Resense: Transparent Record and Replay of Sensor Data in the Internet of Things

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Abstract

Conducting repeatable and scalable experiments on Internet of Things (IoT) test beds requires (i) manual fine tuning with extensive A/B testing and (ii) edge case / rare event testing that leads to extremely long test durations.

Being able to replay sensor data on real test beds enables researchers to run repeatable experiments without these problems.

In this paper we make the following contributions:

1. We show how to transparently emulate sensors in order to record and replay sensor data.
2. We provide an easy to use software for setting up and executing IoT experiments involving heterogeneous sensors.
3. We demonstrate recording and replaying real world sensor data in the context of sports analytics on a set of Raspberry Pis.

Our proposed Resense framework allows for replaying sensor data using emulated sensors and provides an easy-to-use software for setting up and executing IoT experiments.

Resense Architecture

- Master/Slave approach to administrating nodes
- Users can control Resense through a Graphical User Interface
- Deployment of sensor data and configuration to edge nodes
- Replay and record data on demand

For external applications, it is transparent whether they read from physical or emulated sensors.

Experiment Dashboard

Resense’s UI is split into three main panels:

1. Control panel, shows list of experiments and sensors involved in the current configuration.
2. Monitoring panel, displays statuses of current recordings and experiments that are running.
3. Live view panel, shows time series data for sensor readings for currently running experiments.

Edge Node Internals

1. Resense Recorder reads values from a physical sensor.
2. The value is stored for later use in replays by the system.
3. Resense Replay reads the values stored by the Recorder.
4. Resense Replay writes the values to emulated sensors that are allocated in kernel memory.
5. External applications can still read from both, physical and emulated sensors, since they access them the same way.

Open Source Repository

Resense open source repository: https://github.com/TU-Berlin-DIMA/resense

An example configuration that portrays part of a sensor testbed setup that replays data from a football match.