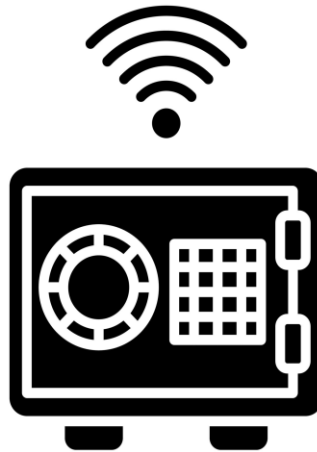


Senior Design 1

Project: Smart Safe



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Chapter 1 Executive Summary

As technology has evolved over time, consumers have increasingly sought to incorporate more tech into their daily lives for greater convenience. Homes have gotten smarter with devices like smart light switches, door locks, and even fridges. While technology keeps advancing, the demand for safety has always been a priority. And as people travel more or lead busier lives, the demand for convenience and security continues to grow.

Safes are a popular choice when people want to secure their personal belongs, whether at home or in a hotel. Typically, these safes tend to be portable due to it being made from a lightweight material and designed to be easy to use. Traditional safes are usually made of metal and feature a key that is used to lock and unlock the door. There are also combination safes, where you turn the dial and align the correct numbers in the right order to open it like a high school locker.

However, traditional safes have their drawbacks. The key can easily be misplaced, the combination lock being jammed, and it's possible to forget the code over time. If that happens, you may need to replace the lock, key, or the whole entire safe which can be costly.

Digital safes offer a modern solution to these drawbacks. These typically have a keypad where you can enter a passcode to unlock the safe and store your valuables. Some digital safes even offer additional alternative ways to access the safe outside of a keypad input. These options include voice recognition, fingerprint scanners, or even a mobile application that allows you to control and monitor the safe remotely from your phone.

The Smart Safe is our attempt at an improved version of digital safes commonly found in the market. It features both a keypad and fingerprint scanner, giving users two distinct option to access the safe to stores their valuables. The safe also includes a display shows the user the status of the safe. Additionally, the safe will also include a motion sensor that will detect if someone is close enough to be able to access the safe and would alerts to a user's email. The owner will receive real-time notifications about their safe keeping them alerted and updated.

This report outlines the entirety of the Smart Safe's design process from conception to implementation. We begin by discussing the motivations and objectives behind the Smart Safe, along with its requirements. Then, we detail the research and part selection process for each major component of the safe in full explanation. Next, we mention all the relevant standards and constraints that influenced our Smart Safe. We also elaborate on our design, implementation, testing, and integration process from both a hardware and software perspective. Finally, we present our conclusion and appendix containing all our references and copyright permissions.

Chapter 2 Project Description

In this chapter, we will provide an overview of our project, discussing both the motivation behind it and its primary purpose. We'll begin by outlining our project's main goals and objectives, followed by a detailed description of the smart safe's features and functionalities. Each function will be categorized into basic, advanced, and stretch goals. A specifications table will summarize the key requirements and objectives, establishing a benchmark for performance. Next, we'll explore existing technologies to compare our project with similar solutions, highlighting shared and unique attributes. Then, we'll present our software and hardware block diagrams, illustrating the work distribution and individual contributions of each team member. Finally, the chapter will conclude with the House of Quality diagram and a prototype sketch of the smart safe [11].

2.1 Project Motivation and Background

Our project is driven by the need for a highly secure storage solution for personal valuables. In today's world, people require a reliable means to safeguard important items such as passports, personal documents, jewelry, emergency cash, and firearms. Traditional safes offer physical security but may lack advanced protection features. To address this, we aim to develop a digital smart safe that enhances security through modern technology, making users feel more confident about the safety of their belongings.

Our smart safe eliminates the inconvenience of physical keys or cards by offering alternative access methods: a keypad and a fingerprint sensor. Registered users can receive real-time email notifications if any access attempts are made, enhancing their ability to monitor and respond to potential security breaches. Additionally, the integration of a motion sensor and timestamp functionality ensures users are aware of any activity around the safe. By combining these advanced features, our project aims to provide a comprehensive security solution with enhanced protection against theft and unauthorized access.

2.2 Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to design a smart safe equipped with advanced security features such as a 6-digit keypad code and fingerprint scanner, ensuring secure and convenient access. Additionally, we aim to develop a website where a registered user can input their email to receive notifications whenever the safe is accessed, allowing them to monitor for any unauthorized entry. The safe will also incorporate a motion sensor that detects nearby activity, and a timestamp will be provided to indicate the exact time the safe was accessed.

The keypad will require a 6-digit code, denying access if an incorrect code is entered. To enhance security, if the code is entered incorrectly three times, the safe will enter Lockdown Mode, where only the fingerprint of a registered user can disengage it and access the safe. Multiple users can register their fingerprints for authorized access. To further ensure protection, electromagnetic solenoid locks will secure the safe and prevent tampering or breakage. Our team aims to create a flexible and user-friendly system, so users can securely store their belongings with ease and confidence.

2.3 Project Features and Functionalities

Our smart safe is designed with a variety of features that provide both security and user convenience. These functionalities ensure that the safe offers multiple layers of protection, making it highly secure and easy to operate. Below are the key features of the safe and our goals:

2.3.1 Basic Goals:

- **Keypad:** A 6-digit security code is required to access the safe. If the incorrect code is entered, access is denied, preventing unauthorized attempts
- **LCD Screen:** Displays clear and readable user prompts during interactions with the safe.
- **Notifications:** Sends timely email alerts to the primary user when access attempts are made, including a timestamp of when the safe was accessed.
- **Solenoid Lock:** Unlocks the safe upon recognizing a registered fingerprint or correct passcode and remains locked if an unregistered fingerprint or incorrect passcode is entered.

2.3.2 Advanced Goals:

- **Fingerprint Scanner:** Accurately reads registered fingerprints and allows additional fingerprints to be added without issues, ensuring that access is limited to authorized users only.
- **Motion Sensor:** Detects individuals who are within proximity to interact with the safe, helping monitor attempts to access it.
- **Website:** Provides a web interface where registered users can input their email to receive notifications and manage safe settings.
- **Lockdown Mode:** Locks the safe after three consecutive incorrect passcode entries, requiring a registered fingerprint to disable the mode and regain access.
- **Buzzer Alert:** Provides audible signals—one buzzer sound indicates the safe is still unlocked, two sounds mean the safe is locked, and repeated buzzing signifies that Lockdown Mode is active after failed access attempts.
- **LED Status Light:** Visually indicates whether the safe is currently locked or unlocked.
- **Self-Locking Mechanism:** Automatically locks the safe after being unlocked for approximately 30 seconds if no further access is requested.
- **Battery Backup:** Keeps the safe operational during power outages or in case of a main power supply failure, ensuring that the system continues to function seamlessly.

2.3.3 Stretch Goals:

- **Camera Module:** Captures images of individuals attempting to access the safe for enhanced monitoring.

- **Motion Sensor Time Limit:** Sets a specific time window for motion detection.
- **Tamper Detection:** Alerts the user in case of any tampering or unauthorized attempts to breach the safe.
- **Temperature sensor:** Detects the temperature of the safe and alerts user if temperature is above or below predefined temperature range.

2.4 Project Requirements and Specifications

The following table is a list of all of our specifications for the Smart Safe. The ones that are highlighted in blue will serve as our three demonstrable specifications.

Table 1: Specifications Table

Specifications	
*Fingerprint access accuracy	Unlocks safe 90% of the time (unless it's an unregistered fingerprint)
*Passcode access accuracy	Unlocks safe 90% of the time (unless it's the wrong code)
Status LED accuracy	Is correct 90% of the time
*Email notification duration	Received in under 3 minutes
Lockdown Mode activation	Activates after 3 passcode attempts
Self-Lock Time Limit	Locks after 30 seconds
Safe Size	6.7" x 6.7" x 9"

*The specifications highlighted in blue will be our 3 demonstrable specifications

2.5 Current/Existing Technologies

In this segment, we will take a look at existing products on the market that are similar to our project design. By examining these products, we'll get a better understanding of the current landscape and identify key features that work well. This will guide our design choices and help us ensure that our Smart Safe stands out in terms of functionality, security, and user experience.

2.5.1 Ring Doorbell

The Ring Doorbell is a smart home device by Amazon that enhances the traditional doorbell with additional security features. It includes a motion detector that alerts the owner via any mobile device using the Ring App or any Amazon Alexa device when motion is detected at the front door [1]. The doorbell also allows users to see who is near it and speak to them through the mobile app [1]. Additionally, the app enables users to monitor the doorbell from anywhere and save camera footage for up to 180 days. It also allows for customization of alert settings to suit user preferences. The Ring Doorbell is part of a broader range of security products, including security cameras, alarms, and smart lighting [1]. The battery-operated Ring Doorbell features a built-in rechargeable battery or can be

hardwired and includes functionalities such as video with night vision, two-way talk, motion detection and alerts, mobile app control, dual-band Wi-Fi, package alerts, and more [1].

2.5.2 Amazon Hub Locker

The Amazon Hub Locker provides a secure place for customers to pick up their Amazon packages. This fully automated locker system offers a safe alternative for those who prefer not to have packages delivered to their home. When a package is ready for pickup, the customer receives an email containing a 6-digit code that can be used to retrieve their package from the locker [8].

2.5.3 BILLCONCH Safe

The BILLCONCH Safe incorporates features like those planned for our smart safe, including a fingerprint sensor, keypad, and notification system for alerting the owner about safe access. However, the BILLCONCH Safe also includes a physical key for manual access and a mobile app for user information and notifications—features that we have not considered for our design [9].

2.5.4 Smart Lock Group 6 - Summer 2019 to Fall 2019

Group 6's Senior Design Project from Summer 2019 to Fall 2019 was a smart lock system with multiple access methods, including a keypad, RFID, fingerprint sensor, and facial recognition. Their project featured a touchscreen with a GUI interface, allowing homeowners to unlock the door using various methods such as a key fob, fingerprint sensor, or security code. Additionally, their system included Bluetooth and mobile app capabilities [5]. We were inspired by this project's approach to integrating advanced access technologies and its focus on providing a secure and convenient solution for home entry.

2.5.5 Smart Cooler Group 23 - Spring 2022 to Summer 2022

The Smart Cooler project from Spring 2022 to Summer 2022 featured a cooler designed to retain cold air and incorporate smart glass to address issues like cold loss mitigation and privacy. The smart glass prevents cooling loss by allowing visibility without opening the cooler. Additionally, the cooler includes USB ports for charging during outdoor activities, aiming to offer a low-cost and efficient solution with features beyond those of traditional coolers [6]. This project inspired us to enhance our safe with features like battery backup and a status light for improved user convenience.

2.6 Block Diagrams

Our group consists of two Computer Engineers, Nickolas Brandenburg and Lakshmi Katravulapalli, and two Electrical Engineers, Alexis Mui and Eric Terry. The Electrical Engineers will primarily focus on hardware applications, while the Computer Engineers will concentrate on software applications. However, all members will collaborate and engage in both areas.

2.6.1 Work Division

Eric & Alexis will handle all PCB work regarding the MCU and the battery while also integrating the status LEDs and the relay. Lakshmi & Nick are tasked with setting up the web server to be able to send email notifications that someone is accessing the safe. Furthermore, Alexis & Lakshmi are tasked with integrating the motion sensor and fingerprint scanner while Nick & Eric are tasked with integrating the Piezo Buzzer, LCD screen & 4x4 Keypad.

Hardware Diagram:

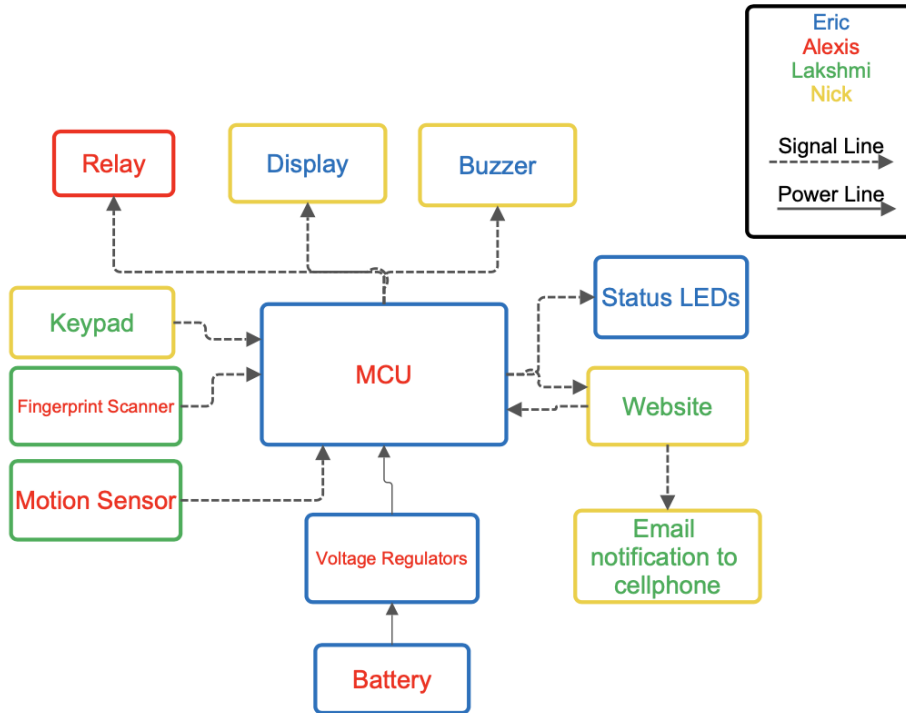


Figure 1: Hardware Block Diagram [3]

2.6.2 Description of Software Diagram

The software diagram above shows how the Smart Safe will work when a user interacts with it. First, the user must be identified as a registered user or an unregistered user. If the user is registered in the system, they may scan their fingerprint to unlock the safe. If the fingerprint is not recognized this is considered an invalid attempt and the safe door will stay locked. If the fingerprint is recognized this will be seen as a valid attempt and the safe door will be unlocked. If the user is unregistered, they will be required to use the keypad to enter a 6-digit security code to unlock the safe. If the code is entered incorrectly then the safe will remain locked. An extra condition is if the user enters the security code on the keypad incorrectly more than 3 times the safe will enter Lockdown Mode. During Lockdown Mode, the digital safe prevents anyone from trying to access it. The only way to deactivate Lockdown Mode is for a registered user to use the fingerprint scanner. If the

safe door is unlocked, the primary owner of the safe will receive an email notification stating their safe has been opened and to verify that this access was authorized. After the safe has been unlocked, the locks will be automatically locked after approximately 30 seconds using the self-locking mechanism. In addition, the safe will have a buzzer sound alert and LED status light. If the user has an invalid attempt the buzzer will make 2 alert noises, and the LED will be red. If the safe is unlocked, the buzzer will make one noise, and the LED will be green. If the safe enters lockdown mode it will make a constant buzzer alert. For the work distribution, Alexis will be working on the parts highlighted in purple which consists of registered users, fingerprint scanner, and making sure the safe door is locked along with the buzzer noise and LED status. Eric will be working on the parts highlighted in blue which consist of unregistered users, keypad, and making sure the safe door is locked along with the buzzer noise and LED status. Lakshmi will oversee when the safe door is unlocked, sending email notifications, and the self-locking mechanism which are highlighted in blue. Nickolas oversees the self-locking mechanism which is highlighted in red. In conclusion, we will all be contributing to the overall tasks.

Software Diagram/Flowchart:

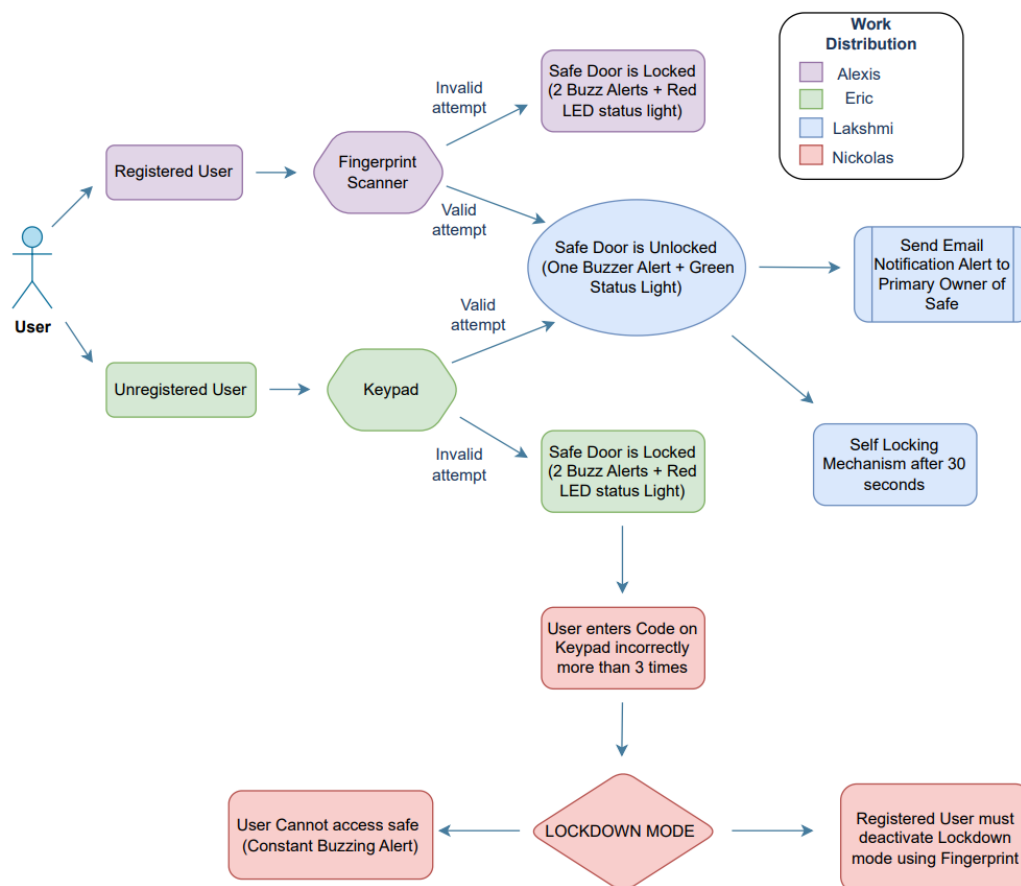


Figure 2: Software Block Diagram [2] [7]

2.7 House of Quality

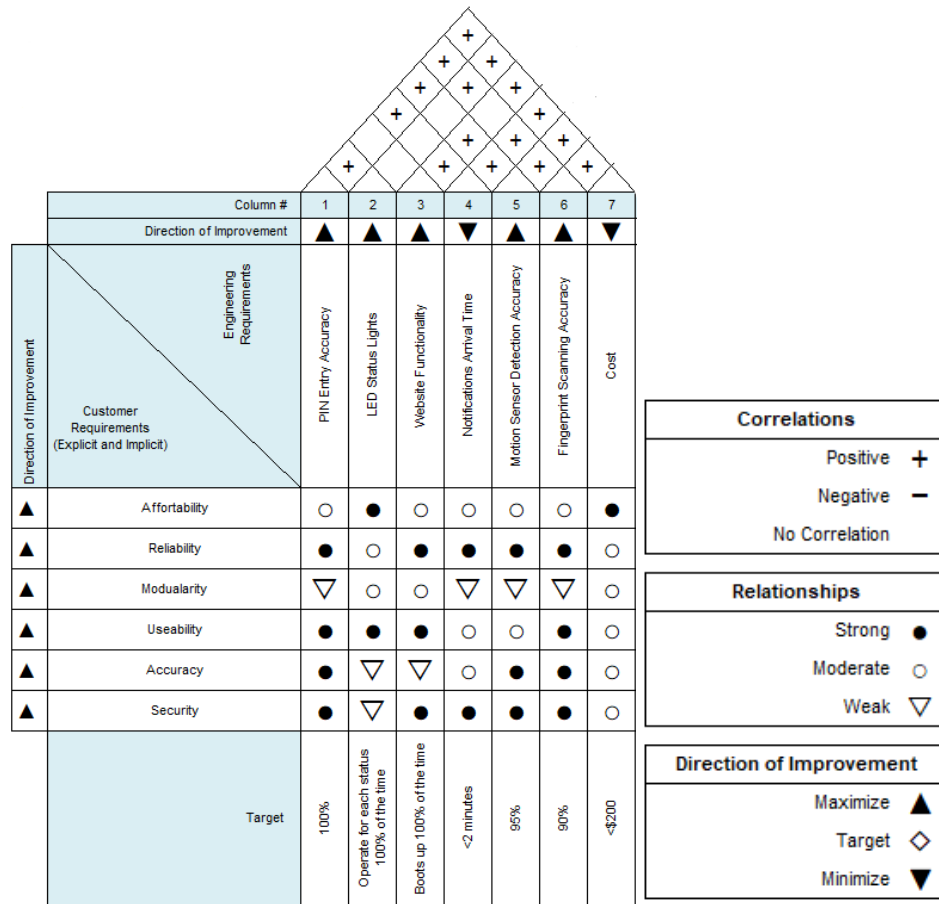


Figure 3: House of Quality

2.8 Prototype Illustration/Sketch

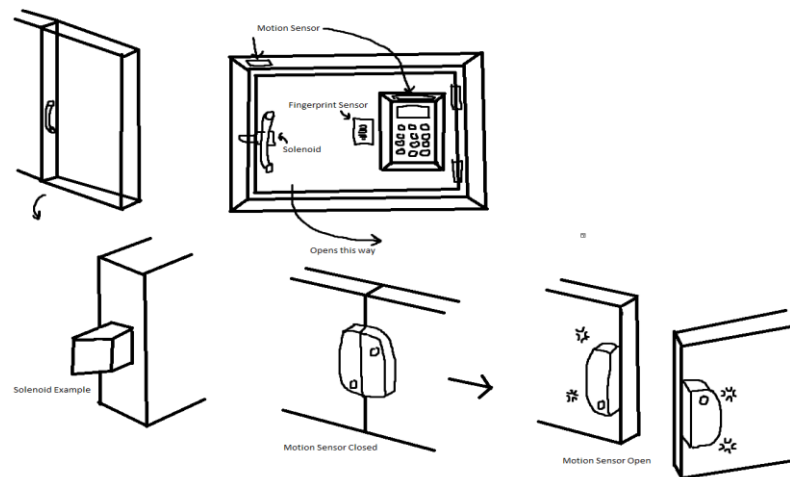


Figure 4: Sketch of the Prototype

Chapter 3: Research and Investigation

In this chapter, we will conduct a comprehensive examination of each component within our project, comparing them against alternative products to ensure we select the most suitable options. For each component, we will provide a technology comparison along with a detailed part selection, supported by tables that outline our reasoning and highlight key features. This approach will ensure that every chosen component meets our project's specifications and contributes to an optimal design for our smart safe system [11].

3.1 Existing Similar Projects and Products

In this section, we will be comparing different existing products in the market that are similar to our Smart Safe. The first product is “Honeywell 5403 Bluetooth Durable Smart Security Safe”. This safe has a Bluetooth signal to send alerts which is similar to our safe along with different features. The next product is “FORFEND Fingerprint Smart Home Safe” which has many similar features to our project such as keypad, fingerprint scanner, false attempt alarm, email notifications, etc. The third product is “TurboSAFE WiFi Smart Safe” which has a similar design and lock system to our project. These three products will be compared and evaluated in this section to explore their features and advanced technologies that they offer.

3.1.1 Honeywell 5403 Bluetooth Durable Smart Security Safe

The Honeywell smart safe comes with enhanced Bluetooth enabled security features that can be controlled with the app. In contrast to other safes, this one has a Bluetooth lock that is controlled by its app which can lock and unlock the safe [12]. This safe has a touchscreen keypad with a customized access code and a one-touch lock feature [12]. One feature that is similar to our safe is the Bluetooth signal that sends notifications to users when codes or eKeys were used to open the safe. It can also allow multiple users to access the safe with shared passcodes. Some unique design aspects are LED interior lights and curved door edges to prevent break-ins [12]. It also indicates when the battery is low and has motorized lock door bolts. This product offers many different unique features and is focused primarily on Bluetooth access and security. The price of this product is currently \$539.95 which is reasonably higher than average smart safe products.

3.1.2 FORFEND Fingerprint Smart Home Safe

This product is a smart home safe that comes with a keypad and fingerprint scanner. Some features that this safe provides that are similar to ours is the false-attempt alarm which prevents anyone from using the safe after a certain number of incorrect attempts, frozen mode lockdown, email notifications, and LED light to indicate the status of the safe [13]. Some additional features are kidnap panic alarm, tamper detection alarm, low battery alarm, and gateway alarm [13]. It also comes with voice commands which can be connected with Amazon Alexa or Google Home. Additionally, some items it comes with are batteries,

gateway, USB emergency charger, and backup keys [13]. This product can also be controlled by the mobile application that can unlock the safe. The FORFEND Smart Home Safe comes with many advanced capabilities and security features that make it the ideal place to store important belongings. The current price of this product is \$159.99 which is a reasonable price for a smart safe.

3.1.3 TurboSAFE WiFi Smart Safe

This product is a smart safe that comes with a keypad, physical key, along with its own mobile app [14]. The size and design space is similar to the prototype illustration of our safe. It comes with pry-resistant hinges and round locking bars which is similar to our plan for the locking system for our safe. This product comes with a TurboSafe monitoring app that updates you on the status of your safe [14]. Unlike other smart safe products, for security concerns the safe cannot be opened directly from the app but can only be unlocked with the passcode using the keypad or the physical keys. The safe comes with motion sensors that detect any movements or if the box is being moved and will immediately alert the user using the app. The physical keys are only used as backup and will sound an alarm as a precaution. The TurboSAFE is an easy and simple to use smart safe with extra heavy duty durability that guarantees to keep your personal items safe [14]. The price of this product is currently \$99.99 which is a reasonably affordable price for a Smart Safe.

3.1.4 Similar Existing Products Summary

In this section we summarized similar existing Smart Safes and discussed their features and functionalities. We compared the design qualities and cost of each safe. Table 3.1.5 will compare each of the products and their differences in further detail.

Table 2: Comparison of Similar Existing Products

Product	Access Methods	Features	Cost
Honeywell 5403 Bluetooth Durable Smart Security Safe	Touchscreen Keypad, Mobile App, Bluetooth lock	• Bluetooth Lock Control for App • Touchscreen Keypad • One-Touch Lock on Keypad • Sends notification when Safe is opened • Shared Access	\$539.99

		• LED interior lights • Low Battery indicator	
FORFEND Fingerprint Smart Home Safe	Keypad, Fingerprint Scanner, Mobile App, Voice recognition by Alexa/Google Home	• False Attempt Alarm • Kidnap Panic Alarm • Tamper Detection Alarm • Email notifications • LED status lights • Voice Command	\$159.99
TurboSAFE WiFi Smart Safe	Keypad, Physical Key	• Monitoring App • Pry resistant hinges • Password Disguise • Motion Sensor • Alarm if physical keys are used	\$99.99

3.2 Technology

In the following sections, we will discuss about the technologies used to implement Smart Safe. We will explore various related technologies, outlining their advantages and disadvantages before revealing our final decision. For each technology, we will present different products, highlighting their unique characteristics and determine which one is most suited for our design.

3.2.1 MCU

The microcontroller or microprocessor that we choose is the central component for our Smart Safe. It will need to handle all communication to our various peripherals such as the keypad, display screen, motion sensor, buzzer, LEDs and the relay. In addition, it will also need to be able to send email notifications to a person's cell phone through a website.

3.2.1.2 What are Microcontrollers?

Microcontroller units (MCUs) are integrated circuits that contain components normally found in computers such as a CPU (or multiple processor cores), random access memory (RAM), a clock, read only memory (ROM), and general-purpose input/output peripherals all on a single chip [15]. Examples of these various peripherals include but aren't limited to analog to digital converters (ADCs), digital to analog converters (DACs), timers and communication protocols such as UART, I2C and SPI. Microcontrollers are best suited for low power embedded applications that need to carry out specific tasks within a larger system [15]. Real-life applications where MCUs are used include smartphones, smartwatches, medical devices, navigation systems in vehicles and various home appliances. Microcontrollers come in three distinct data sizes (8-bit, 16-bit, and 32-bit) and have clock speeds up to 200MHz [16].

3.2.1.3 What are Microprocessors?

Microprocessors are integrated circuits that contain major components of a CPU such as an arithmetic logic unit, control unit, registers, cache memory, a clock, processor cores and bus interfaces used to connect to other peripherals. A microprocessor's main function is to fetch instructions from memory, decode the instructions, execute said instructions, store the result in memory and repeat the whole process again [17]. They come in three types of computer architecture types: Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC), Complex Instruction Set Computer (CISC), and Explicitly Parallel Instruction Computing (EPIC) [18]. Like microcontrollers, microprocessors are also used in embedded applications, but they are more suited towards high-power applications that require more processing power for more complex tasks [15]. Microprocessors come in 16, 32 and even 64-bit data sizes and even have clock speeds up to 3 GHz [18].

3.2.1.4 Arduino

Arduino is an open source, easy to use hardware and software platform that runs on Windows, Mac and Linux. Using the Arduino IDE and C++ programming, you can tell your Arduino board to read digital and analog inputs and outputs from various peripherals such as sensors, LEDs, push buttons and whatever additional components that you want to connect to it. Popular Arduino board models include the Arduino Uno, Mega and Nano, which are all based on Microchip's ATmega family of 8-bit MCUs [19]. The Arduino Mega 2560 Rev3 board is one of the boards that is up for consideration for our project. The main reason is because it has the most I/O pins out of all the other Arduino board modules, which means we would be able to implement our main, advanced and stretch goals without running out of pins to use. In addition, one of our team has a few years of experience working with the Arduino boards.

Table 3: Comparison of Arduino models [20] [21] [22]

Product	MCU	Flash Memory	Processor Speed	Digital I/O Pins	Analog Input Pins	Operating Voltage	Cost
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Arduino Uno Rev3	ATmega328P	32KB	16 MHz	14	6	5V	\$27.60
Arduino Mega 2560 Rev3	ATmega2560	256KB	16 MHz	54	16	5V	\$48.40
Arduino Nano	ATmega328	32KB	16 MHz	22	8	5V	\$24.90

3.2.1.4.1 Microchip's ATmega2560

The ATmega2560 is a low power, high performance, 8-bit microcontroller from Microchip that is used in the Arduino Mega 2560 Rev3 board. It has 256KB of flash memory with an advanced RISC architecture and a clock speed of 16MHz. The ATmega2560's features include 32x8 general purpose registers, two 8-bit Timers, four 16-bit Timer, 16 10-bit ADC channels, twelve 16-bit PWM channels, has the USART and SPI protocols along with being I2C compatible [23].

3.2.1.5 Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi is a low-cost microprocessor that comes with its own CPU, RAM, graphics processing unit (GPU), HDMI port, Ethernet port, SD card slot, USB ports, GPIO pins, Bluetooth & Wi-Fi connectivity. In addition, it also has its own Linux based operating system called Raspberry Pi OS that would be stored on a microSD and inserted into the slot. After connecting your keyboard, mouse, monitor, and completing the initial OS setup, you essentially have a working inexpensive computer at your fingertips. The Raspberry Pi can be used for various applications such as camera surveillance, wireless printers, home automation and many other Internet-of-Things (IoT) projects [24]. The Raspberry Pi 3 Model B+ is another board up for consideration, since it has enough GPIO pins to meet our main, advanced and some (if not all) of our stretch goals. Furthermore, it is the cheapest out of the boards that are listed in the table below and one of our team members is familiar with working with Raspberry Pi boards at her job.

Table 4: Comparison of Raspberry Pi models [25] [26] [27] [28]

Product	CPU	RAM	Processor Speed	GPIO Pins	USB Ports	Power Supply	Cost
Raspberry Pi 3 Model B+	ARM Cortex-A53(BCM2837)	1GB	1.4 GHz	40	4	5V/2.5A	\$35.00
Raspberry Pi 4 Model B	ARM Cortex-A72(BCM2711)	2GB	1.5 GHz	40	4	5V/3A	\$45.00
Raspberry Pi 5	ARM Cortex-A76(BCM2712)	8GB	2.4 GHz	40	4	5V/5A	\$80.00

3.2.1.5.1 Broadcom's ARM Cortex-A72(BCM2711)

The BCM2711 is the chip from Broadcom that is used in the Raspberry Pi 4 Model B that has a quad-core Cortex-A72 64-bit processor that runs at 1.5 GHz. The BCM2711 comes with peripherals such as timers, interrupts, PWM, I2S & PCM capabilities for audio, 58 GPIO lines, 6 UARTs, I2Cs and SPIs. Furthermore, it has up to 8GB in SDRAM (depending on the model) with each core having 32 KB of data and 48KB of instruction memory [29].

3.2.1.6 ESP32

The ESP32 is a cheap, low-power family of microcontrollers with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities made by the company Espressif that run up to 240 Mhz. This family of microcontrollers mostly comes with dual-cores and supports common peripherals found in your average microcontroller including but not limited to ADCs, DACs, PWM, the UART, I2C, I2S, and SPI communication protocols [30]. Furthermore, it is compatible with the Arduino IDE & MicroPython, so you can either program it the way you would an Arduino or program it in Python 3. The ESP32 comes in three choices: the bare-bones chip, modules that contain the chip and development boards [31].

Table 5: Comparison of ESP32 models [32] [33] [34] [35]

Product	MCU Module	Flash Memory	Processor Core	Processor Speed	GPIO Pins	Operating Voltage	Cost
ESP32-PICO-KIT-1	ESP32-PICO-V3	4MB	Dual	2.4 GHz	29	3.3V	\$10.00
ESP32-H2-DevKit M-1	ESP32-H2-Mini-1	4MB	Single	2.4 GHz	19	3.3V	\$10.00
ESP-WROOM-32	ESP32-WROOM-M-32D	4MB	Dual	2.4 GHz	32	3.3V	\$9.99

3.2.1.6.1 Espressif's ESP32-WROOM-32D

The ESP32-WROOM-32D is a low power MCU module with Wi-Fi/Bluetooth capabilities made by Espressif. The heart of this MCU module is the ESP32-D0WD chip that comes with 2 Xtensa 32-bit LX6 cores, a clock frequency that can be adjusted from 80 MHz up to 240 MHz along with peripherals such as capacitive touch sensors, UART, SPI, I2C, I2S, and multiple GPIO pins. The module itself has a total of 38 pins (32 of them being GPIO) while also having its own 40 MHz crystal oscillator [36]. The ESP-WROOM-32 is the last board that is up for consideration for our project. It has the most amount of GPIO pins which gives us the freedom to integrate our stretch goals along with having 2 processor cores. An additional bonus is that half of our team has experience with the ESP-WROOM-32 from taking Dr. Weeks' Real Time Systems class.

3.2.1.7 Final Decision

Although the Arduino Mega 2560 Rev3 has the most GPIO out of all our other options, it is also the most expensive. There's also the matter of setting up a website on the Arduino Mega, which usually requires the integration of an Arduino Ethernet Shield on the board. This would put us in a bind when we get to the PCB design and integration process. In addition, to be able to integrate the ATmega2560 chip into our design, a bootloader is required for us to program it to our specifications. The Raspberry Pi 3 Model B+ is cheaper and has a decent amount of GPIO pins along with a faster processor speed than the Arduino Mega. In addition, since the Raspberry Pi has its own operating system, we would be able to set up a website without having to buy any extra hardware. There is also the fact that while the Arduino & the ESP32 are microcontrollers, the Raspberry Pi is a microprocessor. We feel that using a microprocessor (which is essentially a minicomputer) for our digital safe would be overkill. Furthermore, Raspberry Pi boards aren't that great for multitasking which isn't desirable as our safe has multiple peripherals working in tandem to function. Unlike our previous option, the ESP-WROOM-32 board has 2 processor cores that run at a speed faster than the Arduino Mega 2560 Rev3 & Raspberry Pi 3 Model B+, which makes it ideal for multitasking. It has enough GPIO pins to meet our main & advanced goals while still having some left over in case we want to meet some of our stretch goals and is the cheapest of our options. In addition, the ESP32 has its own built-in web server that we can use as the base of our website. Finally, the ESP-WROOM-32D chip doesn't require a bootloader for us to program it the way we want to. Because of these benefits, we are moving forward with the ESP-WROOM-32 as our chosen MCU.

3.2.2 Keypad

The keypad is an important component since it allows the user to input the code to access their belongings within the safe. The following subsections below are descriptions describing the different types of keypads along with their unique technologies and properties that made them a consideration for our project.

3.2.2.1 Membrane Keypad

Membrane keypads consist of flexible layers, or membranes, that rely on pressure to connect circuits [14]. One advantage of this type is that it is easier to clean and maintain. It is also less susceptible to environmental factors like dirt, bacteria, or liquids [39]. Membrane keypads have a slim profile and a flat surface, making them smaller, lighter, and more portable qualities that are ideal for our project. Their minimal thickness prevents unnecessary weight that could hinder the prototype design. Additionally, membrane keypads are available in various affordable options and can be easily integrated with microcontrollers [32].

3.2.2.2 Mechanical Keypads

Mechanical keypads have physical push buttons that provide tactile feedback [38]. This type is known for its robustness and versatility due to the strong physical feedback from the buttons [38]. Each button has a physical switch that sends an input signal to the microcontroller when pressed. One benefit is that users can feel the push and release of the buttons, making interaction easier. Mechanical keypads are also highly durable, making them suitable for applications requiring frequent use [38]. They include a debouncing feature to ensure each press is registered as a single input, reducing errors from multiple

presses [38]. Like membrane keypads, mechanical keypads are affordable and can be interfaced with various microcontrollers [32].

3.2.2.3 Touch-Sensor Keypads

Touch-sensor keypads use capacitive technology to detect electrical charges from human touch [38]. They identify changes in electrical signals to determine which keys the user has touched [38]. One advantage is that these keypads are not as vulnerable to physical damage or environmental factors like liquids or dust. Known for their sleek, modern design, they eliminate the need for pressing physical buttons [38]. However, they can be overly sensitive, sometimes misinterpreting a slight brush as a press [38]. Users also need to take extra care to avoid smudges or fingerprints on the surface. Another limitation is that touch-sensor keypads are less widely available compared to traditional keypads [32].

3.2.2.4 Keypad Technology Decision

For our project, we have chosen the membrane keypad. This keypad offers many advantages that align with our design goals. Membrane keypads are lightweight and portable, making them easy to attach to our safe. They are simple to integrate with microcontrollers and are available in a range of affordable options. We will discuss the specific retail membrane keypad we plan to purchase in the part selection section [32].

Table 6: Comparison of Keypad Technology [123]

Type of Keypad	Technology	Advantages	Disadvantages	Suitability for Safe Design
Membrane	Flexible layers of membranes that are connected	• Easier to clean and maintain • Resistant to dirt or water • Slim profile and lightweight	• Limited tactile feedback • Less durability for frequent pushing	• More suitable for compact design due to slim size • Best for safes requiring minimal space or weight
Mechanical	Physical push buttons with tactile feedback	• Stronger and withstanding • Easy to interface with • Debouncing feature	• Heavier weight • Prone to dust or water	• Suitable for robust designs • Good for safes requiring long-term durability

				and user feedback
Touch Sensor	Keys that senses physical human touch	• Less likely to physical damage • Cannot be damaged by dust or liquid • Modern design	• Sensitive touch factors • Requires cleaning • Fewer available products	• Ideal for sleek, modern safes • Lightweight and tech-forward option, though less common

3.2.2.5 Keypad Part Selection

In the previous section, we determined that membrane keypads are the most suitable choice for our project. After researching various membrane keypads compatible with microcontrollers, we narrowed down our options to three products: the "NEXTION 16 Keys Matrix Keypad 4x4 Membrane Keyboard Module," the "E-outstanding 4x4 Keypad 16 Key Self Adhesive Membrane Matrix Switch Keyboard," and the "Adafruit 3x4 Phone-style Matrix Keypad".

3.2.2.6 NEXTION 16 Keys Matrix Keypad 4x4 Membrane Keyboard Module

The NEXTION 16 Keys Matrix Keypad is a widely used external keypad module for microcontroller projects. It features a 4x4 matrix with 16 keys, including letters, numbers, and symbols. This keypad is compatible with various microcontrollers, such as the ESP32 and MSP430, using standard GPIO pins. It is lightweight, durable, and conveniently powered by the microcontroller without requiring batteries. The operating voltage ranges from 3.3V to 5V, and its dimensions are 2.76 x 2.76 x 0.2 inches [41]. This product is priced at \$8.99 [41].

3.2.2.7 E-outstanding 4x4 Keypad 16 Key Self Adhesive Membrane Matrix Switch Keyboard

The E-outstanding 4x4 keypad has 16 keys arranged in a matrix design. A unique feature of this product is its adhesive backing, allowing it to stick to surfaces without the need for additional mounting hardware [43]. The flexible membrane material makes it lightweight and compact, ideal for our prototype design. It is compatible with any microcontroller through I/O pins, with an operating voltage of 3.3V to 5V. The product dimensions are 3 x 2.7 x 0.03 inches, and it is priced affordably at \$6.99 [43].

3.2.2.8 Adafruit 3x4 Phone-style Matrix Keypad

The Adafruit 3x4 Phone-style Matrix Keypad has a 3x4 matrix design with a phone-style layout. This membrane keypad features a modern and ergonomic design, making it user-

friendly and comfortable to press [42]. Unlike the other options, this keypad has only 12 keys and does not include alphabet keys. It is made of durable material and provides tactile feedback when pressing the keys. The keypad is compatible with different microcontrollers and operates at a voltage range of 3.3V to 5V. Its dimensions are 2.8 x 2.0 x 0.04 inches, and it is priced at \$12.64 [42].

3.2.2.9 Part Selection Decision

After comparing each product based on its features and capabilities, we have selected the "NEXTION 16 Keys Matrix Keypad 4x4 Membrane Keyboard Module." This keypad offers a straightforward 4x4 matrix design that is easy to implement with any microcontroller and programmable with any interface. It consumes low power, making it efficient for use with multiple interfaces on the microcontroller [40]. Its thin and lightweight design is also well-suited for our prototype. Overall, this keypad provides numerous advantages and meets the design requirements for our safe project.

Table 7: Comparison of Existing Membrane Keypads [38]

Product	NEXTION 16 Keys Matrix Keypad 4x4 Membrane Keyboard Module	E-outstanding 4x4 Keypad 16 Key Self Adhesive Membrane Matrix Switch Keyboard	Adafruit 3x4 Phone-style Matrix Keypad
Manufacturer	NEXTION	E-Outstanding	Adafruit
Keypad Layout	4x4 Matrix layout 16 Keys	4x4 Matrix layout 16 Keys	3x4 Matrix layout 12 keys
Dimensions	2.76 x 2.76 x 0.2 inches	3 x 2.7 x 0.03 inches	2.8 x 2.0 x 0.04 inches
Durability	Moderately durable	Lightweight. Self-Adhesive	Slim, Portable, Sturdy
Power Consumption	Low Power Consumption	Low Power Consumption	Low Power Consumption
Cost	\$8.99	\$6.99	\$12.64
Microcontroller Compatibility	Arduino, PIC, MSP430, and others	Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and others	Arduino, Raspberry Pi, MSP430, and others

3.2.3 Fingerprint Scanner

The fingerprint biometric will be one of the advanced goals of our project. It will be used as a main form of security authentication with the keypad as an alternative. Authorized users will be able to scan their registered fingerprint to unlock the safe door. If the user

attempts to enter an unregistered fingerprint, it will be considered an invalid attempt and the safe will remain locked until a stored fingerprint from the library is provided or the 6-digit security code known only to the primary owner is entered on the keypad.

The main purpose of the fingerprint scanner is to provide quick access to the safe in emergencies and to offer convenience for users who may forget other access methods, such as security codes or traditional keys. Fingerprints are an excellent form of biometric authentication, as no two fingerprints are alike, making it extremely difficult to replicate or hack. This added layer of security not only enhances user safety but also streamlines the unlocking process, ensuring that authorized users can gain access quickly and efficiently when needed. Furthermore, integrating a fingerprint scanner also reduces the reliance on physical keys or memorized codes, minimizing the risk of unauthorized access.

3.2.3.1 Fingerprint Scanner Technology Comparison

In this section, we will compare different types of fingerprint scanners based on their underlying technology. There are many different types of scanners, but the most common ones we picked include capacitive, optical, and thermal fingerprint sensors. Each type of scanner has its own unique functionality which will be evaluated to determine the best fit for our project design.

3.2.3.2 Capacitive Fingerprint Sensor

A capacitive fingerprint sensor generates a digital image of a fingerprint by measuring the pressure of a fingertip through an array of capacitors. When a fingertip is placed on the passivation layer, the conductor plates beneath measure the tiny electrical charges in the electric field created by the fingerprint's friction ridges, resulting in a small voltage change stored in a capacitor [44]. As the conductor plates detect the ridges, the capacitance decreases due to the applied pressure, while the valleys of the fingerprint cause an increase in capacitance because of the increased distance. An operational amplifier integrator circuit amplifies and filters the charge differences between the finger ridges and valleys. These small voltage changes are then converted to binary data by an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) and sent to a microcontroller to be stored [45]. The binary data is processed to create a digital image, using algorithms to depict and compare fingerprint characteristics, ultimately forming a template for matching [46]. When attempting to unlock the safe, the sensor will use minutiae-based matching to find specific locations and directions of minutiae in a fingerprint (points where ridgelines end or fork) [52]. The use of human conductivity presents a lower risk of hacking, either software or hardware, since replicating the pressures of a fingertip is more difficult. This makes the security of capacitive sensors more reliable and robust compared to others like optical scanners, although they tend to be more expensive. It is also difficult for people who have scarred fingers and it's susceptible to damages from electrostatic discharges. This sensor is mostly popular for electronics like smartphones and laptops.

3.2.3.3 Optical Fingerprint Sensor

An optical fingerprint sensor captures an image of the fingertip reflected by light using a camera or sensor. Using the principle of Total Internal Reflection (TIL), this occurs when a light from an LED enters one face of the prism at an angle greater than the critical angle (the angle at which light refracts at 90 degrees when light transitioning from a denser medium like glass to a less dense medium like air) [50]. The light reflects off another face of the prism and exits into the lens and image sensor. At the boundary where TIL occurs, a small portion of light's energy creates an evanescent wave in the air. In the evanescent field, the skin and air of the fingertip have varying refractive indices (RI) and which interact with the evanescent wave and results in Frustrated Total Internal Reflection (FTIR). The FTIR modifies the intensities of the internally reflected light, which the lens that collects and focuses it for the image sensor detects and uses to capture the fingerprint image.

Charge Coupled Devices (CCDs) and Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) sensors are the mostly commonly used image sensor in optical fingerprint scanners. Both image sensors use an array of photodiodes called photosites to capture light photons and convert them into electrons [51]. When the image of the fingertip is taken, photosites are uncovered to collect photons and stored as electrical signals. In CDC sensors, the accumulated charge from each photosite is transferred across the chip and read at one corner of the array, where it's converted into binary data by an Analog to Digital Converter (ADC). In contrast, most CMOS devices have several transistors for each photosite, allowing for the amplification and individual reading of the charge through wires. If light hits a photosite, it is recorded as a pixel (represented as a tiny dot); the combination of light and dark pixels forms the final image [52] then converted into binary data by ADC [59]. A microcontroller uses an algorithm to identify the lightest and darkest regions of the image [51]. The valleys of the fingerprint, filled with air pockets, create the lightest contrast, while the contact between the finger ridges and the platen surface produces the darkest contrast. When no finger is present, the light source enters at an angle less than the critical angle, resulting in refraction and producing a plain image on the image sensor [49]. The binary data converted by the ADC is sent to a microcontroller to be stored and is processed to create a digital image using algorithms to depict and compare fingerprint characteristics, ultimately forming a template for matching like the capacitive sensor. Two images of the user's fingerprint must be processed for enrollment and stored in the library. When attempting to unlock the safe, the sensor generates a template of the fingerprint and compares it either in a 1:1 or 1: N against the templates registered in the library using pattern or minutiae-based matching[53]. The use of using 2D pictures of the fingerprint presents a higher risk of hacking compared to conductive fingerprint scanners because prosthetics can be replicated to trick the scanner. Optical scanners are still very accurate, fast, reliable, and affordable in the market. This sensor is mostly popular for law enforcement, traveling, and home security systems.

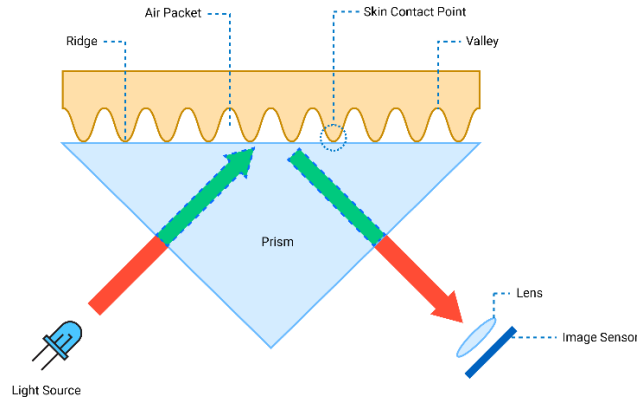


Figure 5: Optical Fingerprint Sensor Diagram [58]

3.2.3.4 Thermal Fingerprint Sensor

A thermal fingerprint sensor generates a digital image of a fingerprint by measuring the temperature disparities between a fingertip through pyroelectric material. When a fingertip is placed on the thermal isolation layer, the transistors underneath produce an electric charge as a reaction to the hot or cold temperature changes of the fingerprint's ridges and valleys. There are two different types of thermal sensors: active and passive. For the active type, the thermal scanner detects the temperature differences between the air of the valleys and the heat transferred from an internal heating element in the ridges of the fingertip to map an image of the fingerprint. In the passive type, the thermal scanner detects the natural temperature variation between the air in the valleys and the heat of the ridges of the fingertip, which has a higher thermal mass, to create an image of the fingerprint [46]. The transistor takes the detected temperature changes and generates an electric charge then the signal turns into a map of temperature variations across the fingerprint. The microprocessor contained in the silicon die processes these electric signals and converts them into binary values and stores them as a digital template of the fingerprint. Similar to capacitive fingerprint sensors, the system used will compare the new print to the stored template for matching. The reliance on human heating patterns presents a lower risk of hacking as replicating the thermal mass of a fingertip is very challenging. Unlike capacitive sensors, thermal sensors can function effectively even when the fingertip is dry or wet from water moisture or exposed to oils from the skin. This reliability makes the thermal sensor a reliable option for security applications compared to others like capacitive sensors. However, their accuracy can be sensitive to significant temperature changes in the environment and need more maintenance compared to others. This sensor is mostly popular for security facilities like banks and government buildings [54].

3.2.3.5 Fingerprint Sensor Technology Decision

For our design, we have chosen the optical fingerprint sensor. This fingerprint sensor offers many advantages that align with our design goals. Optical fingerprint sensors are reliable, suitable for a variety of skin conditions in case someone has scars, fast accuracy, and lightweight. They are easily found on the market and cost effective while simple to integrate with any type of systems like microcontrollers.

Table 8: Comparison of Fingerprint Sensor Technology

Type	Capacitive	Optical	Thermal
Technology	Uses pressure of the fingerprint	Uses light of the fingerprint	Uses the heat pattern of the fingerprint
Advantages	• Difficult to replicate • Fast speed • High accuracy • Robust	• Cost effective • Speed is fast • Easy maintenance • Easy to install • Easily available in the market • Work well with variety of skin conditions	• Difficult to replicate • Functions effectively when fingertip is dry, oily, or wet • Reliable
Disadvantages	• High cost • Susceptible to electrostatic discharge damages • Sensitive to wet or very dry fingertips • May require more sophisticated hardware	• Susceptible to hacking • Not as robust than others • Sensitive to dry, oily, or wet fingertips	• High cost • Requires more maintenance than others • Slow speed • Sensitive to significant temperature changes in the environment
Suitability of Safe Design	• More suitable for compact design due to slim size	• More suitable for variety of skin conditions • Easy integration	• More suitable for designs with no size constrictions • Suitable for varying

	• Suitable for robust designs	• Fast processing time	fingertips in cleanliness, moisture or dryness levels
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3.2.3.6 Fingerprint Scanner Part Selection

In the previous section, we determined that optical fingerprint sensors are the most suitable choice for our project. After researching various sensors compatible with the microcontroller we picked, we narrowed down our options to three products: “ADH Tech’s GT-521F52”, “Hangzhou Grow Tech’s GROW R307 Fingerprint Module”, and “Handson Technology AS608 Optical Fingerprint Sensor Module”. All three fingerprint scanners also have a full module where a sensor built in is to detect and capture the fingerprint while the scanner processes the fingerprint data. We will compare these options to determine the most suitable and effective product for our Smart Safe.

3.2.3.7 ADH Tech’s GT-521F52

The GT-521F52 offers a complete fingerprint scanner module that features an optical CMOS fingerprint sensor, a DSP processor, FLASH memory, and supports TTL UART and USB2.0 for \$58.95. It operates at a voltage of 3.3V to 6V DC with a current of 130mA, communicating over UART at the baud rates ranging from 9600 to 115200 bps. The scanner has a rectangle window dimension of 16 x 18 mm, module dimension of 25x30 mm, a resolution of 450 DPI and can store up to 3000 fingerprint templates. The 258x202 pixel sensor provides imaging quality with 256 grayscale values (8-bit depth) for each pixel. This product can be used with any type of microcontroller or microprocessor like ESP32, Arduino, or Raspberry Pi with multiple libraries available for UART communication [55].

3.2.3.8 Hangzhou Grow Tech’s GROW R307

The R307 offers a complete fingerprint scanner module that features an optical CMOS fingerprint sensor, a DSP processor, FLASH memory, and supports TTL UART and USB2.0 interface for \$20.65 [56]. It operates at a voltage of 4.2V to 6V DC with a current of 50mA, communicating over UART at the baud rates ranging from 9600 to 115200 bps. The scanner has a square window dimension of 14 x 18 mm, module dimension of 20x20 mm, a resolution of 500 DPI, and can store up to 1000 fingerprint templates. The 256 x 288 pixel sensor provides imaging quality with 256 grayscale values (8-bit depth) for each pixel. This product can be used with any type of microcontroller or microprocessor like ESP32, Arduino, or Raspberry Pi with multiple libraries available for UART communication [57].

3.2.3.9 Handson Technology's AS608 Optical Fingerprint Sensor Module

The AS608 offers a complete fingerprint scanner module that features an optical CMOS fingerprint sensor, DSP processor, FLASH memory, and supports TTL serial but no USB for \$17.99 [20]. It operates at a voltage of 3.3V to 6V DC with a current of 120mA, communicating over TTL serial at the baud rates ranging from 9600 to 57600 bps. The scanner has a square window dimension of 16x18mm, module dimension of 20x20mm which is similar to the R307, a resolution of 500 DPI, and can store up to 163 fingerprint templates. The 256x256 pixel sensor provides imaging quality with 256 grayscale values (8-bit depth) for each pixel. This product can be used with any type of microcontroller or microprocessor like ESP32, Arduino, or Raspberry Pi with multiple libraries available for UART communication. While it's an older model, it shares many similarities with the R307, showcasing its reliable technology [59].

3.2.3.10 Part Selection Decision

Even though all three products had very similar features and specifications, the price difference between the first product and the last two was significant. We chose the “Hangzhou Grow Tech’s GROW R307 Fingerprint Module” due to its low cost and easy integration with the ESP32. Even though the R307 is very similar to the AS608, it offers newer technology, faster performance, and the ability to store more fingerprint templates for just a dollar more. The R307 meets our project needs and size requirements while offering reliable performance. Out of all three products, it was also the most popularly used which meant it also had the most resources available for troubleshooting and support, including extensive documentation, online forums, and active user communities. This accessibility to help greatly reduces potential downtime and allows for quicker iterations in our project development.

Table 9: Comparison of Existing Fingerprint Scanner Parts

	GT-521F52	R307	AS608
Operating Voltage	3.3V – 6V DC	4.2V – 6V DC	3.3V – 6V DC
Operating Current	<130mA	50mA	120mA
Interface	UART/USB2.0	UART/USB2.0	TTL Serial
Storage Capacity	3000	1000	162
Sensor Life	10 million	100 million	1 million
Verification Speed	0.3s	0.3s	<1s
Scanning Speed	0.5s	0.5s	<1s
Average Searching Speed	0.5s	<1s (1:1000)	<1s
False Accept Rate (FAR)	<0.001%	<0.001%	<0.001%
False Reject Rate (FRR)	<0.1%	<0.1%	<1.0%

Price	\$58.59	\$20.51	\$19.95
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3.2.4 Lock Mechanism

An electric lock is a component in our design that ensures the safe remains secure and protected. When a scanned fingerprint matches with the fingerprint template, or when the authorized owner enters the 6-digit security code on the keypad, the relay signals the lock mechanism to disengage the bolt from the safe's body to unlock the door. Once the user has finished using the safe, they can close the door and press a button on the keypad to signal the relay to electrically switch the lock mechanism to engage the bolt into the frame of the safe and secure the door.

The main purpose of an electric lock is to provide a more reliable and convenient alternative to conventional door latches in a safe. Motorizing the bolt of the lock mechanism allows for quick operation, enabling fast locking and unlocking without the need for manual effort, making it user-friendly. Additionally, electric locks support easy integration with security features. For instance, if the user exceeds a certain number of attempts to unlock the safe, it will trigger an automatic lockdown mode. The door will remain lock, and a buzzer sounds for a certain duration as an alarm, allowing only the authorized user to disengage it. For these reasons, electronic locks have become more popular for safes, residential homes, and commercial buildings.

3.2.4.1 Lock Mechanism Technology Comparison

In this section, we will compare different types of lock mechanisms based on their fundamental technology. We will evaluate several options available for our project design, focusing on their functionality and ease of integration. We have selected in-line linear actuator lock, stepper motor lock, and a solenoid lock for comparison. Each mechanism has its own unique characteristics, which we will analyze to determine the most suitable option that balances performance and practicality for our design needs.

3.2.4.2 In-line Linear Actuator Lock

This model will have an in-line linear actuator and will have a latch tongue attached to the piston rod, which will be inserted into the strike secured in the frame of the safe. When the power source is supplied, a switch sends a signal to the motor inside the actuator, extending the rod to lock the door. To unlock, the switch will send a signal to retract the rod until it reaches the limit.

An in-line linear actuator is an electromechanical device that converts rotational motion into linear motion using an AC or DC motor [130]. When a power source is applied, the polarity of the voltage supply changes the direction of the rod in the actuator [131]. When the voltage goes to the stator it's also converted into current for the rotor, creating a magnetic field that moves the motor. The motor rotates within the gearbox and pushes a nut along an attached threaded rod. As the nut moves up the threaded road, the attached piston rod on the threaded rod extends forward. The nut continues to move forward until it

hits the limit switch, which triggers a signal to the motor controller to stop the motor from overextending.

If there is a driver, it signals the actuator to retract. The motor rotates, and the nut moves downwards, retracting the rod until the nut hits another limit switch, indicating its original position [132]. If there is no controller or driver, the power supply must switch polarities to enable the rod to retract.

This operation is caused by converting electrical energy into mechanical energy, which can have many advantages or disadvantages. In-line linear actuators are precise, robust, and can maintain their original position when there's no power. However, they operate at slow speeds and may produce higher noise levels. Without a driver, changing the direction of the rod relies solely on switching the polarity on the power source which can be challenging to implement.

3.2.4.3 Motorized Gear Lock

This configuration features a bolt mounted to a stepper motor with a gear connected to the shaft, allowing it to actuate back and forth along a rail attached to the safe's door. The motor steps forward, advancing the bolt until it reaches the end of the rail, and inserts it into the striker attached to the safe's body, securing the lock. The motor steps backward along the rail to unlock the door, retracting the bolt.

A stepper motor is a type of electric motor that converts electricity pulses into rotation motion by a fixed number of degrees [133]. The stator features teeth wrapped in wire coils around an iron core called the rotor, which is positioned in the center of the motor. When a power source is connected, current flows through the coils, energizing the stator phases and creating a magnetic field. By energizing the stator phases in a specific pattern, the rotator wrapped in magnetic bearings will use the magnetic field to rotate in a fixed amount as instructed by a driver. The driver interprets electrical signals from a controller and uses transistors to adjust the voltage across the winding, generating a torque to control the motor's behavior. The motor rotates in response to the rate of electrical pulses, with its speed matching its frequency.

If the stepper motor is bipolar, the driver will signal the motor to step backward by reversing the direction of the current. This change will alter the specific pattern of how the stator phases are energized to rotate the motor backward for the instructed number of steps. In the case of a unipolar motor, the wires associated with certain coils need to be swapped, or the stepping sequence needs to be reversed to generate a magnetic field where the current flows in the opposite direction.

This process is also caused by converting electrical energy into mechanical energy, which can have many benefits and challenges. Stepper motors are known for their precision, simplicity, and low cost. On the other hand, they have a high likelihood of missing steps if the torque is too much, issues with slipping, high levels of noise, and susceptible to overheating due to high current consumption [133].

3.2.4.4 Solenoid Lock

This design incorporates a solenoid with a latch tongue attached to its plunger, which fits into the strike secured in the safe's structure. When the power source is activated, a switch sends a signal to the solenoid to pull the stroke, unlocking the safe's door. Once the plunger is positioned inside the housing, the device will de-energized until activated. To lock the door, the switch sends a signal to the solenoid to release the stroke, stabilizing the door.

A solenoid is an electromechanical device that converts electrical current into linear motion using electromagnetism. It consists of an iron core with ferromagnetic material, known as a plunger, surrounded by a coiled wire helix. When a power source is connected, current flows through the copper coil, generating a magnetic field with a north and south pole at each end of the plunger. This magnetic flux line is concentrated on the core, increasing the coil's induction and creating electromagnetic induction [134]. The direction of current flow determines which side of the coil becomes the north or south pole. The north pole of the solenoid will be attracted to the south pole of the coil and vice versa but its position will fluctuate by the current induction [135].

Some solenoid designs have compression springs at the back of its housing, applying force on the plunger. When energized, the solenoid will plug the plunger into the center of the coil and compress the spring. After the solenoid is deactivated, the coil will release the plunger, and the spring will push it back into its original position. In some designs, tension springs can be positioned in the front or back of the solenoid housing. When the solenoid is activated, the plunger will move away from the spring, but the tension springs will pull back the plunger when de-energized. The more coils wrapped around and current flow, the stronger the solenoid.

Like the first two mechanisms, this function is caused by converting electrical energy into mechanical energy, but with electromagnetic induction. Solenoids offer many advantages, such as simplicity, low power consumption, reliability, speed, and cost-effectiveness. However, their drawbacks include limited stroke length and susceptibility to overheating due to high current consumption [133].

3.2.4.5 Lock Mechanism Technology Decision

For our project, we have decided to go with a solenoid lock. This lock mechanism offers many advantages that fit with our design goals. Solenoids are straightforward, dependable, fast, and budget-friendly. Solenoids are quite popular and used in many applications like industrial machinery, so they're easily found on the market. Providing the same benefits as an in-line actuator but in quicker response time and easier integration than a stepper motor, they can also be used with any type of system like the ESP32.

Table 10: Comparison of Lock Mechanism Technology

Type	In-Linear Actuator	Stepper Motor	Solenoid
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Technology	Converts rotational motion into linear motion using an AC or DC motor	Converts electricity pulses into rotation motion by a fixed number of degrees	Converts electrical current into linear motion using electromagnetism
Advantages	- Precise movement - Robust - Easy integration	- Precise movement - Cost effective	- Low power consumption - Reliable - Fast speed - Cost-effective - Easy integrations
Disadvantages	- Slow speed - Complicated integration - High levels of noise - Expensive - Heavy	- Chance of slipping - Chance of missing steps - High levels of noise - Susceptible to overheating - High current consumption - Heavy	- Limited stroke strength - Susceptible to overheating - High current consumption
Suitability for Design	- More suitable for circuit due to precise movement - Robust	- More suitable for circuit due to precise movement - Cost effective	- More suitable for circuit due to light weight - Low power consumption - Cost effective

3.2.4.6 Lock Mechanism Part Selection

In the previous section, we concluded that the solenoid lock is the best option for our project. After exploring various mechanism compatible with our chosen microcontroller, we narrowed down our options to three promising products: “Elecrow’s LY-01 DC12V”, “DFRobot’s FIT0624” and “Uxcell’s 1240L-12E07”. All three products will include stroke

and housing with the solenoid. We will compare these options to determine the most optimal product for our project.

3.2.4.7 Elecrow's LY-01 DC12V

The LY-01 DC12V offers a pull solenoid for \$7.50. It operates at a voltage of 12V and draws a current of 1.2A, consuming 12W of power. With dimensions of 54×38×27mm and a stroke of 15mm, it weighs 0.17kg. The duration this device can be powered is up to 10 seconds but takes less than 1 second to be powered on. As a monostable solenoid, the stroke retracts when the power is applied, and it extends if the power is removed. This product can be used with any type of microcontroller or microprocessor like ESP32, Arduino, or Raspberry Pi [136].

3.2.4.8 DFRobot's FIT0624

The FIT0624 offer a pull solenoid for \$7.90. It operates at a voltage of 12V and draws a current of 0.4A, consuming 3.6W of power. With dimensions of 55×23×28mm and a stroke of 10mm, it weighs 0.18kg. On their website, DFRobot claimed this solenoid can be powered indefinitely and activates in under 1 second. As a pull solenoid, the stroke retracts when energized and extends when de-energized. This product can be used with any type of microcontroller or microprocessor like ESP32, Arduino, or Raspberry Pi. It also includes an inclined electromagnetic lock [137].

3.2.4.9 Uxcell's 1240L-12E07

The LY-01 DC12V offer a push solenoid for \$19.49. It operates at a voltage of 12V with a current of 1.7A, and consumes 20.6W of power. With dimensions of 68×42×31mm and a stroke of 9mm, and it weighs 0.21kg. On their website, Uxcell claimed this solenoid can be powered indefinitely and activates in under 1 second. As a push solenoid, the stroke is pulled when powered on but is pushed on to a locked position when power is off. This product can be used with any type of microcontroller or microprocessor like ESP32, Arduino, or Raspberry Pi [138].

Table 11: Comparison of Existing Lock Mechanism Parts

Type	LY-01 DC12V	FIT0624	1240L-12E07
Style	Pull	Pull	Push-type Latching
Operating Voltage	9 – 12V	9 – 12V	9 – 12V
Operating Current	1.2A	0.4A	1.7A
Suction Force	1.2kg	2kg	1kg
Electrify Time	<5s	Unlimited	<24hr
Price	\$7.50	\$7.90	\$19.49

3.2.4.10 Part Selection Decision

Although all three products have similar features and specifications, we chose “DFRobot’s FIT0624”. It offers the longest operational duration and consumes the least amount of current, all while fitting within our budget. Even though “Uxcell’s 1240L-12E07” had a lot of benefits, the lateral side of the housing can’t have excessive force, or the latch will have issues retracting which might cause issues in the future. Also, “Elecrow’s LY-01 DC12V” is not recommended to be activated longer than 5s at a time or have frequent unlocking actions which is a significant limitation for our application.

3.2.5 Motion Sensor

A motion sensor is an electronic component that senses physical movement and sends electronic signals to the microcontroller that triggers specific actions or responses within a system. It is an important component for security, convenience, and automation especially for a safe since it can sense movement within proximity to the device. Motion sensors are commonly used in security systems for surveillance cameras and alarms, so we thought it was a good idea to implement one into our safe. We plan on using motion sensors as a form of security measures for the door and the keypad on the safe, so the owner knows if someone is attempting to access the safe as well as if the door is opened.

3.2.5.1 Motion Sensor Options

Listed below are three subsections for the descriptions and comparisons for the different motion sensing technology that we considered when picking a type. The sensor types listed below are ultrasonic sensors, microwave sensors, and infrared sensors. After comparing the three types, the following subsection will go through the technological reasoning as to why we picked the sensor type that we did for our project.

3.2.5.2 Ultrasonic Sensor

Ultrasonic sensors operate by emitting high-frequency waves and they measure the time it takes for the sound to return. The frequency (which is usually above 20 kHz), is generated by the transmitter and it travels in a straight line until it hits an obstacle in the environment. Once the waves encounter an obstacle, they echo back to the receiver where it calculates the ToF (Time of Flight) by using Equation 1 to determine the distance between the sensor and the obstacle. The division by a factor of 2 is because we are trying to find the transmission time to the obstacle, not the time to the obstacle and back. In terms of data, the sensor can output digital output as a HIGH or LOW bit, analog output, and pulse width modulation (PWM). Many ultrasonic sensors are widely known and used because they only consist of 4 pins, as shown in Figure 6, especially for circuit development: V_{CC} to implement in many electronic applications. They have also been previously used in other UCF engineering courses, so many students are already familiar with how they work [60].

$$Distance = \frac{Time * Speed\ of\ Sound}{2}$$

Ultrasonic Sensor Distance Equation [60]

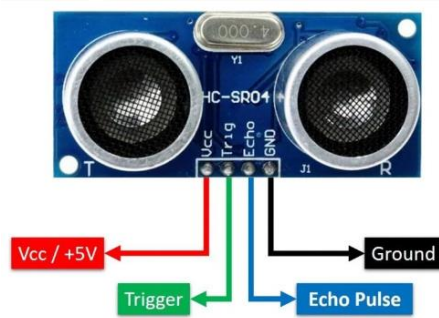


Figure 6: Ultrasonic Sensor Pinout [61]

Some advantages to using ultrasonic sensors are that their accuracy is very high since their margin of error is usually within a few millimeters and the range that they can detect is within 2 cm to 5 meters, so for our project, the range measurements are sufficient. Also, ultrasonic sensors can function in low light to dark conditions since light isn't a factor during its signal transmission, making it efficient during operation if the safe were to be in a dark location. Some disadvantages to using ultrasonic sensors though are that if many of them are being used at once, there is a chance that the transmitting signal can get interfered by another sensor which can throw off the readings and give potential false positives and temperature can affect the speed of the signals, which can lower the accuracy. Also, surface properties may affect the functionality of ultrasonic since the signals may be unstable when bouncing off soft, angled surfaces instead of hard, flat surfaces since they do travel in a straight line.

3.2.5.3 Infrared Sensors

Infrared sensors use infrared radiation to sense change in the environment and send data accordingly. Many infrared sensors are used as motion sensors for security systems, since they can detect heat signatures in an environment. If the infrared radiation is within a wavelength range of about 700 nanometers to 1 millimeter, then it senses it and sends a signal to the microcontroller for processing. There are mainly two types of infrared sensors: passive and active. Active infrared sensors emit their own infrared light and measure the reflection off of objects within a given range. Passive infrared sensors detect infrared radiation emitted by objects. So, if an object heats up, then it emits more infrared radiation. For our project, a passive infrared sensor seems to fit better, than an active one. One of the main components of an infrared sensor is the pyroelectrical material within the sensor's heart that sends an electrical signal when a temperature change occurs. Some of the advantages of using infrared for motion sensing is that there doesn't have to be physical contact to trigger, it is an energy efficient option if power consumption was a concern, and it's cost-effective to implement into most systems. Some disadvantages to infrared sensors are the fact that they are sensitive to environmental factors such as temperatures and humidity, they have an effective range and angle which can hinder development, and depending on weather conditions and wildlife, false alarms can occur [1].

3.2.5.4 Microwave Sensors

Microwave sensors are another sensor type that is used in security systems for detecting motion, as well as many other things in other industries. The main components of microwave sensors consist of a transmitter, receiver, and an antenna. The transmitter generates a microwave signal that emits into the environment. A microwave is a very broad wavelength on the electromagnetic spectrum, so the frequency can vary from 1 millimeter to 1 meter. This means that the signal can vary per application. The antenna then focuses the microwave that was emitted. The receiver then captures the microwave signal and focuses on extracting its characteristics such as intensity, time delay and frequency shift. Where then the signal is processed by the microcontroller and used accordingly. Some advantages to using microwaves are that it has very long range, since the antenna can pick up many frequencies. Also, it has penetration capabilities to pick up and emit microwaves through walls, and a high sensitivity, so it can detect small changes and provide accurate measurements. Some limitations are that they are typically more expensive than other sensors, some other applications may be on the same frequency, so interference may be a concern, and due to signal processing being complex, advanced algorithms may be needed [1].

3.2.5.5 Sensor Selection

For our project, we decided to go with ultrasonic sensors since they are cost-effective, easily implemented with our microcontroller choice, and detect signals within our design range. Also, many of my project mates are already familiar with how ultrasonic sensors function from previous projects. The main reasons we didn't finalize using microwave is because we didn't want to worry about interference with other applications since it is a safe and needs to be secure, and the antenna requirement would cause difficulty when developing the prototype, since having an antenna sticking out of a case could easily damage the sensor. The main reason for not having an infrared sensor is because of the placement the sensors are going. One will be placed in front of the door, so the only heat being sensed is the safe itself and the other sensor is going to be over the keypad, so any potential constant sunlight will cause false alarms. With these included details, it makes sense for our sensor selection to be the ultrasonic sensor for this project.

Table 12: Comparison of Sensor Options

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Ultrasonic	• Cost-Effective • High Accuracy • Durable • Simple Setup	• Environment Sensitive • Material Sensitive • Noise Interference • Potential Calibration
Infrared	• Energy Efficient • Cost-Effective • Passive Operation • High Sensitivity	• Environment Sensitive • False Alarms • Line of Sight Requirement • Infrared Interference
Microwave	• Long Range	• Expensive

	• Penetration Power • High Sensitivity • Real-Time Monitoring	• Signal Interference • Process Complexity • No Small Object Detection
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3.2.5.6 Ultrasonic Sensor Options

The subsections below include the descriptions of the different ultrasonic sensors that we considered when picking one for the project and a comparison of them all and why we chose the sensor we did. The selection of ultrasonic sensors that we found potential in is the DigiKey URM37 V5, Elegoo HC-SR04, and the SparkFun TCT40.

3.2.5.7 Elegoo HC-SR04

The HC-SR04 is an ultrasonic sensor that is popular for many early engineering projects where distance measuring is needed. It takes a DC voltage of 5V, working current of < 5mA, and a ranging distance of 3 cm to 450 cm. It also has 4 pins to work with, Vcc, GND, Trig, and Echo. Vcc is where the power source flows through, GND is the ground pin, Trig is the trigger pin that sends out the ultrasonic sound pulses, and the Echo pin produces a pulse when it receives the reflected signal [62]. It has dimensions of 45 mm x 20mm x 15mm and works with Arduino boards, which also operate on ESP IDE. It has an included library of functions to use, so when programming to the board it should be easier. Many of my peers have also worked with the HC-SR04 since it was used for previous projects, so it won't be difficult to get used to when integrating it. Another addition to the HC-SR04 is that when it's manufactured and shipped, it comes soldered to a male header for easy development. In terms of purchasing them, they can be bought in bulk for cheaper and since they have already been used for previous projects, extra modules could be available.

3.2.5.8 DigiKey URM37 V5

The DigiKey URM37 V5 was another ultrasonic sensor option that we considered. It has a DC voltage of 3.3V to 5V, an operating current of 20 mA, and dimensions of 51 mm x 22 mm x 27 mm. Its detection range is 2 cm to 800 cm, and it has a temperature module in the circuit that boosts the accuracy if a temperature condition is met that could throw off the measurements. The URM37 V5 comes with 9 pins to use instead of the typical 4 pins. It has the typical Vcc, GND, Trig and Echo, in which all function the same as the others, but the others are NRST, SERVO, DAC_OUT, RXD, and TXD. NRST is a reset pin, SERVO is a servo control pin that allows 0 to 180 degree measuring, DAC_OUT is an analog voltage output that measures if the voltage is proportional to the distance, RXD is an asynchronous communication module data receiving pin, and TXD is an asynchronous communication module data transmitting pin [63]. I'm not sure we will be using these extra functionalities, but it gives us the ability to add extra additions if we so desire in the future.

3.2.5.9 SparkFun TCT-40

The SparkFun TCT-40 was our last option when considering ultrasonic sensors. It has an operating DC voltage of 3.3V and dimensions of 44.45 mm x 21.59 mm x 26.59 mm. The detection range is 2 cm to 400 cm, and it has an accuracy as small as 3 mm [64]. It has the typical 4 pins on the board: Vcc, GND, Trig, and Echo for easy I2C implementation. From

the images provided, it seems that that TCT-40 doesn't come soldered to any header, so personal soldering is required and the manufacturer states that the module comes uncalibrated, so that has to be done as well. Unfortunately, the pricing seems to be a little higher than other ultrasonic sensors of similar design and others can be bought in bulk for cheaper prices. It also doesn't seem to list the operating current on any documentation, so circuit development might be tedious.

3.2.5.10 Ultrasonic Sensor Selection

After going through the following options for our ultrasonic sensor selection, we decided on using the HC-SR04 for our project. We came to this agreement due to its easy to implement library functions for the ESP boards, easy connection and setup, low current and voltage, but mainly because the price for each component is much lower for the HC-SR04 compared to the rest of the competition, especially since for this project we are going to need more than one. Another aspect is that my project mates and I are already familiar with how the HC-SR04 works, so learning to implement it won't be a concern. Although the DigiKey URM37 V5 had many more potential functionalities, the price jump was too much for us since our budget is a major requirement for this project. As well for the SparkFun TCT-40, it has very similar specifications as the HC-SR04 such as serial communication, size dimensions, and pin number, but the price is a little high for us and since it comes unsoldered, that leaves unnecessary risk for us when trying to develop the PCB for the safe. As a conclusion, we decided to go with the HC-SR04 for our ultrasonic sensor selection for our project.

Table 13: Comparison Table of Ultrasonic Options

	HC-SR04	DigiKey URM37 V5	SparkFun TCT-40
Voltage	5V	3.3V - 5V	3.3V
Operating Current	< 5 mA	20 mA	N/A
Dimensions	45 mm x 20 mm x 15 mm	51 mm x 22 mm x 27 mm	44.45 mm x 21.59 mm x 26.59 mm
Pricing	~\$2.00	\$13.90	\$9.95
Number of pins	4	9	4
Serial Communication	I2C	UART	I2C
Detection Range	2 cm - 400 cm	2 cm - 800 cm	2 cm - 400 cm
Soldered	Yes	Yes	No

3.2.6 Display Screen

The display is a technological component that allows us to visually display data from the microcontroller. This component gives the user a way to view statuses and messages, so we can confirm and understand that the microcontroller is responding properly. This feedback is important for the user to operate on the keypad accordingly. The main function for the display is to display lock status messages, display the corresponding integers entered from the keypad, and display a lockdown mode message when activated. Without the display, the device would be very difficult, or almost impossible to operate.

Below are listed some options of types of displays we considered using when designing our device. When it comes to deciding what display module we wanted to use, we had to consider some factors, which had to meet some of our specifications for the features we wanted to have. The options available were a heavy consideration in terms of designing the circuit board as well as the construction of the overall device.

3.2.6.1 LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)

LCDs function by using liquid crystals that react to electric currents, controlling the passage of light. The display consists of several layers, including a backlight, polarizing filters, and a layer of liquid crystals. LCDs are known for being energy efficient since they consume much less power and they are also much cheaper to produce, so they would be a cost-effective option. Some downsides are that some viewing angles make it difficult to view the display since the crystals won't be visible. Also, it may display motion blur due to its slower response time. Since the backlight is always on, even black areas on the screen emit some light, limiting contrast ratios [65].

3.2.6.2 OLED (Organic Light-Emitting Diode)

OLED displays are composed of organic compounds that emit light when an electric current passes through them. The screen is made up of multiple layers, including organic layers sandwiched between electrodes. When voltage is applied, electrons and holes recombine in the organic material, causing it to emit light. This technology allows for incredibly deep blacks because individual pixels can be completely turned off, producing no light at all. OLED's ability to control each pixel independently also leads to vibrant colors and superior contrast making it easier for the user to see. OLEDs also have a much faster response time than competitor displays. Some downsides are that they are more expensive to produce, and due to their high contrasts with each individual pixel, it can lead to a burn-in risk to the display. Also due to the organic compounds, they have a much shorter lifespan [65].

3.2.6.3 LED (Light-Emitting Diode)

In the context of displays, LEDs are often used in two primary ways: as a backlighting source for LCDs or as the pixels themselves in direct-view LED displays. In direct-view LED displays, each pixel is made up of tiny LEDs that emit red, green, or blue light. By adjusting the intensity of each colored LED, the screen can produce a full range of colors.

LEDs are highly visible in bright environments and are much more energy efficient compared to LCDs. They also have a longer lifespan, so they won't need to be replaced in the future. Unfortunately, LEDs rely on backlighting, so OLEDs are still superior in terms of trying to display deep blacks for good contrast [65].

3.2.6.4 Display Type Selection

From the following types of displays, all of them have many features that would meet our user satisfaction, but we also must meet our cost requirement as well as find one that meets our microcontrollers' standards in terms of programmability, so we can use it to its complete potential. For that reason, we have decided to go with a LCD Display, since it is more cost-effective than the rest and there are many more of them on the market when trying to find a module that fits our device. Plus, there are plenty of libraries available for working with ESP32 microcontrollers and LCDs.

Table 14: Display Type Comparisons

	LCD	OLED	LED
Cost-Efficient	Yes	No	Yes
Very Bright	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fast Response Time	No	Yes	Yes
Energy Efficient	Yes	No	Yes
Durable	Yes	No	Yes
Good Contrast	No	Yes	No
Long Lifespan	Yes	No	Yes
Vibrant Colors	No	Yes	No
Perfect Blacks	No	Yes	No
View Distortion	Yes	No	No

3.2.6.5 LCD Part Options

After deciding on using LCD as our display type, we must go through the products that we think meet our requirements the best. From the market, we found many options, but only a few that met the parameters for the factors that are important to us. Listed below are subsections describing each product in detail as well as a table comparing them.

3.2.6.6 LILYGO ESP32-S3 1.9-inch ST7789 LCD Display Touch Screen

The LILYGO ESP32-S3 1.9-inch ST7789 LCD Display Touch Screen features a ESP32-S3R8 Dual-core LX7 microprocessor, while also having wireless connectivity. It can be programmed on either the Arduino IDE or Micropython, yet the Arduino IDE supports ESP32 development. The display itself is 1.9-inches IPS TFT LCD with a resolution of 170 x 320 pixels. It supports USB or Li-Po Battery Dual Power Supply of 3.3V [66]. The display has very nice contrast which would bring user satisfaction, and it provides a large

variety of colors that we can use when designing. The only difficulty I see is that the screen is quite small which poses some concerns when trying to read the display.

3.2.6.7 FREENOVE I2C LCD 1602 Module

The FREENOVE I2C LCD 1602 Module is a standard I2C LCD that functions with Arduino, Raspberry Pi Pico, ESP32, and ESP8266, so there is a large variety of software implementation that is possible with this module. It also has wireless Wi-Fi connecting capabilities. Compared to other displays, since it doesn't have a large variety of colors to display, it makes up for it by having a large memory storage capacity of 1TB [67]. Also, many group members have extra of these displays since it was used in previous projects, so we wouldn't need to be buying more. The only difficulty is that some angles may make it difficult for the user to see the display due to it being an LCD.

3.2.6.8 ESP32 Touchscreen 2.8inch TFT LCD

The ESP32 Touchscreen 2.8inch TFT LCD has a low-power dual core 32-bit CPU, Bluetooth, and a Wi-Fi dual core processor. It has UART, SPI, I2C, and PWM functionality, while being programmable on Arduino IDE, Micropython, Mixly, and ESP IDE. The display is much larger than the other options we have selected, and it also has a large variety of colors to present. The working voltage of the display is 4.75V, but it has many sleep modes, so the CPU doesn't remain active all the time [68]. A concern we noticed is that the memory capacity is quite low, so when we program it, we must be mindful.

3.2.6.9 LCD Part Selection

For our project, we have chosen to go with the ESP32 Touchscreen 2.8inch TFT LCD Display since it offers a large amount of support functionalities in case we must adjust our development. We had many requirements that we wanted to fulfill as a group, so our device reached the user's satisfaction when operated as well as meeting the engineering requirements and have components that properly function with each other. Part of the requirements that we wanted to meet was to have good contrast, so the user can read and operate the keypad with ease. We originally wanted to gravitate towards using OLEDs implicitly for the sleek contrast levels, but many on the market are too small for our project and they're not within our budget requirement. The LILYGO ESP32-S3 1.9-inch ST7789 LCD Display Touch Screen was one of our original options because though it is a LCD it looks like an OLED with its features, but from close examination through reviews and examples, the size of the screen is too small for what we want to display, and it could bring potential PCB design flaws when constructing the prototype. The FREENOVE I2C LCD 1602 Module is a common component when implementing embedded systems making it very simple to use and display data. Due to its lack of creativity, while also being stuck to using default blue and white colors, we decided to take another approach. In conclusion,

we decided to follow through and have the ESP32 Touchscreen 2.8inch TFT LCD Display be our display of choice for our safety.

Table 15: LCD Display Comparisons

	LILYGO ESP32-S3 1.9-inch ST7789 LCD Display Touch Screen	FREENOVE I2C LCD 1602 Module	ESP32 Touchscreen 2.8inch TFT LCD Display
Cost	\$27.50	\$7.95	\$21.90
Display Size	1.9 inches	2 inches	2.8 inches
Memory Type	Flash	SRAM	Flash
Memory Capacity	16MB	1TB	4MB
RAM Size	8MB	N/A	520KB
Wi-Fi	Yes	Yes	Yes
Voltage Range	3.3V	5V	4.75-5.25V
UART	No	No	Yes
SPI	Yes	No	Yes
I2C	No	Yes	Yes
ESP32 Capability	Yes	Yes	Yes

3.2.7 Battery

Our design will include a battery as one of the power sources to ensure the safe remains protected and operational, even if the main power supply fails. The primary power source will be an external supply, utilizing a DC power jack and a 9V AC-DC power adapter. The secondary power source will be a battery connected via a battery clip connector, which will work with a toggle switch and relay to control which power source is in use. The battery should be capable of powering the microcontroller and all components, including the fingerprint sensor and display.

The main purpose of a second power supply is to provide convenience in case of an emergency if the main power source fails. Emergencies such as power outage due to grid overload or natural disasters, allowing the user to maintain access to important items like emergency cash or identification. A battery backup system also ensures power during relocations, so the safe remains locked when necessary. Additionally, the toggle switch and relay allow for automatic power source switching, providing if the user is out of range of the safe.

3.2.7.1 Battery Technology Comparison

In this section, we will compare different types of batteries based on their underlying technology. There are many different types of batteries, but the most common ones we

picked include alkaline and lithium. Each type of battery has its own unique functionality which will be evaluated to determine the best fit for our project design.

3.2.7.2 Alkaline Battery

An alkaline battery is a disposable device that converts chemical energy into electrical energy through a chemical reaction between zinc metal and manganese dioxide. Alkaline batteries have a hollow steel drum lined with mixed coal dust and manganese dioxide power; the housing is used as the cathode, while the mixed mixture is used as cathode material. In the center of the housing, it is filled with zinc power as an anode and the potassium hydroxide electrolyte is soaked in a paper separator between the anode and cathode material. A metallic pin is inserted in the center of the battery and then sealed with a metallic cap to collect the negative charge, making the zinc cylinder the negative electrode. The positive charge is electrically separated by a plastic cover inside the metallic cap, making the manganese dioxide the positive electrode. When electric current flows through the battery, zinc loses electrons when oxidized, while manganese dioxide gains electrons when reduced. Alkaline batteries can be used in applications like flashlights, digital cameras, and portable electronic circuits [69].

3.2.7.3 Lithium Battery

A lithium battery is a disposable device that converts movement of lithium ions into electrical energy between the anode and cathode. Lithium batteries have a hollow steel casing that's filled with graphite as an anode on one side, making it the negative electrode [70]. The other side of the casing is filled with an intercalated lithium compound as a cathode, making it the positive electrode. There is a non-conductive material in the middle of the casing that blocks the flow of electrons and separates both sides of the anode and cathode called the separator. Electrolyte surrounds the whole housing and helps transfer the lithium ions from the anode to the cathode as positively charged then vice versa using the separator as a middle. Electric current is created when the flow of lithium ions creates free electrons from the anode to the positive current collector. The current powers the connected devices then the lithium ions are released by the cathode and flow back to the negative current collector, reversing the process. The separator prevents the flow of electrons inside the battery, ensuring that the electrical current only travels through the external circuit. Lithium batteries can be used in applications like flashlights, digital cameras, and portable electronic circuits [71].

3.2.7.4 Battery Technology Decision

For our design, we have chosen the lithium battery due to its many advantages that align with our project goals. Lithium batteries have higher energy capacity, longer lifespan both in storage or during use, and a wider temperature range compared to alkaline batteries. While alkaline batteries are lighter weight, more readily available, and cost-effective, these

differences are relatively minor. Given our circuits contain many components and solenoids require a significant amount of current, lithium batteries appear to be the better choice [72].

Table 16: Comparison of Battery Technology

Type	Alkaline	Lithium
Technology	Converts chemical energy into electrical energy through a chemical reaction	Converts movement of lithium ions into electrical energy
Advantages	- Stable voltage until depleted - Light weight - Cost-effective - Easily available in the market	- Higher energy capacity - Longer lifespan in storage and in use - Wider temperature range - Rechargeable option
Disadvantages	- Short lifespan in storage and in use - Lower energy capacity - Temperature sensitive	- Slightly more expensive - Not as widely accessible - Safety concern when damaged
Suitability of Design	- More suitable for circuit due to light weight - Easily available in the market	- More suitable for circuit due to longer lifespan in storage and in use - Higher energy capacity

3.2.7.6 Battery Part Selection

In the previous section, we concluded that the lithium battery is the best option for our project. After exploring various mechanisms compatible with our chosen microcontroller, we narrowed down our options to three promising products: “Dantona Industries’s LITH-9V”, “Energizer’s L522”, and “Ultralife’s U9VL-J-P”. Although some lithium batteries have the option to recharge, all three products are single use. We will compare these options to determine the most ideal product for our project.

3.2.7.7 Dantona Industries’s LITH-9V

The LITH-9V offers a lithium thionyl chloride battery for \$25.99. The battery operates at a nominal voltage of 9V and has a current capacity of 600 mAh. It can deliver a maximum continuous discharge of 1200mA, weighs 28.35g, and has dimensions of 48.5×26.53×17.5mm. The battery operates effectively and can be stored within a temperature range of -40°F to 140°F. It connects to your circuit by using miniature snap terminals and features a shelf life of about 10 years [73].

3.2.7.8 Energizer's L522

The L522 offers two lithium-manganese dioxide batteries for \$13.48[74]. Each battery operates at a nominal voltage of 9V and has a current capacity of 600mAh. It can deliver a maximum continuous discharge of 1000mA, weighs 33.9g, and has dimensions of 48.5×26.53×17.5mm. The battery operates effectively and can be stored within a temperature range of -40°F to 140°F. It connects to your circuit by using miniature snap terminals and features a shelf life of about 10 years [75].

3.2.7.9 Ultralife's U9VL-J-P

The U9VL-J-P offers a lithium-manganese dioxide battery for \$20.00. The battery operates at a nominal voltage of 9V and has a current capacity of 500mAh. It can deliver a maximum continuous discharge of 1200mA, weighs 37g, and has dimensions of 48.5×26.5×17.5mm. The battery operates effectively within a temperature range of -4°F to 140°F and stored in -40°F to 140°F. It connects to your circuit by using miniature snap terminals and features a shelf life of about 10 years [76].

Table 17: Comparison of Existing Battery Products

Type	LITH-9V	L522	U9VL-J-P
Operating Voltage	9V	9V	9V
Operating Current	600mAh	500mAh	500mAh
Operating Temperature	-4°F to +140°F	-40°F to 140°F	-4°F to 140°F
Terminals	Snap	Snap	Snap
Shelf life	10 years	10 years	10 years
Price	\$25.99	\$20.95 for 2	\$20

3.2.7.11 Part Selection Decision

While all three products offer similar features and specifications, we opted for “Energizer’s L522”. It has the lowest current consumption and is readily available, making it budget friendly. Although “Ultralife’s U9VL-J-P” has the most similar specifications, it’s difficult to find on the market and considerably more expensive. Given that lithium batteries are generally hard to find on the market in general, choosing the L522 from a well-known brand like Energizer is a practical choice.

3.2.8 Voltage Regulators

The voltage regulators that we choose will be tasked with the regulation of the voltage for our chosen microcontroller and by extension our custom PCB. The inclusion of this component will prevent all our electrical components on the PCB from being damaged.

3.2.8.1 What are Voltage Regulators?

Voltage regulators are integrated circuits that can maintain a fixed output voltage even if the input voltage changes over time. How a voltage regulator works is it receives an unstable input voltage that can be higher or lower than the output voltage that is desired [77]. Next, the voltage regulator monitors and compares the output voltage to the predefined reference voltage to see if they match [77]. If the voltages don't match, adjustments are made to either increase or decrease the voltage accordingly [77]. This entire process operates in a feedback loop to make sure that the output voltage stays at the desired level [77]. Common applications of voltage regulators include but aren't limited to consumer electronics, electronic equipment, medical equipment, energy & control systems [77]. Due to the multitude of electronic components that will be present on our PCB, voltage regulators are an essential component to have in our design. Their presence helps prevent voltage spikes that would pose harm to our PCB components. There are two types of voltage regulators: linear regulators & switching regulators.

3.2.8.2 Linear Regulators

Linear regulators involve the use of a Bipolar Junction Transistor (BJT), or Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor (MOSFET) controlled by an operational amplifier with a high gain [78]. Essentially, linear regulators act as step-down converters because the output voltage is always below the input voltage [78]. Depending on how they are connected, linear regulators come in two types: series and shunt regulators [79]. If the regulator is connected in series with the output load, it is classified as a series voltage regulator [79]. However, if the regulator is connected in parallel with the load, it is classified as a shunt voltage regulator [79]. Other types of linear voltage regulators include positive adjustable, negative adjustable, fixed output, tracking and floating regulators [78].

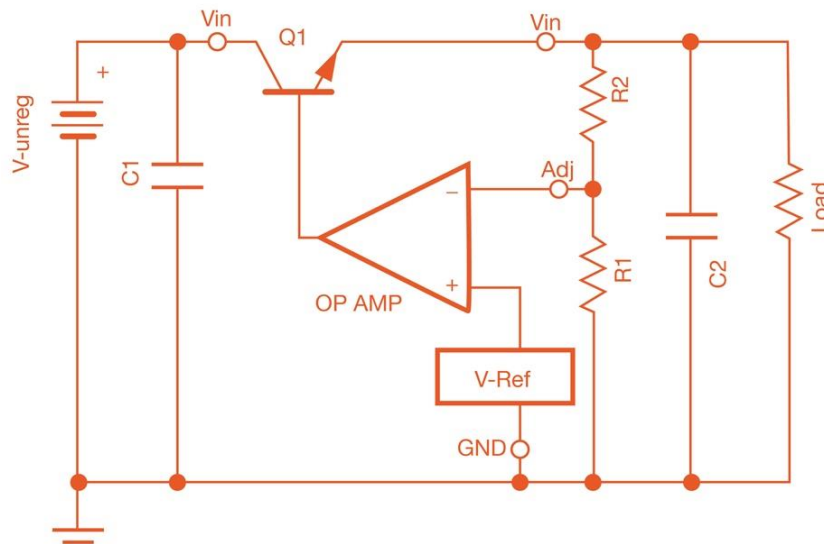


Figure 7: Linear Regulator Schematic [83]

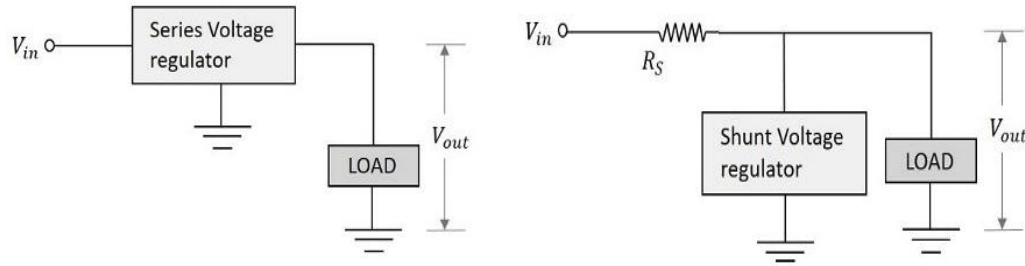


Figure 8: Series & Shunt Voltage Regulator Orientations [79]

3.2.8.3 Switching Regulators

Switching regulators usually have a Field Effect Transistor that is turned on & off by a switching controller IC that monitors the regulator's output in a feedback control loop [80]. This process makes sure that the desired output voltage is maintained in normal operating condition [80]. These regulators usually come in two types: non-isolated and isolated [81]. The non-isolated regulators consist of either a step up voltage regulator, known as a buck converter, or a step down voltage regulator, known as a boost converter [81]. As for the isolated regulators, its two types are flyback converters and forward converters that either increase or decrease DC voltages [82].

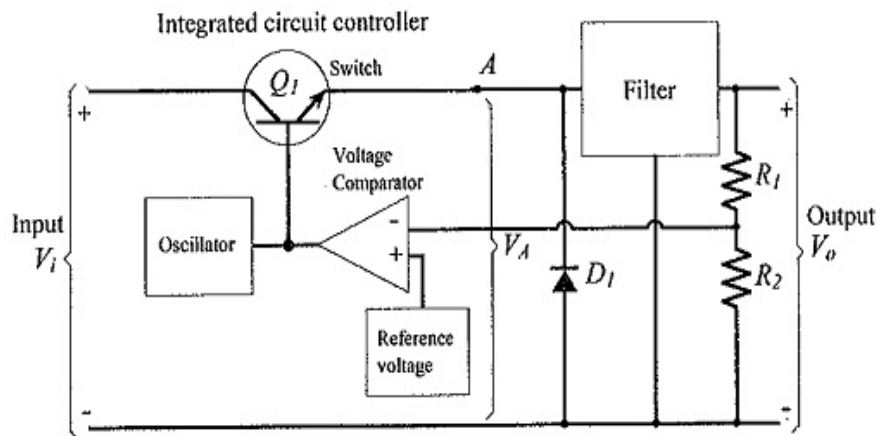


Figure 9: Switching Regulator Schematic [84]

3.2.8.4 Linear vs Switching Regulators

Both linear & switching regulators each have their own advantages & disadvantages. For linear regulators, they are cheap, dependable, have low output voltage ripple, low noise and are easier to design when compared to switching regulators [77]. In addition, most linear regulators only require a capacitor at the input and a capacitor at the output [77]. However, these types of regulators tend to have high power dissipation at high input voltages, which runs the risk of damaging the components [77]. Switching regulators offer more versatility compared to linear regulators, as they can act as either buck or boost

converters [81]. Furthermore, their efficiency is greater than their linear counterparts and have a smaller power dissipation when in use [80]. On the other hand, switching regulators are more complex in design compared to their linear counterparts and have more noise as well [77]. Due to this, we have decided to move forward with incorporating linear regulators into our PCB design.

3.2.8.5 Voltage Regulator Part Selection

In the previous section, we concluded that linear regulators is the best option for our project. After exploring various mechanisms compatible with our chosen microcontroller, we narrowed down our options to three promising products: “STMicroelectronics’ LD1117V33”, “UMW’s HT7333”, and “EVVOSEMI’s AMS1117”. We will compare these options to determine the most ideal product for our group.

3.2.8.6 STMicroelectronics’ LD1117V33

The LD1117 is a low drop voltage (LDO) regulator made by STMicroelectronics that comes in both fixed and adjustable versions. The fixed version of this regulator comes in output voltages of 1.2V, 1.8V, 2.5V, 2.8V, 3.3V and 5.0V. The one that we are interested in is the 3.3V voltage regulator since the ESP-WROOM-32 operates at 3.3V. The LD1117V33 voltage regulator has a minimum output current of 800mA and a maximum output current of 1300mA. In addition, it has a maximum input voltage of 15V along with having a dropout voltage of 1.1V when the output current is at 800mA [85].

3.2.8.7 UMW’s HT7333

The HT73XX-A is a series of positive voltage regulators made by Guangdong Youtai Semiconductor (also known as UMW). The features of this regulator series include high output voltage accuracy, has a low output voltage temperature and a power consumption current of 3uA. The specific one we are interested in is the HT7333 due to the output voltage being 3.3V. The HT7333 has an output voltage accuracy of +/-3%, which means that the actual output voltage of this regulator would vary between 3.201V and 3.399V. Furthermore, it has an output current of 250mA, a dropout voltage of 90mV and a maximum input voltage of 12V [86].

3.2.8.8 EVVOSEMI’s AMS1117

The AMS1117 is a series of positive low voltage dropout regulators made by EVVOSEMI that comes in either fixed or adjustable versions. This voltage regulator typically has a dropout voltage of 1.2V at 1A and has a maximum current limit of 2.5A. The fixed, 3.3V regulator is the one that is up for consideration instead of the adjustable version. The fixed voltage regulators have an output accuracy of 1.5%, which means that the actual output for this specific regulator would vary between 3.2505V and 3.3495V. Furthermore, this voltage regulator has a maximum input voltage of 18V and an output current of 1A [87].

3.2.8.9 Final Decision

Even though out of all three of our options the HT7333 has the smallest dropout voltage, which is ideal for a linear voltage regulator, it has the smallest output current and is the most expensive option. That leaves the LD1117V33 & the AMS1117 voltage regulators

left to consider for our design. The LD1117V33 has the best output voltage accuracy out of all our options, although the AMS1117 doesn't fall behind too much in that aspect. In addition, both regulators have about the same dropout voltage, but the AMS1117 has the most output current. Having a high output current is important because the ESP32 by itself consumes approximately 250mA of current [15]. However, once you start connecting sensors and other peripherals to it, the current consumption doubles to 500mA of current [91]. Since our design includes the use of multiple peripherals such as the keypad, fingerprint scanner, display, motion sensor and many more, we are moving forward with the AMS1117 voltage regulator.

Table 18: Comparison of Voltage Regulator models [88] [89] [90]

Product	Dropout voltage	Output voltage accuracy	Output current	Max input voltage	Type	Price
LD1117V33	1.1V	+/-1%	800mA	15V	LDO	\$0.60
HT7333	90mV	+/-3%	250mA	12V	LDO	\$0.65
AMS1117	1.2V	1.5%	1A	18V	LDO	\$0.58

3.2.9 Relay

A relay is the component in our circuit to control the lock of the safe, ensuring only the authorized users can access its contents. When the scanned fingerprint matches with the fingerprint template, or if the 6-digit security code known only to the primary owner is entered on the keypad then the relay will open and unlock the lock on the safe's door. If the security authentication is incorrect, the relay will remain closed, and the lock on the safe's door will stay locked.

Relays are electrical switches that can connect or disconnect two circuits by converting electrical signals into larger current flows using electromagnets [92]. Depending on how many circuits your project has varies what kind of relay you need. Since we have two circuits and require one switch, we need a single pole double throw. A pole is the number of switches in a relay while a throw is the number of circuits connected per pole.

Generally, when a low power source passes through a relay, it activates, opening a low voltage circuit to a high voltage circuit using four types of terminals. Two of these input terminals are called control input terminals that control the switching mechanism by receiving either an AC or DC power source. The output terminal is known as the common terminal which is connected to one of the circuits and is typically linked to the load terminals. There are two load terminals, one of them is called a normally closed terminal which disconnects from the output terminal until the relay is deactivated. The other load terminal is called a normally open terminal which stays open with the output terminal until the relay is activated then it closes.

When the relay is activated by a low-power source, the pole of the relay changes position and moves to the normally open terminal, opening the normally closed load terminal then closing the common terminal. The flow of the current goes through the second circuit using

the normally open terminal and common terminal. When there is no power source, the pole remains at normally closed terminal and the flow of current goes through the normally closed terminal and common terminal [93].

3.2.9.1 Relay Technology Comparison

In this section, we will evaluate various types of relays according to their underlying technology. There are many different types of relays, but the most common ones we picked are electromagnetic and solid state relays. Each type of relay has its own distinct characteristics and attributes, which will be evaluated to determine the best fit for our circuit design.

3.2.9.2 Electromechanical Relay

Electromechanical relays utilize electrical and mechanical mechanisms to connect contacts by moving a pole. The relay consists of two main components: an electromagnet, a coil of wire wrapped around a soft iron core, and a set of electrical contacts [94]. The relay operates using two circuits: the control circuit, which activates the relay, and the load circuit, which the relay turns on or off and carries the current to the load. When a low-power source energizes the wired coil, an electromagnetic force is generated, creating a magnetic field and pulling the lever or pole toward it. This movement either opens or closes the contacts, with an attached spring returning the lever to its original position to establish or break the electrical connection. As the lever moves toward the coil in the control circuit, it disconnects from the upper contact and connects to the bottom contact, completing the load circuit [95]. The mechanical energy is converted into electrical signals. Typically used in products where high current is needed such as industrial equipment and home appliances [97].

3.2.9.3 Solid State Relay

Solid state relay utilizes electrical mechanisms instead of mechanical parts to control the switching operation. Many solid-state relays use electrical components like semiconductors, transistors, or diodes to connect contacts instead of a movable mechanical component inside, like an electromechanical relay. Similar to electromechanical relays but requiring less power, solid state relays operate using two circuits: the control circuit, which activates the relay, and the load or output circuit, which carries the current to the load, and the relay turns on or off. They generally consist of key components like an isolation barrier, which is an electrical isolation between the two circuits to prevent damage, and control electronics, which dictates when the relay turns on or off. A low electrical signal activates the control electronics then triggers generally a semiconductor switch to let current flow from the control circuit to the load circuit, connecting the higher-voltage load [96]. Once the power source is removed, the semiconductor switches off and isolates the low-voltage circuit from the high-voltage circuit. The isolation barriers ensure that power does not

return to the control circuit, preventing potential damage [96]. Typically used in products that require fast switching such as automation and HVAC systems [97].

3.2.9.4 Relay Technology Decision

For our circuit, we have chosen the electromechanical relay. This relay offers many advantages that align with our design goals. Electromechanical relays have high current and voltage ratings, cost-effective, have better thermal management, and are commonly used. They are easily found on the market and simple to integrate with any type of system, like microcontrollers. Even though solid-state relays are faster, they're generally more expensive, generate a lot of heat, and can't separate power between circuits as well as electromechanical relays do, which is most important.

Table 19: Comparison of Relay Technology

Type	Electromechanical	Solid State
Technology	• Uses electrical and mechanical mechanisms	• Uses only electrical mecha
Advantages	• Easy integration • Good thermal management • Separates power between two circuits • High current and voltage ratings • Easily available in the market • Cost-effective	• Fast speed • Robust • Compact
Disadvantages	• Slow speed • Wear out over time because of mechanical mechanism • Bulkier than solid state relays	• Expensive • Limited voltage ratings • Bad thermal management • Can't separate power between two circuits as well as electromechanical relays
Suitability for Design	• More suitable for circuit due to power isolation between two circuits • High current and voltage ratings • Good thermal management	• More suitable for compact design due to its lighter and smaller size • Less wear and tear

	• Cost-effective	
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3.2.9.5 Relay Part Selection

In the previous section, we determined that electromechanical relays are the most suitable choice for our design. After researching various sensors compatible with the microcontroller we picked, we narrowed down our options to three products: Omron Electronics' G6E-134P-ST-US DC5, Songle Relay's JQC-3F-5VDC, and Songle Relay's SRD-05VDC-SL-C. All three relays will be single pole double throw relays to best fit our circuit design. We will compare these options to determine the most suitable and effective product for our project.

3.2.9.6 Omron Electronics' G6E-134P-ST-US DC5

The G6E-134P-ST-US DC5 offer a compact SPDT relay for low-power switching applications by Omron Electronics for \$6.50. It operates at a coil voltage of 5V with a contact current rating of 6A at 250VAC or 6A at 30VDC. The relay features a high sensitivity and pick up coil of 98mW, an impulse withstand voltage of 1500V, and a low contact resistance of typically 100m ohms maximum. It also showcases quick operate and release times of approximately less than 5ms, making it ideal for responsive applications. The insulation resistance is around or less than 1000m ohms and the relay operates at a temperature range of -40°C to +85°C, making it suitable for a wide range of applications [98].

3.2.9.7 Songle Relay's JQC-3F-5VDC

The JQC-3F-5VDC also offers a compact SPDT relay designed for low-voltage switching applications by Songle Relay for \$5.99. It operates at a coil voltage of 5V with a contact current rating of 10V at 250VAC or 10A at 30VDC. The relay features a low constant resistance of typically 100m ohms maximum and operates with a quick response time of 10ms for activation and 5ms for release. With an operating temperature range of -40°C to +70°C, the JQC-3F-5VDC is reliable for diverse applications. It's a very popularly used relay and easily found on the market [99].

3.2.9.8 Songle Relay's SRD-05VDC-SL-C

The SRD-05VDC-SL-C also offers a compact SPDT relay designed for low-voltage switching applications by Songle Relay for 8.99 [100]. It operates at a coil voltage of 5V with a contact current rating of 10V at 250VAC or 10A at 30VDC. The relay features a low constant resistance of typically 100m ohms maximum and operates with a quick response time of 10ms for activation and 5ms for release. With an operating temperature range of -40°C to +70°C, similar like the JQC-3F-5VDC but newer and not as robust [101].

Table 20: Comparison of Existing Relay Parts

Name	G6E-134P-ST-US DC5	JQC-3F-5VDC	SRD-05VDC-SL- C
Contact Arrangement	SPDT	SPDT	SPDT
Operate Voltage	5V DC	5V DC	5V DC
Input Current	60 – 80mA	70 – 90mA	70 – 90mA
Rated Load	6A/250VAC	10A/250VAC	10A/250VDC
Contact Resistance	$\leq 100\text{m}\Omega$	$\leq 10\text{m}\Omega$	$\leq 100\text{m}\Omega$
Operate Time	$< 5\text{ms}$	$\leq 10\text{ms}$	$\leq 10\text{ms}$
Release Time	$< 5\text{ms}$	$\leq 5\text{ms}$	$\leq 5\text{ms}$
Price	\$6.50	\$5.99	\$8.99

3.2.9.9 Part Selection Decision

Even though all three products had very similar features and specifications, we picked Songle Relay's JQC-3F-5VDC. This relay stood out due to its proven reliability and popular use in various experiments around the world, making it a trusted choice for many Arduino users. Even though SRD-05VDC-SL-C is newer, the JQC-3F-5VDC has been on the market for longer and offers more resources available for troubleshooting and support, including comprehensive documentation and active user communities. This accessibility and reputation help minimize the risk of potential downtime and enable faster iterations in our circuit development since relays are known to require more frequent replacements compared to other components.

3.2.10 Buzzer

The buzzer's sole purpose for our project is to serve as an audial indicator to the user that the safe has entered Lockdown Mode.

3.2.10.1 What are Buzzers?

Buzzers are audio devices powered by DC voltage with the intent to convert an audio signal to any kind of sound (audio siren, bell, etc.). The configuration of a buzzer is relatively simple as it consists of a positive terminal and a negative terminal. The positive terminal of a buzzer is always longer than the negative terminal, with the positive one being connected to power and the negative one being connected to ground. Different types of buzzers include electromagnetic, piezoelectric and magnetic [102].

3.2.10.2 Electromagnetic

Electromagnetic buzzers consist of a magnet, a solenoid coil, an oscillator, magnet and vibration diaphragm. As soon as power is delivered to the buzzer the oscillator will produce an audio signal current that will travel throughout the solenoid coil, causing a magnetic field to be generated. Furthermore, the vibration diaphragm will sometimes vibrate & generate sound due to the interaction between the solenoid coil and the magnet inside the buzzer. The frequency of this usually ranges from 2kHz to 4kHz [102].

3.2.10.3 Magnetic

Magnetic buzzers consist of a ferromagnetic disk and a coil of wire that is connected to the circuit that produces the magnetic field. When power is given to the buzzer, current runs through the coil of wire, producing a magnetic field. As a result of the magnetic field, the ferromagnetic disk is attracted to the coil. When current stops flowing through the coil, the disk returns to its original position. The oscillation of the signal through the coil is responsible for the vibration of the ferromagnetic disk, resulting in a sound. The operating voltage of magnetic buzzers can range from 1.5V to even 30V and have a current consumption of 100mA or more. Their frequencies tend to fall in the 1 to 3kHz range. These buzzers are commonly found in alarms, watches and other consumer products [103].

3.2.10.4 Piezoelectric

Piezoelectric buzzers contain a thin disk of piezoelectric ceramic attached to a metal plate. In addition, both sides of the ceramic disk have a silver electrode for electrical contact. How the piezo buzzer works is by applying an alternate voltage to the ceramic material, causing it to vibrate and generate sound. This is what is known as the reverse piezoelectric effect, which is when the material deforms due to the presence of an electric charge. The operating voltage of these types of buzzers range from 3V to 250V and have a typical current consumption of 30mA. The frequencies that they generate are between 2kHz and 6kHz [103].

3.2.10.5 Pololu Electromagnetic Buzzer

This electromagnetic transducer is sold by Pololu Robotics & Electronics and operates using Pulse Width Modulation (PWM). How it works is by sending a PWM signal between 4V to 6V to produce the sound that you want. In addition, it has a minimum sound output of 85 decibels at and a resonant frequency of 2.73kHz. This electromagnetic buzzer has a maximum current draw of 60mA which is higher than what a microcontroller can normally supply. A solution to this would be controlling it with a MOSFET [104].

3.2.10.6 bnafe's Magnetic Buzzer

This magnetic buzzer is sold by Amazon and made by the company bnafe. It comes in a pack of 10 with each buzzer having a dimension of 12x9.5mm. This buzzer has an operating voltage of 2.54V to 4V and a maximum current greater than or equal to 25mA. This buzzer has a frequency of 2kHz and is compatible with microcontrollers such as the Arduino or ESP32 [105].

3.2.10.7 Adafruit's Piezo Buzzer

This piezoelectric buzzer is sold by Adafruit and has a frequency of 2kHz. It has an operating voltage of 4V to 8V, a maximum current draw of 15mA, and a sound pressure level of 85 decibels. However, with this buzzer you are unable to change the frequency from 2kHz [106].

Table 21: Comparison of Buzzer models

Product	Frequency	Operating voltage	Max current	Price
Electromagnetic Buzzer	2.73kHz	4-6V	60mA	\$1.49
Magnetic Buzzer	2kHz	2.54-4V	25mA	\$0.70

Piezo Buzzer	2kHz	4-8V	15mA	\$0.95
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3.2.10.8 Final Decision

We have decided to move forward with the magnetic buzzer made by the company bnafe. The reason for this decision is because for \$6.99 you get 10 of these buzzers and they don't draw that much current. Although the piezo buzzer draws the least amount of current, buying 10 of these buzzers would cost \$13.50.

3.2.11 Status LEDs

The purpose of the status LEDs is to serve as a visual indicator to the user that the safe is unlocked or locked.

3.2.11.1 What are LEDs

Light emitting diodes, or LEDs for short, are essentially miniature light sources that are commonly used in light bulbs and light fixtures. An LED works by having current pass through the LED chip inside, causing the bulb to illuminate. Because LEDs produce heat, heat sinks are used to absorb the heat & dissipate it to prevent the LEDs from burning out. The rule of thumb when it comes to LEDs is the higher the temperature at which it operates at, the shorter its use life will be [107]. An LED has a positive terminal called an anode and a negative terminal called a cathode. Light emitting diodes come in different types such as single color, tricolor, high power and many more [108].

3.2.11.2 Single color LEDs

Single color LEDs are one of the most common types of LEDs that come in a variety of colors such as red, green, blue, yellow, orange and even white.

3.2.11.3 Tricolor LEDs

Tricolor LEDs are what you get when you combine 3 LED chips into a single package, which gives them the ability to emit three different colors. Controlling the current flow to each chip allows you to control the specific color that you want the LED to emit. The most common type of tricolor LED is the RGB (red-green-blue) LED. There are two types of RGB LEDs: common cathode and common anode. A common cathode LED has all three LED chips sharing a negative connection while a common anode LED has all three chips sharing a positive connection. A PWM signal is normally used to control both the color and intensity of these types of LEDs [109].

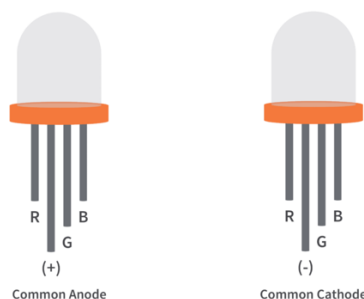


Figure 10: RGB LED Pinout [109]

3.2.11.4 High-Power LEDs

High-power LEDs are exactly what their name implies it does. These LEDs emit a significant amount of light and are typically used in applications where a high brightness level is important. Because of this, it is imperative that heat sinks are added to ensure that they don't burn out too quickly [108].

3.2.11.5 Single vs Tricolor vs High-Power

Out of all the other LED types, we have decided to move forward with an RGB LED because it is the option that best suits our needs. Having a high brightness is not a necessary requirement for our safe's status light, so using a high-power LED is unnecessary. That leaves us with the single color LEDs and the tricolor LEDs. If we went with the single color LEDs, we would need to get one green LED and one red LED. However, if we go with the tricolor, we'd only have to buy one and program it so that it turns green when the safe is unlocked and turns red when the safe is locked.

3.2.11.6 Shenzhen Fedy Technology's Common Anode LED

Our first LED option is this common anode RGB LED made by the company Shenzhen Fedy Technology. This LED has a forward current of 20mA with its maximum being 100mA. Furthermore, it has a reverse voltage of 5V, a power dissipation of 150mW and a reverse current of 10uA. You can buy this LED for \$2.00 from Adafruit [110].

3.2.11.7 DIYables RGB LED Module

Another option that we have considered are these RGB LED Modules made by the company DIYables. These RGB modules are of the common cathode type and come with built-in resistors. These modules are compatible with the Arduino, Raspberry Pi, ESP32 and any other 5V/3.3V microcontroller. You can buy a 10 pack of these modules on Amazon for \$9.99 [111].

3.2.11.8 CHANZON's RGB Common Cathode LED

Our final LED option is this common cathode LED made by the company CHANZON. The voltage requirements for this one are 2-2.2V for the red channel, and 3-3.2V for the green & blue channels. In addition, its forward current is 20mA and they are compatible with Arduino, Raspberry Pi and other hobbyist electronics. You can buy a 100 pack of these for \$8.99 on Amazon [112].

3.2.11.9 Final Decision

We have decided to move forward with the RGB LED module from DIYables. The reason for this decision is because the common anode LED is the most expensive out of all three options, so that leaves us with the RGB LED module and the common cathode LED. While it's true that you get the most LEDs with the third option, the second option has built-in resistors and there are tutorials online on how to use it with the ESP32 microcontroller.

3.2.12 Website

For the website aspect of our project, we plan on developing a user-friendly, web page that represents the theme of our project as well as helps complete all expected functionality from the device. The web server will allow us to send email notifications to the user when someone attempts to access the safe or accesses it without fingerprint entry. The web page will provide a field where the user can input an email address for them to receive alerts from non-registered users attempting to access the safe using the keypad, when the door

opens from non-registered users, and when the safe goes into lockdown mode after many failed attempts.

3.2.12.1 Website Development Technologies

There are many different abstract coding languages that can be used when developing the website look and operation, so with the current experience that all the project developers have, we decided to consider three basic ones that all developers use when creating a website: CSS, HTML, and JavaScript. They all work in tandem to help create fully functional, visually appealing, and interactive websites. Since they all depend on each other, the following subsections will elaborate on why each of them are important as well as where each of them will be used in our development.

3.2.12.2 HTML

HyperText Markup Language or HTML is a foundation language that helps organize content on a website, so that the web browser can understand the organization and layout that we want to display. It is the backbone structure of any website, and it uses a “tag” system to define each section of the website such as headings, links, paragraphs, images, tables, and forms. Within this structure system, it also has semantics, so when looking up and finding different parts of the website, it is accessible and easily searchable. HTML has the capability to embed hyperlinks within the website, which allows for easy navigation and transfer to other webpages or to a totally separate website. Altogether, HTML is crucial for organized web development, and without it, CSS and JavaScript don’t have any structure to enhance the content.

3.2.12.3 CSS

Cascading Style Sheets or CSS is an element used with HTML to control the layout and appeal of each of the elements within each of the HTML sections. With the use of CSS on HTML, changes to the website’s style can be done with various colors, fonts, spacing, and positioning of each element. It can also be used to manipulate the website’s screen size format and make it adaptive for many platforms such as mobile and tablet. Since CSS allows developers with plenty of creative freedom, animations and transitions can also be applied to make the website more interactive. In terms of implementation, the CSS file used, has to be linked through the HTML file in order for the corresponding changes to occur. Overall, CSS works with HTML to bring visually appealing elements and interactive capabilities to the website.

3.2.12.4 JavaScript

JavaScript is a programming language that is commonly used with website development for dynamic behavior and other interactive elements. It gives the developer the ability to add interactive features such as image sliders, modals, and dropdown menus. Along with these features, it also allows for seamless updates to the data and the content of the webpage in real time through Fetch API and AJAX without the page needing to reload. JavaScript is also commonly used for implementing custom functions that can provide unique functionality to websites. Similar to CSS, the JavaScript file used needs to be linked to the HTML for the changes to occur to their respective elements. Overall, JavaScript is a very abstract and dynamic language that gives website developers plenty of freedom to enhance

or manipulate data in the form of custom functions, website interactivity, and dynamic updates.

Table 22: Explaining Technology Importances [113]

Type	Uses/Capabilities
HTML	• Defines web page structure • Organize web page content • Creates hyperlinks • Has semantics for improved accessibility
CSS	• Changes the styles of HTML elements • Creates adaptive layouts for respective media devices • Animation and transition implementation • Uses flexbox and grids for layout control
JavaScript	• Adds interactive elements • Manipulates HTML and CSS files • Perform asynchronous functions • Validates user inputs • Enables real-time updates without page reloads

3.2.12.5 Website Technology Use

For our project, we plan on using HTML as the backbone structure for all our web pages since it will functionally work well with the CSS and JavaScript integrations we use as well. Also, HTML provides a simple layout for development, so understanding it won't cause much confusion. We plan on using CSS to adjust the style of all the webpages, so that it meets our expectations for the theme of our project as well as the notifications that the website will send to the respective email. Finally, we plan on using JavaScript to handle form submission and allow for real time website feedback to the user, so each web page is easily accessible.

3.2.12.6 Server Hosting Options

For this project, we had to decide on a form of server hosting, so the website could stay active and the safe can send the alerts based on the most updated information. When we went through our options, we decided on a microcontroller-based server, a GitHub Pages

server, and a Firebase server. The following subsections will explain the advantages and disadvantages for each of the following options as well as the concluded option that we decided to pursue with.

3.2.12.7 Microcontroller Server

One of the first options we considered, especially with the hardware that we are using for the project, is a microcontroller-based server. We decided on the ESP32 for our microcontroller of choice and with it we can host a web server just off of itself. The advantages of going along with an MCU-based server would be that we would be saving money on monthly payments for hosting with alternatives. Another insight to consider is that since the server and hardware are connected, full control over the stack would be accessible making development less complex. Also, it uses local processing, so it would be able to handle tasks without internet access and it would have an overall low power usage adding to its cost-effectiveness. However, there are some disadvantages to this option too, such as that, the overall throughput can be constrained due to the limitations with the hardware. Other issues include that due to the mix of software and hardware, some technical skill may be needed to maintain, and high traffic is not sustainable on such servers.

3.2.12.8 GitHub Pages

One of the other options that we considered was GitHub's own website hosting service called GitHub Pages. GitHub Pages is free and used by many freelance developers for personal projects. Since it is a subsection of GitHub, it works seamlessly with Git for easy control and organization for collaborative projects. Also, since it is an established and static website, then we can expect fast loading times and content stability. On the other hand, there are some cons to it such as there is no server-side processing or dynamic capabilities, there's limited backend customization, and repositories limits which isn't very good for large projects. Due to the unknown size of the project and backend access, some of these disadvantages may not apply for our project.

3.2.12.9 Firebase Hosting

The last option we thought of was Firebase Server Hosting by Google. Firebase Hosting claims to be a great option for static and single-page web applications. One of the key capabilities is that all content delivered is sent over a zero-configuration SSL making all data connections safe and secure. All files are cached on SSDs and CDN edges making transfers and responses fast [115]. They also give developers the option to emulate changes done to the website on a local backend before publishing and they have one-command features that run the website and initiate rollback if any errors occur [115]. There are some disadvantages to Firebase though and one of them is that there will be costs as usage or bandwidth increases. Also, Firebase has its own ecosystem, so vendor integrating or migrating can be challenging. There may also be a learning curve when trying to use its services which can be a constraint to some people.

Table 23: Listing Differences in Web Server Hosting Options [114]

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
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Microcontroller-Based	● Cost-effective ● Full-stack access ● Local processing	● Hardware constraints ● Technical expertise ● Scalability issues for high traffic
GitHub Pages	● Free ● Seamless Git integration ● Fast loading for static content	● Static content only ● Limited backend customization ● Repository size limits
Firebase Hosting	● Easy API integration ● Scales for traffic spikes ● SSL included	● Costs as bandwidth increases ● Locked into Firebase ecosystem ● Learning curve for configuration

3.2.12.10 Server Hosting Selection

After going through all the choices, we decided to go with the microcontroller-based server for our project. Although many of the other options allowed for quick and secure connections as well as easy integration for larger projects, the microcontroller caught our attention with its capabilities to access the stack easily as well as it having local processing, which will be helpful for our project. The main drawback for Firebase Hosting was the cost factor as the usage increased and the main drawback for GitHub Pages was the no dynamic capability's fault. In conclusion, that is why we decided that a microcontroller-based server would be the best fit for our project.

3.2.11 Email Notifications

For our project, we plan to send email notifications to the primary user of the safe whenever the safe has been accessed or unlocked. The events that will send email notifications are:

1. Safe access attempt
2. Motion detects near-safe
3. Lockdown mode Activation

In the email, the user will receive an exact timestamp of when the safe was accessed and a message informing them that someone has interacted with it. To receive the email, the user will need to enter their email address on our website that will be used for our product. Our goal is to send the email notification in under 3 minutes.

3.2.13.1 Email Protocols

Email protocols are a set of rules that ensure emails are transmitted properly across the internet. They verify that messages are successfully sent and received between the server and client. Email protocols establish communication between the server and client during transmission [118], using a set of commands that allow two computers to communicate.

Below, we will discuss three basic transfer protocols—SMTP, POP3, and IMAP—that can be used to send emails [118] [120].

3.2.13.2 Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)

SMTP is a transfer protocol primarily used for sending emails over the internet. It manages communication between servers to transmit messages across networks [120]. SMTP is one of the most common protocols for sending email notifications [120]. It is known for being reliable and secure, and it is widely used by service providers such as Gmail, Outlook, and Yahoo. SMTP uses the TCP/IP network to send and receive messages across email servers. Additionally, SMTP commands are used to identify the server and client email addresses and include the messages that need to be transmitted. SMTP offers features such as a push protocol, error handling, authentication, and connection-oriented transmission [120].

3.2.13.3 Post Office Protocol 3 (POP3)

POP3 is a protocol used to receive emails from a mail server for a single client. This protocol allows users to access their mail offline by downloading the email to a local device. Once the email is retrieved, it is automatically deleted from the server, though it can still be accessed on the local device [120]. Unlike SMTP, which transfers mail between senders, POP3 is a message access protocol focused on receiving emails. Another key difference is that POP3 only allows one-time access between the client and the mail server [120]. A disadvantage of POP3 is that once an email is downloaded, it can only be accessed from the same device. Additional features of POP3 include limited server storage, offline access, and basic email handling [120].

3.2.13.4 Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP)

IMAP is a widely used internet protocol for receiving emails across multiple devices. IMAP is beneficial because it allows users to access their emails directly on the server without the need to download them. It enables access to emails from multiple devices, regardless of location [122][120]. One advantage of IMAP is that any actions performed—such as reading or deleting emails—are fully synchronized across all devices that access the email account [122][120]. Additional features of IMAP include folder management, status updates, offline access, and search capabilities [120].

3.2.13.5 Protocol Decision

We have decided that the best protocol for sending email notifications in our project is SMTP. SMTP allows us to seamlessly send emails from our integrated website (acting as the server) to the user's email account. It is widely supported by all major email service providers and is easy to implement [120].

SMTP is specifically designed for sending emails to recipients, in this case, the users of the safe. Additionally, it includes security protocols to ensure that emails are transmitted safely, preventing unauthorized access. In contrast, IMAP and POP are primarily focused on retrieving emails from a mail server, which is not the primary function needed for our project [120].

Table 24: Comparison of Email Protocols [120]

Email Protocol	Purpose	Storage method	Use Case Suitability
SMTP	• Sends Email from Client to Server	• Not applicable; used only for sending	• Sending outgoing emails; typically used by email servers and applications
POP3	• Receives emails from one client and downloads to local device	• Emails stored locally on the device after download	• Suitable for single-device email access with offline storage
IMAP	• Receives emails from multiple clients and downloads them across devices.	• Stored on the server with optional local caching	• Ideal for multi-device access and constant synchronization

3.2.13.6 Email Service Providers

Email service providers manage the sending, receiving, and storage of emails, ensuring reliable communication across different platforms [120]. These providers offer servers that process and transfer messages efficiently across networks. When a user sends an email, the server ensures proper delivery, and it can store emails for backup or later access [120]. Additionally, email providers incorporate security measures such as spam detection, encryption, and authentication to prevent unauthorized access or interception [120]. The email service providers we will analyze for our project are Postfix, Postmark, SendGrid, and Gmail SMTP [120].

3.2.13.7 Postfix

Postfix is a widely used Mail Transfer Agent (MTA) for transferring emails across networks. Known for its high performance and ability to handle large volumes of data, Postfix is commonly used on Unix and Linux-based systems as well as cloud environments [120]. It offers robust security features such as encryption and authentication. Postfix can be implemented on both small and large systems, making it versatile and effective. One disadvantage is that it requires technical expertise to set up and manage the server. Although Postfix is free to use, additional features or add-ons may incur extra costs [120].

3.2.13.8 Postmark

Postmark is a cloud-based email service provider designed for fast and efficient email delivery. It is particularly useful for sending notifications such as account alerts, security updates, and password resets, which aligns with our project needs. Postmark ensures high deliverability by prioritizing sensitive emails and ensuring they land in the primary inbox rather than the spam folder [120]. It also offers features like email tracking, SMTP and API integration, and domain authentication. Postmark's services are priced at \$15 per month for up to 10,000 emails [120] [120].

3.2.13.9 SendGrid

SendGrid is another cloud-based email service provider that supports sending large volumes of emails efficiently. It offers tools for notifications, transactions, and marketing, and can be integrated with any email platform using SMTP [120]. Key features include email tracking, domain authentication, fast delivery, and enhanced security measures. SendGrid is an attractive option due to its reliability, ease of integration, and focus on secure communication for real-time alerts and security notifications. It offers a free plan that allows sending up to 100 emails per day [120].

3.2.13.10 Gmail SMTP

Gmail SMTP is a free email service that allows users to send emails through Gmail's platform. While it lacks some of the advanced features offered by other providers, it is easy to integrate when Gmail is the primary email platform. Gmail SMTP is ideal for sending smaller-scale or personal emails, and it offers reliable delivery, spam protection, and broad compatibility [120]. The service allows up to 100 emails per day for free, with additional charges for higher limits or advanced features [120].

3.2.13.11 Email Server Decision

We have chosen to use Gmail SMTP as the email server for our project. It is easy to integrate, provides reliable email delivery, and is well-suited for use with the Gmail service platform. Additionally, Gmail SMTP is free for sending up to 100 emails per day, which aligns with the needs of our project, making it a cost-effective and practical solution [120].

Table 25: Comparison of Email Service Providers [120][121]

Service Provider	Advantages	Disadvantages
Postfix	• High flexibility and control over server setup • Supports high-volume data	• Requires self-hosting and server maintenance • Complex setup for beginners

	- transfers • Multiple authentication and encryption protocols	• May lack dedicated support
Postmark	• Optimized for transactional emails (e.g., notifications, alerts) • High deliverability rates • Secure and fast delivery	• Paid service with no free tier • Limited to transactional emails (not for bulk marketing)
SendGrid	• -Scalable for large email volumes • Offers tracking and analytics • Domain authentication and enhanced security features	• Free plan limited to 100 emails per day • Advanced features only available on paid plans
Gmail SMTP	• Free service with reliable delivery • Easy integration with existing Gmail accounts • Robust spam protection	• Sending limit of 100 emails per day on free plan • Limited for high-volume or commercial email applications

3.2.13.12 Email Platforms

In this section, we will discuss different email platforms. When the safe is accessed, it will send an email notification to the primary owner through an email client service. The user will be able to check their email inbox for messages informing them if their safe has been used. The three email platforms we will be comparing are Gmail, Outlook, and Yahoo [120].

3.2.13.13 Gmail

Gmail is a free email platform owned by Google that allows users to store and send emails in their own private accounts. It is one of the largest email service providers in the world. Features of Gmail include inbox management and spam filtering, which automatically sort emails based on importance and categorize them into different sections. Users receive 15 GB of storage and can send up to an average of 500 emails per day using the SMTP server. Its user-friendly interface and cross-platform accessibility make it easy to use from any device, including web and mobile apps. Gmail provides robust security features such as

two-factor authentication, spam filtering, and TLS encryption. Overall, Gmail is a reliable platform that ensures efficient email delivery and client receipt of emails. However, it has a strict sending limit that may restrict users from sending large notifications. On average, it takes a few seconds to a minute to receive an email after sending, though this time may be affected by factors like email size, internet connection, or network congestion [120].

3.2.13.14 Microsoft Outlook

Microsoft Outlook is an email service platform by Microsoft, primarily used for businesses and universities. Outlook features two mailboxes, "Focused" and "Other," which help users separate and prioritize important emails from promotions or spam. It offers 15 GB of free email storage and can be accessed via both web and email applications. Outlook also includes security features like spam filtering, two-factor authentication, and security protocols. This platform is particularly beneficial for professional users and businesses due to its specialized services and functions. However, Microsoft Outlook is less commonly used than Gmail, and some of its additional management features may not be relevant for our project. Some clients might prefer Gmail because of its more familiar layout and simpler interface. Outlook allows users to send an average of about 300 emails per day for free, along with other limitations. The average time to receive an email is similar, around a few seconds to a minute, though external factors can also affect this [120].

3.2.13.15 Yahoo

Yahoo is an American web service platform used worldwide. It features an inbox management tool that offers filtering and search functions. One advantage of Yahoo is that it provides 1 TB of free storage, which is significantly more than other platforms like Gmail and Outlook. Yahoo can distinguish between spam and important emails, organizing them accordingly. It is accessible from any device and features easy navigation for users. However, while it offers two-factor authentication and basic encryption, it does not provide as many advanced security features as other platforms. Yahoo can send up to about 100 emails per day and typically takes a few seconds to a minute to receive emails [120].

3.2.13.16 Email Service Platform Decision

We have chosen Gmail as our primary email platform for user notifications regarding the safe. One of the goals of our project is to enable users to check email notifications easily and effortlessly. Gmail meets this objective with its user-friendly interface and reliable email service. Another important consideration is the frequency with which users check their email, as timely notifications about access attempts to the safe are critical. Gmail is advantageous in this regard because it is more widely used than other platforms. In summary, other key advantages of Gmail include ample free storage, advanced security features, and fast email delivery. Overall, using Gmail is the best choice for clients to receive email notifications about their safe safely and efficiently [120].

Table 26: Comparison of Email Service Platforms [120]

Email Platform	Purpose	Features	Email Sending Limit
Gmail	Widely used email platform	- Spam filtering - User-friendly interface - Advanced security features	500 emails per day
Outlook	Business-oriented email platform	- Enhanced security - Business-specialized features - Spam protection	300 emails per day
Yahoo	Established global email service platform	- Spam filtering - Basic encryption - Easy navigation	100 emails per day

3.2.13.17 Programming Language for Email Server Testing

We need to select a programming language for the email integration of our smart safe project. Each language has its own SMTP libraries that can be utilized for email protocols. Furthermore, each language offers distinct advantages and disadvantages, making them better suited for specific actions or functions. The three programming languages we will compare are Python, C++, and JavaScript [120].

3.2.13.18 Python

Python is a high-level programming language widely used in various real-world applications. It is particularly well-suited for email services and provides libraries like `smtplib` for implementing the SMTP protocol. Python works seamlessly with email service providers such as Gmail and Outlook. The advantages of using Python include its easy implementation with SMTP, extensive community support, and numerous pre-built libraries that facilitate email integration [120].

3.2.13.19 C++

C++ is an extension of the C language and is object-oriented. It is used in various high-level applications, especially in software engineering and operating systems. C++ is a low-level language that allows direct control over memory management and system resources. One drawback is that it may be more challenging to implement email protocol handling, and it provides fewer dedicated libraries for this purpose. However, C++ excels in performance and memory management, making it suitable for microcontroller (MCU) integration. It is known for its faster execution rates and is commonly used in applications that require high performance [120].

3.2.13.20 JavaScript (using Node.js)

JavaScript is a programming and scripting language primarily used for web development, particularly on the front end. When combined with Node.js, JavaScript can handle email operations through various libraries that support SMTP. This combination is beneficial for integrating email notifications with our website. Node.js is a cross-platform runtime that enables JavaScript to execute outside of the web browser, allowing server-side execution and extending its features and libraries. However, implementing JavaScript with microcontrollers can be more complex [120].

3.2.13.21 Programming Language Decision

We have chosen C++ as our programming language for email handling and integration. C++ is particularly well-suited for microcontroller applications and offers specialized libraries that facilitate the integration of email functionality with the ESP32. Additionally, our team members are already familiar with C++, which will streamline the development process and enhance our efficiency in implementing the email features [120].

Table 27: Comparison of Programming Languages for Email Notifications [120]

Language	Description	Features
Python	High-level language with email integration capabilities	- Built-in smtplib library for SMTP - Easy implementation - Widely supported by providers like Gmail and Outlook - Robust library support
C++	Performance-focused, object-oriented language ideal for hardware interaction	- Strong performance - Memory management - Good for microcontroller (MCU) integration - Limited SMTP library availability
JavaScript (Node.js)	Popular for web development, with server-side capabilities using Node.js	- Cross-platform execution - Useful for web-based email notifications - Integrates well with web interfaces - Less compatible with microcontrollers

3.2.13.22 Software Libraries

Software libraries consist of pre-written programming code designed to assist developers in creating software applications. Their primary goal is to facilitate the building and execution of software code. For our project, we will be utilizing software libraries compatible with the C++ programming language and the ESP32 microcontroller to manage email notifications. The three libraries we will compare in the table below are the ESP-Mail Client Library, the Arduino ESP32 Mail Client, and MbedTLS. These libraries can be integrated with any email provider, including Gmail, which is our chosen provider for this project. Utilizing a library is essential as it streamlines communication with the email server, ensuring that emails are sent and received correctly [117] [120].

Table 28: Comparison of Software Libraries [117]

Library Name	Features	Microcontroller Integration	Encryption Support	Documentation Quality
ESP-Mail Client Library	• Send emails with attachments • Supports secure SMTP with TLS/SSL • IMAP support	Easy to configure and use, specifically designed for ESP32	TLS/SSL	• High Level • Comprehensive API reference • Well-organized structure for easy navigation • Regularly updated with new features
Arduino ESP32 Mail Client	• Basic SMTP/IMAP functionalities • SSL/TLS encryption	Simple, designed for use with Arduino IDE on ESP32	SSL/TLS	• Moderate Level • Good clarity in

	Designed for Arduino IDE			instructions - Maintained with updated information - Easily accessible online documentation
MbedTLS	- Low-level control for building secure communication - SSL/TLS encryption	Requires manual setup and more configuration	SSL/TLS	- Technical and in-depth documentation - Examples for advanced configurations - Comprehensive user guides for security implementations - Detailed troubleshooting section

3.2.13.23 Decision

The software library we have chosen is the ESP32-Mail Client library. This library is specifically designed for use with the ESP32 microcontroller and is compatible with the C++ programming language. It supports secure SMTP and includes additional security features through TLS/SSL protocols. The ESP32-Mail Client library is beginner-friendly and offers clear documentation and implementation examples. Overall, it meets all our project requirements and enjoys widespread support [120].

3.2.14 Software Development Tools

Listed below are many subsections that describe the multitude of programming languages and software development tools that we considered using when going through the software portion of our project. Some of them included, are general organization programs as well as basic programming languages needed to run on the hardware, but others may be for optional development if we have extra development time.

3.2.14.1 Platform IO

Platform IO is a versatile software development environment that supports various microcontrollers and devices. It is compatible with multiple IDEs, including Visual Studio, Eclipse, and Atom [117]. One significant advantage of Platform IO is that it eliminates the need to use different IDEs for different hardware components. It features a built-in package manager and libraries, supporting various microcontrollers like the ESP32 and Arduino. Notably, Platform IO can be integrated with Visual Studio Code, which is beneficial for our project since we plan to utilize VS Code. Its advantages and flexibility make it a suitable choice for our development needs [120].

3.2.14.2 Visual Studio Code

Visual Studio Code (VS Code) is a widely used integrated development environment (IDE) and open-source code editor. It supports multiple programming languages, including Java, Python, C++, and JavaScript. VS Code offers valuable tools such as code completion, real-time debugging, and syntax highlighting [117]. Additionally, it features numerous extensions, integration with Git, collaboration tools, and a built-in terminal [117]. This software will be instrumental in writing the software code for our project [120].

3.2.14.3 Putty

Putty is a software application that enables connections to remote terminals. It facilitates SSH connections to remote systems and allows for connections to components like microcontrollers. Using serial communication, Putty can connect with devices and supports various networking protocols [117]. In our project, Putty will be useful for communicating with the microcontroller, checking serial outputs, adjusting settings, and working with network protocols such as Wi-Fi [120].

3.2.14.4 Git

Git is a version control tool that tracks changes made to code in projects. Known for its distributed version control system, Git keeps track of every version of your code [24]. It is particularly beneficial for group projects, allowing multiple contributors to work on the same codebase without the risk of losing or failing to update their contributions. This

functionality is essential for our project, as we will collaborate on software components with multiple teammates, ensuring we stay organized [120].

There are two types of repositories in Git: local, stored on your computer, and remote, stored on a server like GitHub [126]. Repositories facilitate sharing and collaborative work on projects. Each change made in Git is termed a "commit," and all changes are tracked. Code can be merged from branches into a main branch, enabling collaboration and integration of team members' work [126]. Cloning allows for copying entire repositories when necessary. Git's efficiency makes it suitable for larger projects requiring collaboration and project management. However, it does require some familiarity with commands and operations, which can be complex for newcomers. Additionally, configuring Git can be time-consuming and challenging [120].

3.2.14.5 GitHub

GitHub is a cloud-based platform that hosts Git repositories online, enabling collaboration on code [127]. Key features of GitHub include version control, repositories for storing project files, and branching capabilities that allow separate work on project segments. It also features pull requests, which enable the main repository owner to review changes before they are merged into the main codebase [117]. GitHub enhances project collaboration through tools such as issue tracking, pull requests, and project boards [117][120].

3.2.14.6 Python

Python is a high-level programming language versatile enough for various applications. In our project, we may use Python to program the microcontroller and other hardware components, particularly for sending email notifications and controlling the website [120].

3.2.14.7 C++

C++ is a high-level programming language that emphasizes complex coding structures. It will be employed for critical tasks involving both hardware and software components. One of the advantages of using C++ is its compatibility with the ESP32 microcontroller, which works effectively with both C and C++. This language is beneficial for enhancing power efficiency and optimization. Due to its low-level capabilities, C++ is well-suited for real-time applications and embedded system functionalities [125][120].

3.2.14.8 Java

Java is an object-oriented programming language focused on network applications. However, it is less commonly used in embedded systems or real-time applications, making it a less likely choice for our project. Nevertheless, it could still be useful for certain software components [120].

3.2.14.9 HTML

HTML (HyperText Markup Language) is a web scripting language primarily used for creating and designing websites. In our project, it will be utilized to develop the website associated with our safe, ensuring it is user-friendly and accessible [120].

3.2.14.10 JavaScript

JavaScript is a web development language that complements HTML and CSS. It is essential for enhancing the functionality of our website. JavaScript will enable us to create a dynamic and user-friendly interface and can facilitate real-time communication, manage interactions between the safe and the website, and process sensor data [120].

3.2.14.11 C

C is a programming language recognized for its applications in software development and embedded systems. It can be used to work with microcontrollers, manage I/O operations, and execute real-time tasks such as reading fingerprints or controlling locks [125]. This language is crucial for addressing the hardware components and achieving our project objectives [120].

3.2.14.12 PHP

PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor) is a backend web development language. We plan to use PHP to connect the website to the safe and accomplish essential software tasks, such as sending email notifications, accessing timestamps, and integrating with databases [120].

Table 29: Comparison of Software Development Tools

Software	Description
Platform IO	Development Environment used to program different microcontrollers and can be integrated with other IDE's like VS code
Visual Studio Code	Used as an IDE and compiles different programming languages with additional features
Putty	Used to help connect other devices or interfaces with microcontroller
Git	Used to share and keep track of each version of code. Useful for software collaboration
GitHub	Place to store software code and collaborate with other team members
Python	Programming language that works well with different applications like working with microcontroller and hardware components

C++	Programming language that works well with ESP32 microcontroller and real-time applications
Java	Objected Oriented programming language helpful with software components
HTML	Web-scripting language used to create website interface
JavaScript	Web-scripting language used with HTML and can be used to enhance website functionalities.
C	Programming language used for programming microcontroller and other hardware components.
PHP	Web-development language used for connecting safe to website and other software components.

3.2.15 Hardware Design Software

In this section, we will discuss various software and development environments that will be utilized to write software for the hardware components of our project. We will cover the functionality of each software and its application within our project. The software options we will consider include Eagle PCB Software, Code Composer Studio, Arduino IDE, Platform IO, KiCad, and Putty [120].

3.2.15.2 Eagle Software

Eagle is an EDA (Electronic Design Automation) application that features a schematic editor for creating and designing circuit diagrams. It also includes a multi-window graphical interface that allows customization and editing of designs [128]. The PCB layout editor enables users to design the physical layout of circuits on PCBs, including routing traces, repositioning components, and defining connections across multiple layers [128]. Additionally, Eagle provides a library of components and footprints that can be added and customized for specific designs. It includes a CAM processor that generates Gerber files, which are essential for PCB manufacturing. We will use Eagle Software to design the PCBs for our project, integrating critical components such as the microcontroller, sensors, and additional hardware specified in subsequent sections [120].

The advantages of Eagle include its ease of learning and use, versatility for various complexity levels, and cloud storage capabilities. Furthermore, it can be integrated with Autodesk Fusion 360 to create 3D representations of PCB designs and utilize additional features [120].

3.2.15.3 Code Composer Studio

Code Composer Studio (CCS) is an integrated development environment tailored for Texas Instruments embedded processors [129]. It is primarily used for embedded applications and low-level debugging, specifically with TI devices like microcontrollers and processors. CCS features a C/C++ compiler that allows for code compilation and execution within a code editor. It facilitates code debugging and optimization through additional specialized tools. However, a notable disadvantage of Code Composer Studio is that it is designed exclusively to support Texas Instruments products, optimizing functionality primarily for their hardware platforms [124][120].

3.2.15.4 Arduino IDE

The Arduino IDE is an open-source software platform for programming Arduino microcontrollers. It features an intuitive interface and a code compiler. Notably, the Arduino IDE is pre-configured for all Arduino boards, which limits compatibility with other microcontrollers. It also includes built-in libraries and supports various communication protocols, utilizing both C and C++ programming languages [120].

3.2.15.5 KiCad

KiCad is electronic schematic software that allows for the design and creation of PCB boards. It is known for offering advanced features for PCB design and handling complex layouts. Similar to Eagle PCB software, KiCad comes equipped with numerous libraries and components and can generate Gerber files along with a Bill of Materials (BOM) for manufacturing purposes. Overall, it is a flexible and highly advanced design tool [120].

3.2.15.6 Autodesk Fusion 360

Autodesk Fusion 360 is a cloud-based 3D modeling software that integrates CAD, CAM, and CAE tools for designing and manufacturing hardware components [124]. Key features include 3D modeling, simulation, collaboration, and PCB design [124]. This software is advantageous because it specializes in hardware design and creation, making it beneficial for developing physical 3D components for our project [120].

Table 30: Comparing Relevant Software for Hardware Components

Software	Description
Eagle Software	Used to create and design PCB schematics
Code Composer Studio	Used for coding TI microcontrollers
Arduino IDE	Used to program Arduino Microcontrollers

KiCad	Used to design and create PCB schematics with advanced features
Autodesk Fusion 360	3D modeling software used to design and create hardware components

Chapter 4: Standards and Design Constraints

An important part of our project is making sure that our Smart Safe has met the required standards and policies. In this section, we will discuss the relevant standards we have thoroughly researched and explored. The standards we will be discussing in detail are security standards and biometric recognition standards. The brief standards that we will be discussing are communication standards, website standards, ethical standards, PCB standards and electricity standards. Furthermore, we will also be discussing the design constraints of our project which are certain limitations that will affect the building and designing of our product. The design constraints we will be exploring in detail are time, size, budget, environmental factors, material and power.

4.1 Security Standards

For this section, we will be exploring the different security standards that correspond with the Smart Safe and must be considered when building it during Senior Design 2. Security standards are important because they ensure that the Safe protects user data, and prevents unauthorized access or theft, and improves the credibility of our project. One of the main goals of our project is to prioritize safety and security which is why standards are critical to make sure we meet those requirements.

4.1.1 ISO/IEC 27001: Information Security Management Standard

This standard focuses on protecting the user's sensitive data and handling information security. The goal is to provide a security system that will prevent unauthorized access to any sensitive information regarding the safe. To correctly adhere to this standard, our project will need to implement secure protocols that ensure that every user's personal information or data is protected.

The ISO/IEC 27001 standards help companies transition into modern security systems and keep up with the enhanced cyber security threats. They make sure that companies have good defenses and security measures to protect sensitive data. It provides a certification that lasts three years to ensure that organizations are complying with their expectations [125].

4.1.2 RFC 5246 (TLS 1.2): Transport Security Layer

The main goal of the TLS 1.2 is to make sure that email notifications are encrypted which means that unauthorized people cannot access that data. This is critical to guarantee that the communication between the safe and the user's email server is protected. The sensitive data can refer to access notifications or any other sensitive information that might be

vulnerable to outside parties. It is important to make sure this data is protected from criminals who might try to intercept or compromise the emails. TLS is usually implemented with email protocols such as SMTP.

TLS 1.2 supports advanced encryption algorithms that confirm that all data sent between user and client is confidential [124]. TLS 1.2 was released in 2008 and added extra flexibility to encryption algorithms as well as making sure that the changes made are stronger against emerging cyberattacks [124]. The TLS protocol will be used when the email notification is triggered from the safe, where the email client and server secure a connection using TLS [124]. After this, a handshake will happen where cryptographic keys are exchanged ensuring that both sides are authorized parties. The data can then be exchanged safely without any problems.

4.1.3 RFC 7208: Sender Policy Framework (SPF) for Authorizing Use of Domains in Email

This security standard verifies that the email sender's domain is valid. This is important to prevent fake users from sending the email which is known as email spoofing. SPF will make sure that the domain of the email sender matches the IP address of the server sending the email [124]. It also helps prevent phishing or email forgery and if the sender of the email is not authorized then it will be marked suspicious. SPF is an important security protocol that will be implemented with our email server for email notifications.

Based on the discussion of the security standards above that will need to be implemented with our project we will discuss some of the important considerations we will need to take into account. The most important consideration is to guarantee that the user's personal information including emails, account information, passcodes, and fingerprint data are safely protected, confidential, and encrypted from unauthorized people. We will need to consider ways to make our safe more protective and prevent any risks that could cause data leaks or breaches. We will also need to implement additional safety measures and regular safety checks. For the TLS standards, we will need to implement this when setting up email notifications as part of our project, and check that there is a secure connection between the smart safe and the client's email server. Similarly, for the SPF protocol we must make sure that the domain of our safe's email server is verified with SPF. In addition, when testing the email, we will check to make sure the emails are sent by the correct sender and not a fake personal. If the SPF protocol is not implemented correctly, it could cause additional problems when sending the emails. Our group will ensure that security standards are considered for every component in our project and to keep track of future changes.

4.2 Biometric Recognition Standards

Biometric standards are identified as the standards for the collection, storage & sharing of biometric data such as one's fingerprint, eye & face. These standards specify the format of the biometric data, performance metrics, test approaches, application program interfaces and application profiles. There are four types of biometric standards: technical interfaces, data interchange formats, application profile standards and performance testing/reporting [140]. The ones we are focusing on are the data interchange standards for fingerprints, which are ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2011 [140], ANSI/INCITS 381-2004 [141], ANSI/INCITS 377-2004 [141] and ANSI/INCITS 378-2004 [141].

4.2.1 ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2011

The ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2011 standard was produced by both the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). This standard deals with the content, format and measurement units of the electronic exchange of fingerprint, iris, mugshot and other biometric information. The information regarding this standard is normally used in criminal justice organizations that rely on identification systems for a subject or subjects. The ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2011 standard has up to 99 unique record identifiers that contain various types of biometric data. However, Type-4 and Type-14 records specifically deal with the scanning and capturing of fingerprint data [142].

4.2.2 ANSI/INCITS 381-2004

The ANSI/INCITS 381-2004 standard was produced by both the American National Standards Institute and the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS). Just like the ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2011 standard, the ANSI/INCITS 381-2004 standard deals with how fingerprint data is formatted and measured in an electronic exchange. This standard typically structures its fingerprint data by displaying a header at the top, followed by the fingerprint image & fingerprint data under the header. fingerprint image data will contain information such as the image resolution, pixel depth, pixels per inch, pixels per centimeter, the number of gray levels in the image and the setting level at which all the minimum parameters were satisfied during the capturing of the image [142].

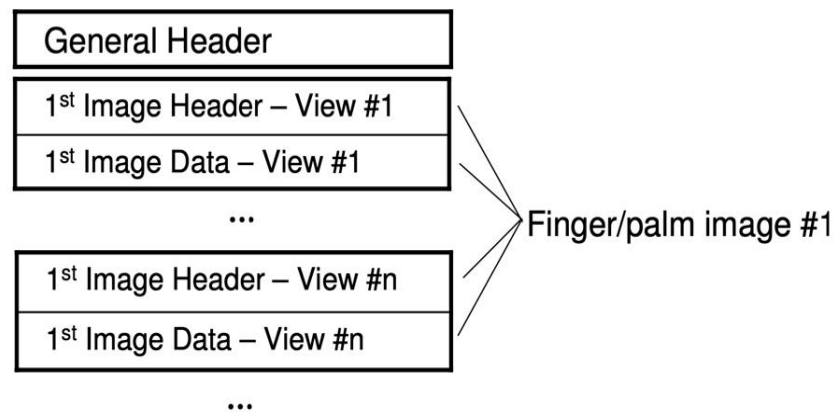


Figure 11: ANSI/INCITS 381-2004 fingerprint data structure [141]

4.2.3 ANSI/INCITS 377-2004

Another ANSI/INCITS fingerprint standard is the ANSI/INCITS 377-2004, also known as The Finger Pattern Based Interchange Format standard. This standard focuses on a specific method of creating biometric templates of fingerprint information using the ridge pattern measurements on the fingerprint. How it works is it takes the image of the fingerprint, reduces it and groups it into cells. Each cell is 5x5 pixels and is measured individually. The parameters for the ridge patterns are its clockwise rotation, the spacing between the ridges and whether the ridge is coincident with the cell's origin. How this format's data is structured is it keeps a log of the data for each unique fingerprint data [2].

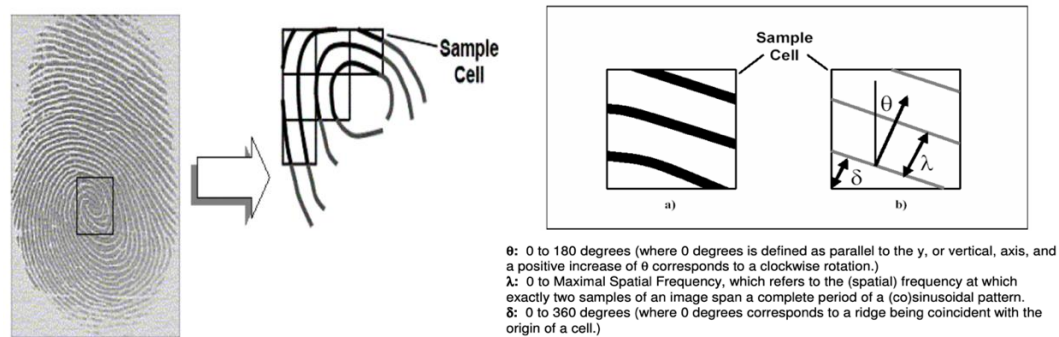


Figure 12: ANSIS/INCITS 377-2004 fingerprint cell structure [141]

Record Header
Finger Pattern #1 - Record Header
Finger Pattern #1 - Data – 1 st View
Finger Pattern #1 - Extended Data – 1 st View
...
Finger Pattern #1 - Data – Last View
Finger Pattern #1 - Extended Data – Last View
...
Finger Pattern #n - Record Header
Finger Pattern #n - Data – 1 st View
Finger Pattern #n - Extended Data – 1 st View
...
Finger Pattern #n - Data – Last View
Finger Pattern #n - Extended Data – Last View

Figure 13: ANSI/INCITS 381-2004 fingerprint data structure [141]

4.2.4 ANSI/INCITS 378-2004:

The ANSI/INCITS 378-2004 standard, also known as the Finger Minutiae Format for Data Interchange standard specifies a method of creating biometric templates of fingerprint minutiae. The parameters for this specification are finger positions, finger impressions, number of ridges, the location of the fingerprint's center and the point of divergence of a ridge. The structure of the data format resembles the one for the ANSI/INCITS 381-2004 standard except it includes the minutia records of each fingerprint [141].

Record Header
1 st Finger Header
1 st Finger – View #1 – 1 st Minutia Record
...
1 st Finger – View #1 – Last Minutia Record
1 st Finger – View #1 – 1 st Extended Data (optional)
...
1 st Finger – View #1 – Last Extended Data (optional)
...
1 st Finger – View #n – 1 st Minutia Record
...
1 st Finger – View #n – Last Minutia Record
1 st Finger – View #n – 1 st Extended Data (optional)
...
1 st Finger – View #n – Last Extended Data (optional)
2 nd Finger, ..., Last Finger

Figure 14: ANSI/INCITS 378-2004 fingerprint data structure [141]

4.3 Communication Standards

Communication standards are crucial to verify that data being sent from the safe to the primary owner is being transmitted safely and efficiently. The first standard we will discuss is IEEE 802.11 also known as the wireless communication standard. The second standard is RFC 5321 which defines the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol.

4.3.1 IEEE 802.11 (Wi-Fi Standard)

The IEEE 802.11 standard which is also known as Wi-Fi is commonly used to control wireless communication across different networks [13]. This standard is important for our project because it defines reliable communication from our safe to external devices. It supports security protocols like WPA2 that ensures data is being transmitted safely over a wifi network [13]. It will also make sure that unauthorized personnel cannot access that wifi network and provide a safe connection. Since our safe is using wifi communication, using this standard is important to ensure that the communication over wireless networks is safe and protected. This will affect our design because it requires us to choose wifi modules that comply and adhere to this standard.

4.3.2 RFC 5321: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol

This standard defines the procedures and requirements for SMTP. It is responsible for being able to send and receive email notifications between email servers. The protocol has been updated since 1982 to the evolving email standards of today. Its main goal is to ensure that email messages are being sent reliably and consistently between server and client. For example, it checks that a proper connection is established, the content of the email is accurately sent and handles any email failures [124].

SMTP uses basic commands that are used to communicate between the server and client which is why it's known as a text-based protocol. In addition, it uses relays to transfer emails between servers. It includes additional security extensions like TLS and SPF to make sure the data in the emails are encrypted when transferring them. This standard is important for our project because it will help make sure that the email notifications are safely and properly sent to the user.

4.4 Website Standards

The standards for the website are to represent the basic functions and setup of a website. For technical standards, we plan to include a HTML page for the basic structure and a CSS file for styling. These files include the bare minimum for the website to run and function as intended, but other file formats will be included, if necessary, but for basic use, HTML and CSS will suffice. Another standard that we wanted to have been mobile responsiveness, since the ESP32 can work via mobile use as well. We will also include performance optimizations through good code practices to speed up loading times. The last technical standard would be to have cross-platform compatibility across web browsers, so regardless of what browser the user is on, they will have access to the safe. As for accessibility standards, we plan on using HTML semantics to make the code easily readable and help the user navigate the website effectively. For content standards on the website, we will provide accurate and up-to-date information on the website to avoid misleading users, while also being transparent with the device's purpose and mission. Standards for the users' experience include clear navigation and design, consistency, and readable layouts for fonts and text. With a clear navigation and design, the website will be easily navigable, and all the content will be easy to find. With consistency, the visual layout will be appealing to the user, and it will help them feel comfortable using it. Readable layouts with fonts and line spacing will also make the user feel more comfortable since it makes the website look clean and professional. For legal standards, we will adhere to all copyright and trademark laws when using anything that isn't ours. For social standards, any design used will be to portray the project theme and will have a diverse audience in mind, any offensive or inappropriate images or text will not be used.

4.5 Ethical Standards

The ethical standards of our safe are meant to help clarify the owners' intentions with the safe and privacy concerns. For owners using the safe, owners have an ethical obligation to use them responsibly by not storing illegal goods or goods obtained unlawfully. Owners must comply with legal rules concerning storage of items such as firearms, drugs, or certain sensitive documents. Owners must know the laws to prevent misuse of the safe. It is also the owners' responsibility to place the safe in a location that won't bring potential danger to other people. In terms of privacy ethics, we respect the privacy of the owner and their information. Ethical behavior would be to avoid any unauthorized access to the owners' information and to keep firm confidentiality. Also, for any person owning a safe, we would reveal any data information that could lead to backdoor scenarios or potential vulnerabilities with the owners' data.

4.6 PCB Standards

IPC PCB standards deal with the design, assembly and manufacturing of a PCB to ensure that it is of quality. The benefits of abiding by these standards include reduced costs, improved communication, consistent quality & reliability. The Institute of Printed Circuits (IPC) organizes electronics products into three different classes that correspond to the PCB's quality: Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3. Class 1 products refer to consumer electronics and everyday products that only require the PCB to function as intended. Class 2 products include laptops, PCs and microwaves where high reliability and an extended life are top

priority. Finally, Class 3 products include critical systems such as life support systems where consistent performance & reliability are of utmost importance [143]. Based on these classifications, our digital safe would fall under Class 2 as it is not what you would consider a critical system or an everyday electronic device. The specific standard that we will focus on for PCB design is the IPC-2221.

4.6.1 IPC-2221

The IPC-2221 standard is the foundation of general PCB design principles and recommendations that can apply to various kinds of boards. Other IPC standards such as IPC-2222, IPC-2223, IPC-2225 and IPC-2226 all fall under the IPC-2221 umbrella. The standard that is most relevant to our design is the IPC-2222 standard because it covers design requirements for rigid printed circuit boards. The other IPC standards are only relevant to flexible boards, PC cards, multichip modules and HDI boards respectively [144]. IPC-2222 sets standards for important PCB design factors such as material selection, board thickness, routing parameters, component placement and hole/interconnection requirements [145].

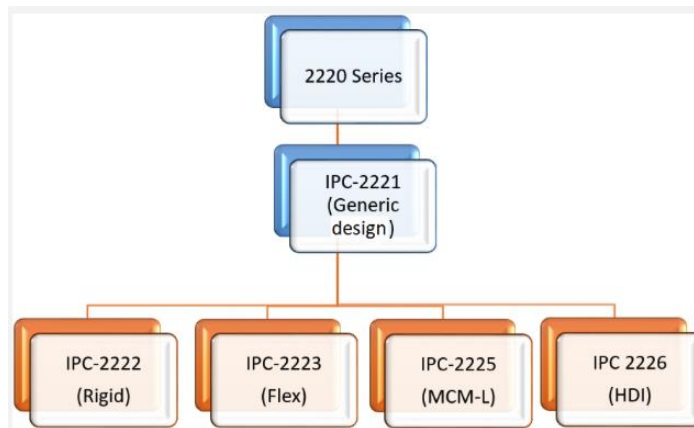


Figure 12 IPC-2221 Structure [144]

4.7 Electricity Standards

There are many different standards for electricity but the most important standard we picked is the IEC 62368-1. IEC 62368-1 is an international safety standard that specifies electrical equipment involving audio, video, information and communication technology, with rated voltage not exceeding 600V. Components like the fingerprint sensor, display, and solenoid lock would need to comply with the safety requirements outlined in IEC 62368-1. This would ensure the safe is designed to protect users from potential hazards related with electrical faults, energy sources, and fire risks. The potential hazard associated with fire risk is extremely important since the housing of the safe will be made from birth plywood, which is relatively flammable. The standard provides guidance on how to effectively apply safeguards in product design and construction. Using a relay and

transistor in our circuit provides insulation and protection to help prevent electrical shock and short circuits especially when controlling a solenoid. [146]

4.8 Time Constraint

One of the most important constraints for our Smart Safe is the amount of time we have to complete this project. Since this is a Senior Design project, we only have one academic year to complete this project in its entirety. The first half of the year is mostly dedicated to the completion of the report and setup of our project website. In addition, there's seven quizzes on the lecture material that we must prepare for and complete by a certain date. That is not even mentioning the fact that everyone in our group is taking a full course load along with this class and losing almost two weeks of school due to Hurricanes Helen & Milton. There's also the matter of ordering all our parts and the possible delivery delays we may face when waiting for them to come in. Possible examples of this may include a key component of our project being out of stock or parts coming in later than they were supposed to. The second half of the academic year is fully dedicated to the design, integration, testing and debugging of the various components involved in our Smart Safe project. It is possible that we will be met with various issues whether it be issues with our custom PCB or fixing code issues with our peripherals.

Despite all the existing and potential time constraints that work against the development of our Smart Safe, we have developed ways to counteract or at the very least, mitigate them. First, we did most of our brainstorming and group recruitment in the summer so by the time the fall semester started we had a fully formed team and project idea, which is something most groups didn't have in the beginning. Our decision to be proactive would soon pay off as while other students were still in the process of forming groups and determining their project ideas, our group spent the first two weeks of the semester meeting on Zoom to finalize the scope of our project. Once this was complete, we immediately started working on the rough draft of our Divide and Conquer document and scheduled our advisor meeting with Dr. Wei to be the Tuesday after the due date of the D&C rough draft. We have also had group meetings in person to work on the report and discuss ideas with each other to make sure that everyone is on the same page. Soon after we received our advisor comments on the rough draft, we began working on the final draft while also doing research that would later be included in the rough draft of our 60-page document.

4.9 Size Constraint

Another design constraint of our project is its overall size. As previously stated, this safe is intended for the storage of valuables such as jewelry, cash, passports, personal documents & firearms. The goal is for our safe to be both large enough to contain these items but not unreasonably big. It would be poor design if we make our digital safe too small to fit a variety of personal items. Furthermore, we want our digital safe to be light enough for a user to carry if they want to move it from one location to another. Another aspect of the size constraint is making sure that the components do not take up too much of the safe's storage space.

4.10 Budget Constraint

One of the design constraints of our project is the estimated budget of our project. Since we are not a sponsored project, we will pay for project materials ourselves. Based on our

estimated Bill of Materials the total cost is around \$191 dollars. We have decided to split the cost evenly between all team members, but it still means managing the costs of the items we purchase to keep the total price under \$200. This means we need to prioritize choosing products that are cost effective and meet our budget requirements. One example is we chose birch plywood instead of metal because it is more expensive and harder to work with. We need to carefully choose the quantity of each product and consider how products sold in bulk or multiples will affect our budget. Our current estimated budget meets our price range, but this may change in the future.

4.11 Environmental Factors Constraint

One important design constraint to consider for our project is environmental factors. This includes temperature sensitivity and outside conditions. We need to consider how the safe should be stored in a safe location and preferably where the temperature is stable and within operating conditions. The average operating temperature is around 40 to 85 degrees Celsius [125]. If the temperature is very high and exceeds this limit it could cause the safe to overheat and potentially affect its performance. Components like the Solenoid Lock may be temperature sensitive and could be affected by extreme temperatures. One thing to consider is choosing components that can withstand certain higher temperature ranges making the safe stronger and less prone to environmental circumstances. One of our stretch goals is to include a temperature sensor that can track the temperature of the safe, informing the user if it is out of range. This could help protect the safe by informing the owner of any dangerous conditions that could cause it to malfunction. Another environmental factor to consider is water or liquid that might harm any components or interfere with its functionality. It would be helpful to choose products that are waterproof. Another critical problem could be a power outage or main power supply failure [125]. For example, if there is a power outage or blackout where the owner lives this could affect the safe. To solve this problem, we plan to implement a battery backup system that will transfer the safe to battery mode in case the power is not working. This will make sure that the safe is still fully functioning in case of these types of situations.

4.12 Material Constraints

Another design constraint of our project is the choice of materials used to build the housing for the safe. As mentioned earlier, this safe is designed to store valuable items like emergency cash, personal documents, or firearms, making security a top priority. We considered three materials: plastic, wood, and metal.

Metal is the most secure option, but it presents challenges such as high cost and the need for specialized tools for cutting and assembly. Plastic is the second option; while it requires access to a 3D printer or a plastic slab along with tools to cut it, it is the least secure material. Lastly, wood offers a balance of security and accessibility all within our budget. Although it also requires similar tools as plastic for cutting, wood is generally more secure, and durable than plastic and easier to obtain and implement than metal. Additionally, wood can offer a more aesthetically pleasing finish, enhancing the user experience. Since we are using wood only for the prototype, we chose birch plywood to build our smart safe.

4.13 Power Constraints

An additional design constraint for our project is power consumption, given the variety of components involved. Our power constraints are relatively minimal since the circuit is powered by a wall outlet and a backup battery system in place. However, we must continually monitor the battery status since all components use a lot of continuous power. In the event of a power outage or if the batteries run empty, the solenoid will unlock, disabling the motion sensor, and preventing the ESP32 from sending notifications. This scenario would compromise the safety features of the smart safe.

Chapter 5: Comparison of ChatGPT with other Similar Platforms

We have ChatGPT as an AI platform tool used for aiding us in research and guidance for our project. ChatGPT has been a key tool for all members in our team. Some of the benefits of ChatGPT is that it provides information on topics that might be hard to find, and complex ideas that might be difficult to understand. It is also helpful for brainstorming and providing useful ideas. Our team felt that ChatGPT helped provide guidance when choosing what products or technologies to compare and which ones would be better for our project. It was also beneficial for documentation and proof-reading our writing.

Some of the disadvantages of ChatGPT is that it can easily depend heavily on this platform for information and ideas instead of using other resources equally. In addition, it may not be able to provide real-time information and the latest updates. ChatGPT may not be 100% accurate and can sometimes provide outdated information which is why it is important to cross reference with more reliable sources. Overall, ChatGPT was a key contributor to our paper by assisting us in research, giving insight into choosing the right components, and helping us in drafting our writing.

Below we will be providing 3-4 examples to show how ChatGPT has benefited our learning experience in Senior Design:

Case Study 1: Choosing the Email Protocol: what are 3 different email protocols I could use to discuss for my paper?

Three common email protocols you can discuss for your paper are:

1. Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP): Primarily used for sending emails. It handles outgoing mail and is responsible for the communication between servers to transfer messages across networks. SMTP is widely used alongside IMAP and POP for complete email functionality.

2. Post Office Protocol 3 (POP3): Used for retrieving emails from a mail server. POP3 downloads emails to the local device and often deletes them from the server afterward, making it useful when you want to access emails offline, but less suitable for accessing mail across multiple devices.
3. Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP): Allows users to access and manage their email directly on the mail server without downloading it. IMAP is ideal for users who need to access their emails from multiple devices, as messages remain on the server until explicitly deleted.

These protocols serve different functions in the email communication process and offer different advantages, depending on the user's needs and setup [147].

Using ChatGPT helped us understand 3 different types of Email Protocols we could discuss for our project. It summarized the 3 different protocols and the purpose of each of them. This will help us decide which ones are better for our project and a summary that would provide information we could use when comparing them. One limitation is that it doesn't provide specific examples and how it works exactly which is something we would need to prompt or research on our own.

Case 2: do you think SMTP is best for this task, or is IMAP or POP better?

For your **Smart Safe project**, where you want to **send email notifications** to users about events like failed access attempts, the best protocol to use would be **SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)**. Here's why:

Comparison of SMTP, IMAP, and POP for Your Task:

1. **SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol):**
 - **Purpose:** SMTP is specifically designed for **sending emails** from one server to another or from a client to a server.
 - **Best Use Case:** Sending notifications, alerts, and any outbound communication.
 - **Why it's best for your project:** Since the Smart Safe needs to **send email notifications** to users (like access alerts, lock/unlock status), SMTP is the protocol designed for sending emails to recipients. It directly supports the task of transmitting outgoing messages.
 - **Functionality:** Once the event (e.g., failed access) occurs, your system composes an email and uses SMTP to deliver it to the user's email inbox.
 - **Security:** SMTP supports secure communication via **TLS/SSL** to ensure your data is encrypted.
2. **Conclusion:** SMTP is designed to **send** emails, so it's the most appropriate for this task.
3. **IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol):**
 - **Purpose:** IMAP is for **receiving and managing emails** on a mail server.

- **Best Use Case:** Reading, organizing, and synchronizing emails across multiple devices.
 - **Why it's not ideal for your project:** IMAP is focused on **retrieving emails** from an inbox, which isn't the primary function your Smart Safe needs. You don't need to retrieve emails from a server; you just need to send them.
4. **Conclusion:** IMAP is not suited for sending notifications, so it's unnecessary for your current requirements.
 5. **POP (Post Office Protocol):**
 - **Purpose:** POP is also for **retrieving emails** from a mail server, but it usually downloads the messages and removes them from the server.
 - **Best Use Case:** Retrieving emails in environments where you don't need to access emails from multiple devices or keep emails stored on the server.
 - **Why it's not ideal for your project:** Similar to IMAP, POP is about **receiving** emails, which isn't your goal.
 6. **Conclusion:** POP is not relevant to your project because you're focused on **sending notifications**.

Summary:

- **SMTP** is the right protocol for your task, as it's specifically designed for **sending emails** (like notifications and alerts) from your Smart Safe to the user's email inbox.
- **IMAP** and **POP** are for retrieving emails, which is not required in this context, as your system doesn't need to access or manage an inbox—just send outbound emails.

So, for sending out alerts and notifications from your safe, **SMTP** is the best choice [147].

This example of using ChatGPT to determine which Email Protocol can be used for email notifications in our project shows how ChatGPT can provide insightful information including the purpose, Best Use Case, and Features of each protocol. It explains that IMAP and POP are used for retrieving emails and not for sending emails. It also provides a summary that explains why SMTP protocol is best designed for our project. One limitation is that it does not provide any examples or additional information about how it works or how it will be implemented into our project which requires additional research on our part. Even though ChatGPT gives us the best option, we should also consider additional outside factors that could impact this decision.

Case 3: What are all the pros and cons of using a microcontroller versus using a microprocessor for an embedded system?

Here's a comprehensive list of the pros and cons of using a microcontroller versus a microprocessor in embedded systems:

Microcontroller

Pros:

1. **Integration:**
 - Combines CPU, memory (RAM and flash), and peripherals (timers, ADCs, I/O ports) in one chip, reducing board space and component count.
2. **Cost-Effective:**
 - Generally lower cost due to reduced components and manufacturing complexity, making them suitable for budget-sensitive projects.
3. **Low Power Consumption:**
 - Designed for energy efficiency, ideal for battery-powered and low-power applications.
4. **Ease of Use:**
 - Simpler architecture and often designed for specific tasks, making programming and implementation straightforward.
5. **Real-Time Performance:**
 - Provides predictable timing and interrupts, which is critical for real-time applications.
6. **Development Tools:**
 - Many have user-friendly development environments and extensive community support, facilitating easier prototyping and debugging.
7. **Robustness:**
 - Typically, more resilient in environments with noise or electrical disturbances, which is beneficial for industrial applications.

Cons:

1. **Limited Processing Power:**
 - Generally lower clock speeds and performance capabilities compared to microprocessors, which can limit their use in complex applications.
2. **Memory Constraints:**
 - Limited RAM and flash memory may restrict the size and complexity of applications.
3. **Less Flexibility:**
 - Not as adaptable for varying application needs compared to more modular systems like those using microprocessors.
4. **Peripheral Limitations:**
 - Integrated peripherals may not meet all application requirements, leading to additional external components.
5. **Development Limitations:**
 - Less suited for high-level operating systems or multitasking environments.

Microprocessor

Pros:

1. **High Performance:**
 - Generally, offers superior processing power, suitable for demanding applications and complex calculations.
2. **Scalability:**
 - Can support larger and more complex software systems, making them ideal for advanced applications.
3. **Flexible Memory Options:**
 - Supports extensive external memory configurations, allowing for larger applications and data processing.
4. **Advanced Operating Systems:**
 - Capable of running sophisticated operating systems (like Linux or Windows), facilitating rich user interfaces and multitasking.
5. **Modular Architecture:**
 - More modular design allows for the addition of various components as needed, providing greater flexibility.
6. **High Clock Speeds:**
 - Generally, operates at higher clock frequencies, improving performance for demanding tasks.

Cons:

1. **Higher Cost:**
 - More expensive due to complexity, additional components, and manufacturing costs.
2. **Increased Power Consumption:**
 - Typically consumes more power, which may not be suitable for portable or battery-operated applications.
3. **Larger Physical Size:**
 - Requires more board space and additional components, complicating design and increasing footprint.
4. **Complex Design:**
 - More complex architecture can lead to longer development times and a steeper learning curve for developers.
5. **Peripheral Requirements:**
 - Requires external components for basic functions, increasing the overall system complexity and cost.

Choosing between a microcontroller and a microprocessor depends on the specific requirements of the application. Microcontrollers are ideal for low-power, cost-sensitive, and simpler applications, while microprocessors are better suited for high-performance, complex tasks requiring flexibility and advanced functionalities [147].

This example of using ChatGPT reaffirmed our decision to choose a microcontroller for our project instead of a microprocessor. Since our Smart Safe will be battery operated, having low power consumption is an important thing to shoot for. In addition, our safe doesn't require the use of an operating system nor does it need to have an incredibly high clock speed to carry out its various functions.

Case 4: What are 3 types of relays should I use to discuss for my project report?

For your project report, consider discussing the following three types of relays:

1. **Electromechanical Relays (EMR)**: These relays use an electromagnetic coil to mechanically operate a switch. They are commonly used for switching applications in power systems due to their robustness and simplicity.
2. **Solid State Relays (SSR)**: SSRs use semiconductor devices to perform the switching action without moving parts. They are known for their fast-switching times, high reliability, and ability to handle high voltages and currents, making them suitable for various applications, including industrial automation.
3. **Reed Relays**: These relays consist of a pair of metal reeds sealed in a glass tube. When an electromagnetic field is applied, the reeds come into contact, allowing current to flow. Reed relays are valued for their compact size, low power consumption, and fast response times, often used in low-voltage applications.

Each type has its advantages and specific use cases, making them important for various engineering applications.

Using ChatGPT helped us explore three types of relays relevant to our project. It provided a summary of their underlying technology, key characteristics, and suitable. The benefits of using ChatGPT is the speed, accessibility, and the amount of detail it can provide. Even if the response is short, you can request for further elaboration, and it's available whenever you need it.

However, the challenges of using ChatGPT is that the information provided is not always accurate, it doesn't cite sources, and there are privacy concerns. The chance of having inaccurate information can be inconvenience, as it requires additional effort to verify the answers without quick access to resources. Users may also worry about potential sharing of sensitive information since conversations may not be completely private.

Additionally, ChatGPT has limitations, such as a lack of emotional insight, difficulty understanding complex contexts, and sensitivity to how questions are phrased. The lack of emotion and not being able to understand complex contexts can provide short or inaccurate responses. While how you phrase a question can also impact the answers in many different ways [147].

Chapter 10 Administrative Content

Smart Safe operates with a flexible budget and is self-funded without external sponsorship. One of our primary goals is to keep costs as minimal as possible for each group member, thereby making the project accessible and manageable for everyone involved.

Table 10.1 outlines the estimated costs for the key components essential to our project. These estimates are based on current prices and anticipated expenses, but it is important to note that they are subject to change. Variations in costs may arise due to several factors, including the size and specifications of the printed circuit board (PCB), which can significantly impact the overall material costs. Additionally, shipping expenses can fluctuate depending on the supplier and chosen shipping method, further influencing the final budget.

The table also provides a comprehensive overview of the materials required for the construction of Smart Safe, detailing both the quantities of items needed and the final price of each item. It also accounts for items sold in bulk, which impacts the overall cost. Ultimately, the total cost exceeds our budget because we opted for higher-quality and more robust materials than initially planned.

The safe will be constructed from birch plywood rather than metal to manage expenses and simplify the installation process. Plywood offers a cost-efficient and user-friendly alternative to metal, which can be more complex and expensive. It is important to note that not all construction items are listed in the table; for instance, the handle is integrated into the plywood measurements for the safe. Additionally, items such as resistors are not included in the material list because they will be provided by the lab at UCF.

Table 31: Bill of Materials [10]

Item	Quantity	Estimated Cost	Cost	Total
MCU	1	\$20	\$15.99	\$15.99
Display	1	\$18	\$21.90	\$21.90
Keypad	1	\$3	\$8.99	\$8.99
Fingerprint Sensor	1	\$24	\$19.36	\$19.36
Ultrasonic Sensor	1	\$6	\$6.99	\$6.99
Solenoid Lock	1	\$13	\$6.99	\$6.99
LED	1	\$0.30	\$9.99	\$9.99
Buzzer	1	\$6	\$7.99	\$7.99
Voltage Regulator	1	\$5	\$5.99	\$5.99
Relay		\$3	\$3.99	\$3.99
DC Power Connector	1	\$4	\$6.99	\$6.99
Power Supply Adapter	1	\$8	\$9.99	\$9.99
Battery	1	\$6	\$9.49	\$9.49
Battery Connector	1	\$3	\$3.79	\$3.79
Birch Plywood	6	\$5	\$5.48	\$32.88
Hinges	2	\$4	\$5.99	\$5.99
PCB Board (with shipping)	5	\$3	\$2.00	\$19.80
Total		\$131.30		\$197.11

Table 32: Project Timeline

Task	Start Date	Anticipated End Date	Duration
Group Recruitment	07/09/2024	08/18/2024	6 weeks
Project Idea Brainstorming	07/09/2024	08/16/2024	6 weeks
Project Scope Finalized	07/09/2024	08/18/2024	6 weeks
Individual Research	07/09/2024	09/05/2024	9 weeks
Divide and Conquer Report	08/25/2024	09/06/2024	2 weeks
Divide and Conquer Meeting	09/10/2024	09/10/2024	30 minutes
Divide and Conquer Revision	09/10/2024	09/27/2024	2 weeks
Upload DC Report on Website	09/10/2024	9/27/2024	2 weeks
Email DC Report to Committee	09/10/2024	9/27/2024	2 weeks
60 Page Milestone	09/27/2024	10/25/2024	4 weeks
60 Page Report Group Meeting	10/28-30/2024	10/28-30/2024	30 minutes
Upload Revised 60 Page Report	10/30/2024	11/08/2024	2 weeks
120 Page Milestone	10/25/2024	11/22/2024	5 weeks
Individual System Design	09/06/2024	10/03/2024	4 weeks
Individual System Testing	10/04/2024	10/29/2024	4 weeks
Breadboard Prototyping	10/30/2024	11/17/2024	4weeks
PCB Designing	11/24/2024	12/09/2024	3 weeks
Final Report	11/22/2024	11/26/2024	1 week
Upload Revised Final Report	11/26/2024	12/05/2024	1 week

Table 33: Senior Design 2 Project Milestones

Task	Start Date	Anticipated End Date	Duration
PCB Ordering	12/10/2024	01/06/2025	3 weeks
PCB Assembly	01/07/2025	01/21/2025	2 weeks
PCB Testing	01/22/2025	02/05/2025	2 weeks
System Integration/Testing	02/06/2025	03/06/2025	4 weeks
Practice Project Demo	03/10/2025	03/24/2025	2 weeks
Finalize Documentation	03/25/2025	04/08/2025	2 weeks
Practice Final Presentation	04/10/2025	04/18/2025	1 week
Final Presentation	TBD	TBD	TBD

The team for Smart Safe was formed and began brainstorming ideas over the summer in preparation for Senior Design 1. During this period, we explored various concepts and solutions to build a solid foundation for our project.

Table 10.2 outlines the progress we've made so far and our plans for the remainder of the semester. Table 10.3S outlines our anticipated milestones and objectives for each month leading up to the end of Senior Design 2. Both tables offer a preliminary timeline and are subject to adjustment based on ongoing developments, although tasks with established deadlines will remain fixed.

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Interface • Peripheral Features -Two 8-bit Timer/Counters with Separate Prescaler and Compare Mode -Four 16-bit Timer/Counter with Separate Prescaler, Compare-and Capture Mode -Real Time Counter with Separate Oscillator -Four 8-bit PWM Channels - Six/Twelve PWM Channels with Programmable Resolution from 2 to) -Master/Slave SPI Serial Interface -Byte Oriented 2-wire Serial Interface -Programmable Watchdog Timer with Separate On-chip Oscillator -On-chip Analog Comparator -Interrupt and Wake-up on Pin Change • Special Microcontroller Features -Power-on Reset and Programmable Brown-out Detection -Internal Calibrated Oscillator -External and Internal Interrupt Sources -Six Sleep Modes: Idle, ADC Noise Reduction, Power-save, Power-down, Standby, and Extended Standby.” Available:

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