

LOCATION-BASED SAFETY ALERT SYSTEM USING ANDROID PHONE

SOO KIN YONG

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Tajuk Projek : LOCATION-BASED SAFETY ALERT SYSTEM
USING ANDROID PHONE
Sesi Pengajian :

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
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
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HAMZAH ASYRANI BIN SULAIMAN
Pensyarah
Fakulti Teknologi Maklumat Dan Komunikasi
Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM)
Hang Tuah Jaya,
76100 Durian Tunggal, Melaka

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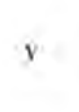
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Dedicated to my parents, lecturers and all of my friends who helped me in this project.

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ABSTRAK

Penggunaan telefon mudah alih adalah dilarang di premis berbahaya seperti stesen minyak dan hospital. Penggunaan telefon bimbit di premis itu mungkin menyebabkan gangguan dan membahayakan orang lain. Oleh itu, langkah-langkah keselamatan perlu diamalkan apabila kita berada dalam premis itu. Malangnya, masih ramai pengguna yang tidak mematuhi peraturan dan menggunakan telefon mudah alih di kawasan berkenaan. Oleh itu, pengesanan telefon bimbit digunakan untuk memantau penggunaan telefon mudah alih dalam premis tertentu. Walau bagaimanapun, bukan semua pengesanan telefon bimbit adalah berkesan dengan sempurna. Sebagai contoh, seorang bekas pelajar UTeM telah mencipta satu pengesanan telefon bimbit tetapi ia tidak dapat mengesan isyarat dari beberapa model telefon. Oleh itu, pendekatan dari segi perisian dilaksanakan. Sistem amaran keselamatan berasaskan lokasi ini akan mengesan lokasi pengguna dengan bijak sepanjang masa selepas ia diaktifkan dalam telefon mudah alih. Ia akan memberi amaran dan meminta pengguna untuk beralih ke mod kapal terbang jikalau sistem mengesan pengguna adalah dalam premis tertentu. Oleh itu, sistem amaran keselamatan ini bukan sahaja bertindak sebagai peringatan untuk mengurangkan peluang bagi kemalangan berlaku kepada pengguna itu sendiri, tetapi juga membawa keselamatan kepada orang ramai.

ABSTRACT

There is restriction on the usage of mobile phone in certain potentially dangerous premises such as petrol station and hospital. The usage of mobile phones at those premises might cause some disturbances and hazards. Therefore, safety precautions need to be taken into consideration when we are within the premises. Unfortunately, there are still many users who disobey the rules and use their mobile phone in those areas. Therefore, mobile phone detector is used to monitor the usage in the premises. However, not all the mobile phone detector is perfect. For example, a previous batch student has developed a mobile phone detector but it cannot detect the signals from some phone models. Thus, software approach is implemented. The design of this location-based safety alert system will make the smartphone to intelligently detect the user's location all the time after it is activated. It will alert and ask the user to switch to airplane mode once the system detects the user is in those premises. Thus, the safety alert system not only acts as a reminder to reduce the chance of the accidents occurring to the user itself, but also allocate a safer surrounding to the public.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

RF	- Radio Frequency
GPS	- Global Positioning System
GUI	- Graphical User Interface
GSM	- Global System for Mobile
CDMA	- Code Division Multiple Access
dBm	- Decibels Milliwatts
SMS	- Short Message Service
LC	- Coil - Capacitor
OS	- Operating System
IDE	- Integrated Development Environment
IBM	- International Business Machines
JDK	- Java Development Kit
JDT	- Java Development Tools
API	- Application Programming Interface
PCB	- Printed Circuit Board
DC	- Direct Current
USB	- Universal Serial Bus

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will explain the negative influences of the mobile phone usage in certain premises like hospital, on the plane and petrol station. It will also introduce the similar safety alert system used in petrol station designed by the previous batch student and discuss its limitation.

1.1 Overview

Since there is restriction on the usage of mobile phone in certain potentially dangerous premises such as petrol station and hospital, therefore mobile phone detector is needed to monitor the usage in the premises. The usage of mobile phones at those premises might cause some disturbances and hazards. Therefore, safety precautions need to be taken into consideration when we are within the premises.

1.1.1 Hospital

The hospital will define and control their own wireless network equipment and the working frequencies. The wireless network will use with enough certainty to ensure that there will not be interference with the patient monitoring equipment. However, the wide variety of handsets and the multiple operating cellular telephone services nowadays make it harder to ensure that there won't be any interference.

Mobile phones can interfere with pacemakers and other sensitive electronic monitoring devices in hospital. It is a sensible safety precaution, but it is quite conservative since cell phones will disturb less than 4% of devices at distances of less than 40 inches. Still, there are other good reasons to restrict mobile phone usage in hospital. Ringing phones and the conversations can be noisy and disruptive to patients. [1]

1.1.2 Aircraft

Passengers are reminded to switch off their electronic devices during the flight. The ban is needed because the radio frequency emitted by cell phones is suspected to malfunction a plane's electronic systems. [2]

Radio-frequency (RF) emissions from mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices might occur at the same frequencies used by aircraft communication, navigation and surveillance radio receivers. The RF emissions could cause fluctuations in navigation readouts, disturbance in other flight displays, and interference with air traffic communications. [3]

Mobile phone manufacturers have placed the warnings in their user manuals. For instance, Nokia warns its users that not to use phones on airplanes as this can cause interference with the navigational equipment. [4]

1.1.3 Petrol Station

The mobile phones can ignite sparks generated by the phone battery and produce static charge during the transmission. Petrol fuel has low electrical conductivity and does not conduct electricity under normal condition. However, static electricity charge will be produced as the fuel flows through the nozzle. In general, the static charge will dissipate in the range of few seconds to few minutes after reaching the maximum level of the tank. The spark produced needs to be discharged near the tank opening. It is also possible for a spark to discharge directly from the gasoline surface to the grounded nozzle. [5]

Studies had been conducted and no concrete proof was found on the safety issue regarding the usage of mobile phones in potentially explosive environments. Even though there is no solid evidence on the ignition source, the usage of the mobile phones while refueling vehicles is strongly prohibited by the authorities because it may divert concentration and lead to spills out and possible accidents. [6] Mobile phone manufacturers also strongly emphasize on not using their phones in areas with potential explosive atmospheres, as there are issues regarding to static electricity not associated with mobile phones. [7]

A mobile phone detector called “Mobile Phone Usage Alert System for Petrol Station”, also known as “Call Buster”, had been developed by a previous batch student. The mobile phone detector can sense the presence of an activated mobile phone from a distance of 1.5 meters. The detector operates by detecting the incoming and outgoing calls, text messages and video calls. Once the RF transmission signal is detected, the alert system will be triggered immediately. [8]

However, not all phone signal can be detected by the mobile phone detector. It had been tested for several times and it was working fine with most of the phones except iPhone and some Samsung Android-based phone models. The circuit of the detector was then modified to fix the problem but it still failed at last.

The scope of the project is to overcome the flaw of the detector circuit. It uses mostly software since the hardware circuit of the detector could not detect some of the phone signals. The idea of this project is to detect the phone location and alert the users when the user is within the potentially dangerous area.

1.2 Motivation for research

Nowadays, the most common problem in this world is the unauthorized usage of mobile phones in prohibited areas such as examination halls, confidential rooms, prisons, colleges, hospitals, airport, court, and petrol station. This best way to prohibit the unauthorized usage of the mobile phones is to disable the communication feature of the mobile phone temporarily. Hence, a software-based location-based safety alert system is designed to detect the user’s current location. If the user is near or inside the potentially danger area, the safety alert system shall alert the users by buzzing an alarm sound. Therefore, the user will be informed that they are in those restricted area. They are reminded to activate airplane mode which disable the communication feature of the mobile phone temporarily. Hence, the safety alert system may reduce and minimize accidents in the restricted areas by notifying the user to not use their mobile phone.

1.3 Objectives

- i. To develop a mobile application that could detect the user's current location.
- ii. To switch the phone mode according to the location detected.
- iii. To design a solar charger for the phone attached in this alert system.

1.4 Problem Statements

1.4.1 Aircraft

Using mobile phone aboard planes is banned by almost all airlines and by the air traffic regulations of most countries. However, problems can still arise when passengers forget to switch off mobiles.

Mobile phone and other electronic devices can cause the auto pilot to disengage. The instruments which guide pilots in bad weather can also be affected by the electrical signals from such devices. This may bring potentially catastrophic consequences. [2]

An inquiry into the crash of Crossair flight LX 498 which crashed just after take-off, is focusing on a link with mobile phones after testing with the Saab 340, a same model of Crossair flight LX 498 airplane. The tests showed that navigation system of Saab 340 could be disrupted by a mobile phone. [9]



Figure 1.1: Passenger using mobile phone on plane

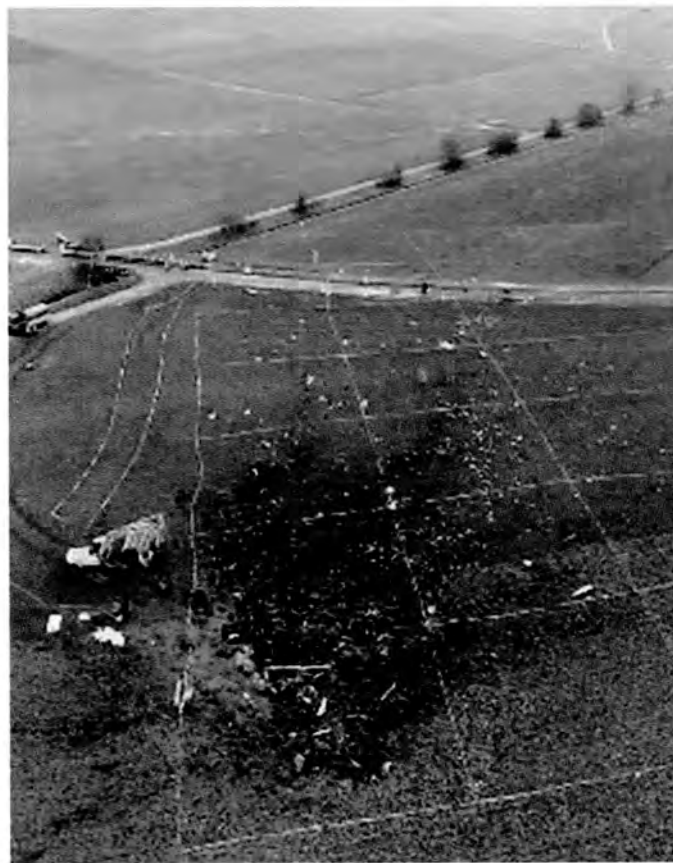


Figure 1.2: Crossair flight LX 498 crashes

1.4.2 Petrol Station

Signboards can be found in petrol station to remind users not to use their mobile phones as shown in Figure 1.3.



Figure 1.3: Mobile phone is prohibited in petrol station

However, not much people follows the rules. Some users still make phone call when they are refueling. Figure 1.4 shows a petrol station user making calls while refueling petrol.



Figure 1.4: Using Mobile Phone while refueling petrol

The carelessness of users could bring serious consequences to the other users in the petrol station. The highly flammable petrol can cause the tragedy such as fire or explosion. [10]

Figure 1.5 shows the accident site at Petronas petrol station. The accident was caused by the usage of mobile phone when a user was pumping gas into the cylinder.



Figure 1.5: Accident Site where the Driver Received Call & Explosion of Gas Happened

1.4.3 Mobile Phone Detector by Tan Chen Wei

A mobile phone detector had been developed by a previous batch student. However, not all phone signal can be detected by the mobile phone detector. It can detect most of the phones except iPhone and some Samsung Android-based phone models. The circuit of the detector was modified to fix the problem but it still failed at last. Therefore, this project will try to solve the problem by using software approach (Android mobile application). The idea of this project is to detect the phone location and alert the users when the user is within the potentially-hazardous area. Figure 1.6 shows the prototype of the mobile phone detector developed by Tan Chen Wei.