

DIY Aquarium Automation 101

GWAPA
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Overview

- Consistent fertilizer dosing
- Tired of water changes
- Reliable temperature monitoring over time
- why not add :
 - lights scheduling
 - PH monitoring
 - CO2 control

Dosing Fertilizers Manual

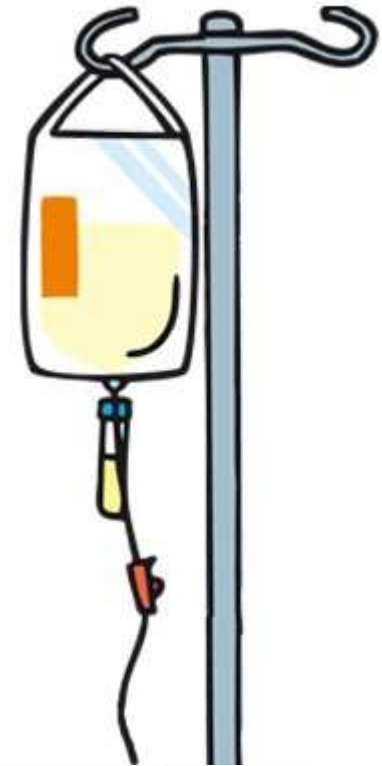
- Materials:
 - Measuring spoons for dry
 - Dosing bottle for liquid
- Pros:
 - inexpensive
- Cons:
 - Time consuming
 - Unreliable
 - I would rather watch the fish ...



Dosing Fertilizers

Gravity drip

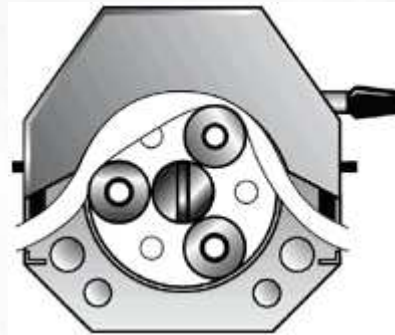
- Materials:
 - perfusion bag or any container
 - airline and valve
 - bubble counter
- Pros :
 - easy, inexpensive, reliable
- Cons:
 - ugly



Dosing Fertilizers

Peristaltic pumps

- Materials:
 - peristaltic pumps
 - special tubing
- Pros:
 - precise
- Cons :
 - expensive ...



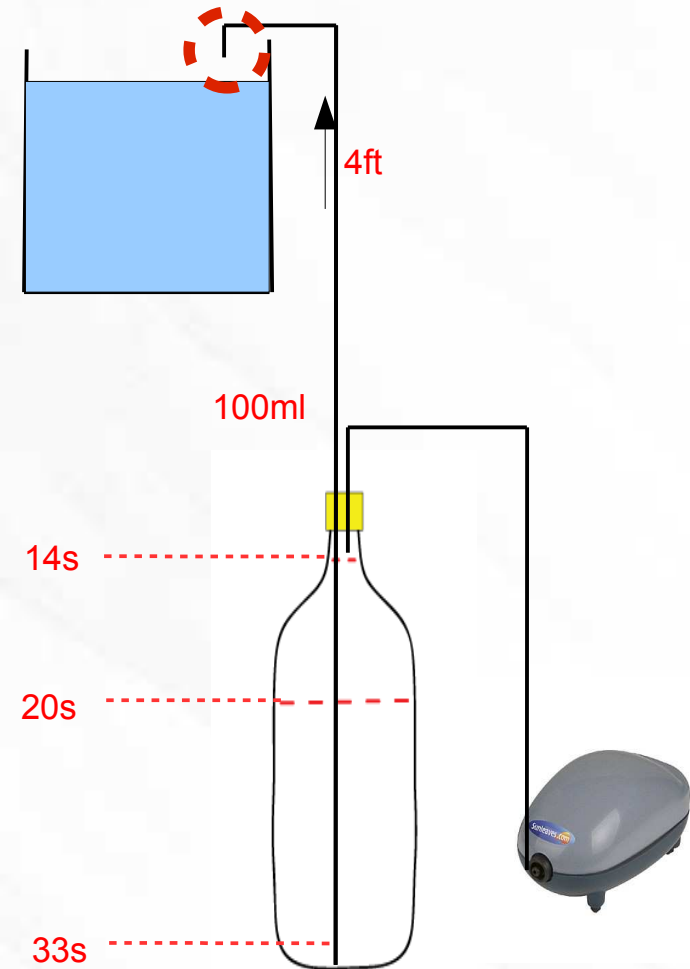
Dosing Fertilizers

Timers and pumps

- Materials:
 - see :Jeff's autodoser
<http://gwapa.org/wordpress/articles/fertilizer-auto-doser/>
- Pros:
 - easy to setup, cheap ...
- Cons:
 - if you want to scale ... cost add up (30\$ each)
 - pump head pressure

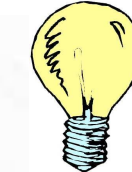
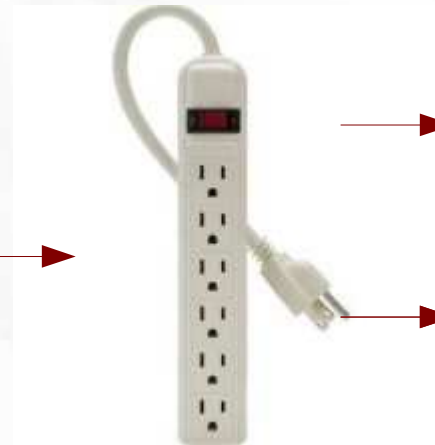
Air pump dosing

- Materials:
 - airpump, airtubing, soda bottle
- Pros:
 - a \$5 air pump is better than a \$15 mini pump
- Cons:
 - requires seconds or less timing precision
 - not constant in time (complex scheduling)

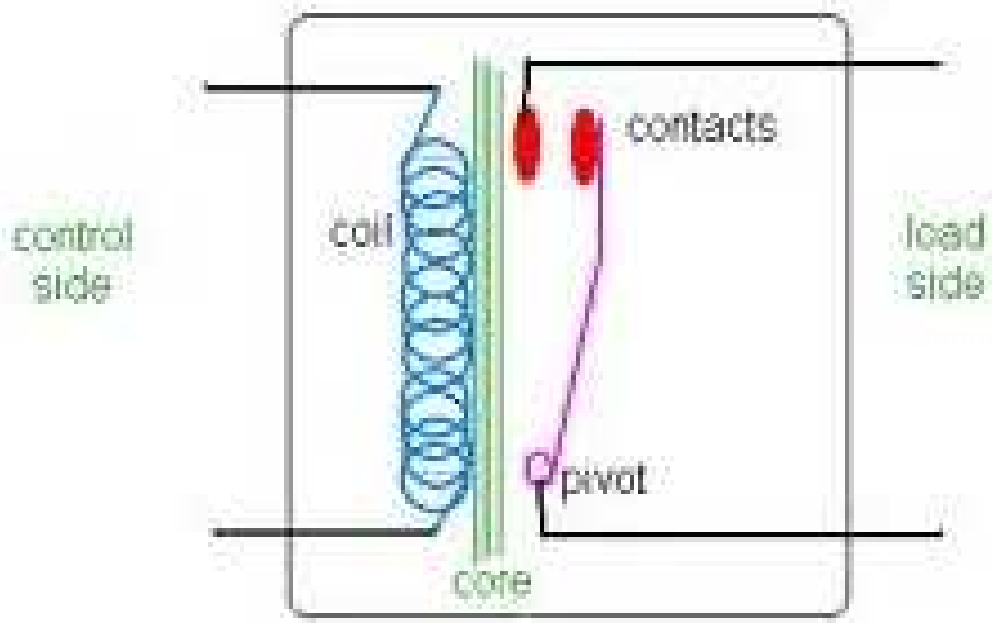


Computer controlled power

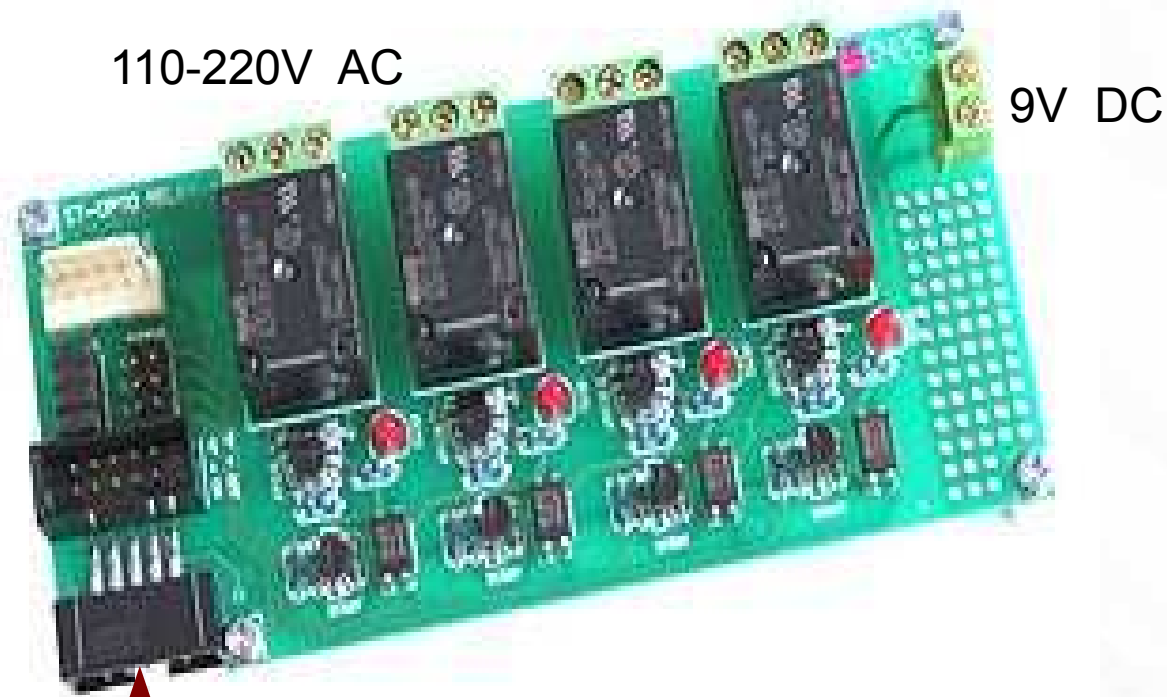
day 1 14s
day 2 15s
...
day 10 23s
...
day 20 33s



Relays



Relays



110-220V AC

9V DC

0-3V or 0-5V from controller

* Look for a opto-isolated relay board (to avoid electromagnetic feedback from motors, fluorescent lights etc, might going into your 5V TTL circuitry)

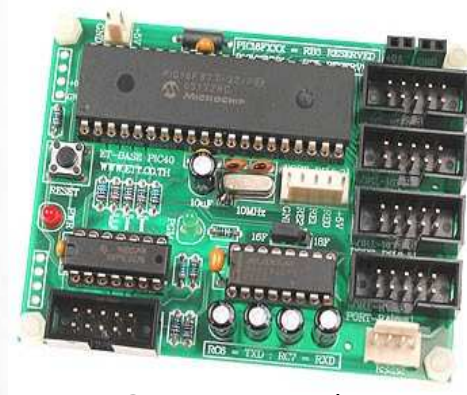
Controller



Arduino 25\$



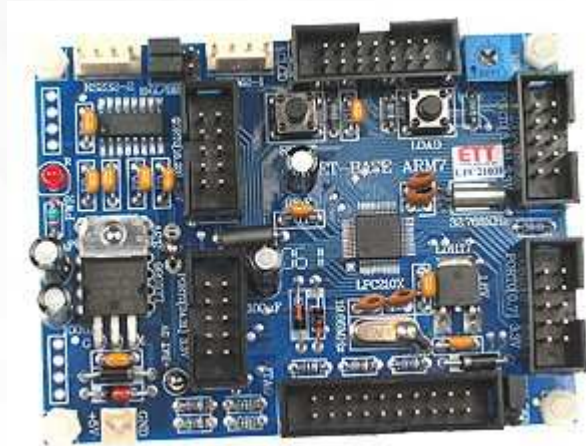
TI Launchpad 5\$



PIC16F877 \$26



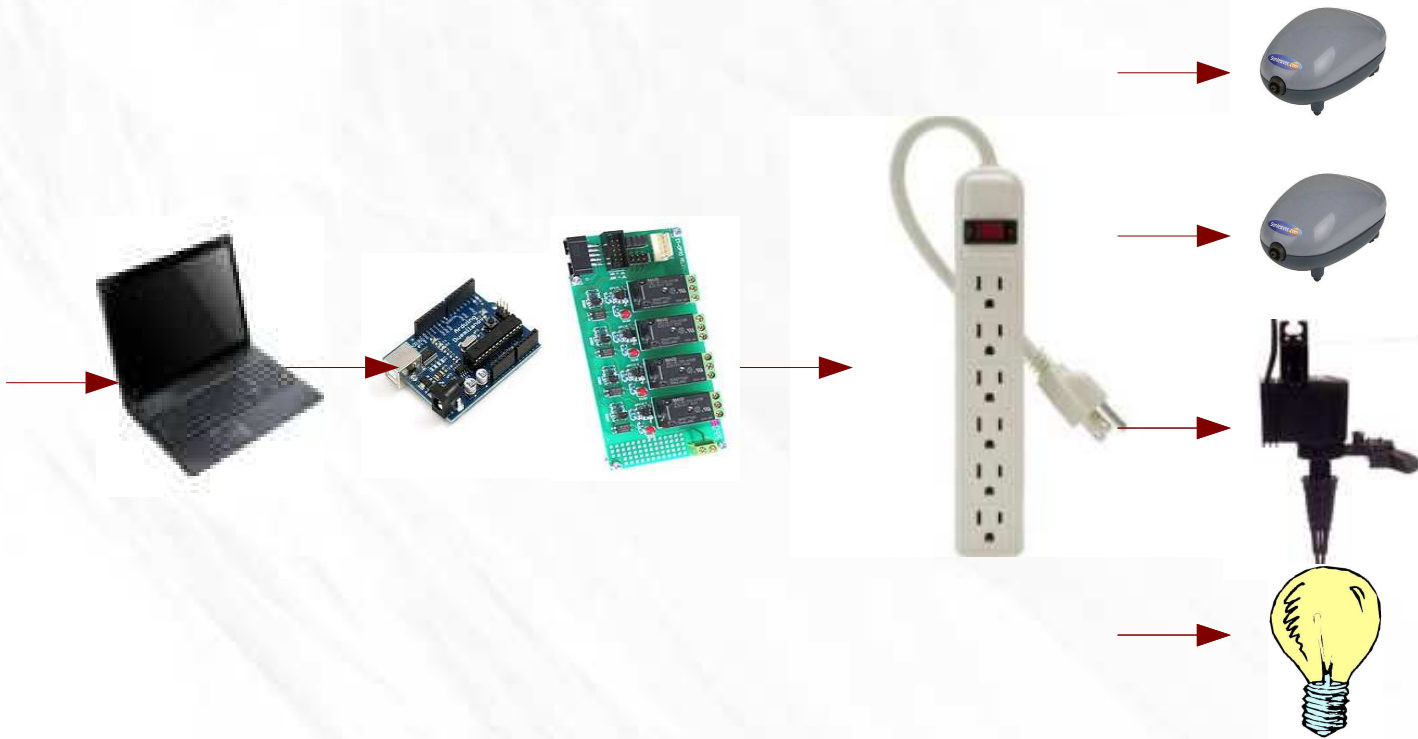
CanaKIT 60\$



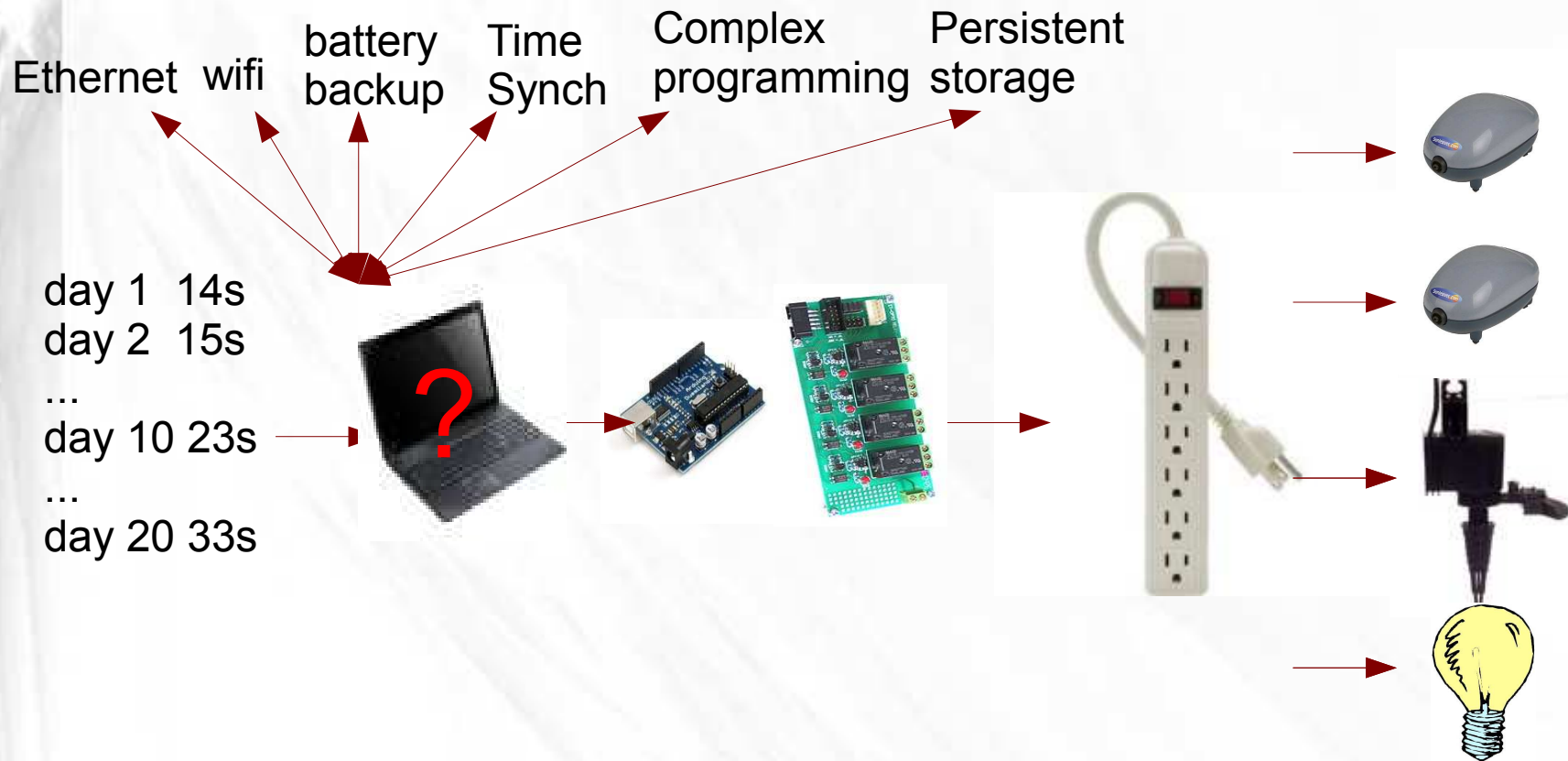
futurlec – ARM2103 \$30

Computer Controller Power

day 1 14s
day 2 15s
...
day 10 23s
...
day 20 33s

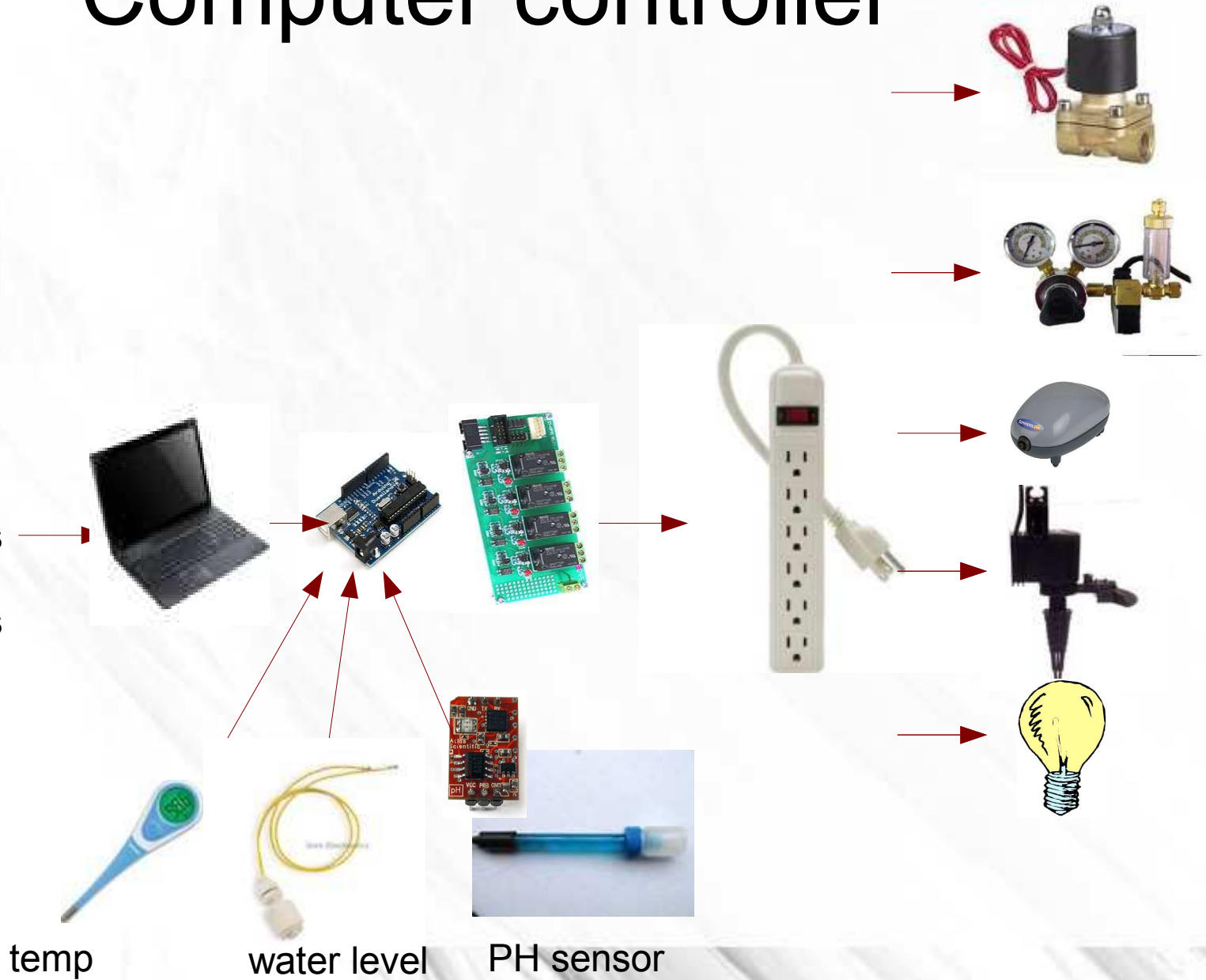


Computer controller



Computer controller

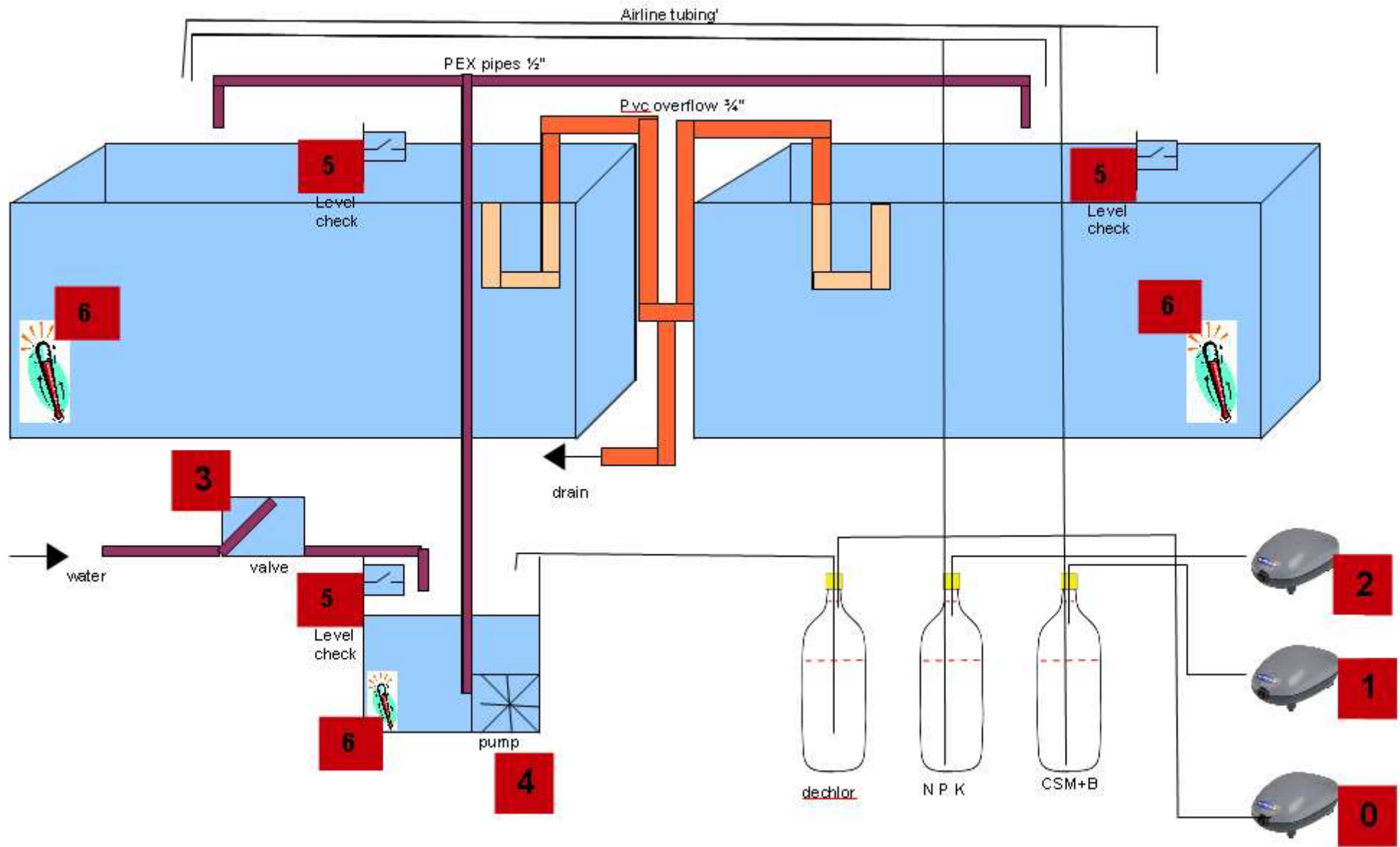
day 1 14s
day 2 15s
...
day 10 23s
...
day 20 33s

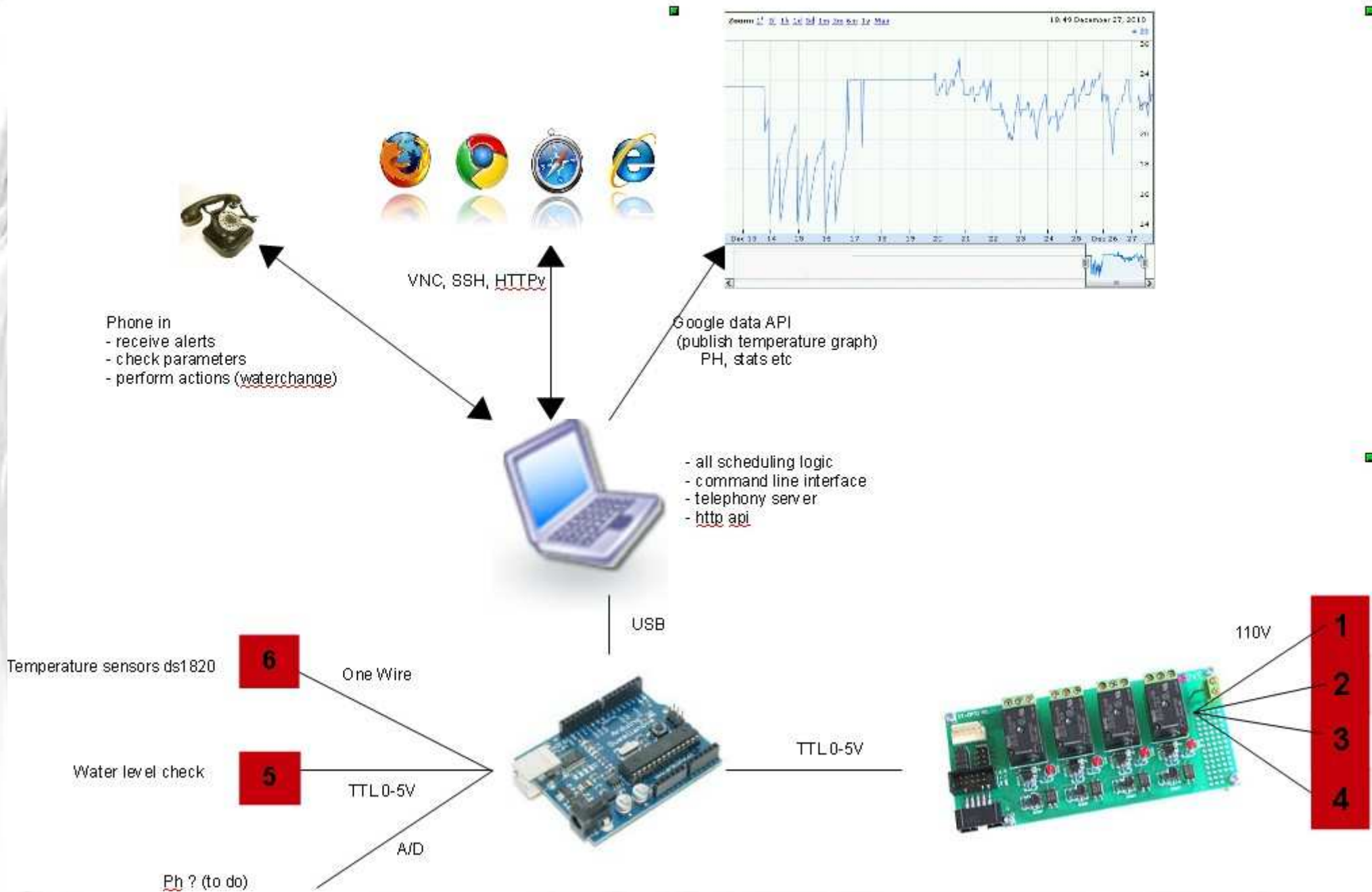


temp

water level

PH sensor

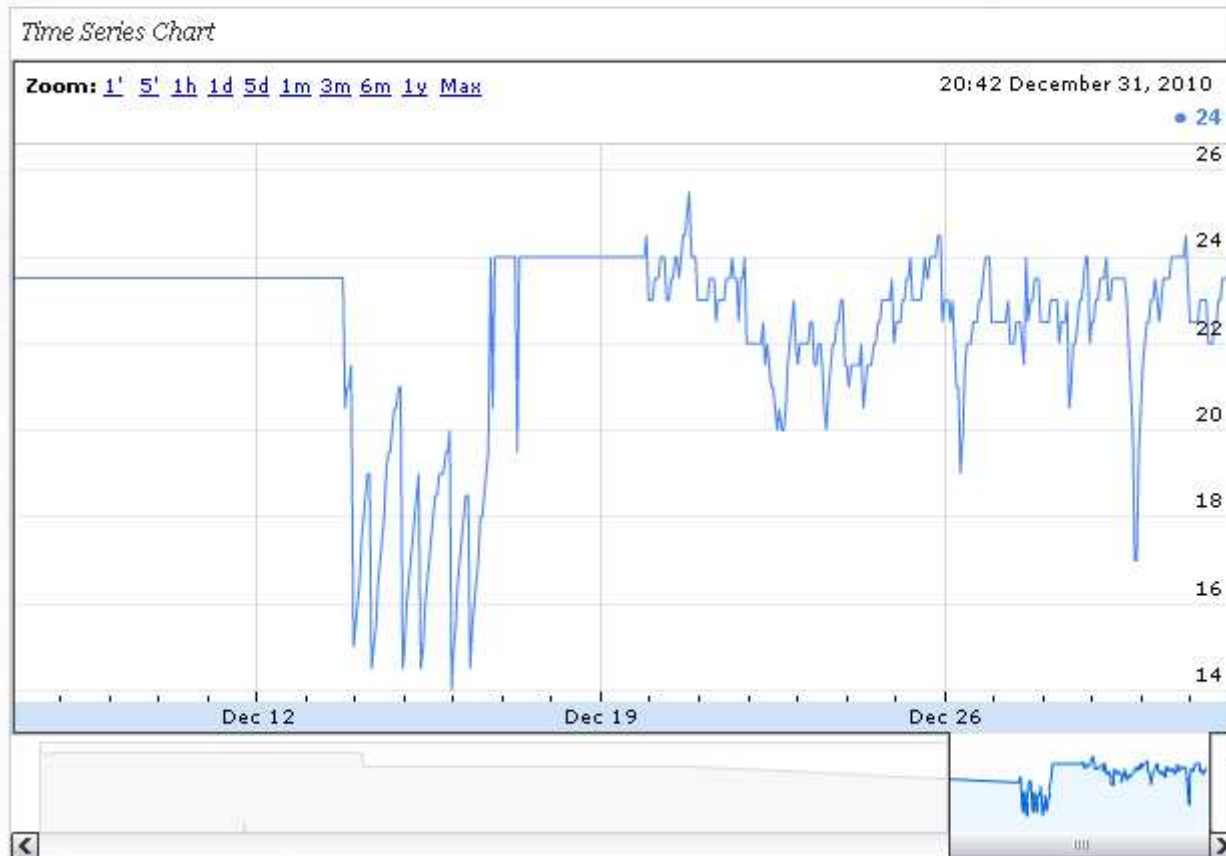




Monitor Parameters Online

Parameter Tracker

This is a chart, part of a prototype for an aquarium controller that I am working on. The controller will record various tank parameters (temperatures, ph, level, etc) and create nice visual charts, that are easy to navigate, can be marked with notes (like fish breeding), etc. More to come.



Don't want to DIY ?

- Aqua Controller Apex Jr System

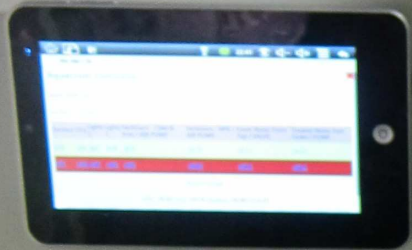


Starting at \$149.95

- Reef Angel Controller



Starting at \$219





\$70-\$90 on eBay



Interface

Aquarium Controller

water level low

water level low

water level low

-

23.5°C | 74.30°F

25.5°C | 77.90°F

27.37°C | 81.27°F

-

| Dechlor | CO2 | Lights 2 | Lights 1 | Fertilizers - AIR PUMP | CSM+B Iron / AIR PUMP | Fertilizers - NPK / AIR PUMP | Fresh Water From Tap / VALVE | Treated Water Into Tanks / PUMP |
|---------|-----|----------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|---------|-----|----------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|

[on5](#) [on6](#) [on7](#) [on8](#) [on9](#)

[on10](#)

[on11](#)

[on12](#)

[off5](#) [off6](#) [off7](#) [off8](#) [off9](#)

[off10](#)

[off11](#)

[off12](#)

[WaterChange](#)

[NPK: 13/20](#) [Iron: 13/16](#) [Dechlor: 14/40](#) [PH: 6.64](#)

Reset: [NPK](#) | [Iron](#) | [Dechlor](#)

Parts and costs

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|------|---|
| Arduino | \$25 | 1 | \$25 | http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/tags-on-product/B001VK18HC |
| Relay Board(4 relays) | \$15 | 2 | \$30 | http://www.futurlec.com/Opto_Relay_4.shtml |
| Temp sensors | \$5 | 3 | \$15 | ebay - onewire ds1820 |
| Breadboard | \$6 | 1 | \$6 | RadioShack, ebay |
| Wires, resistors, etc | \$10 | 1 | \$10 | futurlec, adafruit, ebay |
| Ph Probe | \$20-\$80 | 1 | \$25 | |
| Ph Stamp | \$25 (was \$15) | 1 | \$15 | https://www.atlas-scientific.com/Embedded_Solutions.html |
| Water level sensors | \$2 | 3 | \$6 | ebay |
| Air pumps | \$6 | 3 | \$18 | dr foster and smith |
| Water solenoid | \$12 | 1 | \$12 | ebay |
| Power strips | \$5-\$7 | 2 | \$10 | Home Depot |
| 9V DC power supply | \$6 | 1 | \$6 | |
| Plumbing: PVC, PEX, fittings, bucket, hose, etc | \$~50 | | \$50 | HomeDepot , Lowes |

May I use your code ?

- Yes
- via SVN repository
 - Arduino code
 - Java code for the controller
 - USB drivers and documentation
 - Configuration files
- email (eugen@gwu.edu or PM on gwapa forum) and I will grant access to the code if you need it



<http://www.cvreefers.org/showthread.php?8073-DIY-Overflow>

