

Internet of Things (IoT)

 Digital-Technology-Radar.net



	low	medium	high
Impact			
Complexity			

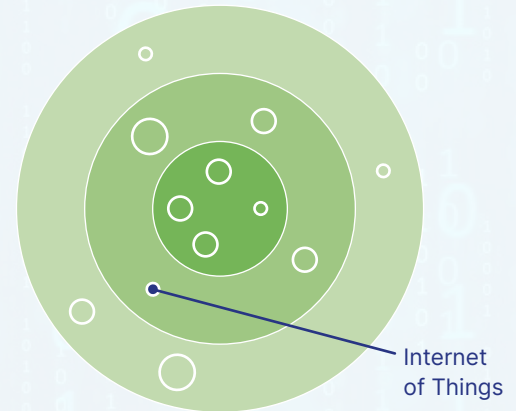
1 INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to the network of interconnected physical devices that exchange data with each other via the internet. These devices, equipped with sensors, software and other technologies, collect and transmit data to improve decision making, enhance automation and deliver real-time insights.

Key benefits

IoT offers significant advantages such as real-time monitoring, increased efficiency, predictive maintenance and enhanced automation, leading to cost savings, improved safety and better decision making.



2 KEY CONCEPTS

Fundamental principles

The fundamental principles of IoT involve connectivity for data exchange, sensors for gathering environmental and operational data, data processing for turning raw data into actionable insights, and actuation for responding to processed data by triggering physical actions.

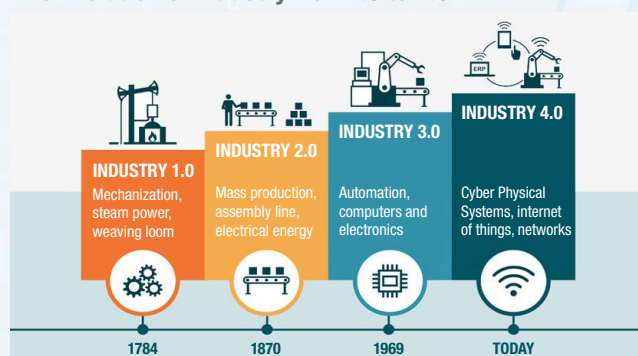
Terminology

In IoT terminology, [sensors](#) collect data from the environment, [actuators](#) trigger actions based on processed data, [edge computing](#) involves processing data closer to where it is generated to reduce latency, [cloud computing](#) provides scalable storage and analysis of IoT data, and interoperability refers to the ability of different IoT devices and systems to work together seamlessly.

The Five Layers of IoT Architecture

- 1 **Perception Layer:** devices and sensors that collect data.
- 2 **Network Layer:** connectivity methods (e.g. Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, LPWAN).
- 3 **Processing Layer:** edge or cloud-based data processing and analysis.
- 4 **Application Layer:** user interfaces and applications for IoT data.
- 5 **Business Layer:** management of business rules and services derived from IoT data.

The Evolution of Industry from 1.0 to 4.0



Source: www.researchgate.net

3 POPULAR TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS

Primary tools

- **AWS IoT:** a cloud platform for connecting IoT devices, storing and analysing data.
- **Azure IoT:** Microsoft's suite of cloud services for IoT applications, offering device management and analytics.
- **Node-RED:** a low-code programming tool for connecting IoT devices and services.

Comparison

- **MQTT vs HTTP:** MQTT is a lightweight messaging protocol for constrained devices with low bandwidth, while HTTP is more common but less efficient for IoT.
- **Edge Computing vs Cloud Computing:** edge computing reduces latency by processing data locally, whereas cloud computing provides vast storage and computational resources.

4 APPLICATIONS

Industry use cases

- **Healthcare:** remote patient monitoring and medical device integration.
> Best Practice: [Philips HealthSuite](#).
- **Industrial Automation:** predictive maintenance and asset tracking in manufacturing.
> Best Practice: [GE Predix](#).
- **Agriculture:** precision farming with soil sensors and automated irrigation.
> Best Practice: [John Deere's Precision AG Technology](#).

Practical examples

- **Nest Thermostat:** home automation system to manage heating.
- **Connected Vehicles:** vehicles that communicate with each other and infrastructure to enhance safety and efficiency.
- **Amazon Echo:** a voice-activated smart assistant that controls IoT devices in the home.

5 IMPLEMENTATION INSIGHTS

Best practices and tips

- **Security by Design:** incorporate strong security measures at every stage of IoT development to protect data and privacy.
- **Scalability:** design IoT systems with scalability in mind, ensuring they can grow as the number of devices increases.
- **Standardise Protocols:** use standardised communication protocols to ensure compatibility and interoperability.

Common challenges

- **Interoperability Issues:** ensure devices from different manufacturers can work together smoothly.
- **Data Overload:** manage large volumes of data effectively to extract useful insights without overwhelming systems.
- **Interoperability:** lack of standardisation across devices and platforms.

6 KEY TRENDS AND PREDICTIONS

Top milestones in IoT

- **1999:** [Kevin Ashton](#) coins the term 'Internet of Things', envisioning a world where devices are interconnected.
- **2008:** IoT devices [outnumber people on Earth](#), marking a significant milestone in adoption. IoT Milestone.
- **2014:** introduction of smart home devices like Amazon Echo, bringing IoT into mainstream consumer markets.

Current trends

- **5G Integration:** accelerating IoT with faster, more reliable connectivity, enabling real-time data processing and more devices in the network.
- **AI-Powered IoT:** combining AI with IoT to create intelligent systems that can learn from data and make autonomous decisions.
- **Smart Cities:** deployment of IoT technologies to enhance urban infrastructure and services.

Future predictions

- **Massive IoT Deployments:** billions of devices will be interconnected, revolutionising industries from healthcare to transportation.
- **Edge AI:** the rise of AI at the edge, where devices can process data locally, leading to faster and more efficient operations.
- **Edge Computing Integration:** increased use of edge computing to process IoT data locally, reducing latency and bandwidth use.

Authors



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Torsten established Digital Innovations at Lufthansa, founded the FlyingLab, and was responsible for the digital strategies of Austrian, Lufthansa and Swiss airlines. Today, as the "Inno Doc", he is digital advisor, coach and catalyst, interim manager and fire fighter for many organisations in their pursuit for digital innovations.

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7 KEY RESOURCES AND MOST HELPFUL LINKS

Websites and blogs

- **IoT Agenda:** a comprehensive source for IoT news, analysis and resources.
- **Stacey on IoT:** Stacey Higginbotham, a renowned tech journalist, runs this blog. It provides deep dives into IoT trends and smart devices.
- **IoT For All:** one of the most comprehensive IoT blogs, featuring articles, podcasts and news on IoT trends, use cases, etc.

Online courses

- **edX – The Internet of Things (IoT):** introductory courses providing an understanding of IoT technologies, systems and how they can be applied.
- **Cisco Networking Academy:** introduction to IoT and Digital Transformation.
- **Coursera – Internet of Things (IoT) Specialization:** this specialisation consists of six courses covering the fundamentals of IoT by University of San Diego.

Communities and forums

- **IoTopen:** a community hub for IoT developers, engineers and enthusiasts.
- **Hackster.io – IoT Projects:** a platform and blog for IoT enthusiasts and makers. It features hands-on IoT projects, tutorials and community-driven content.
- **IoT Community:** exploring the world's largest IoT community.

8 GLOSSARY

Common terms and definitions

- **Sensors:** devices that detect and measure changes in the environment, such as temperature, humidity or motion.
- **Actuators:** components that cause mechanical movements in response to a control signal.
- **Edge Computing:** processing data near the source of data generation rather than in a centralised data-processing warehouse.
- **Cloud Computing:** delivering computing services over the internet, including storage, databases, networking and analytics.
- **Interoperability:** the ability of different systems, devices or applications to work together within a network.
- **IoT Platform:** an integrated suite of tools and services that connect devices, manage data and build IoT applications.



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Marc was an executive at eBay, E*TRADE (ANZ) and LexisNexis. Today, he is the "Digital Prof" at Rochester-Bern Executive Programs, the University of Rochester, at FHNW and at CSU in Australia. His research and teaching covers digital transformation, digital technology, digital leadership, cybersecurity and digital marketing.

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