



Smart LED Light Control using wireless sensor network for green building

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Abstract:

In lights account for a great portion of total energy consumption, and unfortunately a huge amount of this energy is The most waste of energy comes from the inefficient use of the electrical energy consumed by artificial light devices (lamps or light bulbs). Light emitting diode(LED) lights are being used to light offices, houses, industrial, or agricultural facilities more efficiently than old-fashioned lights. This paper presents a system with detailed design for saving electrical energy by directing the power of artificial light to a acceptable level and getting use of the day light when possible with the best effort for energy saving. However, due to high costs, installation issues, and difficulty of conservation existing light control systems are not effectively applied to home, office, and industrial buildings. This paper offers a low cost, wireless, easy to install, flexible, and smart LED lighting system to automatically adjust the light intensity to save energy and continuing user satisfaction.

Index Terms—*Overlay networks, wireless sensor networks,*

power electronics, LED lighting control, power management, energy efficiency.

I. INTRODUCTION

ENERGY saving and environmental friendliness/awareness is a hot topic in current research. In fact, Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are strongly associated with energy consumption, these originated from the combustion of hydrocarbons (oil, natural gas and coal) either directly seared (transportation and heating) or for generation of electricity in power plants [1]. Lighting systems are a main source of energy consumption in the world. In Europe, the amount of electrical drive used in informative buildings is considerable, about 40% and leads to approximately 35% of carbon dioxide emissions [2]. In recent years the European Union EU has actively promoted political campaigns toward energy efficiency. While earlier research and industrialized works have shown that simple lighting controls using motion sensors, such as Pyroelectric InfraRed (PIR) sensors, are effective at reducing the amount of electrical energy used for lighting buildings, advanced



lighting control approaches have the potential to achieve even greater energy savings, better quality of service and offer many benefits over simple on/off controls. However, until present, advanced control strategies, such as dimming light according to the day light or load cracking, which require a more systems-oriented approach, have been less successful. This is specially due to the high cost of connection and maintenance and the impossibility of retrofitting [3]. On the technical side, Light Emitting Diode (LED) is rapidly becoming a commonly used solid-state light source equipment in general lighting applications. This is due to its longer period, reduced power consumption, and having no toxic mercury content compared with the conservative luminous lamps [4], [5]. In addition, dimming control is often needed to regulate clarification levels for individual human needs or preference as well as to achieve energy savings. New driver systems are improving the dimmable features to complete this goal and are gradually commercially available.

This new technology is growing interest in controlling the light to reduce power utilization. The market for lighting controls in residential and commercial buildings has arrived a period of affected conversion. The demand for both wireless and local controls, such as use sensors, photosensors; and networked controls rises, and the acceptance ratio of the LED lighting systems begins to mount as well. According to a new report from Navigant Research, worldwide income from networked lighting controls will grow from \$1.7 billion annually in 2013 to more than \$5.3 billion by 2020 [6]. With the advance of wireless sensor network (WSN) knowledge, it is now easier than ever to

monitor and control houses, offices and industrial buildings. WSN is the support of a large diversity of cyber-physical systems (CPS) applications in environmental monitoring, healthcare, security, and industrial fields, among others, due to the flexible delivery of WSN devices [7]. The contributions of this paper are as follows:

- A procedure for deploying low power sensor networks to improve the power consumption of LED lights using novel, ultra-low power hardware architecture and smart distributed algorithm. The concept of using light sensors and WSN in LED control is not new, however using it directly control a LED driver with distributed intelligence and allowing retrofit is a new contribution.
- Experimental authentication of the proposed approach. The power consumption classification of panels according to the dimming and the average energy reduction in area-life, long-term deployment is presented.

II. RELATED WORK

Research on monitoring, control and power efficiency in the lighting domain has been productive in recent years; with a variety of solutions and techniques planned. The two main approaches are given by wired and wireless systems. Wired convenient lighting systems can determine the artificial and daylight explanation through the use of sensors in a controller area network [12] or a set of data logger devices [13] to modify the light intensity and hence its energy consumption. However, due to the incidence of bundles of cable to perform data communication the wired devices are much more costly, specially due to the installation and maintenance. Moreover

the wired system is limited to retrofitting the existing light system in buildings. To overcome this installation cost and issues, wireless technology has become a more popular alternative on the demand-side energy management, monitoring and control in buildings. WSN is the enable technology for

building energy control as it is much easier and flexible to install and execute than wired networks. By using the combination of complex WSN-based controls and DC grid powered LED lighting systems, the advantages/features generated from this mutual technology should lead to greater



Fig. 1. Typical application scenario of Smart Lighting with the topologies of devices used: i) Coordinator of network connected to a host device; ii) Router to monitor the environment with light and motion sensors; and End Device connected to the panel to adapt the light intensity to save energy achieving the optimal level of brightness in the area.

energy savings at the demand-side of the green smart building [14]. Recently, wireless sensor networks have been applied to energy protection applications such as light control [15], [16]. In [16], a trade-off between power consumption and users' satisfaction using light control was studied. The author applied utility functions which considered users' location and lighting preferences so that clarification could be adjusted as to maximize the total utilities. In these previous works, lighting devices are adjusted depending on ambient daylight strength and/or motion sensors. This approach is theoretically similar to the proposed system. However our work presents an inclusive, long

term (over 6 months) in-field evaluation of power savings, during several seasons and weather conditions. Moreover the control algorithm is not explained in [19] and it is not possible to know if the algorithm uses distributed or local decision making. Finally in [19] there is no data about the power consumption of the wireless system and its associated cost.

III. DEVICES AND METHODS

It consists of groups of LED panels managed by multiple sensors (motion and light) and distributed intelligence. The nodes PWM signal is used to encode the level of the LED brightness with the width of the pulse (duration) of microcontroller signal as explained better in next subsection. The value of the PWM is decided by a control unit, given by one of the distributed routers provided with sensors. Each router uses the sensors' data to adapt the intensity according with the user's preferences with the goal of maximizing the energy saving and users' preferences. The Zigbee network in a mesh configuration permits building a scalable and modular system easily extendable, and allows each sub group of lights to be completely independent and flexible in terms of area monitored/controlled. In fact, each router has a flexible and controllable number of associated ED's and LED panels, which it can control under the same conditions. This allows having different areas with different controls in order to increase the power saving driven by users' preference. The whole network is managed by one supervision unit, the Zigbee coordinator that both manages the network and ensures that all network devices are working properly. Furthermore this unit

works as a gateway with a remote host (laptop, wall embedded devices, Wireless Lan/Bluetooth devices, and so on), to enable human interaction. Thus, it is possible both to acquire users' preferences to adapt the dimming of the lights in desirable values and to enable a graphical user interface for the management and for visualizing the energy saving data for each group of LEDs or single device. This is an important feature as the percentage of energy savings depends on several factors but the most important is the users' preference, and the user can evaluate this graphically. Other important factors affecting the power saving are the position of each group of panels, i.e. a room with a big window south facing saves more energy than a basement, the weather conditions, season, geographical location, etc. The primary objective of the proposed approach is to reduce the power consumption of a generic (and also existing) LED light system using a flexible network deployed in the same target field reducing cost of installation and

chip supports the ZigbeePRO stack solution, with a small form factor and sufficient computational resources to execute the proposed algorithms. The developed devices include two chips from Texas Instruments: an MSP430 microcontroller where the firmware can be developed and implemented, and a CC2530 which is in charge of the whole communication and the Zigbee stack. The device also includes an optional external board to be connected through an USB port for programming and testing. However only the coordinator uses the USB port during the deployment, to be interfaced with the remote host and no more external hardware is required for networking. The router is equipped with sensors to monitor the controlled area while the end device is interfaced with the commercial light driver. In the proposed smart lighting system the most important elements are:

- The LED panels, highly efficient white LED for illumination;
- The CC2530 that provides the management of ZigBee and is present in each node of the network;
- The MSP430 for the control of the LED panels' smoothing and where the distributed intelligence is implemented. MSP430 is present in all the nodes;
- A dimmable commercial driver for the LED, which provides a highly dimmable range (up to 89%) and inaccurate control (constant current) for the smoothing.
- A light and PIR sensors, used by the router to monitor and control the brightness value. In the following subsection the wireless network and the three architectures of the nodes are presented.

A. Wireless Driver Device.

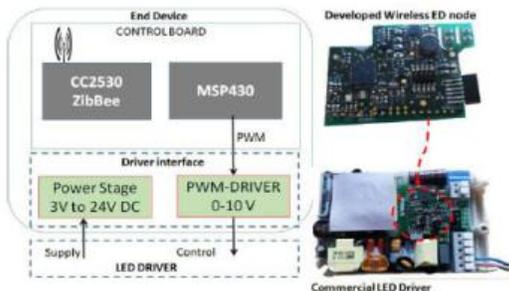


Fig. 2. End Device architecture and node developed to be plugged directly in a commercial driver to control and be supplied.

guaranteeing smart and green buildings with and high return of the investment saving energy. In this work, all the devices needed for the network were designed, developed and deployed in the field around the CC2530 chip from Instruments (TI). This



In each LED panel a new device is needed to enable the wireless control. The sole purpose of this device is to control through PWM the driver LED providing an accurate smoothing of the light and to communicate with the wireless network. This chip has a very low quiescent current with high conversion efficiency and it is optimized specifically for the MPS430. Fig. 3. Router Architecture. PWM to Driver Block in Figure 2 is the most important part of the end device and it is needed to convert the PWM signal generated from the microcontroller in a 0-10V signal needed to control the commercial LED driver. The 0-10V control is one of the earliest and simplest electronic lighting control signaling systems and it is included in the most commercial drivers. Due to this interface the node can be adaptable to a wide range of commercial drivers with the 0-10V port, and can be incorporated directly into the driver as figure shows. To achieve this goal it is sufficient to insert a P-MOS transistor in a Common Collector configuration between the PWM signal of microcontroller and the 0-10V driver's input. For the end devices, we do not have any sensors on board as the PWM value is decided from the router which controls more than one device in the same group and it will be presented in next subsection. This has the benefit to bringing flexibility in the deployment and more reliable feedback on the light in the monitored area.

B. Router for Monitoring and Decisions Making.

This device is in charge of the most important workload in the network with the following main duties: i) manage the routing

protocol of the Zigbee stack, monitoring the environmental parameters throughout the sensors, ii) take the decision on the light intensity, and iii) send the control configuration to the panels that are assigned under its control during the network configuration. Figure 3 shows the hardware architecture of the router node, which is very similar to the end device, where instead of the PWM driver control there is the infrared sensor (PIR) block. This block includes the sensor and its coupling circuit which generates an interrupt when an object moves in the field of view. The PIR used is the Panasonic EW - AMN34111J which guarantees a fast and accurate interrupt for any moving object in the range of 10m.

C. Wireless Sensor Network

One of the primary goals in designing the proposed system was the scalability, the low power and a standardized network for commercial application. ZigBee is a wireless communication technology based on the IEEE 802.15.4 standard for communication among multiple devices in a wireless personal area network (WPAN). The ZigBee alliance has developed low-cost, low power consumption, wireless communication standard, and the CC2530 chipset was chosen. Therefore, this standard is designed to be more affordable than other WPANs (Wi-Fi or Bluetooth) for developing low power embedded systems for consumer electronics, home and building automation, industrial controls, PC peripherals, medical sensor application, toys and games. The ZigBee architecture is made up of a set of blocks called layers; each layer

performs a specific set of services for the layer above.

IV. LIGHTING CONTROL ALGORITHM

As it was presented in the previous section there are three different devices which need three different algorithms to work properly. The network software is a critical part of the system (Figure 7 and Figure 8). The Z-STACK from TI was used to work with the ZigbeePRO protocol with the CC2530. In this section are presented only the algorithms needed for the smart light control residing on the three node topologies: End Device, Router, Coordinator (Figure 5).

A. End Device Algorithm

Figure 5 shows the main flowchart of the algorithm. The main task of the network management is to receive and set the right brightness for the LED panel (Figure 7). Thus, after the device joins the network, a router is associated to it. From this instant it waits for the PWM value decided from the router's own algorithm and sets the LED light intensity of the panel. After the value is set, the radio goes into standby mode for energy saving. The wake up time to get a new luminosity value can be selected by the user as this affects the response time, in the proposed approach 500ms was selected, since it is a good trade-off between power saving and reactivity. This simple procedure with the above mentioned hardware allows every commercial driver to be controlled through a standard Zigbee network.

B. Router and Control Algorithm

The router algorithm is somewhat more complex than for the end device. The core of smart lighting intelligence is distributed to each router which then controls one or more end devices. To achieve this important goal, the router has as main blocks, the

communication and control algorithm on it. The communication block is in charge of receiving data from the network about the user's preferences and send data about the status of the controlled panels to the remote host. As the network is a mesh, the information can hop to other routers before reaching the coordinator which monitors the status of the panels and manages the errors. Figure 5 shows the control algorithm

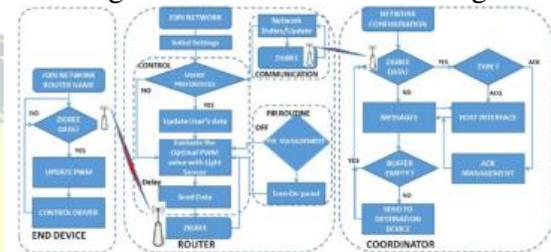


Fig. 5. Flow chart of the three devices. The Network management is not included in the flow chart and the Z-STACK from TI library were used to work with the ZigbeePRO protocol.

```

NETWORK_INIT () //JOIN THE NETWORK
SLEEP () //GO TO SLEEP MODE WAITING FOR MESSAGE

/*WAKE UP FROM INTERRUPT ROUTINE*/
READMSG () //READ THE PWM VALUE
PWM_DRIVER = PWM //SET THE DRIVER VALUE

SLEEP ()
    
```

Fig. 7. Pseudocode of the End Device Algorithm to set the PWM value of the LED driver.

running on the sensor node device. The control algorithm is the core of the smart lighting application setting the dimming value of the panel. To achieve this goal the microcontroller acquires the light sensor data through the ADC port containing the brightness of the room. The purpose of this measurement is to ensure an optimal level of illumination in the room according to the user preferences and existing standards for lighting. For our deployment a conservative value of 45 minutes was chosen during the office time 8am-6pm, and 5 minutes outside this time interval. As it will be presented in the experimental results section, the deployment in a real office was active for a continuous 6



months period with full user satisfaction who did not notice any difference with the traditional system without the smart control.

C. Coordinator Algorithm

The main role of the coordinator, over setup and control of the Zigbee WSN, is to connect the wireless devices deployed in the building with a remote host which provides the user interface. The coordinator also sends the user preferences to the routers and collects the status information from the routers to store the monitored status in a remote database. The communication is done through the UART port of the microcontroller and the UART to USB converter that allows



Fig. 9. Deployment of the system in the VerdeLED company offices.

connecting the dongle to every host with an USB interface. Thus, the coordinator works as a gateway and it is required for a graphical display of the results and user input. Furthermore, data on wireless device operations are associated with the LEDs light address; consequently, all faults and the state are easily identified. The graphical interface enables monitoring the state of the system with the state of the lights and the power consumption of each controlled LED light (individual energy consumption meter) Figure 4. As the host interface also stores the dimming value of all the panels the user

or network manager can have an overlook of the power consumption and working time of every panel in a graphical vision. The program is also equipped with a management system that acts in case of no acknowledgements are sent from the panel to highlight the errors.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

All prototypes have been developed, tested and deployed in variable real-life conditions to verify the overall functionality, the scalability and the robustness of the network and seek better performance. This section describes an experimental evaluation of the. Evaluation of the power saving energy of a commercial LED panel VER-P6060-43-840 from VerdeLED with the dimmable driver LPF-40D-42 from MeanWell is presented. Secondly, the section presents power consumption measurements done during 6 months of continuous work in the company office where the smart lighting system was deployed as the primary and only light system. Figure 9 shows the development system implemented in an office with the goal of testing it in real conditions while Figure 1 shows the floor plan and where the sensor nodes were placed. In this implementation, 25 wireless devices were directly connected to the power supply of LED panels, so it is possible to cover the whole office presented in



TABLE I
 NODES' CURRENT AND POWER CHARACTERISTICS

Device/Mode	Consumption		
	State	Current	Power
Router	MCU on, Radio TX, data processing	19mA	95mW
	MCU On, No processing, Radio RX	18.5mA	92.5mW
End Device	MCU on, Radio TX, data processing	18mA	90mW
	MCU On, No processing, Radio RX	17.5mA	87.5mW
	MCU On, CC2530 Sleep for power saving	0.100mA	0.500mW
	Manully swithced off with the LED panel	0	0
LED PANEL+DRIVER	NO CONTROL	180mA@220V	40W

Figure 1. The Zigbee network has been deployed in an office together with 2 Wi-Fi internet access points and several users' phones and PC connected to the access points. Under these conditions the system was working for 6 months without any interruptions showing a high robustness to Wi-Fi interferences. The positioning of panels and sensors was done with a preliminary analysis on solar irradiation within the office as explained in interruption of services.

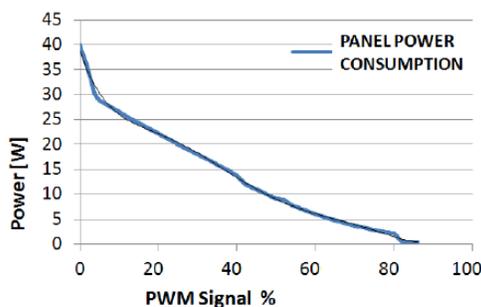


Fig. 10. LED panel + LED driver power consumption according to the the PWM signal of the microcontroller.

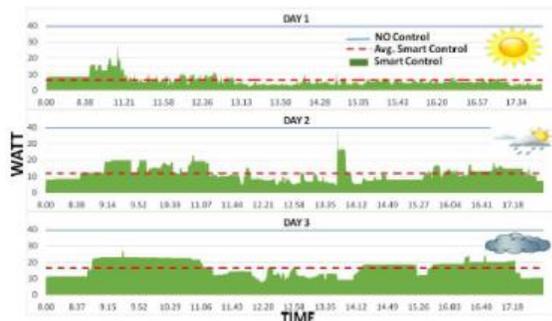
A. Power Measurements

The first step to evaluate the energy saving achievable with our approach was to understand the power consumption reduction

dimming a panel, Figure 10 shows the characteristic of power consumption/dimming of each LED panel which include the consumption of driver as well. As explained earlier, the microcontroller sets different PWM signals for the brightness of the panel. The characteristic of the panel was measured directly with an AC power meter changing smoothly the PWM signal at step of 1%. This data shows the importance of the dimming not to waste energy as it is possible to save up to 99% of power by just dimming the light. The characteristic shows also the limit of the driver to smooth the light down to more than 87% of PWM. Below this value the panel is switched off so no light is provided. During the tests, several commercial drivers from different producers were evaluated and the selected driver LPF-40D-42 was the one with the best performance in terms of range (0-87%) and accuracy of constant current in output (useful to guarantee long LED panel lifetime). In order to evaluate the ultra-low power consumption due to the extra hardware needed to add the smart light wireless control of our approach, the end device and routers power consumption were measured in several states. Table I shows the wireless nodes' current consumption (End Device and router) with 5V power supply. Measurement of the wireless sensor's power consumption was performed, setting the clock of the MCU at 1MHz, and assuming the node can be in one of the three configurations shown in the table. The maximum power consumption due to the new hardware is 100mW. This is a negligible consumption compared to the power saving.



consume zero in this case.



B. Power Saving Evaluation

To evaluate the proposed system in terms of power saving a real office was used as testbed. Four separated groups of 5 LED panels each were controlled by four routers. The user preference was set to 600Lux, a common value to have good quality of light. The network was run continuously for 6 months and the coordinator saved all the states of the PWM signal of each LED. Thanks to the characteristic of the panel in Figure 10 it is possible to know the instantaneous power of each panel during the day and night. The data were compared with an office scenario without the smart control and the Zigbee network. Without the smart control the average power consumption of each panel is 40W, as all the panels are fully on to the max power during the time office. The power consumption of 40W is the power consumption without the wireless control system and takes into account only the power of LED driver and the LED panel. As we presented in previous sections when the smart control is active, the panels are dimmed according to the user preference, the brightness in the room and

TABLE II

POWER SAVING MEASUREMENT COLLECTED DURING SIX DAYS

TESTS RESULT (average for each day)						
GROUP	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
BOX OFFICE 1	44%	33%	59%	85%	15%	25%
	power saving					
BOX OFFICE 2	37%	52%	37%	68%	10%	22%
	power saving					
MEETINGROOM	12%	33%	33%	65%	12%	33%
	power saving					
SHOWROOM	72%	90%	52%	72%	44%	52%
	power saving					
TOTAL AVERAGE POWER SAVING				43 %		

the motion detection sensor. The figure shows the average power consumption of each panel during three different days with 3 different weather conditions. This power was evaluated as total power measured to supply the entire panels divided by the number of the panels. The three plots show the influence of the weather conditions and the power saving. In fact, the average power consumption is only 9W against the 40W in a sunny condition, while it is 12W in variable conditions and 17.5W in cloudy conditions. TABLE II shows the power saving during six days for all the areas of the office. This table shows how the power saving is affected by the external light and the presence of the people in the room. For example, the day 5 was cloudy so the external light brightness was not very high then the power saving is much lower. Moreover the showroom is the least used room in the office as there is not a stable/regular presence of people inside so the power saving is always higher there. These results show how important it is to have



different group of lights controlled by separate routers to have a more efficient control and power saving. Finally taking into account only the 6 days for space reason, the overall energy saved was around 43% due to the proposed approach compared with the same deployment without it. This value does not take into account the night period, supposing the user is always reminded to switch off the office lights or lights being switched off due to inactivity. Another important parameter is the achieved power savings according to different periods of the year.

.VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

A novel system to control LED lighting with a low cost and low power wireless sensor network has been proposed. The method requires the deployment of complementary sensors with Zigbee radio that generate a PWM signal to control existing commercial LED drivers, which can significantly reduce the power consumption of the LED lighting. The use of a light sensor and a PIR sensor in combination with the user preferences allows the distributed intelligence to save energy reducing the light intensity. Because many fixtures of LED lights are already placed, this solution is also suitable for retrofitting. Moreover the network is flexible and scalable due to the Zigbee radio. Experimental results indicate that the proposed system outperforms the state-of-the-art with a significant reduction of power consumption and cost for the single and groups of LED lights using the low power, scalable WSN. It has been shown that this approach decreases the power consumption in a real life office application by more than 55% throughout 6 months (in an unpredictable Irish weather scenario). The

prototypes are ready to be inserted in a commercial driver to enable wireless capability and distributed control.

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