

# Guest Editorial

## Enabling Architectures and Technologies for Smart Cities

The vision of smart cities has become a reality. Technological advances in low power devices and reliable communication and overall system architectures made it happening. However, there are plenty of improvements that still can be employed to further increase the efficiency of relevant systems or to provide new approaches that improve existing solutions.

This special issue on Enabling Architectures and Technologies for Smart Cities of the JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS aims to report on the recent advancements and developments in various aspects related to emerging hardware and software technologies enabling the IoT, such as RFID, WSN, system software architecture, integrated solutions, embedded systems, and so on.

This issue recommended totally 10 papers for publication based on the standard reviewing process, where at least two constructive reviews and with guest editors comment have been received. Papers are split in two main groups focused mainly on system architectures that improve reliability in smart cities ([1-5]), and hardware solutions ([6-10]) that are presented as either upgrades to existing solutions or new more efficient proposals. All of these were validated by analytics, simulations and/or testbed approaches.

In the work “An IoT-aware Architecture to improve Safety in Sports Environments” [1], the authors L. Catarinucci, D. D. Donno, L. Mainetti, L. Patrono, M.L. Stefanizzi, L. Tarricone propose novel architecture for automatic monitoring in IoT sport-based systems. The system collects environmental conditions and player physiological parameters through a hybrid sensing network, achieved by combining RFID, WSN, 6LoWPAN, and CoAP, while validated successfully through use-case scenarios.

In the work “Crowd-sensing our Smart Cities: a Platform for Noise Monitoring and Acoustic Urban Planning”, [2] the authors M. Zappatore, A. Longo, M. Bochicchio present novel platform, named “City Soundscape”, that deals with noise pollution in cities.

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The platform is given as Android-based mobile application that is able to collect acoustic measurements through embedded microphone of a smartphone.

This platform also offers a web-based application for city managers to monitor expected noise reductions, estimated buying and installation cost, expected range of effectiveness. Tests were conducted in the province of Brindisi (Southern Italy), where students have participated in educational activities centered on acoustics by performing several outdoor measurement campaigns.

In the work “An IoT-aware AAL System to Capture Behavioral Changes of Elderly People”, [3] the authors L. Mainetti, L. Patrono, A. Secco, I. Sergi present the ongoing activities within the City4Age project, which is focused on the use of IoT technologies to develop an innovative AAL system able to capture personal data of elderly people in their home and city environments. An architecture is presented that exploits the innovative technologies enabling the IoT in order to capture personal data for automatically recognizing behavioral changes in elderly people in an unobtrusive and low-cost manner. A specific module is introduced, which retrieves information about the interaction of the elderly with the surrounding environment.

In the work “Towards an adaptive SOA-based QoS & Demand-Response Provisioning Architecture for the Smart Grid”, [4] the authors C. Chrysoulas and M. Fasli present Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) for smart grid. Authors considered QoS attributes like: type of service to be served, response time, availability, and costs to be taken into consideration while sketching the proposed architecture in significant details.

In the work “Performance Evaluation of Routing Metrics in the LOADng Routing Protocol”, [5] the authors J. V. V. Sobral, J. J. P. C. Rodrigues, N. Kumar, C. Zhu, R. Ahmad present evaluation of recently popular LOADng routing protocol as the alternative to RPL protocol widely used for IoT applications. Authors studied five different routing metrics (ETX, MBCR, MMBCR, LQI WL and MAXLQI) and the default routing metric of LOADng (HC) were studied in network scenarios with MP2P and P2P traffic patterns. The results obtained show that link based routing metrics were able to provide a high packet delivery ratio due to the use of most reliable paths. In contrast, these metrics have shown that, in some cases, the selection of reliable paths can use a high number of hop and provoke a power consumption increase.

In the work “An IC architecture for RF Energy Harvesting systems” [6], the authors L. Pantoli, A. Leoni, V. Stornelli, G. Ferri present novel hardware architecture energy harvester

design for 900 MHz band. Along with proposed architects, author's simulations show that the integrated system handles an incoming power typically ranging from -45 dBm to 5 dBm by rectifying the variable input signals into a DC voltage source with an overall efficiency higher than 50%.

In the work "An integrated access control and lighting configuration system for smart buildings", [7] the authors H. S. Maciel, I. Cardoso, H. S. Ramos, J. J. P. C. Rodrigues, A. L. L. Aquino presented an integrated access control and lighting configuration system for smart buildings. The system uses two-factor authentication, one based on face recognition and other on RFID tag and identifies the user on the room and performs an automatic lighting configuration. The system can be easily deployed on meeting rooms or offices in business or government buildings. Evaluations show acceptable processing execution time, an acceptable communication time, by using a Radio Frequency solution, and the robustness of the system.

In the work "Ultra Wideband Assisted Localization of Semi-Autonomous Floor Scrubber", [8] the authors V. Celan, I. Stancic, J. Music presented a novel approach where standard floor-scrubber was upgraded with an additional both low cost and off-the shelf hardware and software platform.

In the paper "Design of Passive RFID Sensor Tags Enhanced by a Novel Logical Communication Procedure over LLRP" [9] the authors R. Colella, L. Catarinucci and L. Tarricone presented SPARTACUS, an enhanced version of passive RFID tag that exploits polarization diversity of two antennas performing both energy harvesting and communication, which ensures compactness, energy-efficiency, and ease of use. The paper presents an implementation of a new physical layer that has been tested in some application contexts which take advantage from several features of the renovated device: the capability of asking for and receiving context data, sensing a physical value, reasoning and taking decisions.

Finally, in the paper "Electromagnetic Performance Estimation of UHF RFID Tags in Harsh Contexts" [10] the authors R. Colella, L. Catarinucci and L. Tarricone present a cost-effective and accurate tool for performance analysis of UHF passive RFID tags based on a commercial multi-programmable UHF RFID reader controlling a stepper motor. Interestingly, the results obtained with commercial characterization platforms have demonstrated the validity of the proposed solution. The results obtained by characterizing different tags applied on, and embedded into concrete structures or placed around cylindrical structures, demonstrate the usefulness on the proposed system to be applied in real world scenarios in which the support in selecting or designing RFID tags is crucial.

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