The Internet of Things: Reflections on the Past, Present and Future from a User Centered and Smart Environment Perspective

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Abstract. This paper introduces the Internet-of-Things (IoT) and describes its evolution from a concept proposed by Kevin Ashton in 1999 through its public emergence in 2005 in a United Nations ITU report entitled "*The Internet of Things*", to the present day where IoT devices are available as off-the-shelf products from major manufacturers. Using a systematic study of public literature, the paper presents a five-phase categorisation of the development of the Internet-of-Things from its beginnings to the present day. Four mini case studies are included to illustrate some of the issues involved. Finally, the paper discusses some of the big issues facing future developers and marketers of Internet-of-Things based products ranging from artificial intelligence (AI) through to customer privacy and acceptance finishing with an optimistic assessment of the future of the Internet-of-Things.

Keywords: Internet-of-Things, End-User Programming, Smart Environments, Web Appliances, Personalisation, Big Data, Ubiquitous Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Acceptance, Trust, Privacy, Innovation, User-Centric

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1. Introduction

We are approaching 20 years since Kevin Ashton coined the term Internet-of-Things (IoT) as part of a 1999 presentation to Proctor & Gamble about incorporating RFID tags within their supply chain to "*empower computers with their own means of gathering information, so they can see, hear and smell the world for themselves, in all its random glory*". It built on earlier ideas, most noteably Mark Weiser's vision for ubiquitous computing described in his 1991 article for Scientific American (The Computer for the 21st Century) in which he described a future world composed of numerous interconnected computers that were designed to "*weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it*" [97]. Elsewhere, in the late 90's researchers working in artificial intelligence (AI) had envisioned the concept of 'embedded-agents' whereby AI processes could be made computationally small enough to be integrated into the type of ubiquitous computing and internet-of-things devices that Weiser and Ashton had described, opening the possibility for so-called *intelligent environments* or *ambient intelligence*. In these environments the intelligence was distributed to devices making them smart, robust and scalable. The most noteworthy movements were Intelligent Environments, which arose in Europe driven by researchers such as Juan Carlos Augusto of the University of Middlesex (one of the co-founders of the JAISE journal) and Victor Callaghan (one of the co-founders of the International Intelligent Environments Conference series) of the Essex University [23] and ambient intelligence which was originally proposed by the late Eli Zelkha of Palo Alto Ventures in the USA [81]. All these researchers were visionaries, able to imagine a future that had yet to exist, but which they described in such credible terms as to motivate a generation of researchers to work towards bringing these visions to reality, adding numerous innovation of their own as they completed their work. Industry was quick to recognise the potential for these technologies to radically disrupt the market by offering customers services and products that had hitherto not existed, and the consequent challanges of how shape the enormous posibilities into viable products which customers would want and buy. Many innovation strategies were deployed to explore this space with one of the most notable, Science Fiction Prototyping, arising within Intel being championed by their then futurist, Brian David Johnson. Science Fiction Prototyping functioned by enabling company personnel and customers to work together on future product ideas via writing and modifying narrative fiction which incorporated customers needs and IoT capabilities into imaginative but credible scenarious [25]. As we approach the 20th anniversary of Ashton's Internet-of-Things vision it seems timely to create a chapter that reflects on the various threads of progress during the past 20 years and ponders on some of the issues that might affect future development. Thus, in this chapter we review the history of the IoT, discuss the main technical frameworks and application areas, discuss topical issues such as AI and privacy, delve into the process of market acceptance of new technology before concluding with a speculative discussion on the future of IoT.

2. Evolution of the Internet-of-Things

Advances in semiconductor and miniaturisation technologies have led to a remarkable reduction in the size of computers bringing pervasiveness into mainstream computing. Today, an ever increasing number of everyday objects are endowed with sensing technologies, which are seamlessly connected to other devices, via the Internet, to send data, respond to inputs, or act autonomously, delivering diverse services in real time. This interconnection of everyday objects, or smart "things", is potentially amongst the most significant disruptive technologies of the 21st century. According to a report by Cambridge Consultants (Fig 1), there were approximately 13.3 million IoT connections in the UK in 2016, and it is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 36% to 155.7 million connections at the end of 2024. In addition, according to market research reports the IoT market is experiencing significant growth with ABI Research [2] [55] predicting a CAGR of 44.9% in shipments for digital household appliances between 2011-2020 (Table 1). Furthermore, a BCC Research report[1] projected that

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[1] BCC Research Report on Internet of Things (IoT) Networks: Technologies and Global Markets to 2022: https://www.bccresearch.com/market-research/information-technology/internet-of-things-iot-networks-technologies-and-global-markets-to-2022-ift141a.html
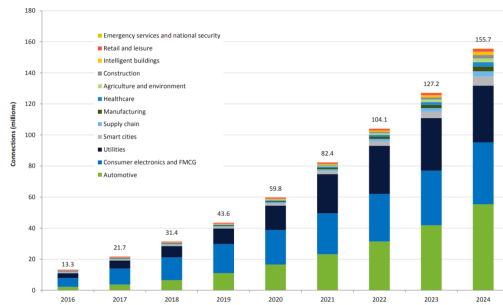
Fig. 1. Forecast Connections by sector between 2016 and 2024 [98]

the IoT hardware segment is expected to grow from $6.5 billion in 2017 to $17.3 billion in 2022 at a CAGR of 21.7% for this period, while the service segment is projected to grow from $6.5 billion to $17.3 billion at a CAGR of 21.7% for the same period.

The projection shows the potential impact of the Internet-of-Things on the market sector as a whole. Before proceeding it would be helpful to clarify more exactly what is meant by the phrase "The Internet-of-Things". For example, depending on the context of usage, it might be seen as being about (physical) hardware and objects or the Internet, or networks, or the actual communication? Alternatively, it may imply that it is about sensing, processing, or the capability of making decisions? At a differnt level,it might be seen as concerning data, or information? From a different perspective, one might even describe it as a new processing model that leads to improving the efficiency of a certain business operations or enhancing the quality of people's lives. There have been many interpretations of the concept, yet there is still not a universal definition that all experts agree on. Finally, how do the Internet-of-Things differ from similar movements such as pervasive computing, ambient intelligence, ubiquitous computing and intelligent environments? Thus, the definition of the Internet-of-Things will be discussed in the following section.

2.1. The Internet-of-Things as a Multi-faceted Movement

The Internet-of-Things, the Embedded-Internet, Ubiquitous Computing, Pervasive Computing, and Ambient Intelligence are terms which, in the eyes of many ordinary people, seem to describe the same thing. However, in academic circles the nuances in

the perceived meanings can be important and sometimes argued over. From the authors review of the literature these sometime subtle differences can be better understood by tracing the roots of each community. For example, the Pervasive Computer community have historically had a strong interest in communications and networking issues while the Ubiquitous Computing community have had a greater interest in HCI issues. Likewise the Ambient Intelligence and Intelligent Environments community have, as their names imply, a keen interest in the use of AI. The Internet-of-Things grew out of sensor networks and monitoring which, developed quickly into a broader interest for networked devices and infrastructures. Networking and infrastucture aspects of IoT are covered in depth in another chaper of this edited book by Gomeza et-al [49]. Of course all communities cover all aspects of such systems, so it's hardly surprising that, to the ordinary people, these terms seem to be synonymous with each other (and increasingly so, as the market introduces products that combine all these ideas). Given that the terminology of the Internet-of-Things arose from industry, and industry is bringing these technologies to the market, its hardly suprising that the Internet-of-Things is now the dominant term in the public arena. That being the case we now trace the history of the term, the Internet-of-Things.

The starting point for the term "Internet-of-Things" finding popular recognition in the public domain can be traced back to the 2005 World Summit in Tunis where the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a body of the United Nations (UN), published a report entitled "*The Internet of Things*" [58]. It would seem that this was a pivitol moment in both publisising the term and creating an awarness of the enormous business opportunities arising from the connection of embedded computers, along with sensors and/or actuators, to the Internet. These embedded computers (things, in IoT terminology) can be made to function autonomously, with or without human intervention, communicating with other devices or people, via the Internet. With the addition of AI the 'things' can become smart, using pre-programmed rules or those learnt dynamically through machine-learning to make decsions. The sensors embedded into IoT devices can produce big-data for higher level analytical engines. The 2005 ITU report [58] described this concept in great detail together with the potential benefit that the technology could bring to industry and society. The report highlighted three important initial functions: *tracking*, *sensing*, and *decision-making* being the

Table 1

Smart Home Device Shipments by Region: World Market Forecast 2011-2020 [41]

Table 85 Smart Home Device Shipments by Region World Market, Forecast: 2011 to 2020												
Region	Shipments	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	CAGR 15-20
North America	(000s)	2,340.93	5,495.63	10,490.60	18,058.59	29,347.33	43,509.44	63,451.18	88,008.70	122,194.14	170,419.13	42.2%
United States	(000s)	2,106.84	4,946.07	9,441.54	16,252.73	26,412.60	39,158.50	57,106.07	79,207.83	109,974.73	153,377.22	42.2%
Canada	(000s)	234.09	549.56	1,049.06	1,805.86	2,934.73	4,350.94	6,345.12	8,800.87	12,219.41	17,041.91	42.2%
Western Europe	(000s)	574.84	1,004.74	1,714.74	2,708.63	4,270.92	6,348.73	9,459.69	13,795.17	19,756.72	27,492.47	45.1%
Eastern Europe	(000s)	145.71	314.29	612.60	1,072.28	1,852.92	3,042.04	4,779.69	6,889.47	9,855.62	14,148.94	50.2%
Asia-Pacific	(000s)	245.47	663.65	1,344.82	2,494.82	4,318.63	6,999.31	11,317.15	17,471.11	26,149.42	39,331.99	55.6%
Latin America	(000s)	192.70	492.72	1,048.28	1,946.60	3,405.19	5,522.48	8,325.89	11,772.82	16,757.78	23,905.01	47.7%
Middle East & Africa	(000s)	71.30	153.64	329.73	654.06	1,177.92	1,870.19	2,899.46	4,271.16	5,760.38	7,849.88	46.1%
Total	(000s)	3,570.96	8,124.67	15,540.76	26,934.99	44,372.91	67,292.19	100,233.05	142,208.43	200,474.06	283,147.42	44.9%

fundamental part of future Internet-of-Things eco-systems. Of course, this report was written over 10 years ago and since then , technology and ideas have advanced, creating bigger visions and posibilities, some of which we will touch on later in this paper.

2.2. Internet-of-Things Phases of Development

Having introduced the Internet-of-Things, we will now investigate how the historical development of the Internet of-Things might be characterised into phases, each with their own characteristices. Our analysis is based on a study of over forty definitions and narratives from published literature during in the period 2005 – 2017 (a 12-year period). In order to to complete this task we analysed data using common keywords (Table 2) based on the nature, characteristics, functionalities, and capabilities of the Internet-of-Things. From our analysis we deduced it is possible to characterise its development into five distinct phases. The first phase, before 2005 was when the Internet-of-Things was in its infancy and work was largely exploratory and ad-hoc in nature. the remaining four phases, all post-2005, each comprise a 3-year period which are described in the following sections.

2.2.1. Phase one 2005-2008 (The Devices & Connectivity Period)

The most frequent key phrases emerging from the study of this period were: "*communication*", "*network*", "*interconnect*", "*physical and virtual objects*", "*things*", "*indentities*", and "*computation*". Given that the pivitol ITU report [58] was published at the beginning of this phase, the IoT concept was viewed as being relatively new during this period. According to the 'Internet World Stats' organisation, between 15% and 24% of the world's population were, at that time, connected to the Internet with their main activities being sending and receiving emails or using various repository services to discover information. Cloud Computing was in its infancy during this period since the term did not yet exist with such centralisation of computing and information being regarded as applications of client-server architectures. It was the time where the "Disappearing Computer" paradigmn first emerged, most notably as part of an EU research funding programme [17]. Communities such as Ubiquitous and Pervasive Computing and Intelligent Environments / Ambient Intelligence were formed. The IoT concept in this period was essentially interpreted as "*transforming everyday objects into embedded-computers*", to "*provide the object with an identity*" and "*connect it to the Internet*" (i.e. remote access and control). Technologies which typified this period were the Dallas Semiconductor's Tini Board which was marketed as the worlds first commercial '*emebedded-Internet*' device [28]. In the same period, the concept for 'embedded-agents' emerged which allowed decentraised ambient intelligence to be realised [19].

2.2.2. Phase two 2009-2011 (The Machine-to-Machine Period)

Between 2009 and 2011, industries and academics started to realise the Internet-of-Things's potential with a surge on attempts to develop and apply the concept. In our study of this period, serveral new key phrases emerged: "*infrustrucuture*", "*information*", "*data*", "*services*", "*captures*", "*sense*", "*physical*

and virtual", "communication", "interoperability", "seamless integration", "seamless communication", "processes", "autonomously", and "controlled remotely" This period saw technological platforms gradually improved to support the core functionality of the Internet-of-Things. Networks and standards were created to support the various modes of communication involved [41] [42] [49]. One of these modes of communication, Machine-to-Machine (M2M), was adopted as the basis for the Industrial Internet-of-Things, which was of such importance that it has been used to catogorise this phase. During this period there was a shift of focus away from the hardware and connectivity issues of phase one, to software, data, information and services. An increased emphasis on processing capability and remote control were also observed. The concept of the Internet-of-Things began to take off more rapidly towards the end of this period.

2.2.3. Phase three 2012-2014 (The HCI Period)

Between 2012 and 2014, technology continued to advance, further accelerating the commercial adoption of the IoT concept. Examples of such technological developments included a) object identification (e.g. Electronic Product Codes (EPCs) [15], and IPv6 [66] [90]), and b) network connectivity (e.g. wireless communication, low energy consumption and cloud computing [77] [85]). Significant developments occured in the area of HCI. For example, End-User Programming paradigms began to attract attention to address the needs for empowering users in this digital revolution [65] [33]. In addition to earlier key watchwords, the most frequent new phrases uncovered in this phase were: "human" , "interaction", "smart", "bringing people, process, data and things together", "connected", and "improve quality". From these it is deduced that the Internet-of-Things concept had evolved from information and services (of phase two) to include users. The vision to interconnect what had hitherto been seperate silo systems was also beginning to emerge, as well as users empowerment through paradigms such as Pervasive-interactive-Programming (PiP) which enabled end users not only to assembel hardware, but to program the collaborative software functionality of such systems, which was a key aspect of making them personalised and smarter [33].

2.2.4. Phase four 2015 –2017 (The Smart Period)

Between 2015 to 2017, global technology players (such as Cisco, ARM, Intel, Amazon) begun to position themselves and launched products aimed at generating revenue from the Internet-of-Things. The resulting increase in numbers of Internet connected devices, together with the high value of data generated from their usage, gave rise to new business opportunities that exploited this new source of big-data. Thus, big data, analytics and Intelligence were the common themes in literature covering this period. Some new common key phrases encountered were: "comercial", "products", "insights", "analyse", "big-data", "smart", "safer", and "efficient". It was also observed that the IoT concept shifted from the information, services and users (in phase three) to massive systems integration. This period involved utilising Artificial Intelligence to process information, make decisions, and create an impact on people's lives (i.e. data anayltics and Machine Learning), plus the emergence of the System of Systems concept (ie a way that collections of Internet-of-Things components can pool their capabilities to deliver higher-level functionalies.

2.3. Internet-of-Things Characteristics and Classifications

Just as the scope of the Internet-of-Things has changed down the years, so to have the main features that would characterise it. In its early days the Internet-of-Things was characterised, in general terms, by what was referred to as the five "C"s :

- Convergence – any 'thing', any device
- Computation – anytime, always on
- Collection - any data, any service
- Communication - any path, any network
- Connectivity - any place, any where

Later, these general characteristics evolved to include details to reflect the logical functions of IoT, in particular [58]:

- Entity-based concept (physical and virtual objects)
- Distributed execution (design and processing)
- Interactions (machine and users)
- Distributed data (storage and protability)
- Scalability (infrastucture)
- Abstraction (rapid prototyping)
- Availability (networks)

- Fault tolerance (user-friendliness)
- Event-based (modular architecture)
- Works in real time (speed and performance)

While a view of the logical functions of the Internet-of-Things characteristics provides a useful summary, it does not reflect well the impact and benefits that the concept offers. For example, it does not capture the ability of Internet-of-Things systems to process large quantities of data and to infer high value information or knowledge which enable smartness, by supporting effective decision-making. Today's view of the Internet-of-Things, especially from an industry perspective, is very much one of a network of '*systems of systems*'. In this context, the charateristics of a modern Internet-of-Things system can be summarised better as comprising:

- devices (including physical or virtual, power, processing)
- data capture (including sensing and data exchange)
- communications (including network connectivity, protocols, authentication and encryption)
- analysis (including big data analytics, AI and machine learning)
- information (including insightful forecasts and predictions)
- value (including operational efficiency, improvement in performance)

3. Generations of Internet of Things: Tangible Physical Objects

As described in the previous section, a current Internet-of-Things eco-system spans factors which range from hardware through communication, storage, analytics, and decision-making process to the provision of value. In this section, we aim to describe some of the pioneering Internet-of-Things devices that were developed prior, and up to, the ITU-UN report published in 2005 [58]. For the purpose of this paper, we have only considered physical IoT devices classifying them into 4 generations:

- First Generation (1980s)
- Second Generation (1990s)
- Third Generation (2000s)
- Forth Generation (2010s)

In doing this we considered IoT devices as having the following eight characteristics:

- Sensing (S)

- Processing (P)
- Connectivity (C)
- Context-Awareness (CA)
- Internet (I)
- Internet Controlled (IC)
- Mobile Controlled (MC)
- Intelligence,self-configuring,self-monitoring (Int)

Table 3 lists some of the most prominent Internet-of-Things devices developed on or before 2005 which was the mosts intensive and open research period which is argued to have shaped and defined today's more commercial Internet-of-Things market. Our research showed that a total of 11 devices were developed in this period and the vast majority of them were inspired by everday objects: from smart platform shoes, developed in 1985 (first generation), to a table, developed in 2004 (third generation). These early Internet-of-Things devices exhibited between 1 to 5 charactersitcs we considered (listed above), apart from one, TESA (plant care device) developed in 2003, which included 7 out 8 these characterics. Currently, Internet-of-Things devices are widely available on the market providing an end-to-end solution to users, including functionalities such as sensing, monitoring, and decision-making and any attempt to draw up a list would be fruitless, since its large and commercially oriented. Thus,we omit listing IoT devices developed from 2006 onwards.

4. Some Illustrative Cases Studies

As was discussed earlier in this paper, the Internet-of-Things can be characterized as being an application that makes use of one or more relatively small inexpensive networked computers equipped with sensors and/or actuators that are managed by people and/or software process supporting a wide range of activities. Typically, the science supporting Internet-of-Things systems involves embedded-computing, the Cloud, software engineering, distributed computing, AI and HCI. The aim in writing this section is to provide an empirical (and informal) insight into the historical development of some Internet-of-Things platforms which we hope will be of interest to those working in this area in the modern era.
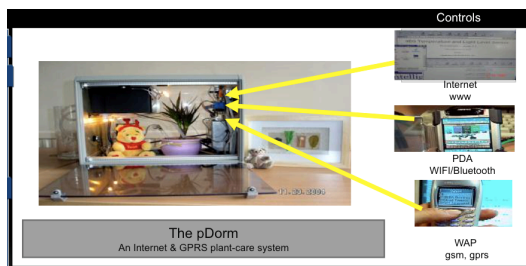
Fig 2. The pDorm

Fig 3. TINI Board

4.1. pDorm (Plant-Dorimtory)

The pDorm (aka TESA - Towards Embedded-Internet System Applications), shown in Fig 2, was one of the earliest examples of an Internet-of-Things application. [28] Developed in 2003, it took the form of a novel "botanical plant care" appliance, which explored the feasibility of applying the then, newly emerging low-cost Embedded-Internet devices to create a novel generation of products that could be accessed and controlled from anywhere, anytime, via a web-based interface. The principal challenges addressed by TESA were how to design an Internet-of-Things computing architecture that supported appliance control, a multimode heterogeneous client interface, and mixed wired and wireless communication (including access via mobile phone, before the era of smart phones). The system was presented in a custom-made box consisting of various lighting (top and bottom), a heater, a fan, a temperature and moisture sensor, attached to an embedded-internet board called TINI, manufactured by Dallas Semiconductor (Fig 3). TESA supported wired (Ethernet) and wireless (Bluetooth and WIFI) communications over an IP network and could be accessed via 3 different interfaces, all with different resolutions which auto-triggered according to the client device's screen resolution.

Programming Internet-of-Things systems at that time was the biggest challenge, due to a lack of out-of-the-box tools as technologies were constantly being refined, improved and updated. Developers and users had little choice but to work round various con-

straints. The major design issues faced in completing this project were:

- Lack of standards (reducing availability of off-the-shelf components)
- Lack of primitive tools (increasing the need to design everything from the bottom up)
- Limited scalability
- Limited economies of scale (making system more expensive)
- Lack of crowd based communities (reducing the level of support available)

4.2. The Smart Alarm Clock

This project, 'The Smart Alarm Clock' (Fig 4), was undertaken in 2013, some 10 years after the development of pDorm, and provides a good insight into how technology had changed, and the trends that were emerging as the Internet-of-Things moved forward. The Smart Alarm Clock was developed by Scott [83] who had identified that there wasn't a commercially available smart alarm clock, with the functionality to dynamically and autonomously adjust alarm times based on weather and traffic conditions. Examples of the more advanced Internet clock products at the time included the La Crosse WE-8115U-S Atomic Digital Clock, which featured indoor/outdoor temperature and humidity readings, and the Dynamically Programmable Alarm Clock (DPAC), designed by students at Northeastern University in Boston, MA, which was a self-setting alarm clock, that used Google Calendar appointments to set alarm times and automatically adjusted them based on current traffic and/or weather conditions. However, while many of these products sought to use external data, none had fully exploited the potential for real-time Web services that ranged from conventional gathering of data from web-feeds through to accessing Internet-of-Things environment sensors that may be part of private or public spaces.

Thus the concept of the Smart Alarm Clock (Fig 5) was developed with distinguishing features that included rule processing, local sensor readings and integration with web services which was intgrated into a single unit, that harnessed the full power of the Internet (including the Internet-of-Things) to determine the optimal alarm time for its owner to be awakened in order to reach their predetermined location at the right time. The alarm time adjustment was, for example, dependent on the severity of traffic conditions, weather forecast and actual local sensing.

For instance, readings from the local temperature sensor were used to further adjust the alarm time to
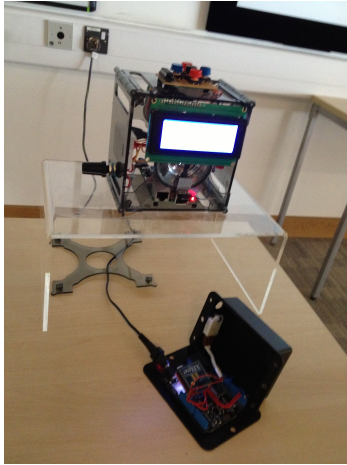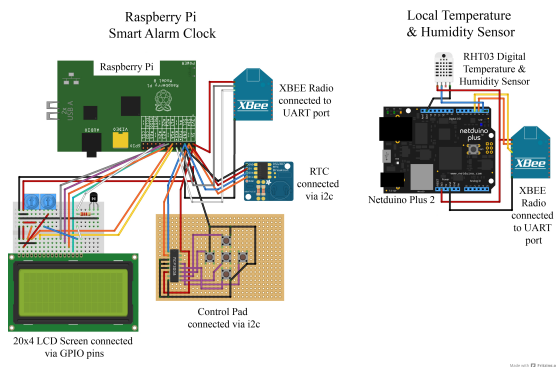
Fig. 4. The Smart Alarm Clock prototype

Fig. 5. Connection Diagrams of the Smart Alarm Clock

allow time for motorists to de-ice their vehicles, if necessary. Since some 10 years had passed from the development of the pDorm, many of the issues faced back then, such as a lack of standard low-cost platforms had been overcome with the advent of hardware such as the Arduino and Raspberry Pi, which had a substantial crowd of users and off-the-shelf peripherals.

In this case the project was built using a Raspberry Pi and was based on XBEE wireless radios networks (low-powered data transmission with a well-documented API). In the 10 years since the pDorm, programming support had also improved with, for example, developers' forums dedicated to the particualr platform being available. These forums allowed groups of similar-minded individuals to form their own communities, where they shared their expertise, ideas and experiences. The major design challanges faced in this project were:

- Choosing the best Internet-of-Things platform for the application from the myriad offering available.
- Choosing the development tools for rapid prototyping (somewhat linked to the choice of platform)
- Choosing the crowd to be part of (this can be a balance between support from large crowds and innovation from newer products with less users)
- Provision of some user customisation (a trend that had grown since the earlier pDorm product)

4.3. BReal (A Blended reality approach to the Internet-of-Things)

The Internet-of-Things does not stand alone as an innovation but, rather co-exists with other emerging technologies, one being virtual or mixed reality. Virtual reality shares many similarities with the Internet-of-Things in that both provide network components that are used as the building blocks of inhabitable worlds. Moreover, Internet-of-Things devices can have virtual representations, allowing them to exist in both the real and virtual world. Further it is possible to build worlds where some of the Internet-of-Things components are real, and some are virtual. Such environments are called Mixed Reality. Such a hybrid Internet-of-Things environment was built in the University of Essex during the phase four of the historical development of the Internet described earlier (i.e. 2015-2017, the smart period).

The project was called BReal which was an amalgamation of letters from 'Blended Reality' [75]. The environment consisted of 3 main parts: i) the physical world, where the user and the xReality[2] objects are situated; ii) the virtual world, where the real world data will be reflected using the virtual object; and iii) a human-computer interface (HCI) which captures the data obtained in real-time via the xReality object, processing it so it can be mirrored by its virtual object and thereby linking both worlds. Fig 6 shows the BReal set up which consisted of an ImmersaVU station running Unity (the VR environment), a set of Raspberry Pi based Internet-Of-Things smart objects. To mirror and synchronize virtual representations the system used a Smart Fox Server X2, a middle-

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[2] xReality objects are smart networked Internet-of-Things objects coupled to a 3D virtual representation of them; maintaining a dual reality state that is updated and maintained in real time

Fig. 6. The BReal set up with an ImmersaVU station being used with a set of Raspberry Pi based Internet-of-Things smart objects

ware that is more often used to create large scale multiplayer games and virtual communities.

The major design challenges faced in this project were:

- Devising comptational paradyms and mechanisms to enable Internet-of-Things devices to become smart-objects
- Creating visual representations and simulations of Internet-of-Things objects

Maintaining real-time synchronisation between the real and virtual Internet-of-Things objects (test were conducted between countries seperated by many tousands of miles)

While the technical challanges facing this project were considerable, the potential benefits were also enormous. For example, using this approach it is possible to develop and experiment with innovative Internet-of-Things designs ahead of any expenditure on manufacturing and deploying real devices. Also, for developing new Internet-of-Things systems, the collaborating developers can be geographicaly seperated, which is particularly useful for large multinational companies where team memoers may be distribtuted around the world. In addition, with the current trend towards centralising Internet-of-Things services on cloud-based architectures (eg data analytics, managment etc) the approach is highly compatable with such schemes. Finally, it is worth noting that the core of the BReal innovative vision arose from the Science-Fiction Prototyping methodology decribed in the introduction of this paper. A Science Fiction prototype called "*Tales from a Pod*" was written that described students in a future time using Virtual-Reality and the Internet-of-Things in a futuristic learning environment that became the inspiration for this work [22]. The sheer diversity of Internet-of-

Things devices and functionalities makes innovation both challanging and exciting since the possibilities are almost endless. Thus, marrying the Internet-of-Things with a powerful innovation tool, such as Science Fiction Prototyping makes a powerful combination. Once outcome of this project is that one of the members of the BReal team is now introducing related techniques as a means of supporting BT field engineers to maintain the vast UK telecommunication infrastructure.

5. Internet-of-Things in User-Centered and Smart Environments Perspective

The above mini case descriptions were offered as a snapshot of student level projects in the Internet-of-Things area with the intention of giving the reader a feel for the historical issues involved in the design and development of Internet-of-Things systems, from a practicioners perspective. In the following sections we will move the discussion forward by providing some conceptual background for different approaches used within an Internet-of-Things smart environment context.

5.1. Customising IoT Environments: A User-Centered Approach

While it is good achievment to present society with transformative technologies, such as the Internet-of-Things, it is also necessary to provide support for people so they can harness these technologies to their benefits. A particularly difficult, but important challange concerns the dvelopment of mechanisms to enable users to customise their Internet-of-Things spaces and services. Currently there are three principal approaches for users: a) let others do it for you (e.g. commercial companies), b) customise the product oneself through suitable end-user tools or, finally c) employ some form of Artificial Intelligence and let the systems do it for you. In this section we will discuss these approaches, illustrating them through examples of research projects.

5.2. User Centric Dimensions of the Internet-of-Things

User-centric approaches, as the name suggests, puts matters relating to the user at the heart of the process under consideration, in this case the design of Internet-of-Things products. Behavioural research

has shown that the underlying motives driving human behaviour change little over time, despite the rapid advances in enabling technologies and the modes of provision. As DiDuca explained, "*people will live as they have always lived in an (Internet-ofThings) environment, therefore the technology will have to adapt to them rather than designers relying on users' having to become familiar with the technology in order to fulfil a need that they have*" [38]. For example, people always want to communicate, whether it is in-person, via phone, SMS, email, social media or using some yet to be invented technology. This is a very helpful observation since it allows for the creation of innovative propositions based on core human desires and to ensure technology delivers what people truly need. This principle of putting people's likes, desires and behaviours at the focal point of product research is the core principle in user-centric design which emerged in early 1990's with work such as Jordan's [61] Pleasures Framework, and Sanders' [82] Experience Design approach. With regards to the Internet-of-Things, these ideas led to Chin's Pervasive-Interactive-Programming paradigm (the first example of programming-by-example being applied to Internet-of-Things in a physical environment) which transformed users from passive into active designers of innovative "products". Placing users at the core of the design process goes beyond simply allowing users to create highly personalised services (the products of their creation) but, to some extent, removes some of the 'black-box' mystic of technology and much of the technology-phobia (e.g. lack of understanding, loss of control, and compromising privacy) by making users as stakeholders in Internet-of-Things product design. Given the pervasive nature of the Internet-of-Things, with billions of devices in the world and potentially hundreds in our own living space, these are important considerations for those who would like to see technology deliver its full potential to society whilst preserving the rights and freedoms of individuals [21]. Inevitably this raises issues relating to the balance of autonomy and control enjoyed by people and technology; for example the extent of control allowed to Artificial Intelligence versus the individual. These issues are discussed in the following sections.

5.3. Pervasive End User Programming

Programming is an essential activity in creating Internet-of-Things applications. While hardware can often be purchased off-the-shelf, programming is difficult to avoid. One of the techniques that can come to the aid of would-be programmers of the Internet-of-Things, especially people with weak programming skills, is End-User Programming. The technique is characterised by the use of a combination of methods that allow end-users of an application to create "programs" without needing to write any code [20].

Examples of such approaches include using a jigsaw, a metaphor [52] that enabled novice programmers to snap together puzzle-like graphical representations of program constructs presented to users on a range of devices including smartphones [8]. Another example is Media Cubes [51] which creates a tangible interface in which users manipulate iconic physical objects (representations) to build context-aware Internet-of-Things-based applications. A technique that dispensed with any kind of representation in favour of demonstrating the required behaviour by directly interacting with Internet-of-Things gadgets, has emerged which is called by various names including 'Programming-by-Example' or 'Programming-by-Demonstration' [32].
It functions by reducing the gap between the user requirements and the delivered program functionality by merging the two tasks. These ideas are closely related to visual programming languages such as Scratch and Alice which have become popular simplified programming tools for children.

Another technique: '*Pervasive-Interactive-Programming*' (PiP), derived from 'End-User Programming', aimed to create an intuitive programming platform that utilised the user's target physical environment, with appropriate GUI support, to empower end-users to create programs that customised collections of Internet-of-Things devices (e.g. to behave in ways their owners wanted, without requiring any detailed technical knowledge or writing any code). In comparison to the case studies presented in the previous (section 4.1, the pDorm), this project also addressed the programming of the functionality of a box, in this case a much large one, a building or more specifically a smart home.
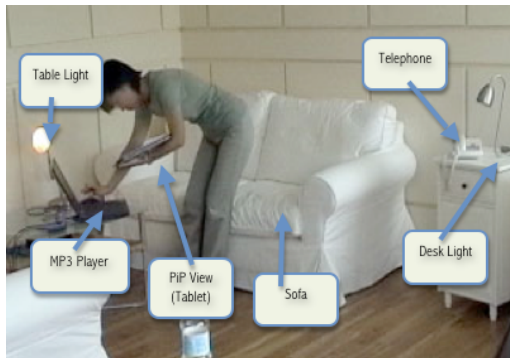
Fig. 7. PiP being used to configure an Internet-of-Things enabled dometic environment

Fig 7 shows a picture of a person using PiP to configure an Internet-of-Things enabled dometic environment. In this instance the person is creating a set of rules that govern the behaviours that occur when the phone rings while they are sitting on the settee watching a streamed movie, possibly in the evening with low lighting. In this case the usere is trying to set environment actions which respond to an incoming telephone call by raising the light level, pausing the video stream, and thereby allowing the occupant to deal with the incoming call. The difference to the earlier cases is that this project is dealing with a orchestrating the functionality of a collection of Internet-of-Things devices (a distributed set of embedded-computing devices), rather than that of a single device. The result of this programming is a rule-based object called a MAp (meta-application) that can be shared or traded with the wider crowd of PiP users. This is an example of the emerging areas of smart-homes and smart-cities. Programming distributed computers has been traditionally seen as more difficult than programming a single computer, so this project is a good illustration of how programming the Internet-of-Things can be simplified to the level that non-technical users can generate creative deigns. With the aid of AI and machine learning techniques, the approach can be enhanced with respect to learning the users' behaviour while reducing the cognative load, and personalising the environment.

5.4. Harnessing Artificial Intelligence

We know from our own experience of life that intelligence is a continuum ranging from dumb to smart. The same is true for populations of Internet-of-Things devices where some are more capable than

Fig. 8. The Essex iSpace

others. In life, we all want to be the smartest but in the world of technology, people can have strong views about how intelligent they want their technology to be. In the extreme, advocates of a technological singularity warn of super-intelligent robots emerging that dispense with their human creators [26] versus more positive voices which see artificial intelligence as enhancing the quality of our lives by removing the cognitive loads required to deal with technology (e.g. simplifying interaction with technology) or enhancing our reasoning and decision-making capabilities [23].

In the Internet-of-Things world, Artificial Intelligence is applied at two levels; one is concerned with controlling individual devices (e.g. embedded-agents) while the other harnesses the data accumulated from populations of devices (e.g. big-data). In the big data world, Artificial Intelligence is applied in a form of machine learning to harnessing data generated by individual devices, to learn users' behaviours so as to provide a personalised experience to them. An example of such work is recent Anglia Ruskin's Hyperlocal Rainfall Project, funded by UK government (and partnered with industry), which sought to harness environmental sensor information combined with users' cycling data to provide highly personlised route recommendations to the users. The focus of the project was to encourage more users to take up greener mode of transport by providing accurate locasionalised (and personalised) weather and route recommendations, via a mobile app. The project expanded from its initial target of one city to cover the whole of the UK.

Concerning the use of Artificial Intelligence within individual devices, they use an approach called embedded-agents. This is a concept proposed in the late 90's by one of the authors, Callaghan, who devised an approach that allowed meaningful amounts of intelligence to be integrated into computationally small devices. Essentially, he observed that both robots and seemingly static Internet-of-Things devices were both moving within a similar sensory space and the techniques, behaviour based Artificial Intelligence, that endowed mobile robots with robust real-time perfomance but was computationally compact enough to work in Internet-of-Things devices (as

against using the massive computational reserouces of cloud servers)[18].

5.5. Intelligent Agents and Adjustable Autonomy

Given the potential for 'AI-Phobia', and its effect on commercialising Internet-of-Things applications, some years ago British Telecom (UK) commissioned research to understand people's attitude to the role of intelligent devices in their customer's lives. The study involved creating special smart (intelligent) Internet-of-Things devices that, in effect, had a knob on them which allowed the level of device intelligence or smartness to be set, much like you might set the volume of a hi-fi system or the temperature of a home. Typically, intelligence (in machines) is seen as comprising elements of reasoning, planning and learning.

Learning is an especially powerful element of artificial intelligence, since it enables a system to learn and improve its own performance, without human assistance (ultimately, enabling autonomous self-programming systems). The BT study, chose to investigate this topic through the concept of machine-autonomy which broadly concerned how independently of users, the technology might operate [7]. They hypothesized that there were various reasons that people may want to vary the intelligence or the amount of autonomy of their Internet-of-Things systems. For example, the amount of control a person wanted to seed to Artificial Intelligence might depend on a person's mental or physical state (which may vary according to context, mood, age, health, ability e.t.c.). For example, as the previous section on end-user programming argued, since people are intrinsically creative beings, there is a possibility that too much computerisation might undermine this pleasurable aspect of life. Other reasons they hypnotised on included the shortcomings of Artificial Intelligence to accurately predict a person's intentions (people may not always want to do what they did previously) and, of course, when predictive Artificial Intelligence makes mistakes, it can be very annoying! Finally, they posited on various surveys which suggested that people were fearful of too much intelligence and have a strong desire to remain in control [6]. The work sought to explore these hypotheses by conducting a study in the University of Essex iSpace, a purpose built experimental IoT environment that has been built in the form of a two bed-roomed apartment, see Fig 8.

The aim of the study was to gain an understanding of people's opinions relating to how smart Internet-of-Things devices should be. The results produced findings which, at first glance were intuitive in that, the more "personal" an Internet-of-Things function was, the more the participants needed direct control over it whereas the more "shared" an Internet-of-Things function was, the less control they required. Thus, for example, participants wanted explicit control of their entertainment system but were happy to delegate climate control to Artificial Intelligence. When the results were explored in greater depth it was clear that people's reasoning was more complex with some of the participants displaying a mental risk-versus-benefits calculation of their decisions to use any particular function. As explained earlier Artificial Intelligence is not perfect and is error prone. The cost of errors can vary from being just a mild irritation (e.g. in the case of the temperature being slightly wrong), to severely annoying (e.g where the agent made a wrong choice of music). These findings were consistent with those of other researchers and offered an important lesson to Internet-of-Things system designers that, if Artificial Intelligence technology is to be utilised in Internet-of-Things applications, it should not undermine the users control or compromise their privacy. While the initial aim of the 'Adjustable Autonomy' work was to provide a mechanism to study the use of Artificial Intelligence in the Internet-of-Things, the ability to adjust the amount of intelligence an Internet-of-Things gadget or system offers was considered by users to be a desirable feature, and therefore a commercial asset to companies. However, this paradigm has yet to surface in the commercial marketplace which is showing a marked tendency to move away from distributed and localised control, to centralised systems and control. Clearly this is a complex topic and such a short section cannot adequately discuss the issues; thus, interested readers are referred to other papers from the authors and other that describe the methodology and studies in much greater detail [7] [5] [59].

5.6. Trust, Privacy and Security

he recent (2018) revelation that the UK's Cambridge Analytica was able to harvest and exploit 50 million Facebook profiles, together with the earlier 2013 disclosure that the USA's National Security Agency were running a programme of global surveillance of foreign and U.S. citizens, made the public and politicians aware of the risks that Internet-based technologies posed to society. Even the inventor of the World-Wide-Web, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, has joined

the voices of concern saying *"Humanity connected by technology on the web is functioning in a dystopian way"* advocating the need to *"continue fighting to keep the Internet open and free"* which he believes can be addressed by stakeholders signing up to a *"Contract for the Web"* which he hopes will be available in 2019 [11], Furthermore he makes a plea to *"decentralise the web"* explaining *"It was designed as a decentralised system, but now everyone is on platforms like Facebook"* which can have a polarising effect that threatens democracy itself. These concerns are, of course, not new as many years earlier, there were reports from the European Parliament Technology Assessment unit [40] and the UK Information Commissioner's Office [53] which highlighted these susceptibilities and the consequent need for debate on how society should balance the convenience that new technology affords with the need to preserve privacy. Indeed, from the outset, the Internet-of-Things community had raised such concerns themselves, taking these issues to the United Nations Habitat, World Urban Forum, explaining the risks to privacy that networked technologies such as the Internet-of-Things, pervasive computing, ubiquitous computing, and intelligent environments posed to the citizen or government, advocating the need for international regulation [29]. Sadly, no significant debate occurred (non that lead to regulatory changes) until the highly published transgressions of people's privacy reported above surfaced. Before the Facebook Cambridge-Analytica debacle, most of the debate addressed the more visible aspects of technology and privacy such as surveillance cameras, identity or loyalty cards, Internet search engines and RFID tags. However, since then the debate has advanced, driven by the rising commercial interest in technologies like artificial intelligence and Big-Data. While the Internet-of-Things is not centre stage in this debate, given Internet-of-Things device deployment is in the order of billions, including our own homes and stretching out to critical services (e.g. hospitals, utility companies, defence), they are key players in any future privacy and security considerations. The risks to Internet-of-Things systems are many-folds, ranging from unauthorised access (and malicious activity) to privacy abuse of the Internet-of-Things generated data (e.g. monitoring and disclosure of private behaviours). Beyond this there are issues relating to Artificial Intelligence which is both embedded into Internet-of-Things devices and used within centralised analytical engines. Beyond the 'here and now' there are somewhat futuristic (and controversial) discussions about a potential technological singularity (that Artificial

Intelligence developments may lead to machines be smarter than humans) through the massive distribution of embedded Artificial Intelligence into Internet-of-Things devices. In addressing these issues, many researchers argue we are caught in the paradox that in order to be useful, the Internet-of-Things sensors have to collect data, but once 'the system' knows, others can know too i.e., there is a direct threat to our privacy. The obvious solution is to introduce careful planning, design and regulation of the Internet-of-Things market which, due to its highly dynamic nature, is very challenging to governments, meaning that legislation inevitably trails technology, leaving the public at risk to having their trust, privacy and security compromised from time to time. Sir Tim Berners-Lee *'Contract for the Web'* [11] would seem like an excellent start on the path to addressing these issues that aim to protect people's rights and freedoms on the internet. This is particularly pertinent to this discussion as the web, in the form of web-appliances and embedded-web servers, is another mechanism that is used to create Internet-of-Things architectures [43]. In addition, many of Tim Berners-Lee's concerns also relate directly to the management of the Internet and hence the Internet-of-Things, since the two technologies are interdependent. Clearly, not addressing these issues is unthinkable as, with unfeatured commercial development of the Internet-of-Things, society risks creating a modern equivalent of Bentham's Panopticon [87] exposing people to a form of "Big Brother" society [21] where some parties can monitor our every move which is probably not the kind of society most ordinary people would like to see IoT developments lead to. Thus, while the Internet-of-Things promises great benefits to society, without prudent oversight it raises significant new dangers for individuals and society as a whole. As researchers, we have an important role to play in ensuring technology in a morally and ethically responsible way as work by Augusto et-al [5] and Jones et-al [59] most effectively illustrates.

5.7. Adoption, Acceptance and Appropriation of New Technology

The relationship between human behaviour and technology can be viewed from different perspectives. For instance, from the sociological perspective, one looks at the use of technology and its effects on society [48] [70], from the social-psychological perspective, one mainly looks at explanatory factors of technology use at the individual level [36] [92], in the

socio-cultural perspective, social constructivism plays a major role [12] [72] and people and technology co-construct, and from the philosophical perspective, human-technology relationships are examined [54]. All these perspectives provide a specific and valuable contribution to our understanding of the relationship between human behaviour and technology.

5.7.1. Adoption

In his diffusion of innovations theory [80] [91], describes the process of diffusion of a new innovation (an object, idea, practice or service) within a social system from a sociological perspective. New innovations entail uncertainties, because the outcomes of the adopted innovation are not known in advance. He argues, people are motivated to search for both objective and subjective information about this innovation. The diffusion research focuses on various elements, such as:

- the causes of the spread, namely the innovativeness of societies and cultures
- the characteristics of the innovation itself
- the decision-making process of individuals when they consider adopting an innovation
- the characteristics of individuals who may adopt an innovation
- the consequences for individuals and social system (or society) that adopt the innovation
- the communication channels that are used in the adoption process [95].

We argue that the entire adoption process is not only focused on the last step of the decision-making process (the final decision), but on the entire decision-making process. This includes the exploration of and knowledge about the innovation, awareness of the innovation, the attitude and intention to adopt, the considerations and eventually the decision-making. In practice, we often see that the adoption process of innovations is reduced to adoption in the narrow sense, namely only the last step of the decision-making process: shall we, as an individual (or organisation), adopt or not adopt? In those cases, other important aspects of the adoption process are often lacking. As a result, the choices on which the decision is based are only partially substantiated. This is one of the reasons why both individuals and organisations often do not know how to deal with new technology and how to embed them in a given context.

In recent years, the adoption and diffusion research has been strongly dominated from the perspective of management information science, where the focus lies on the use of technology acceptance models [36] [92] to determine the probability of adoption by individuals [95]. And even though Rogers' diffusion of innovations theory is comprehensive and originally intended to investigate all kinds of innovations in society as a whole, the rise of computers has given the diffusion research an organisational embedding. A construct such as facilitating conditions in the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT) model [16] [93] shines light on this organisational embedding. This construct indicates the extent to which an individual thinks a technical infrastructure exists in his or her organisation that can support the use of a new technology.

5.7.2. Acceptance

In the above section, the adoption was regarded as new technology at the individual level. But historically, much research on technology acceptance is being conducted within an organisational context, because that is where many and great innovations are introduced. Different perspectives describe the acceptance process of technology within organisations, namely the organisational perspective, the technological perspective, the economic perspective and the (psychological) user perspective [14].

The organisational perspective is characterised by factors related to the nature and environment of the organisation. This includes factors such as the environment, structure and culture of an organisation, but also to organisational processes and the vision of strategy and policy. All these factors influence how organisations deal with the acceptance process when they use new technology or want to start using it. The technological perspective focuses on the interaction that takes place between technology and organisation. This especially applies to technology in the sense of enabler of organisational processes; technology that supports redesigning or modifying organisational processes [14]. The third, economic perspective focuses on the costs and benefits associated with the acceptance process of technology. The (psychological) user perspective, finally, focuses on the social-psychological aspects of technology choices, and on the influence of these choices. By focusing on a particular perspective in the various phases of technology acceptance, more insight can be gained in that area. In this context, [50] speak of a four-phase model of ICT diffusion in organisations, with the phases

adoption, implementation, use, and effects. Following [80] [14] also equate adoption with the phase of exploration, research, consideration and decision-making to bring a new innovation into the organisation [4].

Technology acceptance covers the process that begins with becoming aware of a new technology and ends with incorporating the use of that technology in one's daily life [50]. This implies the acceptance process is wider and includes multiple phases instead of only the adoption process. In addition, it is not only related to the phases of adoption, but also to the phases of implementation, the use and the effects. The acceptance process of new technology, like the adoption process, mainly takes place on the cognitive level. Finally, in the appropriation process, the cognitive and affective aspect come together for the user of new technology. Appropriation of new technology starts with a positive adoption process that results in an implementation process in which (long-term) use of that technology produces certain effects that, in turn, impact the different contexts in which an individual moves.

5.7.3. Appropriation

When technology acceptance has taken place, the actual use of the technology may cause people to start using the technology differently than was intended by the designers. This is a reconstruction of the technology: People appropriate the technology. Within the perspective of mutual shaping of technology, there are several approaches, such as the social construction of technology [74], semiotics [99] [3] and the domestication approach [86] [67]. These approaches share the belief that both the technology and its users influence each other. It is emphasised [13] that the crucial contribution of the mutual shaping of technology is not "that every user's reconstruction should always be analytically deconstructed, but that anyone could be deconstructed if necessary". Once people have accepted the technology and thereby have gone through the phases of adoption, implementation, use and effects, another phase can be added to the technology-acceptance process. Technology appropriation arises, because people include technology in their daily use, and because people not only form the use of technology to their wishes, routines and activities (and thus, their behaviour), but the technology also forms itself to its users. During technology appropriation, a user more or less takes possession of the technology. Poole and DeSanctis describe technology appropriation as "the process of

users altering a system as they use it" [75]. This [70] has been taken further and indicates that technology has a number of structures that allow the technology to mediate human actions. Technology influences human actions, but the human actions in relation to the technology are also controlled, for example by institutional conditions. And as a result, consequences arise that influence the relationship between man and technology. [27] stress that technology transforms by appropriation: Technology as it was designed changes through the appropriation process into technology as it is used.

The above-mentioned approaches describe appropriation mainly from a technological perspective, and do not pay attention to the determining factors that are specifically aimed at users. The resources & appropriation theory [39] especially focuses on the users in the appropriation process of new technology. Determining factors for users in the appropriation process are their resources and personal and positional variables. The resources consist of temporal, material, mental, social and cultural resources of people, which determine the appropriation process of new technology. In addition to the new technology itself, these resources play a crucial role in the appropriation process of the technology. The personal variables consist of characteristics such as age, gender, ethnicity, intelligence, personality and health of users. The positional variables consist of education, employment status, household composition and developed or developing country. From the philosophical perspective, the mediation theory is used to explain that technology mediates human actions [54]. Here, one also assumes a certain interconnectedness between technology and human.

The central message from the above-mentioned theories is that appropriation ensures that the meaning of technology is not static, but dynamic, and that the user defines the meaning of technology. Thus, both users and technology play a crucial role in the appropriation process.

During the appropriation process of technology, all kinds of effects may occur that the user regards as positive or negative. Examples are all kinds of participation in society, labour-market effects and social effects [62]. These effects can occur on individual (micro), organisational (meso) and/or societal (macro) level, and sometimes, users may even reinvent or redesign the accepted technology. [79] describe several of these reinventions in the innovation process. These reinventions not only occur through the (inter)personal interactions of users with the technology, but also through mass-media messages about the in-

novation. The integration of both own experiences and media messages that are connected to innovations, eventually influences the users and their experiences with the innovation [94].

6. Thoughts on the Future of Internet-of-Things

Having reflected on the past and present, we now turn our attention to the future. Of course this is an area rife with speculation as nobody can predict the future reliably. The challenge of having meaningful discussion about the future of the Internet-of-Things is one of the drivers behind future-casting tools, such as Science Fiction Prototyping discussed earlier in this paper. It is clear that, while we may not be able to predict the future with any certainty, there are some comments we can make with little fear of contradiction such as the observation that the Internet-of-Things has witnessed some extraordinary growth in recent years, a trend that is very likely to continue. For example, some estimates for the future number of connected devices in 2020 are of the order 21 to 75 billion, with an associated market value of the order 60 trillion dollars. As a consequence, there is a huge motivation for companies, researchers and citizens to seek opportunities to become involved in this rapidly growing market. The complex and fast moving dynamics of the Internet-of-Things creates difficult challenges which in turn can represent opportunities that motivate researchers and entrepreneurs alike. For example, there are multiple network and protocol standards, a myriad of differing devices being produced (by different people and organisations), an open-ended and growing numbers of applications and vast amounts of data being produced. At one extreme, the inevitable chaos of a quickly developing technology is attracting criminals who are taking advantage of poor design and organisation of some current Internet-of-Things systems to hack into devices, hijacking them for their own purposes. To illustrate this point, 2016 saw the first major use of malware to accesses Internet-of-Things devices by using default usernames and passwords (the most widely reported use being to orchestrate DoS attacks). Thus, one major opportunity for research will relate to Internet-of-Things trust, privacy, and security (and the dynamic nature of security means it's likely to remain an area of intense research for some time to come). Complexity is also an opportunity as, for example, this creates the possibility for artificial intelligence to be used to reduce the cognitive load on the user, making it easier for them to harness the potential of Internet-of-Things. Examples in this paper have shown that it is possible to create tools that reduce significantly the cognitive load on users but more work is needed to refine such techniques (and invent new ones) to ensure that progress on the Internet-of-Things is not obstructed by 'cognitive overload.' Likewise the sheer volume of big-data that the Internet-of-Things is capable of generating creates a challenge to create new analytic techniques as well as opportunities for entrepreneurs to exploit the commercial possibilities. The Internet-of-Things moves data analytics on from dealing with relatively slowly evolving (if large) data sets, to vast volumes of data gathered from physical sensors changing in real-time, all of which pose significant challenges to researchers. Different architectural paradigms also beckon. Currently most analytics and management software is deployed on central servers (the Cloud) but this has vulnerabilities (a central dependency) and performance limitations (eg scalability, latency) which limit real-time performance and has given rise to paradigms such as Fog or Edge computing which distributes computation closer to the Internet-of-Things devise level. Earlier paradigms such as 'embedded-agents' have even managed to distribute artificial-intelligence into end-user devices [18] [7] making visions such as Intelligent Environments [23] and Ambient Intelligence [1] [81] feasible. Thus research into Internet-of-Things architecture, Artificial Intelligence paradigms, End-User Programming, privacy and acceptance issues are likely to remain hot-topics for some time to come. Finally, before we leave the discussion on research opportunities, it's worth flagging broader challenges involved in transferring research from labs into the market place. For example, earlier in this paper we described a few promising approaches for giving users more control over Internet-of-Things systems (eg Pervasive-interactive-Programming [30] [31] and Adjustable Autonomy [7]) but it is clear that uptake in the market is not just a question of the quality of the science but rather a topic that extends into acceptance, marketing and commercial issues. Thus, commercialising research work is an equally worthy avenue of research, a challenge that has been identified and taken up by business school researchers [100].

Apart from opportunities to research underlying technologies, there are also openings to create new applications. The Internet-of-Things already plays a fundamental role in enabling the creation of so-called smart-homes which, originally, were heavily focused on care provision [5]. However the applications for

smart homes are much broader than this. For example, energy utilities are currently investigating the possibility of combining smart Internet-of-Things based home technologies with big-data analytics creating concepts such as 'energy clouds' whereby Internet-of-Things devices are used to monitor and manage energy usage at both a home and a community level. This is seen as an easier Internet-of-Things market to develop since saving energy is welcomed by both customers and companies. Beyond the energy market there are numerous other companies eying up areas of this emerging market (e.g. Philips Hue light bulbs, Amazon Alexa speech interaction etc), vying for a market estimated to be worth around 53 billion dollars by 2020. Clusters of smart homes, smart factories or offices, and smart cars make up what are termed smart cities which are heavily populated with Internet-of-Things devices generating numerous new opportunities for research and commerce. Robotics in various forms is another big upcoming opportunity for the Internet-of-Things with numerous companies running pre-market projects to explore, for example, the potential market for domestic robots (domestic servants). For instance, Intel started a project called the '*21st Century Robot*' project where potential customers were able to take part in designing a domestic robot. This was part of a deliberate strategy to scan the horizon in search of new Internet-of-Things product opportunities based on the use of their Science-Fiction Prototyping methodology that employed story writing as a way of enabling it to communicate with its customers [60]. As was illustrated by one of the case studies presented earlier in this paper, beyond physical spaces there is a rising focus on mixed-reality where real Internet-of-Things devices interact with virtual objects, Mixed-reality goes beyond augmented-reality in that it doesn't stop at overlaying virtual information on the real world, but extends into an area where real and virtual manifestations of networked based computer objects (ie physical IoT and virtual IoT devices) can cooperate as though they were part of a whole system. For example, Davies [37] explored linking objects in on-screen computer games to real objects in the local physical environment (eg home lights), thereby mixing realities for heightened experiences for online gamers. As was mentioned earlier, Pena-Rios [73] has explored using mixed reality ideas for creating online engineering labs and, more recently, has been working with BT to deploy similar techniques in support of their field workforce. This area is still very much in its infancy and so beckons many opportunities for researchers and companies. Of course, many Internet-of-Things applications have the potential to generate huge volumes of data, big data. Despite the recent setbacks on the misuse of personal data, recent communications from the European Union suggest they are keen to support the commercializing of Internet-of-Things data to ignite a European data economy which, in terms of investment, lags American industry by some 10 percentage points. The growth of big data that the Internet-of-Things promises is already putting pressure on data centres to be able to deliver the performance necessary to service the massive population of Internet-of-Things devices. As a result there is an increasing need for more complex Internet-of-Things architectures to support the new generations of applications. One example, mentioned earlier, is edge-computing, where some of the computational load for servicing Internet-of-Things devices is moved to smaller (but powerful) computers in the locality of the end-point devices in question, distributing loads, increasing reliability and giving better latency response (while enjoying cloud security, scalability, configuration, deployment, and management).

In the introduction we presented Science Fiction Prototyping as a means of injecting some imaginative thinking into the Internet-of-Things innovation process. Thus, perhaps, it's fitting that we conclude by considering briefly two examples of its use in the furtherance of the Internet-of-Things vision. The first example is from the renowned VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland where, under the guidance of Tiina Kymäläine, they have been using the methodology to explore how the Internet-of-Things, in combination with ambient intelligence, might be used to create factories of the future. Their work has not just advanced thinking on the possibilities for new technologies but has also moved forward the methodology by introducing a 'video-illustrated' variant of Science Fiction Prototyping [64]. The second example is rather more speculative in nature, addressing how the Internet-of-Things might be impacted by Nano-computing (making fully autonomous computers, which include sensors and actuators, built to Nano-metre - 10^{-9} - dimensions). A 2014 Science Fiction prototype conjectured that such Nano-metre sized network-aware devices, could be sprayed onto surfaces, or implanted into biological systems to make new types of Internet-of-Things applications [24]. While the state-of-the-art did not allow such systems to be built, a related project created a sophisticated simulation that enabled the ideas, as part of a Nano-computer paint for spraying on walls to create interactive surfaces, to be tested [63]. The work built

on Nano-scale computing ideas can be traced back to 1997 when Kristofer Pister, Joe Kahn, and Bernhard Boser, all from the University of California, Berkeley, pitched an idea for what they called 'Smart Dust' to the US military as a way of tracking movements on a battlefield. Since then there has been much interest in the benefits arising from the amalgamation of Smart-Dust concepts with the Internet-of-Things. For example, 'Cambridge Consultants' recently provided some interesting examples of potential applications, for 'Smart Dust' suggesting *"Mountains could be seeded with tiny temperature sensors to act as an avalanche early-warning system – and fields could be sprayed with smart dust to give real-time information about soil temperature and moisture content. Around the home, smart paint in a room could measure temperature, humidity or noise – while you could print your own smart clothing labels that could be linked to personalised washing cycle*" [88]. Other examples include an EU project which considered the potential for injecting Nano devices into the human body for medical diagnosis and repair. The technological Singularity movement have long conjectured on using such technology to augment the capability of the human brain [26], potentially leading to an expanded form of the Internet-of-Things which might include animals and people; an Internet-of-Everything! Clearly, as the discussions in the earlier sections of this paper have shown, new technological advances have the potential to transform people's lives in both good and bad ways. Thus, in developing the Internet-of-Things, it is important to exercise sound moral and ethical judgement, which is where a tool like Science Fiction Prototyping, and understanding user acceptance issues, can be particularly useful since it can be harnessed to reason not just about desirable futures but also dystopian futures that we would wish to avoid [25]. Clearly, while any discussion of the long-term future of the Internet-of-Things can be no more than an enjoyable speculation, we can say that, based on existing trends that the near-term Internet-of-Things market is set to grow and be a source of innovation for some time to come.

7. Concluding Remarks

In this paper we have reviewed the Internet-of-Things concept and its evolution since 1999 taking a smart device and user-centric perspective. Using a systematic study of public literature, we presented a five-phase categorisation of the development of the Internet-of-Things from its beginnings to the present day. Four mini case studies were included to provide some practical illustrations of the issues we identified. We looked at some of the issues and ideas in the area of smart environments and user centred design and acceptance for the Internet-of-Things. As time moves forward, the pace and scale of development of the Internet-of-Things, together with the diversity of technologies, applications and contexts, will certainly be challenging, but such challenges are the food of innovation which should further drive research in this area and boost commercial opportunities.

Table 2

The IoT Definitions

Year	Body	Definition
2005	ITU [58]	"A global infrastructure for the information society, enabling advanced services by **interconnecting (physical and virtual) things** based on existing and evolving interoperable information and **communication** technologies." "**ubiquitous network**" and "Available anywhere, anytime, by anything and anyone."
2008	ETA EPoSS - The European Technology Platform on Smart Systems Integration [56]	"the **network** formed **by things/objects** having **identities**, virtual personalities operating in smart spaces using intelligent interfaces to **connect and communicate** with the users, social and environmental contexts". "**Things** having **identities** and virtual personalities operating in smart spaces using intelligent interfaces

		to **connect** and **communicate** within social, environmental and user contexts."
		"The semantic origin of the expression is composed by two words and concepts: '**Internet**' and '**Thing**,' where 'Internet' can be defined as 'the worldwide **network** of **interconnected** computer networks, based on a standard **communication** protocol, the Internet suite (TCP/IP),' while '**Thing**' is 'an **object** not precisely **identifiable**.' Therefore, semantically, 'Internet of Things' means 'a worldwide network of **interconnected objects** uniquely addressable, based on standard **communication** protocols.'"
	Berkeley University	"**...** integrations of **computation, networking and physical** processes. **Embedded computers** and **network**s monitor and control the physical processes, with feedback loops where physical processes affect computations and vice versa."
	The Software Fabric for the Internet of Things [78]	"The notion of an 'Internet of Things' refers to the possibility of endowing everyday **objects** with the ability to **identify** themselves, **communicate** with other **objects**, and possibly **compute**."
2009	CASAGRAS [56]	"A global network infrastructure, linking **physical and virtual objects** through the exploitation of **data capture** and **communication** capabilities. This infrastructure includes existing and evolving Internet and **network** developments. It will offer specific object **identification**, sensor and **connection** capability as the basis for the development of independent cooperative services and applications. These will be characterized by a high degree of autonomous data **capture**, event transfer, network connectivity and **interoperability**."
	SAP [56]	"A world where physical **objects** are **seamlessly integrated** into the **information** network, and where the physical **objects** can become active participants in business **processes**. **Services** are available to interact with these 'smart **objects**' over the Internet, query and change their state and any information associated with them, taking into account security and privacy issues."
	Kevin Ashton, from Proctor & Gamble, then at MIT [45]	"Nearly all of the **data** available on the Internet were first **captured** and created by human beings—by typing, pressing a record button, taking a digital picture or scanning a bar code. The problem is, people have limited time, attention and accuracy—all of which means they are not very good at **capturing data** about things in the real world. If we had computers that knew everything there was to know about things—using **data** they gathered without any help from us—we would be able to track and count everything, and greatly reduce waste, loss and cost. We would know when **things** needed replacing, repairing or recalling, and whether they were fresh or past their best. The Internet of Things has the potential to change the world, just as the Internet did. Maybe even more so."
2010	IETF- The Internet Engineering Task Forc [56]	"The basic idea is that IoT will connect **objects** around us (electronic, electrical, non electrical) to provide **seamless communication** and contextual **services** provided by them. Development of RFID tags, **sensors, actuators**, mobile phones make it possible to materialize IoT which interact and co-operate each other to make the **service** better and accessible anytime, from anywhere."
	CERP-IoT - The Cluster of European Research Projects on the Internet of Things [56]	"Internet of Things (IoT) is an **integrated** part of Future Internet and could be defined as a dynamic global network **infrastructure** with self configuring capabilities based on standard and interoperable **communication** protocols where **physical and virtual "things"** have **identities**, physical attributes, and virtual personalities and use intelligent interfaces, and are **seamlessly integrated** into the **information** network. In the IoT, 'things' are expected to become active participants in business, information and social **processes** where they are enabled to interact and **communicate** among themselves and with the environment by exchanging **data** and **information 'sensed'** about the environment, while reacting autonomously to the 'real/physical world' events and influencing it by running **processes** that trigger actions and create **services** with or without direct human intervention. Interfaces in the form of services facilitate interactions with these 'smart **things**' over the Internet, query and change their state and any **information** associated with them, taking into account security and privacy issues."
	From the Internet of Computers to the Internet of Things [46]	"The Internet of Things represents a vision in which the Internet extends into the real world embracing everyday **objects**. Physical items are no longer disconnected from the virtual world, but can be **controlled remotely** and can act as physical access points to Internet **services**. An Internet of Things makes computing truly **ubiquitous**."
	Future Internet (Society for Brain Integrity, Sweden, 2010) [56]	"It means that any physical **thing** can become a computer that is **connected to the Internet** and to other **things**. IoT is formed by numerous different **connections between PCs, human to human, human to thing and between things**. This creates a **self configuring** network that is much more complex and dynamic than the conventional Internet. **Data** about **things** is collected and **processed** with very small computers (mostly RFID tags) that are connected to more powerful computers through networks. **Sensor** technologies are used to detect changes in the physical environment of **things**, which further benefits **data** collection."
	The Internet of Things: Networked objects and smart devices [56]	"The Internet of Things comprises a digital overlay of **information** over the physical world. **Objects** and locations become part of the Internet of Things in two ways. **Information** may become associated with a specific location using GPS coordinates or a street address. Alternatively, embedding sensors and transmitters into **objects** enables them to be addressed by Internet protocols, and to **sense** and react to their environments, as well as **communicate** with users or with other **objects**."
	The Internet of Things [34]	"The **physical world** itself is becoming a type of **information** system. In what's called the Internet of Things, sensors and actuators embedded in **physical objects**—from roadways to pacemakers—are

		linked through wired and wireless **networks**, often using the same **Internet** Protocol (IP) that connects the Internet. These networks churn out huge volumes of **data** that flow to computers for **analysis**. When **objects** can both **sense** the environment and **communicate**, they become tools for **understanding complexity and responding** to it swiftly. What's revolutionary in all this is that these physical information systems are now beginning to be deployed, and some of them even work largely without human intervention."
	The Internet of Things: 20th Tyrrhenian Workshop on Digital Communications [89]	"The expression 'Internet of Things' is wider than a single concept or technology. It is rather a new paradigm that involves a wide set of technologies, applications and visions. Also, complete agreement on the definition is missing as it changes with relation to the point of view. It can focus on the **virtual identity** of the **smart objects** and their capabilities to **interact intelligently** with other **objects, humans and environments** or on the **seamless integration** between different kinds of objects and networks toward **a service** oriented architecture of the future Internet."
	Internet of Things: Legal Perspectives [96]	"A world where **physical objects** are **seamlessly integrated** into the **information** network, and where the physical objects can become active participants in business processes. Services are available to interact with these 'smart **objects**' over the Internet, query their state and any information associated with them, taking into account security and privacy issues."
2011	IoT-A ("Internet of Things Architecture") [56]	"It can be seen as an umbrella term for **interconnected** technologies**, devices, objects and services**."
	UK FISG ("Future Internet Report") [44]	"An evolving convergent Internet of **things** and **services** that is available anywhere, anytime as part of an all pervasive, omnipresent, socio–economic fabric, made up of converged **services**, shared **data** and an advanced wireless and fixed **infrastructure** linking people and machines to provide advanced **services** to business and citizens."
	IoT-SRA [47]	"**Things** having **identities** and **virtual personalities** operating in smart spaces using intelligent interfaces to **connect** and **communicate** within social, environmental and user contexts." "A world-wide network of **interconnected objects** uniquely addressable based on standard communication protocols."
	The Internet of Things: In a Connected World of Smart Objects (Accenture & Bankinter Foundation of Innovation) [57]	"The Internet of Things (IoT) consists of things that are **connected** to the Internet**, anytime, anywhere**. In its most technical sense, it consists of **integrating** sensors and devices into everyday **objects** that are **connected** to the Internet over fixed and wireless networks. The fact that the Internet is present at the same time everywhere makes mass adoption of this technology more feasible. Given their size and cost, the **sensors** can easily be **integrated** into homes, workplaces and public places. In this way, any object can be **connected** and can 'manifest itself' over the Internet. Furthermore, in the IoT, any **object** can be a **data** source. This is beginning to transform the way we do business, the running of the public sector and the day to day life of millions of people."
	China's Initiative for the Internet of Things and Opportunities for Japanese Business [35]	"a system automatically recognizes **information** about a **thing** such as 'unique attributes,' state at that 'time' and 'location' by using sensors and cameras **connected** to the Internet, and creates value added **information** by comprehensively analysing the state and location of two or more **things**. At the same time, the system uses such **information** to automatically control equipment and devices."
	Architecting the Internet of Things [96]	"The future Internet of Things links uniquely identifiable **things** to their virtual representations in the Internet containing or linking to additional **information** on their identity, status, location or any other business, social or privately relevant **information** at a financial or non financial pay off that exceeds the efforts of information provisioning and offers **information** access to non predefined participants. The provided accurate and appropriate **information** may be accessed **in the right quantity and condition, at the right time and place at the right price**. The Internet of Things is not synonymous with ubiquitous/pervasive computing, the Internet Protocol (IP), communication technology, embedded devices, its applications, the Internet of People or the Intranet/Extranet of Things, yet it combines aspects and technologies of all of these approaches."
	6LoWPAN: The Wireless Embedded Internet [84]	Encompasses all the **embedded devices** and **networks** that are natively IP-enabled and Internet-connected, along with the Internet **services** monitoring and controlling those devices.
	Internet of Things: Global Technological and Societal Trends from Smart Environments and Spaces to Green ICT [71]	"The Internet of Things could be conceptually defined as a dynamic global network **infrastructure** with **self configuring** capabilities based on standard and interoperable **communication** protocols where **physical and virtual 'things'** have identities, physical attributes and virtual personalities, use intelligent interfaces and are seamlessly **integrated** into the **information** network."
2012	Arduino, Sensors, and the Cloud	"A **global network infrastructure**, linking **physical and virtual objects** using cloud computing, **data capture** and network **communications**. It allows devices to **communicate** with each other, access **information** on the Internet, store and retrieve data, and **interact** with users, creating **smart**, pervasive and always **connected** environments."
2013	iCore [10]	"Our world is getting more and more **connected**. In the near future not only people will be **connected** through the Internet, but Internet **connectivity** will also be brought to billions of tangible objects, creat-

		ing the Internet of Things (IoT)."
	DLM [76]	"The Internet of Things is a web in which gadgets, machines, everyday products, devices and inanimate objects share information about themselves in new ways, in real time. Using a range of technologies such as embedded radio frequency identification (RFID) chips linked with IP addresses (internet signatures), near field communications, electronic product codes and GPS systems just about anything can be **connected** to a network. The connected objects can then be tracked and output information can be recorded, **analysed** and shared in countless ways via the Internet."
	CISCO[3]	"the Internet of everything,"- "Bringing together **people, process, data and things** to make **networked connections** more relevant and valuable than ever before, turning information into actions that create new capabilities, richer **experiences** and unprecedented economic opportunity for businesses, individuals and countries."
2014	IEEE, "Internet of Things"[4]	A network of items — each embedded with sensors which are **connected** to the Internet.
	NIST - The National Institute of Standards and Technology [68]	"Cyber physical systems (CPS) – sometimes referred to as the Internet of Things (IoT) – involves **connecting smart** devices and systems in diverse sectors like transportation, energy, manufacturing and healthcare in fundamentally new ways. **Smart** Cities/Communities are increasingly adopting CPS/IoT technologies to enhance the **efficiency and sustainability** of their operation and **improve the quality of life**. (NIST, "Global City Teams," 2014)"
	OASIS (OASIS, "Open Protocols') [56]	"System where the Internet is **connected** to the physical world via ubiquitous sensors."
	IERC - IoT European Research Cluster[5]	"A dynamic global network infrastructure with self configuring capabilities based on standard and interoperable communication protocols where physical and virtual 'things' have identities, physical attributes and virtual personalities and use intelligent interfaces, and are seamlessly integrated into the information network".
	HP[6]	"The Internet of Things refers to the unique identification and 'Internetisation' of everyday objects. This allows for human interaction and control of these 'things' from anywhere in the world, as well as device to device **interaction** without the need for **human involvement**."
2017	BCC Research LLC[7]	Internet of Things (IoT) is defined as a system of **interconnected** devices, machines, digital devices, objects, animals and/or humans, each provided with unique identifiers and with the ability to **transfer data** over a network that requires **human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction**.
	IBM[8]	"The Internet of Things refers to the growing range of **connected devices** that send **data** across the **Internet**. A "thing" is any **object** with **embedded** electronics that can transfer **data** over a **network** — **without any human interaction**."
	ARM[9]	"The Internet of Things (IoT) brings compute power to everyday **objects** and **physical systems** within homes, **commercial** buildings, and critical infrastructures. In doing so, it allows people and systems to gather unprecedented quantities of **data**, **produce powerful insights, and make life safer, more efficient, and more connected** than ever before."
	INTEL[10]	"The Internet of Things (IoT) is a robust **network** of **devices**, all **embedded** with electronics, software, and sensors that enable them to **exchange and analyze data**. The IoT has been transforming the way we live for nearly two decades, paving the way **for responsive solutions, innovative products, efficient manufacturing**, and ultimately, amazing new ways to do business. "

Table 3

A list of historic IoT devices

Device Name	group	year	S	P	C	CW	Int	I	IC	MC	Objects

[3] CISCO, "Internet of Everything," http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ac79/innov/IoE.html

[4] IEEE, The Institute, "Special Report: The Internet of Things." http://theinstitute.ieee.org/static/specialIreportItheIinternetIofIthings

[5] European Research Cluster on Internet of Things (IERC),"Internet of Things," http://www.internetIofIthingsIresearch.eu/about_iot.htm

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[7] BBC Research report : https://www.bccresearch.com/market-research/information-technology/the-internet-of-things-IoT-in-energy-and-utility-applications-report-ift142a.html

[8] IBM IoT: https://www.ibm.com/internet-of-things/learn/what-is-iot/

[9] ARM IOT: https://www.arm.com/markets/iot

[10] INTEL IoT: https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/internet-of-things/overview.html

Shoes (The Eu-daemonic Pie)	Thomas A. Bass	1985	N	**Y**	N	N	N	N	N	N	platform shoe
Toaster	John Romkey	1990	N	**Y**	**Y**	N	N	**Y**	**Y**	N	toaster
Coca Cola machine (developed in 1980s)	located at the Carnegie Melon University	1990-1992	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	N	**Y**	**Y**		N	coca cola venting machine
The Active Badge Location System	Roy Want1, Andy Hopper2, Veronica Falcão3 and Jonathan Gibbons4	1992	**Y**	N	**Y**	N	N	**Y**	N	N	Badge
Smart clothing	Steve Mann	1996	N	N	**Y**	N	**Y**	**Y**	N	N	Camera + glasses
MediaCup	Hans-W. Gellersen, Michael Beigl, and Holger Krull	1999	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	N	N	N	N	cup
Wearable sensor badge and sensor jacket for context awareness	J. Farringdon Philips Res. Labs., Redhill, UK , et al	1999	**Y**	**Y**	N	**Y**	N	N	N	N	garment
Internet Digital DIOS	LG	2000	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	N	N	**Y**	N	N	Fridge
TESA	J Chin & V Callaghan	2003	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	N	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	glass box
Intelligent Spoon[11]	MIT- Connie Cheng and Leonardo Bonanni	2003	**Y**	**Y**	N	N	N	N	N	N	spoon
The Drift Table	William W. Gaver et al	2004	**Y**	**Y**	N	**Y**	N	N	N	N	table

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[11] MIT: https://www.media.mit.edu/ci/projects/intelligentspoon.html

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