



Article

# Enhancing Democratic Participation with Biometric and Technology-Based Voting Systems

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**Abstract:** Free elections are the most important part of democracy. People use elections to confirm their opinions and voices and choose someone whose ideas they agree with the most. Elections will let voters choose their representatives. The elections are not only to choose the winner, but also to give the winner credibility among voters who did not vote for them. This stresses the need of having free, fair, and secret elections. It means that independent, fair, and responsible electoral bodies are in charge of overseeing elections. The saying "today's teens, tomorrow's citizens" means that students should be involved with, trained for, and familiar with the election process. In this way, colleges and universities organize general elections for their student governments. This student will learn firsthand how to file nominations, check papers, withdraw, canvass, address, and, most importantly, vote. Voting with technology will be easier, more effective, and less likely to be hacked. Technology will make all votes safer and faster, making counting and automatic verification far more useful. It is hard to make a better voting system because there are so many important things that need to be done. It is important to keep the poll secret. There should be no way to tell which candidate obtains a certain vote in the voting mechanism. The authors used the Authenticated Voting Machine in the elections talked about in this work to make things easier and more open. The idea is still quite new. More study is needed to make it stable and theoretically sound. The model uses radio frequency and fingerprint recognition, as well as an OT-based system, to keep things safe.

**Keywords:** Filing Nominations, Winners Credence, Fingerprint Recognition, Autonomous Electoral Bodies, Improve Transparency, Authenticated Voting Machine

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## 1. Introduction

Elections are a big part of how democracy works [42]. Elections are held to assist kids learn about democratic system and develop leadership skills [60]. Technology has changed practically every profession in a big way, and the electoral process is no different. People use technology to help them do their jobs quickly, easily, and correctly. The traditional voting system that uses paper ballots is easy to use, but it isn't clear or free of mistakes [72]. We get around the problems with traditional paper ballots [56]. An Authenticated Voting System (AVM) was set up [48]. It uses two ways to prove who you are: biometrics and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) [70]. During the admission procedure, each person's biometrics are registered and kept with other important papers

[44]. After the admission process is over, each person gets an RFID-based identity card [66]. The first proof of identity for the election is this ID card [69]. Only students who have a valid ID card can vote [61]. During the election, the voter puts the RFID card on the card reader [54]. The second step of authentication checks to make sure that the card belongs to the person who has it [71]. The student is accepted at the second level of biometrics by a fingerprint scanner built into the voting machine [62]. This fingerprint is checked against the one in the database [43]. Only that voter can vote if both fingerprints match [68]. An embedded system is a piece of computer hardware and software that is either fixed in its capabilities or may be programmed to do a certain job or work as part of a bigger system [39]. An embedded system could be in a car, a medical device, a camera, a household appliance, an airplane, a vending machine, a toy, or a mobile device [50]. Embedded systems are computer systems, but they might have very simple user interfaces (UIs), such as on devices that are just meant to do one thing, or very rich graphical user interfaces (GUIs), as on mobile devices [63].

Microprocessors or microcontrollers can be used to make embedded system hardware [41]. In either case, the product is made up of an integrated circuit that is meant to do calculations for real-time activities [57]. Microprocessors and microcontrollers seem the same, but microprocessors only have a central processing unit (CPU), thus they need other parts like memory chips [67]. Microcontrollers, on the other hand, are made to work on their own [47]. The term "system on a chip" (SoC) is often used to describe the most powerful microcontrollers [64]. However, there is no clear definition of what this means in terms of RAM, clock speed, etc [55]. In 2013, the embedded market was thought to be worth more than \$140 billion, and many analysts think it will be worth more than \$20 billion by 2020 [52]. Many well-known computer businesses, like Apple, IBM, Intel, and Texas Instruments, make chips for embedded systems [65]. There are also many additional companies that people who don't work in the area may not know about. ARM has been a very important company in this area [58].

Compared to a normal enterprise desktop computer, a typical industrial microcontroller is not very advanced and usually needs a simpler, less memory-intensive software environment [49]. The simplest devices run on bare metal and are programmed directly using the chip's CPU machine code language [59]. Embedded systems often use operating systems or language platforms that are developed for embedded use, especially when real-time operating environments are needed [46]. Designers have come to the conclusion that systems with more powerful chips, like those in SoCs, are fast enough and that the jobs can handle small changes in reaction time, therefore near-real-time methods are fine [51]. Embedded firmware is a type of software that is stored into the memory of a device and works like ROM but can be changed more readily [40]. You can save firmware on non-volatile memory devices like ROM, programmable ROM, erasable PROM, or flash memory [53]. Embedded firmware is used to manage different parts of a device or system [45].

### **Literature Survey**

An Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is a simple electronic device that records votes instead of using paper ballots and boxes like in the past [4]. The right to vote, or just voting in elections, is what makes democracy work [22]. In all previous elections, whether they were state or central, a voter would mark their favorite candidate by putting the stamp next to their name and then folding the ballot paper in a certain way before putting it in the Ballot Box [10]. No more stamping, ballot boxes, or paper ballots [17]. The electronic voting machine has a basic box called the ballot unit that holds all of this information [5]. Biometric identifiers are thought to be more reliable for recognizing people than traditional token or knowledge-based approaches since they are hard to lose, fake, or distribute [2].

The most important part of democracy is the "vote," which lets people choose the candidates who will make up a good government that will meet their needs and wants

and improve their quality of life [6]. In developing countries such as India, the electoral commission utilizes a manual voting system facilitated by computerized voting machines [14]. Higher-ups keep an eye on this machine, which is in the middle of the polling booth [11]. Some illicit acts have caused polling places to be misused, which has taken away people's right to vote [7]. This doesn't happen very often in rural areas or big cities since educated people don't want to vote for candidates who represent their localities [16]. To make sure that everyone voted, automation was used [25]. But just a few wealthy countries have accepted this automated approach because security hasn't been guaranteed to a large level [23]. The major goal of the suggested system is to make a voting machine that is safe [1].

The system that has been suggested is mostly for our country [26]. It comprises three parts [35]. First, the Aadhaar card database is searched for information about people over the age of 18, which is now required [8]. A new voter ID with all the right information will be made automatically, and the person will be told about it via email [9]. The user can enter their ID and password when they vote [15]. Democracy is a very important and strong political force in big countries, and elections are held to build and improve democracy [18]. Pakistan is a democracy, yet it still uses manual and costly ways to hold elections [3].

That leads to lengthy procedures, fake entries, counting mistakes, abuse of ballot papers, and major problems with security, accessibility, and reliability [24]. But technology is a big part in stopping and making these difficult situations less bad [30]. It is the best, safest, most accurate, and fastest way to hold elections [33]. There are numerous technical approaches to use the electronic voting system around the world to say that it is easier and safer [12]. Unfortunately, all electronic methods can't be used in Pakistan right now because the country isn't ready for them [36]. This article proposes the Electronic Voting Machines System (EVMs) for Pakistan to provide transparency, accuracy, security, verifiability, and validity of voting through a cost-effective and expedited approach [13].

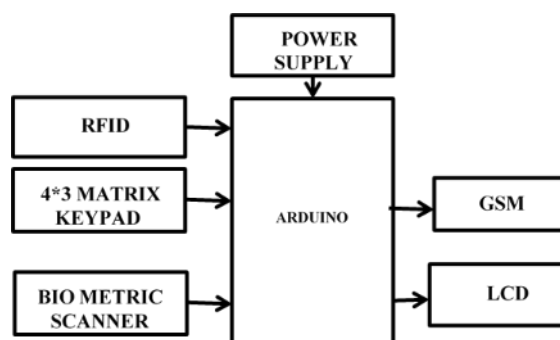
This paper proposes an online voting mechanism for the Indian election for the first time [27]. The proposed model is safer since the voter's security password is checked before the vote is added to the main database of the Election Commission of India [19]. The model offers an extra feature that lets voters check to see if their vote was cast for the right candidate or party [37]. In this approach, a person can vote from anywhere they want, even if it's not in their own district [29]. The suggested system will automatically count the votes, which will save a lot of time and allow the Election Commissioner of India to declare the results extremely quickly [31].

This research examines a secure analysis of electronic voting equipment [38]. A study of the electronic machine suggests that it is open to major threats [34]. For instance, an attacker who can physically get to a machine or its removable memory card for just one minute might install malicious malware [32]. This code could steal votes without anyone knowing [20]. An attacker might even write bad code that spreads automatically and surreptitiously from one computer to another while routine electoral procedures are going on [28]. To lower these risks, the voting machine's hardware and software will need to be changed, and the election process will need to be stricter [21].

### System Design

As technology gets better, smart voting systems are becoming more and more popular [81]. However, many of them don't give the user a gadget [78]. Many voting systems do not have good electronic security systems, which is an issue because there is a lot of fraud. We can fix a lot of problems with security systems and make them work better by adopting biometric authentication technologies [74]. It has two levels of authentication: biometrics and radio frequency identification (RFID) [83]. Along with other important documents, the fingerprints of each voter are registered and kept during the admittance procedure. After the admittance process is over, every voter will get an RFID-based ID

card [76]. This ID card is the first proof of identity for the election [79]. Only people with valid ID cards can vote. During the election, the student puts the RFID card on the card reader. The second level of authentication is given to make sure that the person who has the card is the same person who voted [88]. In the second level, the voting system uses a fingerprint scanner to read the student's biometric information. This fingerprint is checked against the one in the database [94]. If both match, the voter's registered cellphone number will get an OTP [77]. Voters will only be able to vote if the OTP they entered is correct, see Figure 1 [89].



**Figure 1.** Block Diagram.

The earliest way to do this is to put your finger on a glass surface or a prism that is lit up by an LED [84]. When the ridges of fingerprints hit the surface, the light is absorbed, and between these crests, there is a total reflection. An image sensor records the light and dark patches that are left behind [80]. This method has certain problems in real life: the pictures taken with wet and dry fingers are extremely different, and the device is sensitive to dust and grime on the surface [73]. The unit is quite big, hard to use, and costs a lot of money [82]. It's possible to fool this method; if the skin is injured, the fingerprint isn't read correctly. It's also hard to recognize the fingerprints of older people since their skin isn't stretchy enough. This may lead to incorrect recognition in some situations [85]. If the stored fingerprint is obtained with less pressure, it could be falsely accepted [75].

## 2. Materials and Methods

The sensor is a silicon integrated circuit with a surface covered in numerous transducer elements (or pixels). It has a standard resolution of 500 dpi. There are two metal electrodes next to each other in each element. When the finger touches the surface, the space between the electrodes, which makes up a feedback path for an inverting amplifier, gets smaller. When the finger feels ridges, this decrease is even greater. When it feels the space between the ridges, it is less noticeable. Electrostatic discharge can damage the sensor. These sensors only work on skin that is normal and healthy. They don't work and aren't being used on skin with rough patches, calluses, or scars. It can also stop working if it gets wet, greasy, or dusty. Mechanical. There are tens of thousands of small pressure transducers on the surface of the sensor. Another design employs switches that stay open when a ridge presses on them and close when a valley presses on them. This just gives one piece of information per pixel, instead of a range of colors. In this example, thermal means that the finger's heat is detected, which is stronger when there is a ridge than when there is a valley.

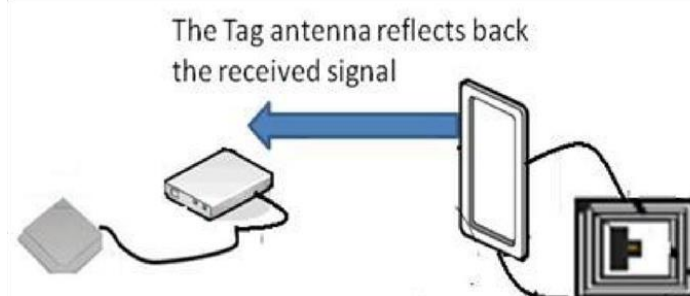
The "Finger Chip" is a silicon component with a matrix of pixels. Each pixel is covered with a layer of pyroelectric material that changes the load distribution of its surface when the temperature changes [90]. The most significant use is to control who can use computers [93]. This is very crucial for PDAs and PCs. More and more devices now have sensors because the price has gone down. USB hard drives, USB memory modules,

and card readers are some other products that have fingerprint sensors integrated in. You can also find them in mice and keyboards. More and more, sensors are being utilized to protect online banking and change machines. In the future, identity cards and credit cards will securely contain the owner's fingerprint [92]. Digital signatures may also be used to verify emails [87]. Combining fingerprint sensors with door-opening systems can also make sure that people can get into rooms and use electronics directly.

Radio-frequency identification, or RFID, is a technology that lets a reader pick up digital data contained in RFID tags or smart labels (see below). Like barcoding, RFID uses a device to read data from a tag or label and store it in a database [95]. But RFID has a few benefits over systems that use barcode asset tracking software [91]. RFID tags may be read from a distance, but barcodes must be lined up with an optical scanner. This is the most important difference. RFID is one of the technologies that make up Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC). With little or no human help, AIDC methods automatically find items, gather information about them, and put that information directly into computer systems. RFID methods use radio waves to do this. RFID systems include three main parts: an RFID tag or smart label, an RFID reader, and an antenna. An RFID tag has an integrated circuit and an antenna that send information to the RFID reader (also called an interrogator). The reader then changes the radio waves into a format that is easier to use. The tags send the information they collect to a host computer system through a communications interface, where it can be stored [86].

### 3. Results and Discussion

This technology uses inductive coupling to give power to the RFID tag from the reader. The reader has a coil that is connected to an AC supply, which produces a magnetic field surrounding it. Faraday's law of induction creates an electromotive force when the tag coil is close to the reader coil. The EMF makes the coil's current flow, which makes a magnetic field around it. Lenz's law says that the tag coil's magnetic field works against the reader's magnetic field. This will cause the current through the reader coil to go up. The reader picks this up as the load information. This approach works well for short-range communication. A Passive RFID system uses the EM wave propagation approach, which means that the reader's antenna sends out electromagnetic waves that the antenna picks up. This voltage is changed into DC power by being rectified and filtered, see Figure 2.

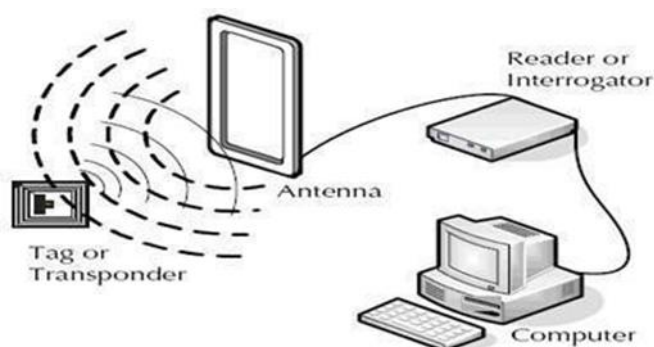


**Figure 2.** Passive RFID using Inductive Coupling.

#### Passive RFID using EM-wave transmission

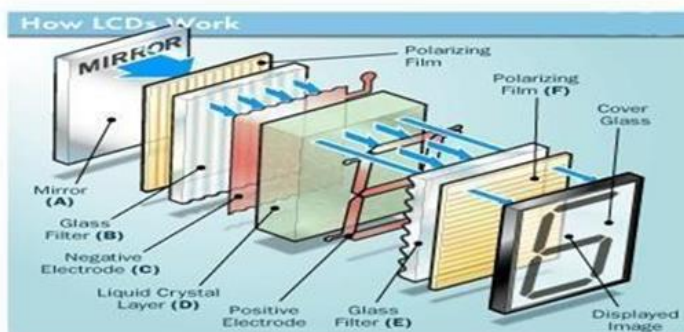
A thought on how the Active RFID System works: In an active RFID system, the reader provides the signal to the tag through an antenna. The tag gets this information and sends it back with the information it already has. The reader gets this signal and sends it to the processor so it may do further work, see Figure 3.





**Figure 3.** RFID Tags and Smart Labels.

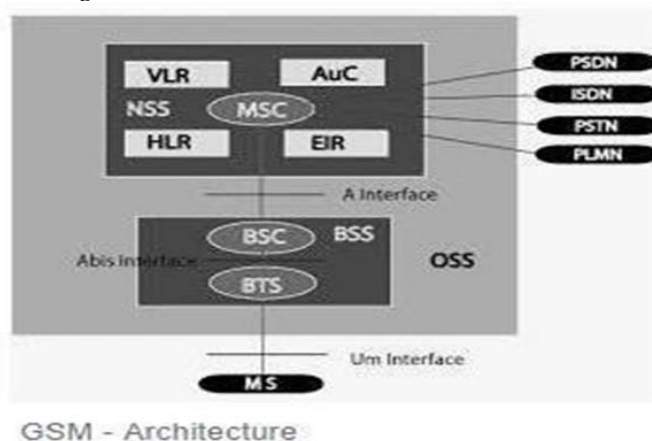
An RFID tag is made up of an integrated circuit and an antenna, as was said above. The tag is also made of a protective substance that keeps the parts together and protects them from different weather conditions. RFID technology has been around since World War II, but the demand for RFID equipment is growing quickly. This is partially because the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and Wal-Mart have told its suppliers that they need to make sure that products can be tracked by RFID. Applications that now employ barcode technology are strong candidates for switching to a system that uses RFID or some combination, regardless of whether or not RFID compliance is necessary. RFID has a lot of benefits over barcodes, especially because an RFID tag can contain a lot more information about an item than a barcode can [96]. The basic idea underlying LCDs is that when you send an electrical current through the liquid crystal molecule, it tends to untwist. This changes the angle of the light that goes through the molecule of the polarized glass and the angle of the top polarizing filter. So, a small amount of light can travel through the polarized glass through a certain section of the LCD. That area will be darker than the others as a result. The LCD operates by blocking light. When making the LCDs, a mirror that reflects light is placed at the rear, see Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** LCD Layer Diagram.

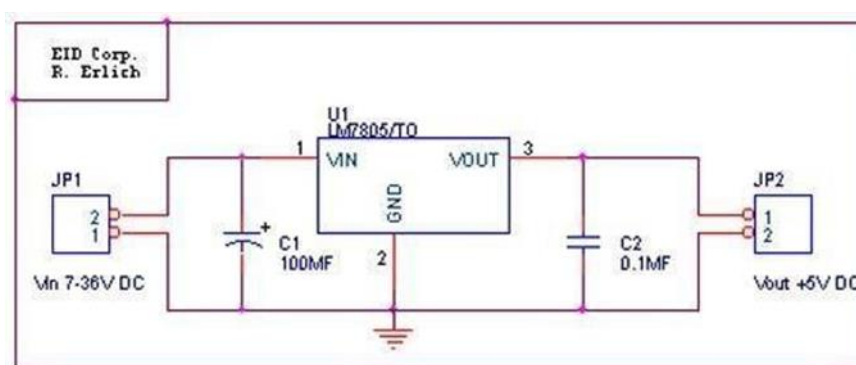
The second piece of glass has an electrode in the shape of a rectangle on the bottom and another polarizing film on top. It is important to remember that both parts are at right angles to each other. The light goes through the front of the LCD when there is no current. The mirror will reflect it and send it back. The current from the battery will make the liquid crystals between the common-plane electrode and the rectangular-shaped electrode untwist since the electrode is connected to the battery. So, the light can't get through. That specific rectangular space looks empty. Depending on the environment in which it is used, each cell's coverage area is different. You might think of macro cells as cells that have the base station antenna on a pole or a building that is taller than the normal rooftop level. Micro cells are cells with antennas that are lower than the average rooftop level. They are usually utilized in cities. Picocells are small cells that cover an area of a few dozen meters [97]. They are mostly utilized indoors. It connects the mobile stations to the network. The Mobile Service Switching Center is the main part of the Network Subsystem. It lets you

connect to networks like ISDN and PSTN. It also has the Home Location Register and the Visitor Location Register, which let GSM route calls and let people roam. It also has the Equipment Identity, see Figure 5.



**Figure 5.** GSM Architecture.

Because GSM is a digital system, speech that is analog must be digitized. The GSM group looked at a number of speech coding algorithms based on how good and complex they thought the speech was (which is related to cost, processing delay, and power use once they were put into use). They finally chose a Regular Pulse Excited - Linear Predictive Coder (RPE-LPC) with a long-term predictor loop. The current sample is predicted by information from earlier samples that doesn't change quickly. The signal is made up of the coefficients of the linear combination of the preceding samples and an encoded version of the residual, which is the difference between the anticipated and actual sample. Speech is broken up into 20 (ms) samples, each of which is 260 bits long [98]. This means that the overall bit rate is 13kbps (kilobits per second). This is what is known as full-rate speech coding. Some North American GSM1900 carriers have recently started using an enhanced full-rate (EFR) voice coding technique. This circuit is a small power supply that gives you +5V. It's excellent for testing out digital circuits [99]. It's easy to find those transformers, but their voltage regulation is usually not very good, so digital circuit experimenters can't use them until they can get better regulation. This circuit can pump out +5V at about 150 mA, but if you add sufficient cooling to the 7805-regulator chip, it can go up to 1 A. The circuit contains protection against overloads and terminals, see Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Circuit description.

We can change the circuit by replacing the 7805 chips with another regulator from the 78xx chip family that has a different output voltage if we need voltages other than +5V. The last digit in the chip code tells you what the output voltage is. Arduino is a platform that anyone may utilize to make electronic documents [100]. Arduino is made up of a physical circuit board that can be programmed (commonly termed a microcontroller) and

a piece of software that runs on your computer and is used to write and upload code to the board. This software is called an IDE (Integrated Development Environment). A lot of individuals who are new to electronics are using the Arduino platform, and for good reason. You don't need a separate piece of hardware (a programmer) to load fresh code into the Arduino board like you do with most other programmable circuit boards. You may use a USB cable instead. The Arduino IDE also employs a simpler form of C++, which makes it easier to learn how to program.

Finally, Arduino gives you a standard form factor that makes it easier to use by breaking up the microcontroller's functions into smaller parts [102]. Artists, designers, hobbyists, hackers, beginners, and anyone else who wants to make something that can be interacted with can use the Arduino hardware and software. Arduino can work with a lot of different things, such as buttons, LEDs, motors, speakers, GPS units, cameras, the internet, and even your smartphone or TV! A lot of people use Arduino because it's flexible, the software is free, the hardware boards are cheap, and both the software and hardware are easy to learn. A lot of people have contributed code and released instructions for a wide range of Arduino-based projects. There are many different kinds of Arduino boards that can be used for different things. Some boards look a little different from the one below, however most Arduinos have most of these parts in common: Embedded C is the most widely used programming language in the software industry for making electronic devices. There is embedded software for each processor in an electronic system. Embedded C programming is very important for the CPU to do certain things [101]. We use a lot of technological equipment every day, like cell phones, washing machines, digital cameras, and more. All of these gadgets use microcontrollers that are coded in embedded C. The preceding block diagram's embedded C code makes the LED linked to Port 0 of the microcontroller flicker. When programming for embedded systems, C code is better than other languages. Because of the following reasons:

A programming language is a set of tasks and one or more functions. Most people know what application software is and how it works on a computer. Embedded software, on the other hand, is typically harder to see but just as hard to understand. Embedded software has set hardware needs and capabilities, and adding third-party hardware or software is rigorously controlled. Application software, on the other hand, can work with any hardware. When a device is made, embedded software must have all the drivers it needs. These drivers are built for that unique hardware [103]. The software needs a lot from the CPU and the chips that were chosen. Most embedded software engineers know how to read schematics and data sheets for parts to figure out how to use registers and communication systems. It is helpful to know how to change numbers from decimal to hexadecimal or binary and how to perform bit manipulation. [7] For software development, you need a cross-compiler, which runs on a computer but creates code that can be run on the target device. An in-circuit emulator, JTAG, or SWD is needed for debugging. Many times, software developers can see the whole kernel (OS) source code.

#### 4. Conclusion

The authors of this study talked about a smart, safe, and verified voting system for college elections that used the Arduino flat-form IoT technology. To protect and keep voters safe. To protect the method's integrity, a two-layer security strategy is put in place. We think this strategy will help schools hold fair and open elections for their student councils. The system works as promised and is efficient, but it isn't flawless. There are some problems with the system. The system can only handle three candidates at a time because it only has three. Switches for voting. We can deal with this in our next project. Also, the method makes it possible to hold the election at any moment, and there is only one post. We can make the mechanism work for elections for any number of positions. The Arduino Mega board also has limited memory, which is another thing to keep in mind. We want to use a Raspberry Pi-based board for the AVM in the future. The built-in gadgets



speed up the procedure, letting the paper be changed and the data be saved in the cloud server with automatic voting. Get the voting process going. The system is still new, therefore more work needs to be done to make it flexible and useful. It's in beta right now, but we'll show you a better, bug-free, stable, and scalable device. in the work we do in the future.

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