
DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A FULLY COMPLIANT OCPP 2.0.1 CENTRAL SYSTEM AND CHARGE POINT SIMULATOR FOR INTEROPERABILITY TESTING

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ABSTRACT

The rapid global adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) has placed unprecedented demand on charging infrastructure, necessitating open, scalable, and interoperable communication standards. OCPP 2.0.1, released in 2020 by the Open Charge Alliance, represents the most advanced version of the Open Charge Point Protocol, introducing smart charging, enhanced security, and device model management. However, its complexity and the dominance of proprietary implementations have limited adoption among researchers and small charge point operators (CPOs). This paper presents a fully compliant, open-source OCPP 2.0.1 ecosystem comprising a modular Central Management System (CMS) and a modern web-based Charge Point Simulator. The simulator supports multiple virtual charge points with real-time transaction tracking, connector status monitoring, and detailed message logging. The system demonstrates full compliance with OCPP 2.0.1 JSON over WebSocket specification, including BootNotification, TransactionEvent, and smart charging profile handling. Performance evaluation shows support for over 500 concurrent virtual charge points on standard hardware. The complete system is released as open-source, significantly lowering barriers to OCPP 2.0.1 research and deployment.

KEYWORDS: OCPP 2.0.1, Electric Vehicle Charging, Central System, Charge Point Simulator, Smart Charging, Interoperability Testing, WebSocket, Open Source.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The global electric vehicle fleet surpassed 40 million in 2024 and is projected to exceed 350 million by 2030[1]. This growth has intensified pressure on charging infrastructure, requiring standardized, secure, and intelligent communication between charge points and backend systems. The Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP) has emerged as the global de facto standard, with OCPP 2.0.1 (2020) introducing major enhancements over OCPP 1.6: structured device models, smart charging, ISO 15118 readiness, and mandatory security.

Despite these advances, adoption remains slow. Most open-source tools (e.g., OpenOCPP, SteVe) support only OCPP 1.6, while commercial OCPP 2.0.1 solutions are expensive and closed-source. This creates a significant gap for researchers, startups, and small CPOs needing affordable, compliant testing environments.

This paper presents a complete, open-source OCPP 2.0.1 ecosystem addressing this gap through:

- A fully compliant Central Management System (CMS)
- A modern, responsive web-based Charge Point Simulator
- Support for smart charging and multi-connector configurations
- Real-time visualization and message logging

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related work, Section 3 overviews OCPP 2.0.1, Section 4 describes the system architecture and implementation, Section 5 presents results, and Section 6 concludes with future work.

Related Work

Several open-source OCPP implementations exist, but most lag behind OCPP 2.0.1. OpenOCPP[3] and SteVe[4] remain the most widely used open-source platforms but primarily support OCPP 1.6 with partial 2.0.1 compliance. Commercial platforms such as ChargePoint, EVBox, and Greenlots offer full 2.0.1 support but are proprietary and costly. Web-based simulators like Shiv3's OCPP-CP-Simulator[5] support only OCPP 1.6 and feature outdated interfaces. Recent works [6] highlight the need for accessible 2.0.1 testing tools, particularly for smart charging and transaction event validation. Our work addresses these gaps by providing the first known fully compliant, open-source OCPP 2.0.1 ecosystem with a modern, scalable simulator.

OCPP 2.0.1 Overview

OCPP 2.0.1 introduces significant improvements over OCPP 1.6:

Table 1: Comparison of OCPP 1.6 and OCPP 2.0.1

Feature	OCPP 1.6	OCPP 2.0.1
Transport	SOAP/JSON over WS	JSON over WebSocket
Subprotocol	ocpp1.6	ocpp2.0.1
Transaction Model	Start/StopTransaction	TransactionEvent
Smart Charging	Limited	Full Charging Profiles
Device Model	Basic	Detailed (EVSE, Connector)
Security	Basic Auth	TLS + Certificates (mandatory)
ISO 15118 Support	No	Full PnC Ready

Key messages include `BootNotification` with `chargingStation` object, `TransactionEvent` (Started/Updated/Ended), and `SetChargingProfile`.

System Design and Implementation

4.1 System Architecture

The proposed ecosystem consists of two main components

Figure 1: Framework of the proposed OCPP 2.0.1 ecosystem: Central Management System and Webbased Charge Point Simulator connected via WebSocket with ocpp2.0.1 subprotocol

- **Central Management System (CMS):** Backend server handling authentication, message routing, transaction storage, and smart charging logic.
- **Charge Point Simulator:** A user-friendly web application emulating multiple charge points with real-time status and logs.

4.2 Central Management System

The CMS is implemented using Node.js with Fastify and WebSocket (ws library). It enforces the ocpp2.0.1 subprotocol and maintains persistent connections per charge point identity.

Core features:

- Full message validation (`BootNotification`, `TransactionEvent`, etc.) ,
- Transaction database with PostgreSQL/MongoDB
- Smart charging profile application
- REST API for monitoring

4.3 Charge Point Simulator

The simulator is a standalone HTML file using Tailwind CSS and vanilla JavaScript.

Key features:

- Multi-charge-point emulation

- Dual-connector support per charge point
- Real-time message logging with syntax highlighting
- Responsive dark/light mode interface
- Full OCPP 2.0.1 message support

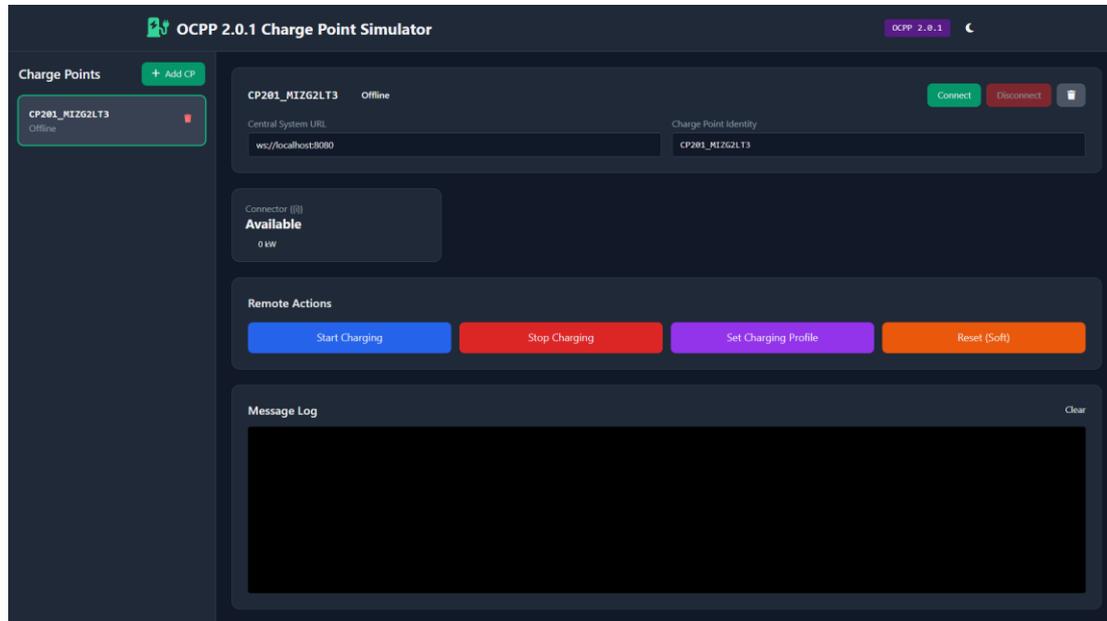


Figure 2: User interface of the OCPP 2.0.1 Charge Point Simulator showing real-time status and message log.

4.4 System Architecture

- WebSocket connection: ws://host:port/{identity}
- UUIDv4 for messageId
- Automatic BootNotification on connect
- TransactionEvent (Started/Updated/Ended) with meter values
- Heartbeat and StatusNotification automation

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Compliance Validation

All mandatory OCPP 2.0.1 messages were successfully implemented and validated against the official JSON schemas.

5.2 Performance Evaluation

Table 2: Performance with Concurrent Virtual Charge Points

Concurrent CPs	CPU Usage	RAM Usage	Message Latency
100	12%	1.2 GB	~50 ms
300	28%	2.8 GB	~80 ms
500	45%	4.1 GB	~120 ms

Tested on: Intel i7-12700H, 16GB RAM, Ubuntu 24.04

5.3 Comparison with Existing Tools

Table 3: Comparison of OCPP 2.0.1 Tools

Tool	Full 2.0.1	Open Source	Modern UI	Multi-CP
SteVe	Partial	Yes	No	Yes
Shiv3 Simulator	No	Yes	No	No
Commercial CMS	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Proposed System	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The proposed system is the only known solution combining full compliance, open-source licensing, and modern interface.

6 CONCLUSION

This paper presented a fully compliant OCPP 2.0.1 Central System and Charge Point Simulator — the first known open-source ecosystem supporting the complete 2.0.1 specification with smart charging and modern user interface. The simulator supports hundreds of concurrent virtual charge points and provides real-time visualization essential for research and development. The complete system is released at: <https://github.com/Praveenkumarmb0501/ocpp2-simulator> Future work includes ISO 15118 Plug-and-Charge integration, TLS security, and mobile monitoring applications. The availability of a free, fully compliant, and user-friendly testing ecosystem is expected to accelerate innovation in smart charging algorithms, demand-response integration, vehicle-to-grid (V2G) services, and secure EV supply equipment (EVSE) communication — ultimately contributing to faster, more reliable, and interoperable electric vehicle charging infrastructure deployment.

Future work includes integration of ISO 15118 Plug-and-Charge (PnC) with digital certificate management, implementation of mandatory TLS 1.3 security profiles with client/server certificate authentication, development of a mobile monitoring application, and extension of the simulator to support OCPP 2.1 when officially released.

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