



# IOT DATA HACKATHON 2024



A Casebook of Winning Solutions

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# **About the IOT Data Hackathon**

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the Internet of Things (IoT) has emerged as a powerful force, generating an abundance of data from sensors, devices and systems. This wealth of data holds immense potential to revolutionize industries, optimize processes, and drive business growth. The IOT Data Hackathon serves as a platform to bring together young innovators, problem-solvers and data enthusiasts in Hong Kong to harness the power of IoT data for building impactful solutions, and tackling real-world business challenges in the themes of "Smart City" and "Smart Supply Chain".

More than 80 teams of local tertiary students and business professionals joined the hackathon. After a rigorous initial proposal screening process, 22 teams — 12 from the Student Stream and 10 from the Professional Stream — emerged as finalists to participate in the final 2-day hackathon, where they worked together to develop and pitch their innovative solutions to a judging panel of 14 industry experts. A dedicated group of 22 mentors, consisting of industry professionals and subject matter experts, provided valuable guidance and mentorship to the finalists throughout their hackathon journey.

In total, 10 awards are granted to 8 teams across the Student and Professional Streams, recognizing their outstanding achievements and creativity. The winning solutions demonstrated the innovative use of IoT & alternative data, and cutting-edge technologies to transform businesses, and shape a more sustainable future.







# Student Stream - CHAMPION

# CHML

# Renovation of In-Store Inventory System

# THE CHALLENGE

PARKnSHOP, a prominent industry player, is looking for solutions to address out-of-stock issues. Two problems have been identified:

- 1. Demand forecasting has greatly benefited inventory management in many industries. However, accurately predicting inventory levels during unexpected events like sudden typhoon hits, remains a challenge.
- 2. The lack of effective translation between stock availability in the storeroom and replenished shelves by store staff leads to customer frustration and loss of potential buyers. Customers may assume products are sold out and leave for other supermarkets, resulting in a negative brand image and diminished customer loyalty over time.

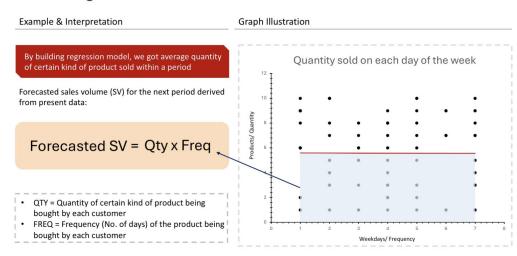
# THE SOLUTION

The solution includes a new forecast system "Forecast X" and a new inventory system "SmartStock".

### Forecast X

To improve inventory planning in supermarkets, a precise forecast model called LightGBM (LGBM) is implemented. This model offers increased speed, efficient handling of high-dimensional datasets, and robustness to outliers. LGBM's unique columnar structure allows for quick processing and adaptability with different parameters. Incorporating variables like "on promotion" improves

# LBGM - Regression Model

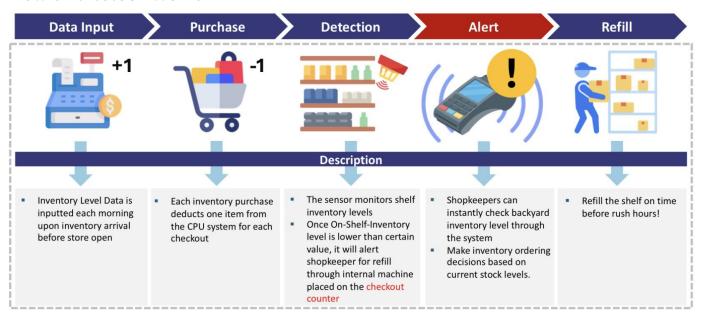


forecast accuracy by considering factors like increased sales during promotions and vice versa. The flexibility of the model's architecture extends to adjusting outputs for different variables like "extreme weather conditions," enhancing inventory planning accuracy by addressing various influencing factors on consumer behavior.

# **SmartStock**

The "SmartStock" system intends to address out-of-stock issues in PARKnSHOP stores by monitoring inventory levels. Inventory data is input into the system every morning, and items are deducted as customers make purchases for accurate tracking of stock levels. Sensors on shelves continuously monitor inventory levels and trigger alerts when stock falls below a predefined threshold, which is determined by the "Al-driven Stock Refill System" using Dynamic Rate Adjustment and Historical Data Analysis. The system alerts shopkeepers to refill shelves promptly, prevents complete stockouts, improving operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.

# **How SmartStock Works?**



# **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

### Forecast X

- Enhance customer experience and satisfaction through improved product availability, leading to improved customer retention and higher profitability
- Streamline the supply chain and enhance operational efficiency
- The LGBM-based demand forecaster offers insights and analytics for data-driven decision-making, capturing market opportunities and mitigates risks
- Align with the Zero Waste movement by accurately predicting demand to minimize excess inventory, and reduce waste and associated carbon emissions throughout the product lifecycle

# SmartStock:

- Leverage advanced predictive analytics to help businesses have the right products available at the right time
- Real-time data enables businesses to collaborate with suppliers in real-time, enhancing supply chain efficiency
- · Avoid excessive purchasing, reduce pressure on suppliers, and minimize potential labour exploitation
- Promote responsible resource allocation

# THE FUTURE

The integration of AI in various sectors will bring breakthroughs in business models. Technology enables precise data collection and analysis of large datasets, while AI and quantum computers minimise uncertainty by providing accurate predictions.

The vision is to promote widespread use of AI in the consumer retail industry, benefiting both consumers and businesses. The project's next phase aims to refine product market fit and enhance key functionalities for ensure seamless implementation. Scalability and flexibility are important as more stores adopt the system to meet evolving demand. Future efforts will focus on accommodating growing data volume and adapting to changing business needs.

# Student Stream - 1st RUNNER UP

# **Roomates**

**Smart Charge** 

# THE CHALLENGE

Property managers struggle with meeting the growing demand of electric vehicle (EV) charging while enhancing profitability. EV users face difficulties in finding affordable, convenient, and reliable charging spots amidst crowded parking lots. The main issues include underutilized charging stations, misuse, and imbalanced AC and DC chargers.

# THE SOLUTION

A comprehensive solution has been developed to optimizes charging station utilization, prevents misuse, and strategically balances AC and DC chargers.

# **Dynamic Pricing Strategy**

- Allow businesses to adjust prices in real-time based on market conditions and demand
- Use algorithms and data to continuously monitor and analyze factors like supply & demand, competitor prices, consumer behavior, and external events to determine optimal prices
- · Maximize occupancy by redistributing usage through price adjustments
- By analyzing EV charging station data from the Environmental Protection Department, it can build a heat map showing demand at each charging points
- Lowering prices at stations with low demand can increase usage, and vice versa
- Further user behavior analysis is needed to recommend charging stations based on individual values

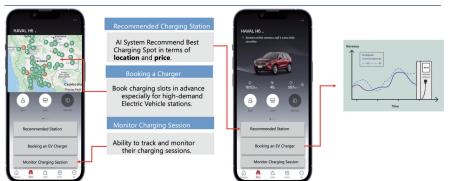
# **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

- Property managers benefit from efficient charging station management, reduced manpower, and increased profitability
- EV users experience affordability, convenience, and reliability with features like real-time availability checks, reservation systems, and personalized recommendations
- Secure authentication and flexible billing options minimise misuse cases
- Support zero vehicular emissions, sustainability, and environmental stewardship

# THE FUTURE

Smart Charge offers scalable EV charging infrastructure with flexible billing options, advanced monitoring, and data-driven insights. Integration with smart grids and renewable energy sources aligns with sustainability goals and positions Smart Charge as an eco-friendly solution. It opens doors for partnerships and market expansion, supporting the evolution of EV charging for a greener future.

App Recommendations from EV Charger App



# Student Stream - 2nd RUNNER UP & Smart IoT Solutions Award for EV Charging TEAM CITYU

SparkLink

# THE CHALLENGE

Hong Kong is facing significant challenges due to a lack of charging infrastructure for electric vehicle (EV) owners. This scarcity causes long queues and difficulties in finding available chargers, creating barriers for both EV owners and parking lot managers.

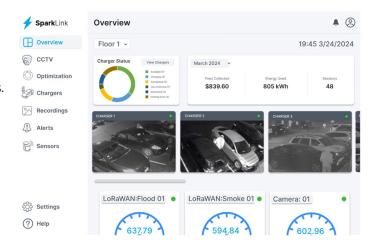
# THE SOLUTION

SparkLink is an innovative application that simplifies EV charger management in car parks, aiming to enhance charger accessibility and parking efficiency with the following features:

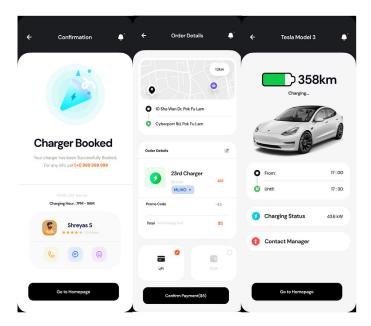
- Vehicle Classification: uses a RestNet-18 deep learning model to accurately classify EVs and non-EVs
- Predictive Vacancy Modelling: predicts parking slot availability based on customer behaviour data and environmental factors such as rainfall
- Intelligent Management System: employs sensors to provide real-time updates on charger occupancy and environmental conditions
- User-centric Interface: the app simplifies user interactions, offers real-time information and a streamlined experience

# **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

This Al-powered system benefits all stakeholders. EV drivers experience improved convenience as they spend less time waiting and easily locate available chargers. Parking lot managers get access to a user-friendly control panel for better traffic management. It enhances customer satisfaction, potentially boosts sales effortlessly. The data gathered assists in understanding client needs and customising parking facilities accordingly.



# Web UI



# **Mobile UI**



### THE FUTURE

SparkLink's versatility allows for scalability and collaboration with EV manufacturers, utilities, and government agencies. Its adaptability to diverse environments, from shopping centers to airports, creates opportunities for partnerships with car manufacturers and local governments. Addressing the current EV infrastructure concerns in Hong Kong, SparkLink hopes to pave the way for a sustainable urban transport network, offering significant business and societal benefits in the transition to electric mobility.

# Professional team - CHAMPION

# **TriTerra Technology Limited**

Car Park Load Shifting Charging System

# THE CHALLENGE

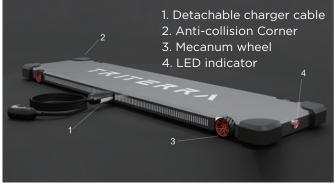
The worldwide adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) is on the rise. However, the limited number of charging stations hinders their expansion. Installing additional chargers in existing car parks can be expensive or impractical. Misuse of chargers, such as non-electric vehicles parking in EV spots or unauthorized charging, further complicates the situation. Resolving these issues is essential to maximize the efficiency of charging infrastructure and encourage widespread EV adoption.

# THE SOLUTION

The TriTerra team have developed the **M**obile **E**lectric **C**ar **C**harging **S**ystem (MECCS), which features a movable charger to address the issue of non-electric vehicles occupying charging spaces. The charger can be removed and relocated once charging is complete.

The MECCS consists of hardware, software, and models. The hardware includes mobile chargers and accessories like remote, gateway and beacon devices. The charger's design prioritizes functionality and safety, with features such as a detachable cable, anti-collision corners, and mecanum wheels for easy maneuverability.





The software comprises a backend application for handling charger data and a user-friendly dashboard for car park management staff to efficiently monitor and manage the chargers. The system also includes a mobile application for car park users to book chargers and receive notifications.

A model will be trained to provide insights on staff duty arrangement and charging speed optimization. Real-time traffic data and various parameters such as weather, booking status will be considered to determine the significance level of the chargers and guide prioritization. Continuous evaluation and refinement of the model's performance will be carried out to enhance accuracy and reliability.



# **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

The MECCS solution is a breakthrough that addresses the limitations of power supply, space, and the number of stationary chargers in car parks, which are the challenges faced by most car parks in Hong Kong, and often lead to frustration among EV drivers.

### **Benefits:**

- Potential charging capacity increased by up to 60%
- · Possibility to create a new revenue model
- · VIP reservation income
- Estimated annual interest rate of 39.42%
- Estimated Return on Investment (ROI): 500%
- Enhanced customer experience and satisfaction
- · Increased business traffic from EV drivers and their families
- Utilization of EV charging data for potential point redemptions
- Building a premium image

# THE FUTURE

# **Outdoor charging**

Charging electric vehicles outdoors is challenging due to complex fixed charger installations. Portable chargers offer a solution by allowing indoor charging and subsequent outdoor use. For this purpose, durable and waterproof chargers are essential to withstand outdoor conditions.

# **Rental service**

The solution can provide additional societal benefits. Pre-charged portable charger can be rented to various parties in need, including disaster rescue teams, engineering projects, areas expecting high population density during special events, and stranded EVs on the road.

# Professional Stream – 1st RUNNER UP & Smart IoT Solutions Award for EV Charging

# Reunion

**Smart Plug** 

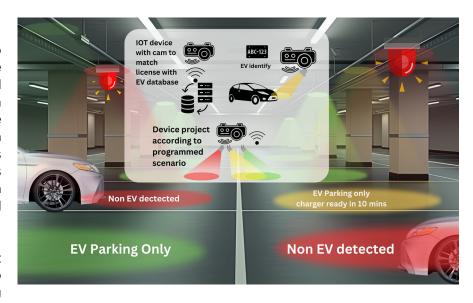
# THE CHALLENGE

The electric vehicle (EV) industry is facing the challenge of accommodating the growing number of electric cars, surpassing the capacity of current facilities. Installing charging stations for each parking space is costly, and there is a manpower shortage to monitor parking areas effectively.

# THE SOLUTION

Reunion proposed a solution to reorganize parking lots to allocate EVs to charging spaces and non-EVs to others. This system utilises cameras to capture license plate numbers, which are then used to update the government's EV database for identification. EVs can access charging areas through unfolding barriers or illuminated green lights.

The solution incorporates "smart plug" technology, enabling users to effortlessly plug vehicle charging



cables into adapters upon entering the car park. Inner-adapter robots then connect to the charging terminals along the track. Once charging is complete, the robots automatically disconnect and move to the next charging point, optimizing parking usage without the need for fines to enforce prompt vacating of charging areas, enhancing the overall customer experience.

### **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

The solution presents considerable business opportunity by offering the installation and maintenance of IoT devices, EV car park development and management services, along with "smart plug" adapters and associated charging infrastructure. It not only addresses infrastructure challenges, but also capitalizes on the growing demand for EV solutions to enable revenue generation.

From a social impact perspective, the solution promotes sustainable transportation and reduces carbon emissions. Automated systems optimize parking space efficiency and provide convenient charging solutions for EV owners.

# THE FUTURE

The solution leverages IoT technology to revolutionize EV infrastructure, enhance charging experience, promote EV adoption, and pave the way for a more sustainable future. Positioned for scalability and continuous development, this solution is poised to shape the future of EV infrastructure and management.

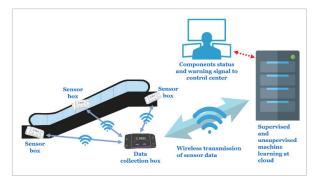
# Professional Stream - 2nd RUNNER UP

# **DevAdventurers**

All-In-One Monitoring & Predictive Maintenance Platform

# THE CHALLENGE

Hong Kong's MTR facilitates over 10 million passenger journeys daily, unexpected downtime of lifts and escalators poses challenges, particularly for passengers with mobility issues or heavy goods. Delays, crowding, and safety

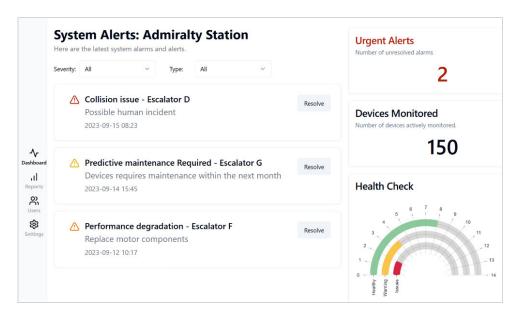


concerns arise, with escalator-related deaths not uncommon. The current bi-weekly manual maintenance process, inspecting numerous components across thousands of lifts and 1200 escalators, is costly, time-consuming, and inefficient.

# THE SOLUTION

Leveraging MTR's IoT and smart-sensor technology, the team extracts useful insights from data to build an all-in-one monitoring and management platform.

Vibration sensors attached to escalators send real-time data via WiFi to cloud servers, where heuristics and Machine Learning algorithms identify passenger emergencies and escalator maintenance needs. By monitoring vibration trends and detecting shifts in



baseline vibration, specific component wear and tear can be identified. Three-dimensional inspection locates specific issues like misalignment or imbalance.

Real-time alerts and insights are displayed on a dashboard, providing asset health status (Red-Amber-Green) and highlighting upcoming maintenance needs. This dashboard can integrate various datasets for comprehensive asset monitoring and predictive maintenance.

### **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

- · Reduction in maintenance costs
- Reduction in cost of failure and frequency of failure
- Facilitation of remote diagnosis, and support a lower frequency of routine maintenance
- Better management of manpower and the need for spare components
- Resources can be allocated just-in-time, instead of just in case
- Improved passenger safety and greater escalator uptime

# THE FUTURE

The scalable SaaS product offers customisable smart asset management solutions. The vision is to create an all-in-one building management product powered by a library of predictive machine learning models. As a capital-light SaaS, it can be tailored to different situations and offers modular pricing.

# **Best ESG Achievement Award**

# **CECAS**

AIOT Lift & Escalator Maintenance System

# THE CHALLENGE

Lift and escalator operators encounter a range of challenges, such as ensuring safety, complying regulatory requirements, managing maintenance expenses, minimizing facility downtime, and supporting ESG goals.

# THE SOLUTION

The proposed solution addresses challenges with the following features:

• Abnormity
Detection with AI:
utilizes AI-powered
risk prediction
systems to analyze
real-time equipment
condition data,
including vibration
readings, enabling
early detection
of abnormalities,
addressing minor



issues proactively before they become critical.

- **Compliance Readiness**: provides a digital logbook, query system, and reporting tools to facilitate compliance requirements, saving time during audits and examinations.
- **Cost-Optimized Schedule**: a scheduling engine that calculates maintenance schedules based on factors and analysis by station managers, maintenance teams and senior management.
- **Data Visualization**: dashboard visualizes equipment status across selected stations for easy monitoring and analysis by station managers, maintenance teams and senior management.

# **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

The system enables real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, optimised schedules and improved efficiency. Maintenance engineers benefit from proactive maintenance and streamlined workflows, management gains cost savings and improved asset management, and passengers experience enhanced safety, convenience & reduced downtime. It helps track the carbon footprint of maintenance, demonstrating sustainability commitment and effective governance.

# THE FUTURE

To maximize future business potential, essential steps include prototype development, support from incubators, investors & early adopters, product refinement via MVP approach, sector adaptability, promotion through exhibitions & competitions, patent protection, and ISO certification to safeguard

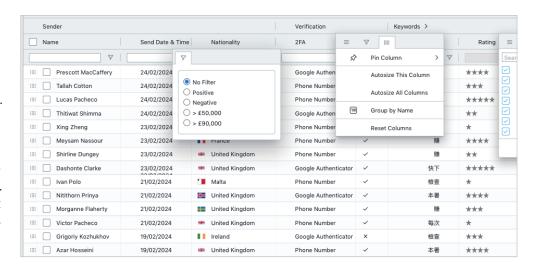
# Innovator of Secure by Design

# **RightPick Technology Limited**

Cybersecurity Solution

# THE CHALLENGE

In the digital age, rising cyber threats present significant challenges to individuals and organisations. Sophisticated viruses, malware, data privacy breaches, and phishing attacks endanger sensitive information and systems. The demand for robust cybersecurity solutions is crucial to combat these evolving threats effectively.



### THE SOLUTION

The proposed solution is a two-part approach that combines advanced technologies to provide robust protection against cyber threats.

- The first part focuses on virus/malware detection, data privacy protection, and access & device protection. By employing advanced algorithms and machine learning, we proactively identify threats. Real-time scanning and behavioral analysis neutralise malicious software, while encryption, access controls and secure storage safeguard sensitive data. Multi-factor authentication, secure remote access and device tracking enhance system security.
- The second part includes a self-trained AI model for anti-phishing. Leveraging
  machine learning algorithms, the AI model is trained to analyse email subject
  lines, content, and embedded images to detect potential phishing attempts.
  Alerts users on suspicious emails proactively, reducing the risk of falling victim
  to phishing attacks.

# **BENEFITS & IMPACT**

- Enhances protection against viruses, malware, and data breaches, safeguarding sensitive information, ensuring system integrity & business continuity, and fostering customer trust.
- Enables users to identify and avoid threats, mitigating financial and reputational risks.
- Improves cybersecurity practices by raising awareness, aiding individuals and organisations in building resilience, and promoting a safer digital environment for responsible online behavior.

# THE FUTURE

The solution aims to stay at the forefront of cybersecurity innovation by continuously improving the algorithms and incorporating cutting-edge technologies. Future plans include expanding capabilities to address emerging threats, integrating with cloud-based platforms, and collaborating with industry leaders and experts to refine the solution.



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