



Remote Aerial Mission Planning And Radio Tracker

Introduction

- Animal tracking via VHF tags
- Traditionally using handheld receiver
- Used by Biologists and Ecologists



Our Sponsor

- Associate Professor
 - Dynamic and Active Systems Lab
- BS in ME from NAU, 2006
- PHD from Cornell, 2013



Our Client's Current Workflow

1

Configure Drone

. Flight Path
. Collection Settings



2

Fly and Gather Data



3

Process Data



4

Find and Correct Errors



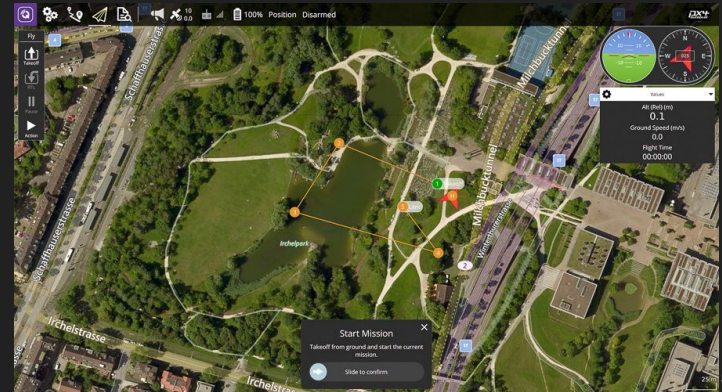
5

Repeat



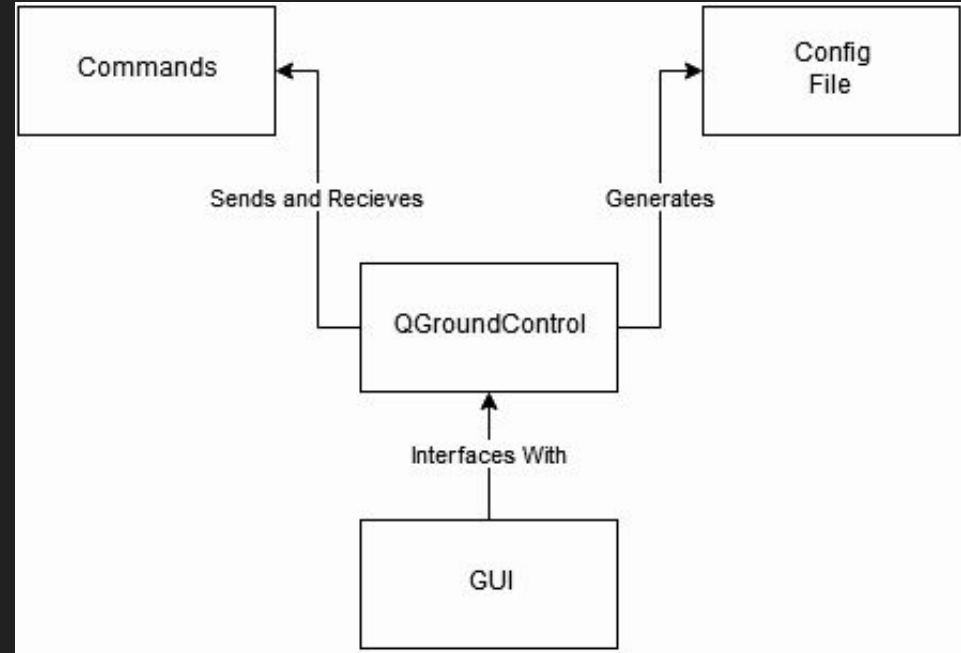
The Problem

- MATLAB
 - Very slow to start
 - 4.3 hours per year
 - ~52 flights lost
 - Necessary for the flight of the drone
 - Currently uses two different programs
 - Matlab + QGroundControl



Solution Overview

- Our own branch of drone flight planning software
 - Implement MATLAB code into QGroundControl
 - Configuration File Generator
 - Terminal display
 - Send/Receive Commands
 - Generate an accessible GUI



Requirements Acquisition

- Project Specification document
- Meetings With Client
 - Weekly
 - Semi-Organized

User-Level Requirements

- Send configuration file to the drone
- Download telemetry data from the drone
- Input configuration Data
- Import preset config data
- Sending start/stop commands

Key Non-Functional Requirements

- Program must be reliable
- Well-written documentation
- Readable code, allowing it to be easily changed

Key Environmental Requirements

- The solution must be integrated into a compatible drone flight planner.
- Use the same configuration file format
- Documentation standards should match that of the DASL

Key Functional Requirements

- Generate files based on GUI input
- Perform data transfers with drone

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based GUI for configuring flight settings. The interface is organized into several sections:

- Flight settings:** This section contains several input fields, each with a numerical value of 0:
 - Tag Frequency (MHz)
 - RF Gain (dB)
 - IF Gain (dB)
 - BB Gain (dB)
 - Radio Sampling Rate (Hz)
 - Pulse duration (s)
 - Pulse repetition rate (s)
 - UAV Telem. sample rate (Hz)
- Flight notes:** A large, empty text area for entering notes.
- Control buttons:** Three buttons are located below the flight notes:
 - Get settings
 - Send settings
 - Use past config
- File offload:** A section with a large, empty text area for file names or paths.
- File offload buttons:** Two buttons are located below the file offload area:
 - Download
 - Refresh
- Save Location:** A single-line text input field at the bottom of the interface.

Deep Dive: Perform Data Transfers

- Visualize status messages issued by the companion computer for the user
- Display confirmation messages for a successful config file upload
- Allow for retransmission of config files as needed
- Send start and stop commands to the drone's radio systems

Technical Risks

Risk	Concern Level	Likelihood	Plan
Physical crashes	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create crash report
Data not downloaded wirelessly	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wired connection
Data is incorrect	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm configuration

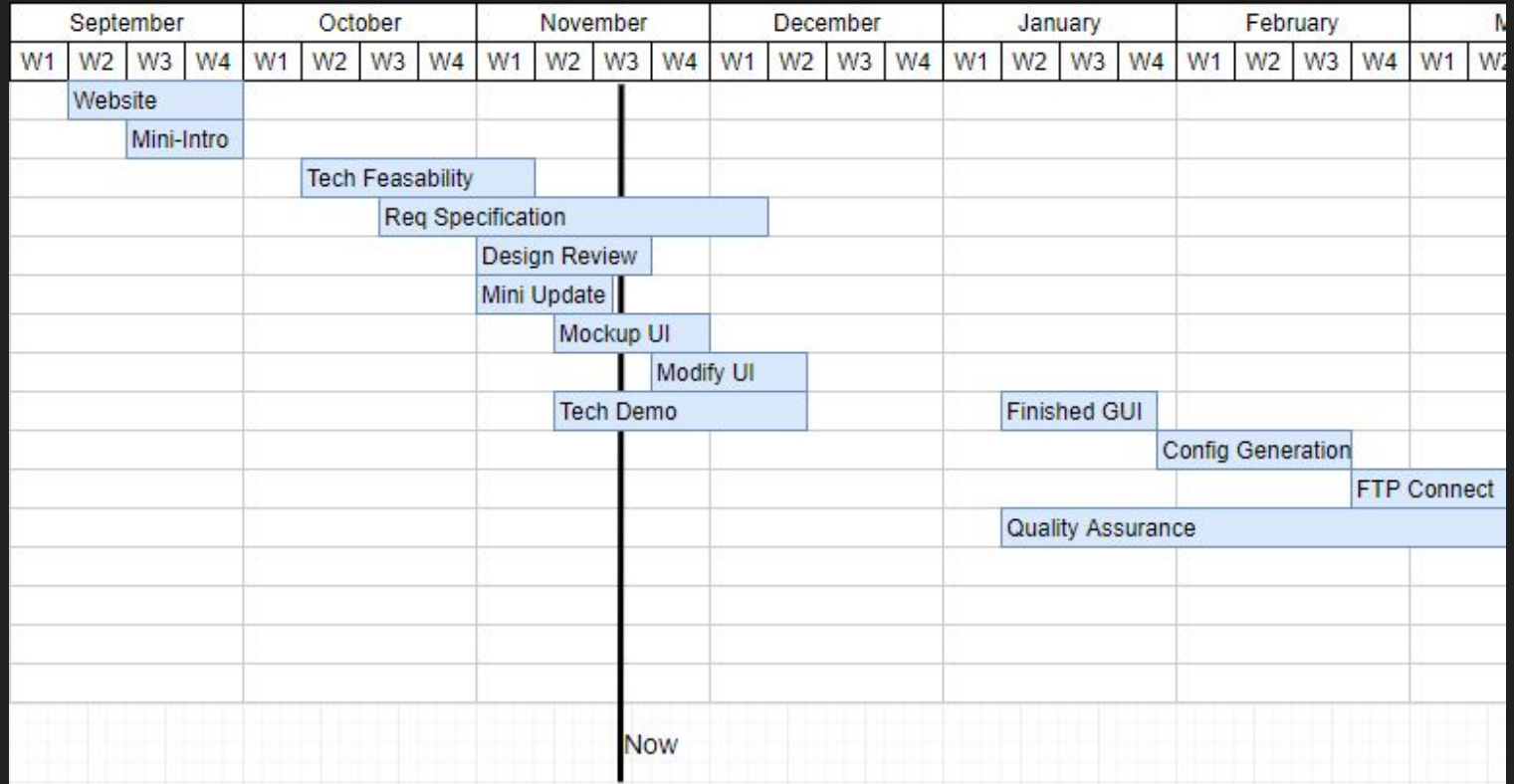


Social and Market Risks

Risk	Concern Level	Likelihood	Plan
Group disagreements	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Majority rules• Confer with Mahsa
Obsolete through integration	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licenses
Wildlife Drones	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. utility patent



Schedule



Conclusion

- VHF tags for tracking wildlife behavior
- Client must wait for MATLAB to load
- Integrate his MATLAB program into flight planning software
 - UDP Heartbeat and Terminal Messages
 - Configuration Generator
 - FTP System
- Requirements Document Draft and GUI mockup