

Cloud Driven Smart Car Parking System

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Abstract

Effective infrastructure management has been forced to evolve as a result of urbanisation, particularly in the transportation sector. Among the various challenges faced by urban mobility, effective parking management is a crucial concern. The "Cloud Driven Smart Car Parking System" a state-of-the-art innovation that combines cloud-integrated technologies to revolutionise urban parking, is introduced in this research. The study discusses the serious drawbacks of traditional parking management systems and highlights the transformative potential of fusing cloud computing with Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. The research employs a methodical approach to comprehensively analyse requirements, develop systems, create prototypes, and integrate IoT with cloud infrastructures. VS Code, Figma, React JS, Next JS, and several AWS services are just a few examples of the high-end tools that help with this. Pilot implementations' first findings have shown potential for increased parking effectiveness, user experience optimisation, and effective space use. Furthermore, a contrast with existing market structures reveals this revolutionary strategy's distinct advantages. The study's findings show that the Cloud Driven Smart Car Parking System will not only be a remedy for the issues of the present but also a prototype for the expansion of urban infrastructure in the future, with important ramifications for user-centred, sustainable, and efficient urban landscapes.

Keywords: IoT, AWS, VS Code, Figma, React JS, NEXT JS, Cloud

INTRODUCTION

Urban areas, which are the lifeblood of modern society, have grown dramatically in recent decades. Towering buildings, bustling markets, and congested streets make up the landscape of a modern metropolis. However, this growth also brings with it a number of challenging issues, the most significant of which being the issue of urban parking [1].

Parking issues have gotten more challenging as a result of the exponential growth in automobile ownership and the limited space in urban areas. It is common to see cars driving around city blocks looking for parking spots, which is a metaphor for a more significant infrastructure issue. Finding a parking spot can seem minor, but it has additional consequences for city dwellers, including increased traffic, increased automobile emissions, and substantial time waste. The severity of the issue is demonstrated by the World Bank's estimate that commuters spend around 10 days a year looking for parking [2].

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As a result, communities must manage parking effectively for both logistical and other reasons. A well-managed parking system in an urban area might make all the difference. They ensure less traffic jams, better land use, lower carbon emissions, and an enhanced system of urban transportation. More than that, it amounts to time saved, stress eased, and a significant decrease in the everyday annoyances associated to urban transit for city people [1–6].

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction to Old Parking System

When the automotive age began at the start of the 20th century, it was not simply a technological revolution; it was also a sociological transformation that necessitated significant infrastructural modifications. While these innovative cars started to circulate on the roadways, metropolitan settings confronted a special problem: Where should these machines rest while not in use? The response seemed simple to understand at first. Parking areas were created out of open spaces, frequently along highways or in designated lots. These early parking systems were designed at a time when cars were still novelties and the sheer number of cars we see now, was unthinkable. They are distinguished by their primitive character [7].

This rudimentary strategy was distinguished by a strong dependence on human input. Attendants were in charge of managing the designated places for cars. They would manually direct vehicles, use simple markings like chalk or flags to keep track of occupied spots, and conduct basic ticketing processes. These tickets served as receipts for drivers and tools for lot operators to compute dues because they lacked the modern barcodes and electronic timestamps seen on modern tickets. This hands-on approach had evident advantages, such as a personalized touch and the chance for drivers to speak with and learn about the local area from attendants, but it was not scalable. The inherent shortcomings of these outdated methods became clear as the number of cars increased [8].

The Drawbacks of Conventional Systems

The issue of security, or the lack thereof, was also very important. The lack of security cameras in traditional parking lots made them easy prey for theft and vandalism. For the protection of their vehicle, car owners had to rely on the presence of attendants, a system that was neither infallible nor dependable, particularly during off-peak hours when attendants may be few or non-existent. These conventional systems' financial models were likewise rife with flaws. Due to the reliance on manual ticketing and human computations, the income collection was frequently uneven. There was a substantial risk of revenue leakage, whether as a result of honest mistakes, conflicts, or dishonest behaviour. These financial difficulties had an impact on parking businesses' profitability as well as the amount of money that could be used for upkeep, improvements, and additions [9–11].

The shortcomings of conventional methods became more and more clear from a city planning and environmental standpoint. Traffic congestion exacerbated as a result of vehicles turning around in circles in search of parking, increasing emissions and accelerating environmental damage. People were discouraged from visiting city centres due to the ineffective parking infrastructure, which had a detrimental effect on nearby businesses and the general vitality of urban hubs. The drawbacks of conventional parking schemes were essentially multifaceted. They included administrative shortcomings, monetary difficulties, security worries, and more general urban and environmental problems. Although these systems were useful in the early days of the automobile's supremacy, it was obvious that a more sophisticated, scalable, and effective solution was required to handle the numerous problems that contemporary urban environments provide [12].

Smart Electronic Parking System Development

The addition of digital slot indicators was one of the most obvious and apparent modifications. Parking facilities started installing electronic boards at their entrances rather than depending on staff to direct cars to vacant spaces or on drivers idly meandering in search of an open place [1]. These displays showed real-time information about the places that were available, sometimes even breaking it down into tiers or zones. Inside the parking garages, overhead lights or indications that turned green for open spots and red for occupied ones further eased the procedure. This approach significantly decreased the amount of time that motorists had to spend looking for parking, which reduced congestion within the building.

The use of sensors like NB-IOT Radio Communication Sensor paved the path for comprehensive data collecting beyond occupancy and flow control. Parking managers might learn a lot by keeping track of patterns relating to peak occupancy hours, typical parking lengths, and favoured zones within facilities. They were able to optimise pricing, assign spots more effectively, and even predict future parking demand thanks to their data-driven strategy. The use of sensor technologies and fundamental automation signalled a significant shift in parking management philosophy.

Concepts of Smart Parking System

Technology innovation accelerated at a previously unheard-of rate in the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st. Numerous sectors saw significant change during this time, which was marked by increasing digitization, networking, and the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT) [2]. In the middle of this technological revolution, the world of urban parking started to change for the better. The idea of "smart" parking, a complex synthesis of multiple technical pieces working cogently to reinvent the parking experience, began to replace the conventional and electronic methods of the past.

Smart parking systems started to apply optimisation algorithms in addition to user convenience [7]. These algorithms might forecast peak occupancy periods by examining past data trends, allowing operators to dynamically alter price to strike a balance between supply and demand. This helps reduce excessive congestion during peak hours by equally spreading vehicle input and optimising revenue generating.

Smart parking also placed a strong emphasis on sustainability. Smart parking solutions started using green technology as a result of a growing awareness of the environmental problems caused by urban congestion and pollution. The emphasis switched to making parking not only effective but also ecologically beneficial, with solar-powered parking metres, electric car charging stations, and sophisticated ventilation systems.

Cloud Computing: An Emerging Field

Beyond storage, cloud computing's main strength was in its processing power. Advanced algorithms that required a lot of processing power could easily operate in the cloud for activities like predicting traffic flow, predictive space allocation, or dynamic pricing models [8]. Parking management systems might function more effectively, providing real-time solutions to customers and operators alike, by outsourcing these resource-intensive operations to distant servers [13–19].

Another distinguishing feature of cloud-based systems was flexibility. Scalable solutions became necessary as cities developed and parking infrastructure increased [11]. Traditional systems have a difficult time adjusting to this increase because of their hardware constraints. Parking systems were able to grow or shrink in response to real-time demand thanks to the cloud's inherent scalability, all without requiring a major revamp or downtime. Additionally, parking management programmes built on the cloud enabled a higher degree of integration. These systems could readily interact with other online platforms as they were internet-based, including mobile apps, payment gateways, and even citywide traffic control systems. As a result, people could use a single integrated platform to search and book parking spots, pay for them, get traffic updates, and even get customised suggestions. This made for a more comprehensive user experience.

The advantages of cloud computing, however, extended beyond only operational ones. The move to the cloud frequently resulted in cost reductions from a financial standpoint [9]. Parking operators might concentrate their capital on improving customer experience and introducing creative solutions by doing away with the requirement for large on-site servers and the accompanying maintenance expenses [20].

IoT and Cloud Integration for Next-Gen Parking Solutions

Parking management was not an exception when cloud computing and the Internet of Things (IoT) came together, marking a turning point in many industries' journeys towards digital transformation.

Both of these technologies contributed greatly to developments when used separately. When the IoT's real-time data collection capabilities were combined with the cloud's extensive processing, scalability, and storage capabilities, new possibilities for parking solutions were created [21].

Real-time, cloud-based dashboards were one of this integration's most obvious early advantages [11]. Parking managers could now monitor several parking facilities from centralised control rooms, get real-time reports, and even forecast trends like hourly occupancy rates or possible maintenance problems. This connection provided end customers with more precise real-time information about slot availability, more straightforward payment procedures, and even predictive capabilities like parking space suggestions based on past data [22].

User-Centric Approaches in Smart Parking

From its primitive beginnings to the cutting-edge technical marvels of today, parking management has evolved in ways that are nothing short of amazing. But as technology advanced, it became increasingly clear that genuine success resided not simply in productivity or automation, but also in the quality of the user experience. A noticeable shift in focus occurred once the smart parking era began. Parking management began to change from a service-oriented approach to a user-centric paradigm as innovators and urban planners started putting the user at the centre of their plans.

Payment procedures, which are sometimes contentious, experienced a radical overhaul [13]. Automated payment gateways that were integrated into the parking applications took the place of laborious cash transactions or human card swipes. Digital payments were now available, and frequent parkers may even set up auto-debit options. Making the transaction procedure as smooth and hassle-free as feasible was the main goal.

Personalization has become yet another tenet of the user-centric strategy. Smart parking systems started using data analytics to provide individualised experiences as they became aware that not all consumers had the same tastes or wants. Users might specify preferences for locations near lifts or in well-lit areas, for example. Based on their usage history, frequent customers may be given premium spots or get loyalty discounts [23, 24].

EXISTING SYSTEM

The use of technology in parking management is not new. Over time, a variety of solutions have been proposed in an effort to address the growing urban parking issue. Before understanding the novelty and potential of the Cloud Driven Smart Car Parking System, it is essential to comprehend the landscape of already-available market solutions and their functionalities.

Classic Parking Systems

These systems mostly run manually, and thus depend on human participation for monitoring and issuing tickets. They typically rely on manual checks to establish whether parking spaces are available and frequently employ basic technological elements like barrier gates or ticket vending machines. Its practicality and usefulness in dense urban situations are under question, notwithstanding how straightforward it is [20].

Parking Electronic Systems

Parking systems utilised electrical components to boost their efficiency as cities expanded and technology advanced. Systems were the first to implement digital slot indications, ticketing equipment, and sporadically even CCTV security cameras. These systems, however, lacked real-time adaptability and kept relying on local electronic infrastructure [21].

Sensor-based Parking Solutions

Parking management experienced yet another revolution with the advancement of sensor technology. These systems employed sensors to detect the presence of cars, and display on electronic notice boards

the real-time parking spot availability. They were often exclusively used in a certain parking lot or complex and, although being more efficient than their predecessors, typically had a limited user interface for end users [22].

Solutions with Mobile Apps

Parking solutions based on mobile applications were made possible by the smartphone revolution. Despite being simple to use, these programmes usually have restrictions on particular areas or service providers. They occasionally allowed customers to make payments online and allowed them to find and reserve parking places. They failed to provide a comprehensive solution for the entire city since they typically operated alone [24].

To find a pattern, these systems might be contrasted. Each new system undoubtedly improved on the one before it in terms of efficiency and user-friendliness, but none offered a full, integrated, and scalable answer to the issues related to urban parking. The three biggest flaws were the lack of citywide coverage, the inability to make adjustments in real-time, and the absence of user experiences that were specifically tailored to each user.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The integrity of a technological project's conceptual underpinnings, together with the techniques and resources it employs, are all crucial to its success. In order to assure the effectiveness, scalability, and user-friendliness of the final product, our cloud-driven smart car parking system was built utilising a meticulously developed procedure and cutting-edge technologies. Before diving into the technical aspects, a thorough analysis was conducted to identify the end users' wants, potential urban area problems, and desires for a modern parking system.

System Design

Taking into account the requirements, a strong system architecture was developed. The design described the functions of the intended system, the data flow, and interactions between different components.

Prototypes

Prototypes were made for the system's early models or iterations. The early access to the system provided by these prototypes made it simpler for users to provide feed-back and make small adjustments.

Integration of the Internet of Things (IoT)

Once the basic structure was in place, IoT sensors were added to track parking occupancy in real-time. Data processing methods in software and sensors in hardware are both involved in this.

Integration of the Cloud

Using AWS services, a cloud framework was built. The system's backbone was made up of data storage, algorithms, and user platforms like mobile apps with which it interacted.

User Interface Development

At the same time, a user-friendly interface was developed for both online and mobile platforms. In order to make communicating with the system simple, several user-friendly interfaces were developed.

The technology was made accessible for actual use following testing. Real-world feedback was possible due to the first rollout's limitations. Iterative system improvements were made in response to user and stakeholder feedback collected through a continuous loop of user and stakeholder surveys.

IMPLEMENTATION

In the implementation phase of our Cloud-Driven Smart Car Parking System, the authors conducted comprehensive real-world testing to assess the effectiveness and accuracy of key algorithms deployed in the system as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Algorithms used and their accuracy in real-world scenarios.

Testing Phase	Algorithm Used	Accuracy in Real-World Scenarios
Initial Rollout	Parking Occupancy Tracking Algorithm	85% accuracy in identifying occupied and available parking spaces.
Iterative	User Behaviour Analysis Algorithm	90% accuracy in predicting user parking preferences.
Final Testing	Optimization Algorithm	95% efficiency in optimizing parking space utilization.

Table 2. Cloud-driven smart car parking system vs the previously developed system.

Feature	Proposed System	Previous System	Improvement
Real-Time Parking Occupancy Tracking	Implemented with IoT sensors and algorithms	Limited or no real-time tracking capabilities	Significant improvement in monitoring and efficiency
Cloud Integration	Utilizes AWS services for scalable and efficient cloud framework	Relies on traditional on-premises infrastructure	Enhanced scalability, reliability, and data management
User Interfaces	User-friendly interfaces for both online and mobile platforms	Limited or outdated user interfaces	Improved user experience and accessibility
Optimization Algorithm	Incorporates an optimization algorithm for efficient parking space utilization	May lack optimization features	Increased efficiency in parking allocation
Environmental Impact	Contributes to lower carbon emissions and better urban sustainability	Traditional systems may not focus on sustainability	Enhanced environmental benefits with optimized parking
Scalability	Built on scalable cloud infrastructure, adaptable to growing urban areas	May face limitations in handling increased demand	Improved adaptability to urban growth and changes

This testing aimed to validate the system's performance and gather valuable insights for iterative enhancements. Additionally, the authors present a comparative analysis between the proposed system and a previously developed one (Table 2), highlighting key features and improvements that make the solution a robust and innovative approach to urban parking management.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The management of parking is a challenging issue brought on by urbanisation, which presents a plethora of possibilities. The Cloud Driven Smart Car Parking System research provides some illumination in this confusing maze. According to our study, despite their importance, conventional and even some modern parking management systems typically fall short of solving the intricate issues related to urban parking. The proposed system exemplifies the integration of real-time data processing with cloud computing, which denotes a paradigm shift in the management of urban transportation. Such a technology does more than just offer a parking solution; it redefines urban mobility. By easing traffic congestion, increasing the effectiveness of land use, and drastically lowering automobile emissions, it provides a more sustainable urban environment. Along with its immediate benefits, the system's data-driven technique may provide urban planners with essential information about mobility trends, enabling wiser infrastructure construction. The potential of this project is expected to be considerably increased in the future as IoT sensors will be incorporated. By using IoT's potential for real-time occupancy

monitoring and vehicle tracking, the system may become even more responsive and user-centric, which would constitute the next major development in smart urban infrastructure.

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