TO PREVENT HELMET THEFT AND WIRELESS MONITORING OF THE BIKE THROUGH ANDROID APPLICATION

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ABSTRACT

The use of helmet is compulsory for any bike driver for his safety. When one is going towards office or its destination, he carries the helmet, after parking the bike, person try to attach the strap of helmet lock often these helmets are stolen from the parking lot. A low cost anti theft scheme has been proposed based on microcontroller, GSM (Global system for Mobile communication) module and android application which will generate an alarm on account of any suspicious activity. Beside this, maintenance routine of the bike is continuously monitored by the system, important updates like engine oil condition, odometer reading and other useful data available in digital format is monitored for a headache free experience. All the data will be stored in android application for future use. This feature has been demonstrated by a prototype model.

Keywords: Microcontroller, anti – theft, low cost, helmets, bikes, maintenance, android

1. INTRODUCTION

It is very frustrating and irritating when you return from a mall or party and found your helmet missing from your bike, some burglar had stolen it by cutting its strap. Your helmet lock is of no use at that moment. At some places there is provision for storing your helmets but at most places you have to carry it with yourself. We often see people carrying their helmets in their hand. We have following types of helmets available in the market Full face, Off-road / motocross, Modular or "flip-up", Open face or 3/4 helmet, Half helmet [1][2]. All these helmets are different in design and have different standards of security. But all of them have a common thing in them i.e a strap. A strap is used to tighten the helmet around the head, the strap is tied across the chin. The main objective is to develop a low cost technology for helmets to prevent them from theft and also to monitor any kind of suspicious activity around the bike and helmet. With the word suspicious activity it means that if someone tries to touch or try to move the helmet away from the bike an alarm will be set ON. There are two types of alarm in the system, first is the voice alarm to attract the security guard at the parking lot and other is a Short text message send to the owner of the bike with the help of a GSM [3] (Global System for mobile communication) module attached through android application . The purpose of attaching the GSM module is not only to send a short message to the owner, on account of suspicious activity. But GSM module is also used to monitor the health status of the bike and there by storing the data of the bike for future use. With the word 'wireless monitoring' it means that, the engine oil condition, battery health, engine health and service remainder of the bike is being monitored continuously by the system. On account of, detection any fault in the bike, it can be immediately notified to the owner by sending a short message on the mobile. As if the battery condition is not good, information regarding the battery is sent to the owner. In this system the entire condition of the bike is being monitored wirelessly. Other features like regular remainders on the service of the bike can also be

sent to the owner and data is stored in android android application for future purpose. A system is proposed using 8 bit microcontroller of AVR family (Atmel ATmega 16) [4], a GSM module with little modification in the design of the helmet.

2. SPECIFICATION OF THE SYSTEM AND WORKING

2.1 Theft protection

The main aim is to generate an alarm , when a suspicious activity is detected by the external environment. A microcontroller is fixed under the vehicle seat. The microcontroller is embedded on the PCB (Printed circuit board). The PCB draws a negligible amount of current, so the entire power for the circuit is taken by the battery of the bike. Inside the helmet core a electric wire is inserted through the strap making a loop such that wire goes throughout the whole core via the strap and after going through the core it comes out through that same strap. Special consideration is taken that no security feature of the helmet is hampered [5][6].
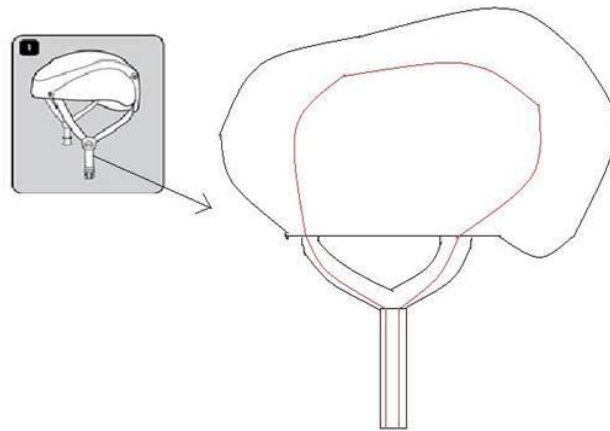

Fig 1: Modification in Helmet

See Fig 1, A Helmet with a strap is shown. Inside the strap a red color line depicts the electrical wire which is   Inserted inside the strap. Electrical wire after travelling through the core of the helmet it returns out of the same strap. This electrical wire is making an electrical loop. A connector is provided in the bike in which two pins of the microcontroller are connected. The strap will be inserted inside the connecter in such a manner that electrical conduction will take place between the wire embedded inside the strap and the two pins inside the connecter. A signal is sent from the microcontroller to the one of the pin of the connecter, which is then transmitted through the wire inside the helmet, along its strap, and then the signal after going through all around the helmet signal is received on the other pin of the connecter and reaches the microcontroller. The system when in an active state is continuously sending signals and those signals are also being received by the controller. But when someone cuts the strap the sent signal is lost and no signal is received then, the microcontroller will switch on a relay which will

drive a piezo speaker/horn [7]. Hence gaining attraction of security at the site of theft and will also activates the GSM module through android application which will send the message to the owner of the bike. The system actually works on connectivity principle, when the helmet is at proper place there is connectivity but when someone cut the strap down connectivity is lost, which could be sensed by the controller.

2.2 For the health status of the bike

In the former section, a scheme has been discussed which can be used to protect helmets from getting stolen. Now in this section, the monitoring of health status is discussed. As described earlier , health status means that the condition of bike at that moment of time. In a motor vehicle like various conditions need to be checked , conditions like engine oil condition, battery health, engine health and service remainder of the bike.

In most of the modern bike instead of an analogue meter to determine such conditions, a digital meter is employed. With the help of a

digital meter all such datais available in digital format, hence to send this data to the user is an easy task through the GSM module with the help of android application . The advantage of using such a system is that, one can easily access all the data regarding the health status of the bike without going to any mechanic. In the programming section certain threshold values are selected to check the engine oil condition, battery health and engine health, if the digital values of these variable exceeds a particular value of threshold, than the alert is sent to the user using the GSM module with android application else if the values are at innocuous levels (below the threshold level) then also data about health status is sent to the owner. The threshold values can be different for different bikes and can be set in the programming section after the consulting from the manufacturers of the bike.

The monitoring of health status with the help of GMS module will help fast moving city dwellers to have a check on their motor bikes with an ease. A tension free environment is created for the owners regarding their bikes after installing the above mentioned system.

3. HARDWARE USED

3.1 Power supply

First of all we have to design a constant 5V DC (Direct Current) supply to power our microcontroller, the main source of the power is taken from the bike battery itself as a bike battery if of 12 V, and hence it is easy to construct a standard 5V DC supply.

3.2 Microcontroller

"Atmel Atmega16 microcontroller"[4] is used for the proposed application. As the code is very small i.e. less than 1 KB, "Atmel ATiny"[8] series microcontroller are best for this application due to their small size and very less power consumption. But we used Atmega 16 microcontroller in the prototype to demonstrate the working.

3.3 Special modification

Some special modifications are required to be done in the design of helmet and bikes. A simple electrical wire is needed to be embedded inside the strap of helmet and in between the cushion and alloy of helmet as depicted in Fig.1 by red color. This small modification is required to be done by the helmet manufacturers to make it electronically anti-theft, just a simple electric wire needs to be embedded in it. Inside the bikes some modifications are required a socket (connecter) is to be provided in which we could easily insert the plastic part of strap in it , that connecter could be located on bike anywhere either under the seat or anywhere on dashboard which may not alter the beauty or style of bike, to be decided by bike designers.

3.4 Electronic Alarm

A relay switch and an electronic alarm [7] are needed, when the connectivity will be lost the controller will send signal to relay which will connect the horn to the battery of the bike.

3.5 GSM Module through android application

A GSM module is used to send message to the owner if any suspicious activity is detected and also is to monitor health status of the bike. GSM TTL UART [9] module is used in our prototype. It is built with Dual band GSM /GPRS (Global packet for radio services) engine sim-900, works on frequencies 900/1800 Mhz [9]. An android application is to be designed according to the user needs.

4. SOFTWARE/CODE

In this section, the software for the system is discussed. The software has to do two functions primarily , first is to check the condition of the helmet and other is to continuously monitor the health status of the bike and send updates to the owner if required. A basic flow of the software is shown in Fig 2.The code will run infinitely times, once it is started.
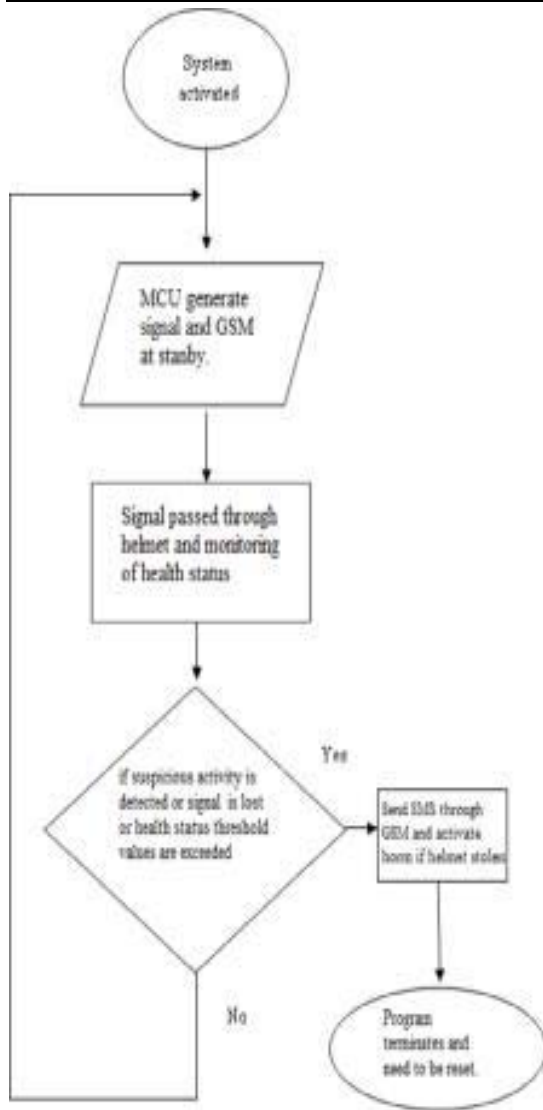
Fig 2. Basic Flow of Code

Firstly the system is activated. The MCU (Micro controller unit) starts generating the signal which is transmitted through the strap of the helmet via the socket, the socket is used to connect the helmet strap with the circuit of the bike. In the meantime the GMS module is also made in standby position. The health status of the bike is monitored continuously after regular interval of time. Threshold values for different conditions like engine oil condition, battery health and engine health is already stored inside the program which may vary from bike to bike, and should be set after consulting its manufacturer. On account of lost of signal or the threshold values are exceeded for the health, the GSM module through android application comes in active mode from standby mode. After coming in standby mode a short message is sent to the owner. The text message received by the owner will be of two formats. First format will be on account of helmet theft, the message will be as follows-

"Dear Owner

Suspicious activity detected on your vehicle no XXXX YYYY, your helmet security is at risk, please take immediate action."

Following text has two dynamic variables in it, first is the owner name which can be changed to the actual owner names when the system is being installed and secondly the vehicle number which can be changed to the actual vehicle registration number when the system is being installed. Inside the code an interrupt is made, on account of helmet theft not only GSM module will send a message to the owner but it will also put ON a electronic alarm. An electronic alarm will be a horn which will make noise as soon as the signal is lost, so it can attract security person on the site of bike and the burglar can be caught red handed. The second format will be as follows for the health status of the bike-

"Dear Owner

Your vehicle no XXXX YYYY, has problem in engine oil/engine health/battery health, please take immediate action else health of bike will be compromised."

Now the above message has 3 dynamic variables which are underlined also, first two variables are same as described in earlier message. The third one will select only one of the issue or may select all it depends on the actual problem occurred. In this way the owner is updated immediately if any fault is found in the bike.

The third format will be for service update of bike-"Dear Owner

Your vehicle no XXXX YYYY, service is due on DD/MM/YYYY."

The DD/MM/YYYY can be set in the system as per the requirements.

In this way the entire software of the system works infinitely if no suspicious activity is detected or the health status of the bike is compromised.

5. PROTOTYPE IMPLEMENTATION

The Prototype was developed using the AT mega 16.Manually an electrical wire was embedded inside the strap of the helmet. The strap of the helmet was connected to the connector mounted on the prototype board. The entire code was compiled in AVR Studio 5

[10]   and was burned on the microcontroller using the ISP (In circuit Programmer) burner [11] and A v r dude

[12]   Software. When the strap of the helmet was removed from the connector the horn started making noise and GSM module was activated. The GSM module through android application is sent successfully an alert message to the desired number. Hence the system worked successfully. On account of removal of helmet by cutting its strap the system will automatically detect the loss of helmet and will immediately make a noise. This noise will attract the Security guards on the site of theft. For the health status of the bike certain

Threshold values were set inside the system for different conditions. A keypad was interfaced with the system to enter the values below and above the threshold to replicate the actual bike system. Because in actual scenario the system of the bike will also feed the implemented system with certain digital values for different conditions. Which will be looked against the stored threshold values and appropriate action will be taken as per the written program. After entering value above threshold value for a particular condition the GSM module through android application sent the message to the owner for that condition only.

6. RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

The proposed system when implemented with a prototype worked successfully as mentioned in the prototype implementation. The entire system can also be used for monitoring the health status of the bike. This will act as a remainder to the owner regarding the condition of bike from time to time on periodic basis. The proposed up gradation in the next version of this system are as follows. A GSM module through android application in real time may also be used to track down the location of the bike on account of its theft. It can also be used for communication purpose, to get weather updates, to get the traffic updates of a particular location of an area . All this data can be used by the rider for a pleasant drive. The entire system is cost effective and very cheap as compared to any electronic lock system available in the market.

When asked for a review from a group of students regarding the system, they were very much excited to buy this technology for their bikes as it will less up their tension regarding the safety of the helmet and is also very cost effective.

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