

# Using VIDIX Microcomputers in High School and College Education

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**Abstract** - This paper describes the application of the VIDIX development microcomputer for educational purposes. VIDIX is a platform developed entirely in Croatia and another great way to popularize STEM and learn new skills. VIDIX is based on a dual-core ESP 32 processor and comes with a temperature sensor, a microphone, and a 2.8" touch screen. The possibilities of connection and application are enormous considering the diverse communication possibilities (Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, IR). VIDIX is a significantly more powerful platform than Arduino, and unlike the Raspberry Pi computer, it does not need an operating system, and it can be programmed on a Windows, Linux, or Mac OS computer. It is possible to work in Python, C, C++, JavaScript, and other popular programming languages. Our students first installed the Arduino IDE on their laptops, and then connected the laptops to VIDIX, and a series of exercises followed that combine the use of software and hardware. Our experience with this platform in the undergraduate computing curricula, at both the high school and college levels is presented here.

**Keywords** - VIDIX, ESP 32, STEM, Education,

## I. INTRODUCTION

VIDI Project X was presented on December 5, 2019 in Croatia at conference for innovative projects awards powered by VIDIX magazine. The whole project was developed by the VIDIX media company in cooperation with a number of Croatian technology companies that financed the project.

VIDIX is a microcomputer board that in its vision combines the "dream" and "realize" phases of the project, which we believe also requires innovation. The definition could be many, depending on the purpose you use it for. On VIDIX microcomputer it is possible to run the original Doom or Duke Nukem in the emulator. You can connect additional sensors and manage the smart home system, you can use its Wi-Fi and Bluetooth communication capabilities to connect to an external system.

VIDIX makes good use of the capabilities of the powerful dual-core ESP32 processor, so it can serve as a multifunctional microcomputer or as a development board,

as an efficient HUB for a cluster of sensors or for some completely new purpose that is expected from the community that will gather around it to design.

Why did we choose VIDIX microcomputer for education purpose at both the high school and college level? We wanted more powerful platform, totally new and completely developed in our country - Croatia. We already have experience with other widely used microcomputers boards like Arduino and Raspberry Pi microcomputers in education [4][6].

VIDIX is a significantly more powerful platform than Arduino, and unlike a Raspberry Pi computer, it does not need an operating system. To run, a power source is required via a 3xAAA battery or via USB cable, and it can be programmed on a computer with Windows, Linux or Mac OS system. Since its introduction, VIDIX soon became very popular in Croatia also in the education, especially in STEM field [1][7].

In II. chapter VIDIX hardware and programming environment is described in detail. The examples of VIDIX projects, that were introduced at laboratory exercise course in High school Tesla in Zagreb are shown in III. Chapter. The VIDIX micro server project, that was used for demonstration in the Computer Network course at the College for Information Technologies - VSITE in Zagreb is described in last chapter of this paper.

## II. VIDIX HARDWARE AND PROGRAMMING

The VIDIX development microcomputer is based on an ESP32 processor, a 2.8" integrated screen, a light sensor, an IR sensor, a temperature sensor, integrated speaker and the possibility of Wi-Fi, IrDA and Bluetooth connectivity.

Here is a quick overview of main parts of VIDIX microcomputer. The parts are numbered from 1 to 21 and are identified on the front and the back side of VIDIX as shown in Figure 1. and Figure 2.

# Using Microcomputers In School Administration

**Lauren Gardner**



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