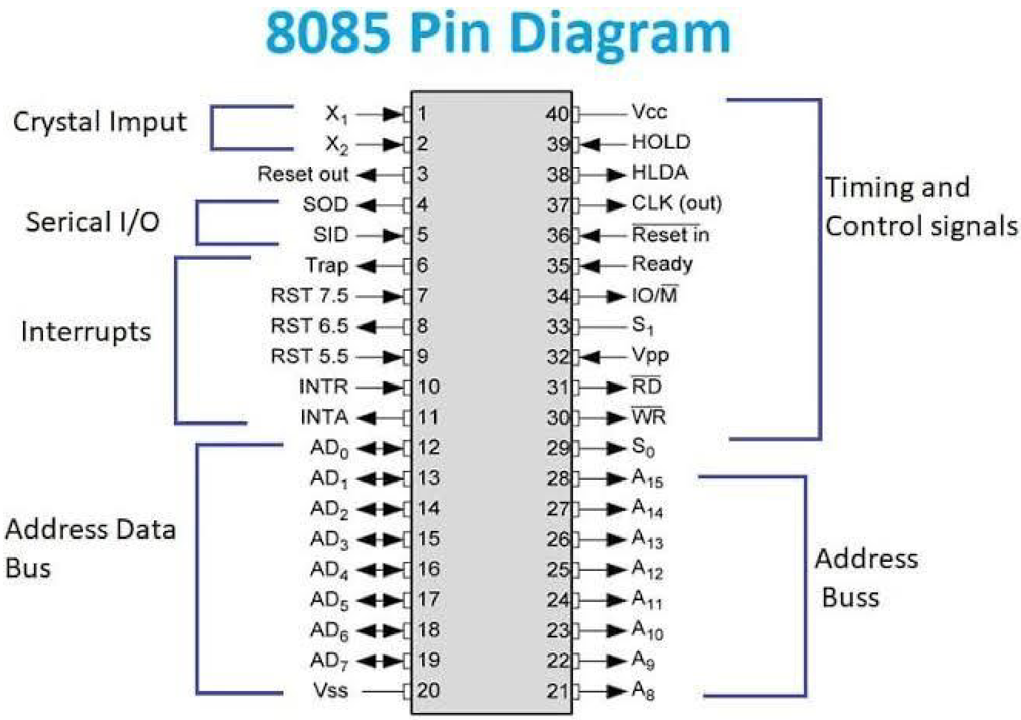


Figure 3.1: *IMAGE OF A MICRO CONTROLLER*

https://electronicsdesk.com/Roshni Y

MICROCONTROLLER: In CCTV Camera, a microcontroller is a small computer chip that controls camera functions (emg exposure, focus etc), interface with sensors(handles data from sensor like motion detector and manage communication).

ii. ESP32-CAM

ESP32-CAM is a small development board that combines the ESP32 microcontroller with a camera module, enabling Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity along with image capture and video streaming capabilities. Here's a breakdown of the term:

ESP32: A powerful microcontroller developed by Espressif Systems with built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. It has dual-core processing capabilities, various GPIOs, and supports IoT applications.

CAM: Short for "camera", indicating that the board includes a camera module (usually the OV2640 sensor).

ESP32-CAM features typically include:

ESP32-S chip

OV2640 camera

MicroSD card slot (for storage)

GPIO pins (limited, as many are used by the camera)

Support for video streaming over Wi-Fi

Low cost and compact design

Remote monitoring devicesThe ESP32-CAM is a compact camera module that integrates a camera with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities.

It is used in various projects such as:

• Security Cameras: For remote monitoring and motion detection.

• Home Automation: Integrating cameras with smart home systems.

• Surveillance: Continuous observation in sensitive or vulnerable locations.

Figure 3.2 *ESP 32CAM IMAGE*

iii. BATTERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (BMS)

A battery management system (BMS) as used in our CCTV camera is an electronic system that monitor battery health (Tracks battery state of charge, voltage and temperature), controls charging (Regulates charging process to prevent overcharging or undercharging) and also provides power management. BMS in CCTV camera ensure:

1. Reliable operation
2. Extended battery life
3. Safe operation

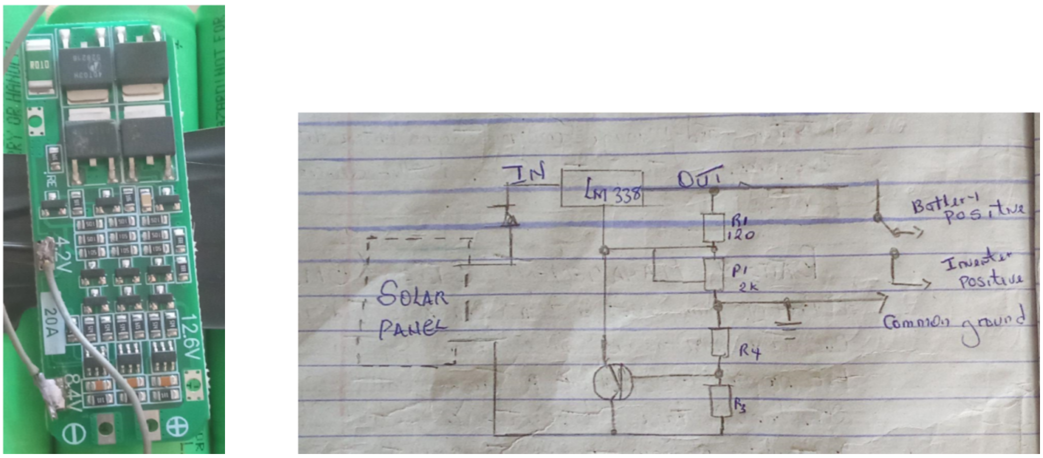


Figure 3.3 *BMS CIRCUIT DIAGRAM AND IMAGE*

iv. PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD (PCB)

Printed Circuit Board (PCB) is a flat board that connects and support electronic components such as chips resistor and capacitor using a conducive pathway printed omto the board.

In our CCTV camera, the Printed Circuit Board (PCB) is a crucial components that is:

1. Connect and supports various electronic components such as image sensors, amplifier and video processing chips.

2. Enable functionality: The PCB allow the camera to capture, process and transmit video signals.

Figure 3.4 *IMAGE OF A PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD*

v. IC SOCKET

IC Socket is an electronic components attached or place on our printed Circuit Board to serve or aid the plugging and unplugging our microcontroller.

The micro-controller can be plug on the IC Socket and be unplug also from the IC Socket attached to our PCB Board.

Figure 3.5 *IMAGE OF AN IC SOCKET*

Vi. ELECTRIC MOTOR

ELECTRIC MOTOR

Ac motor	DC motor
Single phase.	Brush motor
3 - phase motor	brushless motor
	Servo motor
	Stepper motor

In our solar CCTV camera, the type of motor we will be needing a SERVO MOTOR to rotate the camera.

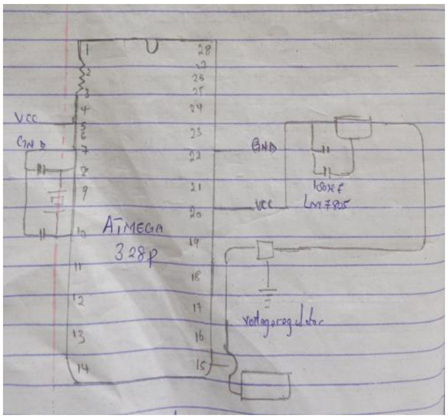


Figure 3.6 circuit diagram of a servo motor

Servo Motor is a type of motor that precisely control movement allowing for accurate positioning, rotation or movement. It uses feedback to adjust it's position or speed ensuring precise control. In our CCTV camera, the servo motor help to rotate the camera and change the position of the camera in other to have the streaming at one particular angle for sometime and streaming in another particular angle for sometimes.

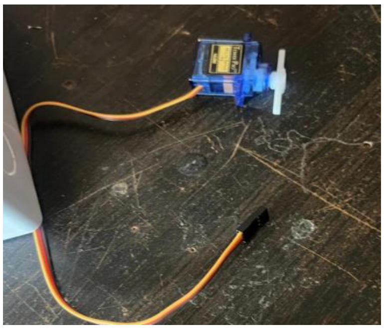


Figure 3.7 *IMAGE OF A SERVO MOTOR*

Our servo motor will come with 3- wires, which are:

1. Signal wire: which provides direction

2. Vcc wire : The VCC wires refers to our positive power supply to power the motor

3. The GND wires: refers to the negative power supply to power the motor.

From the circuit diagram, the microcontroller will control the signal of the SERVO MOTOR and voltage regulator to regulate voltage from 12v to 5v.

vii. VOLTAGE REGULATOR

In the CCTV camera, the voltage regulator helps to regulate the voltage coming from the battery in the project. Two voltage regulator was used. The first voltage regulator helps to regulate voltage from the battery to the servo motor and the second voltage regulator regulates voltage from the battery to the microcontroller and the microcontroller only needs 5v.

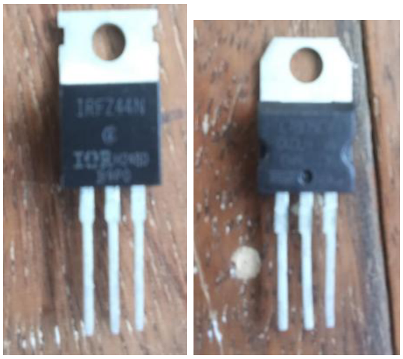


Figure 3.8 *IMAGE OF A VOLTAGE REGULATOR*

ix. SOLAR PANEL

A photovoltaic (PV) solar panel is a device that converts sunlight into electricity using semiconducting materials and it's used to generate electrical energy from sunlight, making the system energy-independent. A 6V or 12V, 3W to 10W panel is typically used depending on the power consumption profile and expected solar irradiance in the region.

Considerations for Selection:

Output voltage range: 6V to 18V

Power output: minimum 3W for daylight operation

In our CCTV camera setup, the solar cell is vital to:

• Power the Camera: Harnesses sunlight to generate electricity, reducing reliance on wired power or replaceable batteries.

• Enable Wireless, Battery-Free Operation: Ideal for remote or hard-to-reach locations without access to a stable power grid.

• This makes solar-powered CCTV cameras suitable for:

• Outdoor Surveillance: Monitoring parking lots, building perimeters, or public spaces.

• Remote Areas: Securing locations where conventional electrical infrastructure is unavailable.

1. Solar CCTV Camera

CCTV → "CCTV" meaning Closed Circuit Television Camera also known as Video Surveillance. It's a system using cameras to transmit signals to specific monitors, often for security and surveillance purposes.

Types of IC Used in CCTV

1) Analogue IC: Analogue IC is known as Analogue Integrated Circuit. ICs are electronic components that process continuous signals such as voltage or current to perform various functions such as amplification, filtering, conversion etc.

"CCTV" cameras operating in analogue mode of signal transmit video signal using composite video cable (e.g. BNC connections). Examples of analogue ICs include:

I. Operational Amplifier (Op-Amps)

Ii. Voltage Regulators

Iii.Analogue-to-Digital Converters (ADC)

Iv.Digital-to-Analogue Converters (DAC)

(A circuit diagram is shown here, labeled with Inputs, Output, resistors, and an op-amp symbol)

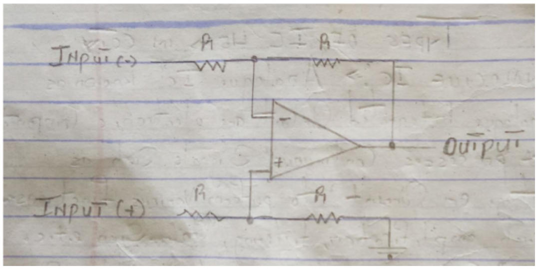


Figure 3.9 *A simple analogue circuit diagram*

DIGITAL IC: A Digital Integrated Circuit (Digital IC) is an electronic chip that processes digital signals—signals that use only two states: ON (1) and OFF (0). Unlike analog ICs that work with continuous signals (like varying voltages), digital ICs work with binary logic. Digital IC was used in the project.

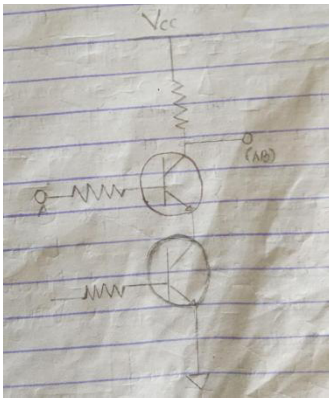


Figure 3.0.1 *A simple digital circuit diagram is shown above*

Role of Digital ICs in CCTV Cameras:

I. Video Processing:

Ii. The raw signal from the camera sensor is often in analog form.

Iii. A Digital Signal Processor (DSP) converts it into a digital format.

Iv. It enhances image quality,reduces noise, and applies corrections (like brightness/contrast adjustment). v. Image Processing:

Vi. Motion detection

These functions help in smart surveillance

Camera Settings Control

Digital ICs manage

Exposure control

Zoom/focus

They also handle automation based on lighting and scene detection.

Common Digital ICs Used in CCTV:

Microcontrollers / Microprocessors – Control camera functions.

FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) – For high-speed parallel processing.

DSP (Digital Signal Processor) – Handles video encoding/decoding.

Memory ICs – Store firmware or captured images/videos.
Simple Digital Circuit Diagram (from image):

X. BULK CONVERTER: The Buck converter is a type of a DC-DC converter that steps down the voltage from a higher level to a lower level while maintaining the efficiency.

Xi. BATTERY:The battery helps to store electricity generated by the solar panel during the day,provide power at night and also ensure continous operation even without sunlight when charged.

3.2 SOFTWARE MATERIALS

Software Materials for Programming ESP32-CAM and Web Application Development

This project involves the development of a wireless surveillance system using the ESP32-CAM module, which is capable of capturing and streaming real-time video over Wi-Fi. A web application is also developed to view and control the live video feed from a browser on any connected device. Programming the Microcontroller

To operate our ESP32-CAM, we use embedded system programming. This includes:

Software: Instructions programmed into the microcontroller using a low-level software system called firmware.

LED Indicators: Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) are used for feedback, responding to signals from the microcontroller.

Microcontroller & LED Functionality:

The microcontroller sends instructions to the LED to:

Blink

Stay on or off for a specific time

Respond to programmed sequences

The instructions are written using environments such as the Arduino IDE, which supports ESP32-CAM development.

1. **Programming Environment for ESP32-CAM**

1.1 Arduino Integrated Development Environment (IDE)

The Arduino IDE is used as the primary programming environment for the ESP32-CAM module. It supports the C/C++ language and provides access to essential hardware abstraction libraries.

Setup Steps:

Install the Arduino IDE from https://www.arduino.cc/en/software.

Add ESP32 board support using the URL:

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/espressif/arduino-esp32/ghpages/package_esp32_index.json

Use the Board Manager to install the ESP32 package.

Select AI Thinker ESP32-CAM

Write and upload the code using a USB-to-Serial converter (CP2102 or CH340G).

1.2 Required Libraries

The following libraries are included in the sketch to enable core functionalities:

WiFi.h – Manages wireless connections.
WebServer.h – Handles HTTP communication.

esp_camera.h – Provides camera initialization and frame capture.

FS.h and SD.h – For microSD card access (optional).

ESPAsyncWebServer.h – Optional for asynchronous web server performance.

2. USB-to-Serial Driver Installation

To upload code, a USB-to-Serial converter is required. Proper drivers must be installed for communication:

CP2102 Driver: https://www.silabs.com/developers/usb-to-uart-bridge-vcp-drivers

CH340G Driver: http://www.wch.cn/download/CH341SER_EXE.html

3. Web Application for Video Streaming

A lightweight web application is embedded directly within the ESP32-CAM firmware. Once the ESP32-CAM connects to a Wi-Fi network, it hosts a web server that streams live video and optionally provides control buttons (e.g., for switching on/off LEDs or triggering image capture).

3.1 Features of the Web Application

Live video feed from the ESP32-CAM (JPEG or MJPEG stream)

User interface accessible from any device on the same network

Optional controls for GPIO functions (e.g., flash control)

HTML and JavaScript-based front end served from ESP32’s onboard storage

The camera stream is served from the /stream endpoint, while other endpoints (e.g., /flash)

can be used for control.

CHAPTER FOUR

SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION, TESTING AND RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the practical implementation, testing procedures, and results obtained from the development of the solar-powered CCTV camera system using the ESP32 microcontroller. The focus is on the hardware setup, software development, and integration of the components, power supply analysis, and the web-based monitoring interface. Furthermore, various tests conducted to ensure functionality and performance is discussed.

4.2 SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

4.2.1 Hardware Assembly

The system consists of the following major components:

- **ESP32-CAM Module:** Serves as the central controller and camera unit.
- **Solar Panel (6V or 12V):** Captures solar energy to power the system.
- **Lithium-Ion Battery (18650) and Charging Module (TP4056):** Stores energy and regulates charging.
- **Voltage Regulator (AMS1117/LM317):** Regulates voltage supplied to the ESP32.
- **ESP32-CAM Programmer Module:** Used during the initial setup to program the ESP32-CAM.
- **Other Components:** Includes resistors, diodes, protective casing, and connecting wires.

4.2.2 Software Development

The ESP32 microcontroller was programmed using the Arduino IDE. Key libraries included:

- WiFi.h for network connection.
- esp_camera.h for camera functionality.
- WebServer.h or AsyncWebServer.h for web interface hosting.

The software workflow includes:

- Establishing a WiFi connection.
- Capturing real-time video frames.
- Hosting a local web server that streams video over WiFi.
- Power management and sleep cycles (optional, for energy saving).

4.3 SYSTEM INTEGRATION

After hardware and software design, integration was performed by:

- Connecting the ESP32-CAM module to the TP4056 charger and voltage regulator.
- Integrating the solar panel and battery to ensure continuous power supply.
- Housing all components in a weather-resistant enclosure.
- Deploying the system outdoors in direct sunlight.

4.4 WEB APPLICATION INTERFACE

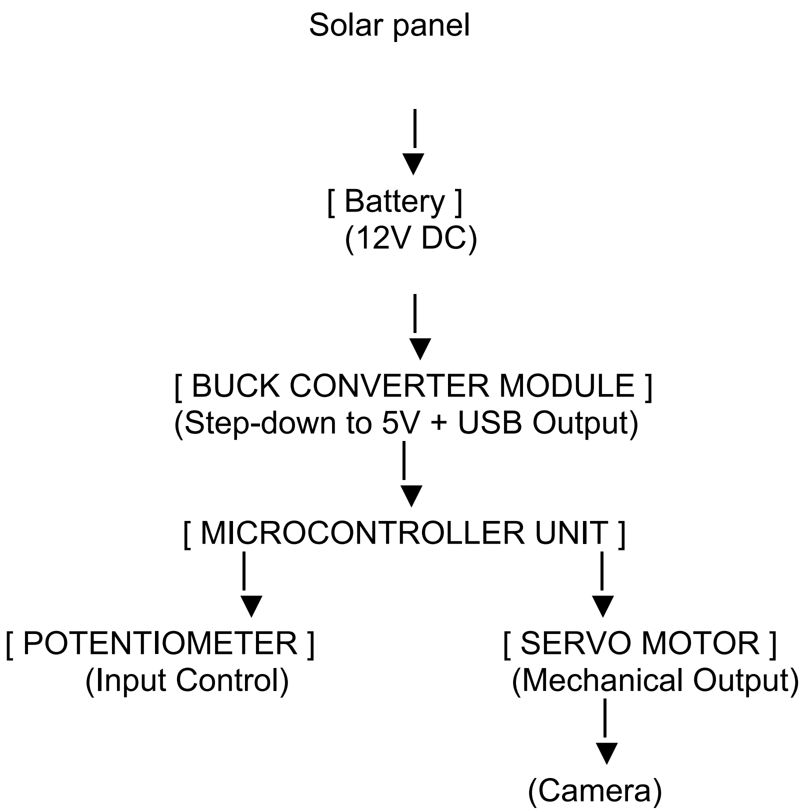
The web-based application runs directly from the ESP32-CAM.

- Users connect to the same WiFi network or use the ESP32 as an Access Point (AP mode).
- The IP address of the ESP32 is entered in a browser to access the live

camera feed.

- The interface is minimal but allows real-time viewing and image capture.

SOLAR CCTV BLOCK DIAGRAM



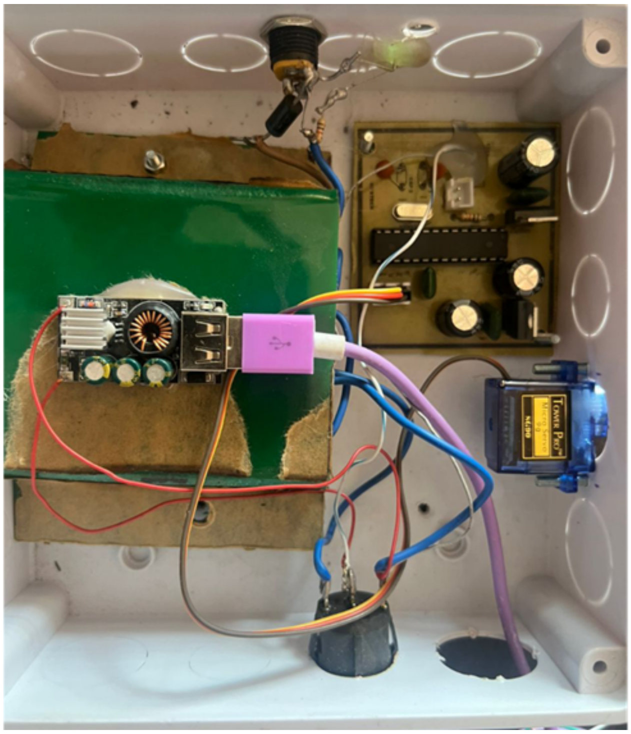


Figure 4.1 IMAGE OF THE OVERALL COMPONENTS

4.5 TESTING AND EVALUATION

4.5.1 Power System Test

- The solar panel was tested under different sunlight conditions.
- The TP4056 charger correctly charged the 18650 battery during daytime.
- Voltage output remained stable at ~3.3V (regulated) for the ESP32-CAM.

4.5.2 Camera and Streaming Test

- The camera delivered a video feed of 15–20 fps at VGA resolution (depending on WiFi strength).
- Image quality was acceptable for surveillance purposes.
- Live streaming over WiFi was successful at a distance of up to 30 meters.

4.5.3 Web Interface Test

- Users could connect to the ESP32 IP and view live feed using smartphones or laptops.

- Response time was minimal, with less than 1-second delay on average.
- Interface remained stable for extended periods.

4.6 RESULTS

- The system successfully achieved solar-powered surveillance with real-time streaming.
- ESP32-CAM maintained connectivity and performance under standard operation.
- The battery lasted through the night on a full charge, supporting 24/7 surveillance.

Test Parameter	Result
Streaming Range	Up to 30 meters (WiFi)
Battery Duration	8 – 12 hours (overnight)
Charging Time (Full Sun)	3 – 4 hours
Web App Access Delay	Less than 1 second
Resolution	VGA (640x480) to SVGA (800x600)

4.7 CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- Limited Night Vision: The ESP32-CAM lacks built-in IR; additional IR LEDs may be required.
- WiFi Coverage Limitations: Coverage was restricted to local network range.
- Power Regulation: Needed efficient regulation to avoid under-voltage issues.
- Overheating: Prolonged use in direct sun required additional cooling considerations.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

This project focused on the design and construction of a solar-powered CCTV surveillance system using an ESP32 microcontroller with the capability to stream video over WiFi through a web interface. The motivation behind the project was to develop a low-cost, energy-efficient security solution that can be deployed in areas with limited or no access to electricity.

The ESP32-CAM module served as the core component for image capturing and streaming. A solar energy system, consisting of a solar panel, rechargeable lithium-ion battery, and a charging circuit (TP4056), was used to ensure uninterrupted power supply. A minimalistic web interface hosted by the ESP32 enabled real-time monitoring from any device connected to the same WiFi network.

Key stages of the project included:

- Hardware selection and system design.
- Software development using Arduino IDE.
- Integration of the solar system with ESP32-CAM.
- Deployment and performance testing of the system.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The project successfully demonstrated a working prototype of a self-sustaining CCTV camera system. Key outcomes include:

- Effective Surveillance: The ESP32-CAM provided clear image capture and live video streaming within local network range.
- Energy Autonomy: The use of solar power eliminated the need for constant grid power or frequent charging.

- Web-based Monitoring: A user-friendly interface allowed users to view live feeds via any browser-enabled device.
- Cost-Effective Design: The system used readily available and affordable components, making it scalable and replicable for rural and urban applications.

This system is well-suited for residential security, farm monitoring, remote area surveillance, and similar applications where wired power infrastructure is unavailable or impractical.

5.3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE

This project has contributed to the following:

- Demonstrated how renewable energy can be effectively combined with IoT-based security systems.
- Showcased the potential of the ESP32-CAM for low-budget video surveillance applications.
- Provided a foundation for future expansion into cloud-based surveillance, motion detection, and mobile app integration.

5.4 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Despite its success, the project had a few limitations:

- Lack of Night Vision: The ESP32-CAM lacks built-in infrared support; external IR LEDs would be needed for night surveillance.
- WiFi Range: The system depends on local WiFi; remote access requires additional configuration or internet-connected networks.
- Battery Capacity: The runtime is limited to the size and number of lithium batteries used.

5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the observations and limitations, the following are recommended:

1. Integration of Infrared (IR) LEDs: For night-time monitoring.
2. Use of External WiFi Antenna: To improve signal strength and extend coverage.
3. Motion Detection Feature: Add PIR sensor and configure alerts to conserve power and improve security responsiveness.
4. Cloud Streaming Option: Use cloud platforms (e.g., Firebase, Blynk) for real-time access from any location.
5. Mobile App Integration: For enhanced user experience, push notifications, and device control.
6. Larger Solar Panels and Batteries: For longer operational periods and to accommodate future upgrades.

5.6 FUTURE WORK

For further development, the following can be explored:

- Implementation of AI-based object detection using ESP32-compatible ML models.
- Adding SD card support for local video recording.
- Developing a custom Android/iOS app for remote access.
- Use of LoRa or GSM modules for rural locations without WiFi coverage.

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