

WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORK FOR SMART HOME AND AMBIENT  
ASSISTED LIVING

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*To my family.*

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## ABSTRACT

A smart home is a residential setting equipped with a set of advanced electronics, sensors and automated devices specifically designed for care delivery, remote monitoring, early detection of problems or emergency cases and promotion of residential safety and quality of life. Smart home has been developed using different technology using wired and wireless network. In this project, Smart Home and Ambient Assisted Living (SHAAL) system has been developed and tested in real experimental home environment. SHAAL system is designed on wireless sensor network (WSN) linked to the cloud network on the Internet. The development of SHAAL is divided into two phases: the design of SHAAL network and the development of SHAAL applications. SHAAL network is made up of the home network which is the WSN and the cloud network. The WSN has been designed using *TelG* mote as the sensor mote and various sensor modules which include door module, lighting module, appliance module, alarm module, camera module and the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) module. *TelG* mote operates on Zigbee based network. The cloud network is made up of the gateway, the server and user devices running on third generation (3G) network. The development of SHAAL applications focuses on the smart door, smart lighting, smart appliances, smart surveillance and AAL applications. The various SHAAL applications run on different platforms which are Windows, Web-based and Android based smartphone. Since many applications may run on SHAAL network, a simple data scheduling scheme has been programmed to schedule data packets based on their application types and priorities. Results show packet reception rate is improved up to 22% using priority scheduling algorithm than the conventional First-In-First-Out method. Additionally, the performance delay of priority scheduling in the experimental test-bed is 34.2% less compared to the theoretical study. It is also shown that the proposed scheme can ensure higher throughput to the high priority data while gives sufficient access to low priority data. The implementation of the experimental testbed has proven that SHAAL has been successfully designed and deployed in the real world. SHAAL provides smart home automation and allows individuals to live independently in their preferred environment.

## ABSTRAK

Rumah pintar merupakan tempat kediaman yang dilengkapi dengan peranti elektronik, penerima, peranti automatik yang direka khusus untuk pemantauan dan penjagaan dari jauh, turut juga mengesan sebarang masalah atau kes kecemasan dan juga meningkatkan tahap keselamatan dan kualiti hidup. Rumah pintar telah dibangunkan dengan menggunakan teknologi yang berbeza dengan menggunakan rangkaian berwayar dan tanpa wayar. Dalam projek ini, sistem Rumah Pintar dan Kehidupan Berbantu Ambien (SHAAL) telah dibangunkan dan diuji di dalam persekitaran rumah sebenar. Sistem SHAAL direka khusus pada rangkaian penerima tanpa wayar (WSN) yang dihubungkan dengan rangkaian awan di Internet. Pembangunan sistem SHAAL dibahagikan kepada dua fasa: mereka bentuk rangkaian SHAAL dan membangunkan aplikasi SHAAL. Rangkaian SHAAL terbina daripada rangkaian rumah yang terdiri daripada rangkaian WSN dan rangkaian awan. WSN ini telah dibina dengan menggunakan peranti TelG sebagai mod penerima dan juga melibatkan pelbagai modul penerima termasuk modul pintu, modul lampu, modul perkakas, modul penggera, modul kamera dan modul kehidupan berbantu ambien (AAL). Peranti TelG ini beroperasi pada rangkaian berasaskan ZigBee. Rangkaian awan pula terdiri daripada set laluan, pelayan dan peranti pada pengguna yang menggunakan rangkaian generasi ketiga (3G). Pembangunan aplikasi SHAAL memberi tumpuan kepada pintu pintar, lampu pintar, peralatan pintar, pengawasan pintar dan aplikasi AAL. Pelbagai aplikasi perisian untuk SHAAL dibina pada tiga platform yang berbeza iaitu Windows, berasaskan laman sesawang dan telefon pintar Android. Oleh kerana terdapat banyak aplikasi yang menggunakan rangkaian SHAAL, skim penjadualan data mudah telah diprogramkan untuk menjadualkan paket data berdasarkan jenis dan keutamaannya. Keputusan menunjukkan kadar penerimaan paket bertambah baik sehingga 22% dengan menggunakan algoritma penjadualan keutamaan berbanding kaedah konvensional Masuk-Dahulu-Keluar-Dahulu. Prestasi kelewatan skim penjadualan mengikut keutamaan di dalam eksperimen telah berkurangan sebanyak 34.3% berbanding dengan kajian teori. Hasil keputusan juga menunjukkan SHAAL boleh memastikan pemprosesan yang lebih tinggi kepada data utama sambil memberi akses yang mencukupi kepada data yang rendah keutamaannya. Pelaksanaan ujikaji eksperimen telah membuktikan bahawa SHAAL telah berjaya direka dan digunakan dalam dunia sebenar. SHAAL menyediakan automasi rumah pintar dan membolehkan individu untuk hidup berdikari dalam persekitaran pilihan mereka.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
	<b>DECLARATION</b>	ii
	<b>DEDICATION</b>	iii
	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	iv
	<b>ABSTRACT</b>	v
	<b>ABSTRAK</b>	vi
	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	vii
	<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	x
	<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xi
	<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xv
	<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	xvii
	<b>LIST OF APPENDICES</b>	xviii
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 Background	1
	1.2 Problem Statement	2
	1.3 Research Objectives	3
	1.4 Scope of Work	4
	1.5 Research Approach	5
	1.6 Significance of Research Work	7
	1.7 Thesis Organization	7
<b>2</b>	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>9</b>
	2.1 Introduction	9
	2.2 Smart Home	9
	2.2.1 Heterogeneous Wireless Network	11
	2.2.2 Wireless Sensor Network (WSN)	13
	2.2.3 Wireless Mesh Network (WMN)	16
	2.2.4 Wireless LAN (WLAN)	17
	2.2.5 Wireless WAN	18

2.3	Internet of Things (IoT)	19
	2.3.1 Smart Grid Communication	20
	2.3.2 Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communication	22
	2.3.3 Cloud Communication	23
2.4	Smart Home Application	24
2.5	Ambient Assisted Living Application	27
2.6	Hardware Platform	31
2.7	Software Platform	33
2.8	Comparison of Related Works	34
2.9	Summary	36
<b>3</b>	<b>DESIGN OF SMART HOME AMBIENT ASSISTED LIVING NETWORK</b>	<b>37</b>
3.1	Introduction	37
3.2	Proposed SHAAL	38
3.3	Development of SHAAL System	39
3.4	SHAAL Network Framework	40
3.5	Home Network	41
	3.5.1 Wireless Sensor Network	42
	3.5.2 Sensor Modules	43
	3.5.3 Communication in WSN	49
3.6	Programming Wireless Sensor Nodes	51
	3.6.1 Development and Installation of Boot-loader Program	52
	3.6.2 Over the Air (OTA) Application Software	55
3.7	Cloud Network	57
	3.7.1 Gateway	58
	3.7.2 Internet Connection	59
	3.7.3 Global System for Mobile using Short Message Service	60
3.8	SHAAL Network Test bed	62
3.9	Summary	65
<b>4</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT OF SHAAL APPLICATION</b>	<b>66</b>
4.1	Introduction	66
4.2	Packet Format	66
4.3	Development of Home Applications in SHAAL	69



4.3.1	Smart Appliances	70
4.3.2	Smart Lighting	72
4.3.3	Smart Door	74
4.3.4	Smart Surveillance	77
4.4	Development of Ambient Assisted Living Applications	80
4.5	Monitoring and Accessing of SHAAL Applications	83
4.5.1	Gateway Monitoring Application	83
4.5.2	Database in Server	87
4.5.3	User Assessing Applications Software Platform	91
4.5.3.1	Windows	92
4.5.3.2	Web Based	93
4.5.3.3	Android	95
4.6	Summary	96
<b>5</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE EVALUATION</b>	<b>97</b>
5.1	Introduction	97
5.1.1	SHAAL Priority Scheduling	97
5.1.2	Application Performance	109
5.2	Summary	115
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>116</b>
6.1	Introduction	116
6.1.1	Significant achievements	116
6.2	Future Works	118
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>120</b>
	Appendices A – C	126 – 133

**LIST OF TABLES**

<b>TABLE NO.</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
2.1	Smart Homes: Current vs. Future	11
2.2	Comparative overview of the Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and ZigBee Technology	13
2.3	Examples of applications for WSNs	15
2.4	Some wireless LAN standards	17
2.5	Current Consumption of TelG Mote	32
2.6	List of existing project of Smart Home System and Ambient Assisted Living	34
3.1	Sensor Modules Specification	43
4.1	SHAAL Application with Packet Type ID	67
4.2	Instruction in Command Packet	68
4.3	Data Output for Data packet	69
5.1	SHAAL Priority	99
5.2	Time delay of response	113

## LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Phases of SHAAL development	6
2.1	Heterogeneous wireless networks with standard interworking mechanisms	12
2.2	WSNs Model	14
2.3	Wireless Wide Area Networks	19
2.4	Hierarchical communication architecture in smart grid	21
2.5	Basic M2M architecture	23
2.6	Communication Architecture Smart Home Systems	24
2.7	Design of Smart Home Security System	25
2.8	Smart Home Renewable Energy system hardware architecture	26
2.9	Proposed Architecture of Smart Home system	27
2.10	Architecture of WBSN	28
2.11	The IoT in an AAL scenario	29
2.12	Scenario and architecture of MICS	30
2.13	TelG Mote	31
2.14	WiseOS Structure	32
2.15	Raspberry Pi	33
3.1	SHAAL System	38
3.2	Development Phases of SHAAL	40
3.3	SHAAL Network architecture	41
3.4	Data Flow in SHAAL Network	41
3.5	Hopping in WSN	42
3.6	Device Module	43
3.7	Door Lock Module (a) Door Lock Module Components , (b) Door Lock Controller and RFID Reader	44
3.8	Lighting Module with sensors	45
3.9	Appliances Module and Sensors	46
3.10	Camera Module	47

3.11	Alarm Module	47
3.12	Temperature, SPO2 and ECG module	48
3.13	AAL Module (a) AAL Module with Sensors, (b) CSN808 sensor board	49
3.14	Multihop Data	50
3.15	State Diagram of Sensor Node Operation	51
3.16	Bootloader in the memory of microcontroller	52
3.17	Bootloader State Transition Diagram	53
3.18	Write a new flash program to memory	54
3.19	Sensor node listen state	55
3.20	OTA State Diagram	56
3.21	GUI of OTA Application	57
3.22	Cloud Network Application	58
3.23	Gateway systems	58
3.24	State diagram of gateway operation	59
3.25	Device and 3G connection	60
3.26	SMS connection in SHAAL system	61
3.27	Two-way Communication using SMS mode	62
3.28	Design Topology	63
3.29	Device Module Data at SHAAL Gateway	64
3.30	SHAAL Activity	65
4.1	Packet Data Format of Device Module Transmission	67
4.2	Data Payload Format (a) instruction; (b) data output	69
4.3	SHAAL operational state diagrams	70
4.4	Systems Flow of Electrical Appliances	71
4.5	Packet Contents for Smart Appliance Instruction (a) OFF operation (b) ON operation	71
4.6	Packet Contents for Smart Appliance Status (a) OFF status; (b) ON status	71
4.7	Packet Command Instruction and Status Data	72
4.8	Systems Flow of Lighting	73
4.9	Packet Contents for Smart Lighting Instruction; (a) OFF operation; (b) ON operation	73
4.10	Packet Contents for Smart Lighting Status; (a) OFF status; (b) ON status	74
4.11	Packet Command Instruction and Status Data	74
4.12	Systems Flow of Door Lock	75
4.13	Packet Contents for Smart Door Instruction; (a) lock door; (b) open door	75

4.14	Packet Fillings for Data Output; (a) Door Open Status (B) Door Close Status (C) Alarm Activation (D) Warning Status; (E) RFID Number	76
4.15	Data packet of instruction command and status	77
4.16	Systems Flow of Alarm Module	77
4.17	Command Instruction for Alarm Module; (a) deactivate; (b) activate	78
4.18	Packet format of Data Output for Alarm Module; (a) alarm OFF; (b) alarm ON	78
4.19	Data packet of instruction command and status	78
4.20	Systems Flow of Camera	79
4.21	Command Instruction for taken image packet	79
4.22	Packet format for image data	80
4.23	Data packet (a) instruction and image data (b) real image	80
4.24	Sensors attached to a human being	81
4.25	Sensor Nodes collector data	81
4.26	Packet format for Data Output of AAL	81
4.27	Data packet of ECG	82
4.28	Data packet of SPO2	82
4.29	Data packet of Temperature	82
4.30	Data packet handling from device module	84
4.31	GSM receive command instruction	85
4.32	Server receive command instruction	86
4.33	Gateway GUI Interface Applications	87
4.34	SHAAL server and database	88
4.35	Database model diagram at server	89
4.36	The MySQL database for home activity	90
4.37	The MySQL database for AAL	91
4.38	Applications on Home Interface	92
4.39	Applications on Ambient Interface	93
4.40	Webpage Home System Interface	94
4.41	Webpage Ambient SPO2 Interface	95
4.42	Webpage Ambient ECG and Temperature Interface	95
4.43	Android Apps on Home Interface	96
5.1	Data Scheduler Model (a) conventional model and (b) proposed model	98
5.2	Priority Application/Task Data Flow	99
5.3	Priority Data Scheduling Algorithm	100
5.4	Packet Delay with Different Time Schedule	101

5.5	Topology scenarios for SHAAL priority scheduling	102
5.6	Average Packet Throughputs with no Priority	103
5.7	Packet Throughputs with Priority in Centralized Architecture Scenario	104
5.8	Average Packet Throughputs with Priority in Distributed Architecture Scenario	105
5.9	Packet Delay with Priority	106
5.10	Packet Delay with no Priority	106
5.11	Packet Delay with 1 high priority and 2 low priority	107
5.12	ECG delay with Priority and without Priority	108
5.13	Delay in queue buffer	109
5.14	SHAAL Activities on Windows Application	111
5.15	SHAAL Activities on Gateway	112
5.16	SHAAL SMS Activities on Phone; (a) Command instruction (b) Status message	114

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AAL	–	Ambient Assisted Living
ADC	–	Analog-to-Digital Converter
API	–	Application Programming Interface
CDMA	–	Code Division Multiple Access
ECG	–	Electrocardiography
FCFS	–	First Come First Serve
FIFO	–	First in First out
GHG	–	Green- House Gases
GSM	–	Global System for Mobile
GUI	–	Graphic user interface
HAN	–	Home area network
ICT	–	Information and Communication Technology
IoT	–	Internet of Things
ISM	–	Industrial, Scientific and Medical
LMDS	–	Local Multipoint Distribution Service
LTE	–	Long-Term Evaluation
M2M	–	Machine-to-Machine
MAC	–	Medium Access Control
MTU	–	Maximum Transmission Unit
OFDM	–	Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing
OS	–	Operating System
OSI	–	Open Systems Interconnection
OTA	–	Over The Air
PAN	–	Personal Area Network
PHY	–	Physical Layer
PRR	–	Packet Reception Rate
QoS	–	Quality of Service
RAT	–	Radio Access Technologies

RF	–	Radio Frequency
RFID	–	Radio Frequency Identity
SCADA	–	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SHAAL	–	Smart Home Ambient Assisted Living
SOA	–	Service Oriented Architecture
SPO2	–	Saturate Pulse and oxygen in blood
UMTS	–	Universal Mobile Telecommunications System
WAN	–	Wide Area Network
WiMAX	–	Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access
WLAN	–	Wireless Local Area Network
WMN	–	Wireless Mesh Networking
WPAN	–	Wireless Personal Area Network
WWAN	–	Wireless Wide Area Network
WSN	–	Wireless Sensor Network



**LIST OF SYMBOLS**

$E$	–	Packet Waiting time
$\lambda$	–	Packet Load
$\mu$	–	Service rate transmission
$\rho$	–	Ratio $\lambda$ over $\mu$
$P_d$	–	Packet Delay
$P_r$	–	Packet Receive data per second
$P_s$	–	Packet Send data per second
$P_t$	–	Packet Throughput
$P_{tr}$	–	Packet Time Receive
$P_{ts}$	–	Packet Time scheduling
$t_{dr}$	–	Time delay response
$t_{rs}$	–	Time receive status
$t_{sc}$	–	Time send command

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
A	TelG Specifications	126
B	Sensor Module	127
C	SHAAL Module Pseudo Code	133

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

The future Internet, designed as an Internet of Things (IoT) is foreseen to be a world-wide network of interconnected objects uniquely addressable, based on standard communication protocols [1]. The IoT is derived from the idea of globally interconnected continuum of devices, objects and things including computers, sensors, RFID tags or mobile phones that can dynamically join the network, collaborate and cooperate efficiently to achieve different tasks. IoT has infiltrated almost every aspect of modern living, from monitoring energy use in offices to tracking and assisting health improvements.

Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) that connect things and machines have vital roles to collect surrounding context and environment information. Sensors, devices, and machines, connect with each other in order to generate, analyze, and communicate intelligence data, and hence improve operational efficiencies. Wireless sensor network with spatially distributed autonomous devices uses sensors that are combined with a gateway to create a one communication system to monitor a phenomenon such as physical or environmental conditions [1]. The sensor nodes communicate wirelessly through multi-hops network to a central gateway that connects the sensor network to the wired world where collecting, processing, analyzing, and presenting of the measured data are carried out. Routers can be used to gain an additional communication link and coverage and hence extending the reliability of the network [2].

Smart home is well known as an integrated system, which takes advantage of computers, network communication as well as synthesized connections of all indoor subsystems that are attached to home appliances and household electrical devices [3].

By using smart home techniques, the management and services in the house can be centralized effectively. In term of convenience, they help people in optimizing their living style, rearranging the day-to-day schedule, securing a high quality of living conditions and in turn enable people to reduce bills from a variety of energy consumptions.

Ambient intelligence is a vision of the future information society stemming from the convergence of ubiquitous computing, ubiquitous communication and intelligent user-friendly interfaces [4]. Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) aims at extending the possibility of elderly people living within their home environment by increasing their autonomy. The concept of AAL is to support the daily activities of elderly people by using intelligent products and the provision of remote services including care services. Most efforts towards building AAL systems for the elderly people are based on developing pervasive devices and use of ambient intelligence to integrate these devices together to construct a safe environment. Ambient intelligence refers to electronic systems that provide services in a sensitive and responsive way to the presence of people, and unobtrusively integrated into our daily environment [5].

In general, smart home and AAL system is a residential setting equipped with a set of advanced electronics, sensors and automated devices specifically designed for care delivery, remote monitoring, early detection of problems or emergency cases and promotion of residential safety and automated living [6, 7, 8, 9, 10].

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

The current life style demands an easy, fast, secure, ambient and comfortable style of living. This is especially true for elderly people, where there are needs to provide assisted independent living in order to increase the quality of life. In addition, there are increasing needs for system that supports green lifestyle, where it can reduce the electricity consumed and leads to optimized energy usage. Based on this, a smart system should be developed that can provide a better solution for human and green environment.

The home control and monitoring applications and ambient applications system require the development of application specific design and protocols. Meanwhile the ambient system necessitates embedding sensors in human or close to human organs,

requires safe and reliable networking, trouble free operation in different geographical locations and minimal maintenance. The design of smart home and ambient application system should be robust, reliable and provides immediate information to users when something occurs at home.

Since WSN forms the basis of the home and AAL applications, sensor nodes are required to control the WSN configuration. The configuration covers different tasks, such as addressing administration to ensure scalable network constructions and ensuring self-healing capabilities by detecting and eliminating faulty nodes or managing their own configuration. However, self-configuration of participating sensor mote is not a common feature in the WSN. Instead, the user is expected to reinstall applications and recover the system from crashes. In contrast, the unattended operation of autonomous sensor nodes requires novel means of network configuration and management. Thus, there is a need to allow flexible reprogrammable of sensor nodes should problem arises.

Other challenges include issues such as wireless networking protocols, power-efficient design architecture, security and performance problems that should be handled efficiently for better improvement. Thus, there is a need to design and develop a practical working smart home and AAL applications that are tested in real environment.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

The main goal of this research is to design and develop Smart Home Ambient Assisted Living (SHAAL) system for controlling and monitoring of home and the health of the elderly living in the house. In order to achieve the main goal of the work, the specific objectives of the research include:-

- To design and develop SHAAL network that provides interconnections and remote access through cloud network.
- To develop home and AAL applications running on SHAAL network on different hardware and software platforms.
- To evaluate the performance of SHAAL in real test bed implementation.

The proposed SHAAL system will be assessed based on the performance of the real experimental test-bed. The measure of effectiveness will be centered on the throughput in terms of packet reception rate (PRR) and packet time delay. The comparison of the performance of the test-bed with the theoretical study will be used as the confirmation of reliable network.

#### 1.4 Scope of Work

The scope of this research is to design, develop and implement SHAAL system in a real experimental test-bed. The work includes the hardware design and software development of SHAAL system. SHAAL system consists of the SHAAL network and SHAAL applications. This work is based on the previous work on WSN network project at UTM-MIMOS center of Telecommunication Technology. In the previous work the sensor node defined as TelG mote and its operating system (OS) has been successfully developed and used discretely in Wireless Biomedical Sensor Network (WBSN) [11] project and Wireless Multimedia Sensor Network (WMSN) [12] project. SHAAL will be designed and developed based on these previous projects. The research work in this thesis is limited to:-

- Design and implementation of SHAAL network  
The design and implementation of SHAAL network is realized in a real experimental test-bed which include the hardware design and software programming and configuration of WSN, the gateway and the server residing in the cloud network. The development of WSN includes the design of sensor modules, the integration onto the TelG motes as the sensor nodes and the enhancements of the TelG motes. The sensor modules are restricted to home applications and health application which include door lock module, lighting module, appliances module, camera module, alarm module and AAL module. The gateway has been designed and configured on Raspberry Pi processor board. In this work the server is realized on free basic server.
- Interworking between home network and cloud network  
The function of the gateway is to interwork the WSN as the home network and the cloud network that holds the server. In this work, WiFi modules, 3G modules and GSM modules are used to link WSN to the outside world.
- Development of SHAAL Applications

The development of SHAAL applications is built on SHAAL network that relies on the relevant sensor module being addressed. SHAAL applications are accessed by end user connected to the cloud network. End user hardware device may vary from smartphone, laptop, tablets and personal computers. It is envisaged that users may want to access and retrieved information from the server using either one of the three different platforms; Windows, Web browsing and Android platforms. These will involve several programming language such as PHP for server, C for hardware and Java for GUI.

- Performance evaluation of SHAAL system

The performance of SHAAL system will be evaluated on real experimental test-bed. The experiment scenario took place in real home-like situation, where the room is installed with SHAAL system. In the study of SHAAL system evaluation, it is assumed that data packets from only two different SHAAL applications are multiplexed at the same time with and without priority scheduling.

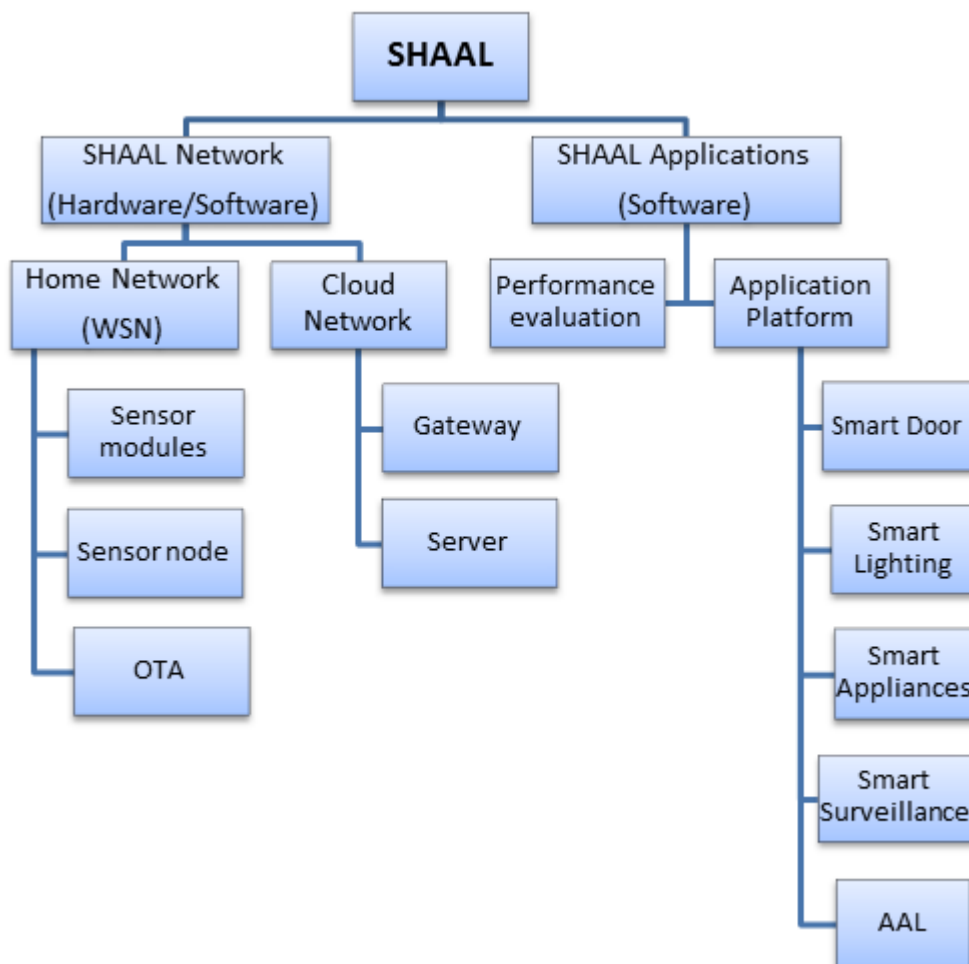
Since the entire work of the research involves the design and implementation of real experimental test-bed, the results of the research is in the form of system demonstration and experimental findings.

## **1.5 Research Approach**

The design and development of SHAAL have been carried out in two phases. The first phase is the hardware design of embedded programming in SHAAL network. SHAAL network comprises of home network and cloud network. The main challenge is the design of WSN comprising of sensor nodes and the sensor modules. TelG motes are programmed to act as sensor nodes that drives the sensor modules. The hardware design of the sensor modules are based on the various sensors used for the specific applications. TelG mote has been enhanced with Over The Air (OTA) uploading and execution program for flexible reconfiguration of TelG mote operation. On the other hand the design of the cloud network is furnished with the gateway and the server. The gateway is programmed to allow internetworking between WSN and 3G and alternatively GSM network. Interconnections to the LAN and WLAN network can also be easily configured. The cloud network rides on the Internet network using 3G network

The second phase is the software development of SHAAL applications on the various hardware and application platforms. Five main applications have been developed including smart door, smart lighting, smart appliances, smart surveillance and AAL. The application software platforms considered in SHAAL are Windows, Web based and Android platform. The graphical user interface (GUI) is developed on the three different platforms for various end user devices such as smart phones, laptop, tablet and personal computers.

Finally, the performance evaluation on SHAAL system and the applications running on SHAAL is carried out. Figure 1.1 shows the research approach in resolving the design and implementation of SHAAL.



**Figure 1.1** Phases of SHAAL development



## **1.6 Significance of Research Work**

The achievement of developing and implementing SHAAL opens up more possible applications development for smart living. SHAAL provides services that satisfy the ever growing demand for comfort and pleasure, services related to e-Health, alarm systems, energy control, etc. that will invade future homes and change human daily life style.

The demonstration of SHAAL exemplifies how the smart home may function in the near future. It is envisaged that there will be more realistic vision with different sophisticated functions in a home environment. SHAAL lays down an open environment where the consumer and internet enabled devices interact through different kinds of services and functions. Future SHAAL related IoT applications may include smart building, smart transport, smart government and many more.

## **1.7 Thesis Organization**

This thesis presents the research project on the design, development and implementation of SHAAL. Chapter 1 introduces the research topic, problem statement, and research objective, scope of work and the research approach of developing SHAAL system carried out in the thesis.

Chapter 2 elaborates the wireless technology such as WSN, WiFi and Wireless WAN. These wireless technologies will be used in development of SHAAL system. The function of smart home and its architecture is highlighted in this chapter. The structure of AAL system within the focus research area is also described. The final part of Chapter 2 discusses the existing related works for smart home application and AAL application which motivate the research work presented in this thesis.

Chapter 3 describes the design of SHAAL network. In the design, SHAAL network is composed of home network the cloud network. The design and implementation of WSN in the home network is elaborated and the development of the gateway and the server in the cloud network is explained. The bootloader program and OTA programing on TelG mote are also highlighted. A basic experimental testing of WSN network design is carried out to ensure remote communication in SHAAL.

Chapter 4 focuses on development on SHAAL applications such as smart door, smart lighting, smart appliances, smart surveillance and AAL running on SHAAL network. The various applications function on different end user software and hardware platforms. The end-user hardware platform includes smartphone, web browser based and Android platform.

Chapter 5 presents the performance of the SHAAL system with scheduling scheme. This scheme includes the priority scheduling for data from AAL module.

Chapter 6 concludes the outcomes of this research and proposes possible immediate and long term strategies for future works.

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