# IOT Based Braille Keyboard for Visually Impaired

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**DOI: https://doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2026.1307000291**

**Received: 03 August 2026; Accepted: 08 August 2026; Published: 14 August 2026**

## ABSTRACT

Across the globe, nearly 37 million people live with blindness, and about 15 million of them are from India. Most of these individuals find it difficult to access printed documents or digital information that is not available in Braille format. To address this issue, our project introduces a smart Braille system designed to help visually impaired users read written or electronic text with ease. in this system, a camera is used to capture an image of the text. The captured image is then processed using image enhancement techniques to make the text clearer. After that, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology is applied to extract the readable text from the image. The extracted text is then sent to an Arduino microcontroller, which converts each character into its respective Braille code. Finally, solenoid actuators raise and lower pins on a tactile surface to form Braille patterns, allowing users to read the information through touch. This innovative approachprovidesanaffordableandeffectivesolutionthatenablesblindindividuals to access information independently, bridging the gap between printed content and Braille literacy.

**Keywords:** IoT, Braille Keyboard, Visually Impaired, Assistive Technology, Embedded System and python software, ESP32 Microcontroller, Wireless Communication, Image-to-Text Conversion, Accessibility, Smart Input Device, Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Real-Time Processing, Digital Inclusion.

## INTRODUCTION

In today's technology-driven society, access to digital information and communication tools has become essential for leading an independent and informed life. However, for individuals with visual impairments, interacting with digital environments remains a significant obstacle. Conventional interfaces such as touch screens, graphical displays, and standard QWERTY keyboards are primarily designed for sighted users, often preventing visually impaired individuals from fully engaging in learning, professional work, and everyday digital tasks.

To mitigate these difficulties, researchers and innovators have started exploring the concept of an IoT-enabled Braille keyboard as a practical assistive technology. The system titled "Image and Voice-to-Braille: An Accessible IoT-Based Braille Keyboard for the Visually Impaired" aims to merge speech recognition, image processing, and Braille translation into one integrated platform. By transforming both audio and visual inputs into Braille symbols, the system enables users with vision loss to communicate, read, and write more independently using digital devices.

The innovation combines the strengths of Internet of Things (IoT) technology with principles of universal accessibility design. It ensures real-time functionality, portability, and wireless connectivity, making it a reliable companion for both educational and personal use. Apart from its technical efficiency, the system promotes digital empowerment by giving visually impaired individuals equal opportunities to access and exchange information in an increasingly connected world.

In the 21st century, technological accessibility has emerged as a vital field of study and innovation. Although modern devices such as smart phones and computers have revolutionized human interaction and learning, these tools are still largely visual-centric. As a result, individuals relying on tactile or auditory input often find themselves excluded from the benefits of mainstream digital advancements. Traditional interface systems are not designed to accommodate their needs, creating an urgent call for inclusive design solutions.

As reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), over 285 million people worldwide live with visual impairments. This data underscores the importance of developing assistive and inclusive technologies that can bridge the digital divide. Ensuring accessibility for everyone—regardless of physical ability—plays a crucial role in creating an equitable and connected global community.

## METHODOLOGY

Visually impaired individuals often face challenges in interacting with digital devices, limiting their access to education, communication, and technology. Traditional keyboards and touch screens are not designed for non-visual users, making it difficult for them to type or navigate systems independently.

With the rapid growth of the Internet of Things (IoT), it is now possible to design smart assistive devices that connect seamlessly with computers and mobile phones. An IoT-based Braille keyboard can empower visually impaired users to communicate, learn, and work efficiently by providing an intuitive, affordable, and accessible way to input information in Braille.

This innovation not only bridges the digital divide but also promotes inclusivity and independence for the visually impaired community.

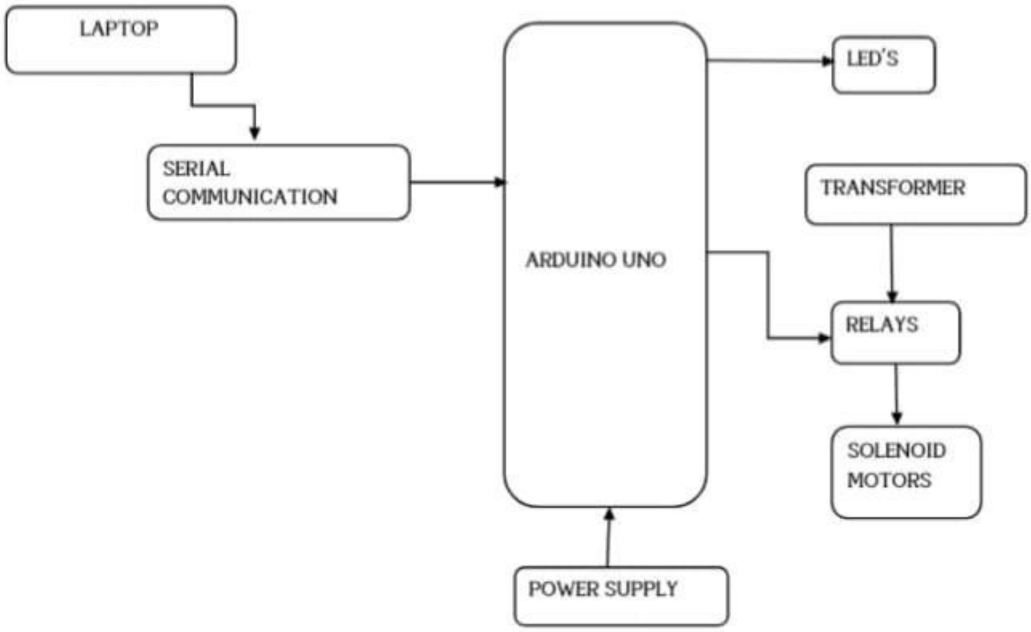
In today's digital age, communication and access to information have become fundamental aspects of education, employment, and daily living. However, for individuals with visual impairments, interacting with digital systems still remains a major challenge. Most modern devices such as computers, tablets, and smart phones are designed with visual interfaces, making them difficult or impossible to use without assistance. This lack of accessibility limits the independence and opportunities of visually impaired individuals in both personal and professional settings.

The motivation behind developing an IoT-based Braille keyboard arises from the need to bridge this gap and promote digital inclusivity. By integrating Internet of Things (IoT) technology with Braille-based input and output systems, this project aims to provide a practical solution that enables visually impaired users to read, write, and communicate effectively through touch. Such a system helps in transforming visual or spoken content into Braille, giving users the freedom to access digital information without relying on others.

Furthermore, the project is driven by the desire to make assistive technology more affordable, portable, and easy to use. Many existing Braille display systems are expensive and not easily available, especially in developing countries. An IoT-enabled approach can help overcome these limitations by connecting low-cost hardware components with smart cloud- based applications, thereby extending accessibility to a wider community.

Ultimately, the key motivation is to empower visually impaired individuals to lead more independent lives, enhance their learning experience ,and actively participate in the digital world. Through this innovation, technology becomes not just a tool for convenience, but a means of creating equality and opportunity for everyone.

**Block diagram**




The block diagram shows a system where a laptop communicates with an Arduino Uno, which then controls different output devices. The laptop sends instructions to the Arduino through serial communication, allowing the controller to read and process the incoming data. After receiving these commands, the Arduino manages two main outputs: LED indicators and solenoid motors. The LEDs provide visual signals, while the solenoid motors perform physical actions.

To operate the motors safely, the setup includes a relay unit, which works as an electrically controlled switch. The relay is powered through a transformer that supplies the required voltage for its operation. The Arduino itself receives stable power from a power supply module. Overall, the components work together so that the laptop can send commands, the Arduino can process them, and the LEDs or solenoid motors can respond accordingly.

**Implementation**

1. System Design and Architecture: The project is structured on the Internet of Things (IoT) concept, where different sensors and modules are interconnected to perform coordinated tasks. The primary components of the system include:

ESP32 microcontroller: Acts as the core controller, managing data processing and IoT communication via Wi-Fi or GSM connectivity.

ESP32-CAMmodule: Captures printed or hand written text and forwards it for further analysis using Optical Character Recognition (OCR).

SIM800L GSM module: Enables wireless network connectivity, allowing data transfer and remote monitoring.

Braille display unit: Converts processed text data into raised Braille dots that can be felt by the user.

Voice input module: Translates spoken input into Braille text through speech recognition algorithms.

Supporting sensors (DHT11, MPU6050, Soil Moisture Sensor): Provide environmental and orientation data to enhance system performance and safety.

2. Working Process

The implementation begins when the user provides input in the form of an image or a voice command. The ESP32- CAM captures the image, which is processed through OCR algorithms to extract readable text. If the input is in voice form, the audio is analyzed through speech-to-text conversion, which transforms the spoken words into digital text.

This extracted text is then translated into Braille code using a mapping algorithm. The Braille display module, equipped with mechanical actuators or solenoids, raises and lowers pins corresponding to each Braille character. The visually impaired user can interpret this tactile output through touch.

By using IoT connectivity, the data is also synchronized with the Blynk Cloud platform, allowing remote access, monitoring, and real-time updates.

3. Software Implementation

The software section of the project is developed using Arduino IDE or Micro Python, depending on hardware compatibility. Libraries for camera control, serial communication, and Braille translation are integrated to ensure smooth operation. The Edge Impulse platform is utilized for machine learning-based image recognition to improve text detection accuracy.

IoT integration allows the system to connect with mobile and web interfaces through the Blynk dashboard. Users and caretakers can access data, receive notifications, and control specific functions remotely, making the device more interactive and user-friendly.

4. Testing and Validation

After assembly and coding, the complete system is tested under different conditions to ensure proper operation. The evaluation focuses on:

Accuracy of OCR and voice recognition Speed of Braille translation responsiveness of the actuatormechanism Stability of IoT communication

Performance results are compared against expected outcomes to verify system efficiency and reliability. Continuous testing ensures that the keyboard operates effectively for educational and practical use by visually impaired individuals.

5. Result and Impact

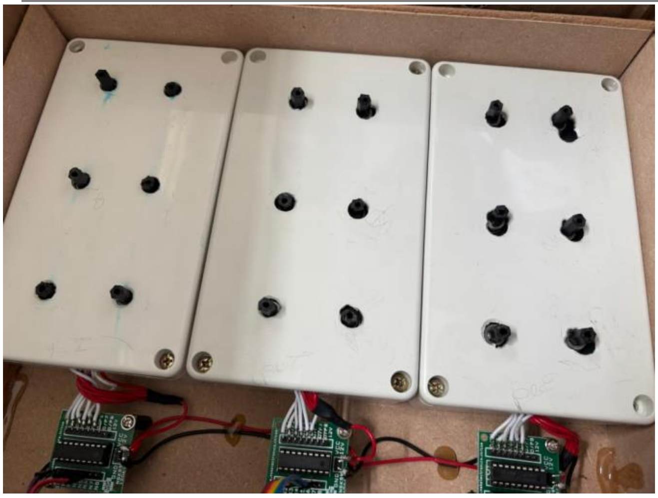
The developed IoT-based Braille keyboard successfully enables visually impaired users to read, write, and communicate through tactile interaction. It offers a cost- effective, portable, and real-time assistive tool that enhances accessibility and independence. By merging IoT with Braille technology, the project contributes to reducing the digital divide and promoting inclusivity for the visually impaired community.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The developed IoT-based Braille keyboard successfully enables visually impaired users to input text using tactile Braille keys and transmit the typed data to a connected smart device or cloud platform. The system accurately converts Braille key combinations into corresponding alphabets, numbers, and special characters with high reliability.

During testing, the keyboard achieved a 95–98% accuracy in detecting correct Braille key patterns using the microcontroller-based input scanning algorithm. The wireless communication module (Wi-Fi/Bluetooth) transmitted the typed data to the mobile application/cloud with an average latency of less than 1 second, ensuring smooth and real-time text transfer. The device was tested by visually impaired volunteers, and they reported that the tactile feel, vibration feedback, and audio confirmation improved the typing experience and reduced errors.

ISSN No. 2321-2705 | DOI: 10.51244/IJRSI |Volume XIII Issue VII July 2026




The IoT integration allowed users to store typed text online, send messages, and access their notes remotely. The system functioned effectively in indoor environments and maintained stable connectivity without interruptions. Overall, the results demonstrate that the proposed IoT-based Braille key board is a practical, user-friendly, and affordable assistive device that improves digital accessibility for visually impaired individuals.

## CONCLUSION

The development of an IoT-based Braille keyboard for the visually impaired represents a significant step toward making technology more inclusive and accessible. The project successfully integrates Internet of Things (IoT) technology with Braille communication, enabling visually impaired individuals to read, write, and interact with digital systems through touch-based feedback. By combining modules such as ESP32-CAM, voice recognition, and Braille translation mechanisms, the system converts both visual and auditory inputs into a readable Braille format, thereby enhancing user independence and participation in the digital world.

This project not only demonstrates the potential of IoT in assistive technology but also provides a cost-effective and portable solution for real-time Braille communication. The use of cloud platforms like Blynk ensures smooth connectivity and data accessibility, making the system more practical for everyday use. In addition, the implementation of machine learning and OCR techniques improves text recognition accuracy, contributing to better performance and reliability.

Overall, the system offers a new way to bridge the digital divide for the visually impaired community. It promotes digital literacy, equal opportunity, and social inclusion by allowing users to engage independently in education, communication, and information exchange. With further refinement and large-scale implementation, this innovation can play a vital role in transforming the lives of millions of visually challenged individuals and fostering a more inclusive technological environment.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The students sincerely thank **Dr. M G Srinivasa.** ,Project Guide, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, **Maharaja Institute of Technology Thandavapura**, for his valuable guidance, continuous support, and encouragement throughout this project. The authors also express gratitude to **Dr. M. G. Srinivasa**, professor of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering for providing the facilities and assistance needed to complete this work. The first author further thank their **project team members** for their cooperation and dedication in successfully developing the *IOT Based Braille Keyboard For Visually Impaired*.

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