

# IoT for Healthcare

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**Abstract:** The Internet of Things (IoT) is the network of physical objects or things embedded with electronics, software, sensors, and network connectivity, which enables these objects to collect and exchange data. The Internet of Things allows objects to be sensed and controlled remotely across existing network infrastructure. The IoT is enabled by the latest developments in RFID, smart sensors, communication technologies, and Internet protocols. The basic premise is to have smart sensors collaborate directly without human involvement to deliver a new class of applications. The current revolution in Internet, mobile, and machine-to-machine (M2M) technologies can be seen as the first phase of the IoT. In the coming years, the IoT is expected to bridge diverse technologies to enable new applications by connecting physical objects together in support of intelligent decision making. Smart healthcare plays a significant role in healthcare applications through embedding sensors and actuators in patients and their medicine for monitoring and tracking purposes. The IoT is used by clinical care to monitor physiological statuses of patients through sensors by collecting and analyzing their information and then sending analyzed patient's data remotely to processing centers to make suitable actions. Not only for patients, it also useful for normal people to check the health status by using wearable devices with sensors.

**Keywords:** IOT, RFID, Internet Protocols, M2M, SBC.

## 1. Introduction

Internet of Things (IoT) is an ideal emerging technology to influence the internet and communication technologies. Simply "Internet of Things" connects living and nonliving things" through "internet". Traditionally in the object oriented paradigm everything in the world is considered as an object, but in the IoT paradigm everything in the world is considered as a smart object, and allows them to communicate each other through the internet technologies by physically or virtually. IoT allows people and things to be connected Anytime, Anyplace, with anything and anyone, by using ideally in any path/network and any service. Every day the modern people expect new device and new technology to simplify their day to day life. The innovators and researchers are always trying to find new things to satisfy the people but the process is still infinite. In the 1990s, Internet connectivity began to proliferate in enterprise and consumer markets, but was still limited in its use because of the low performance of the network interconnects. In the 2000s Internet connectivity became the norm for many applications and today is expected as part of many enterprise, industrial and consumer products to provide access to information. However, these devices are still primarily things on the Internet that require more human interaction and monitoring through apps and interfaces. One research reveals, the Internet of Things (IoT), which excludes PCs, tablets and smart phones, will grow to 26 billion units installed in 2020 representing an almost 30-fold increase from 0.9 billion in 2009. This paper contains four modules introduction of IOT, RFID, protocols in IOT and how IOT is useful in health care. This paper contains total five modules introduction of IoT, about RFID, Protocols of IoT, Health Care using IoT, Devices used with IoT and then conclusion.

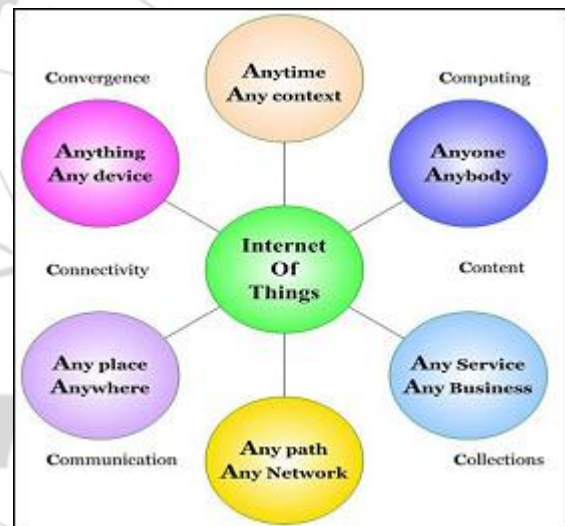
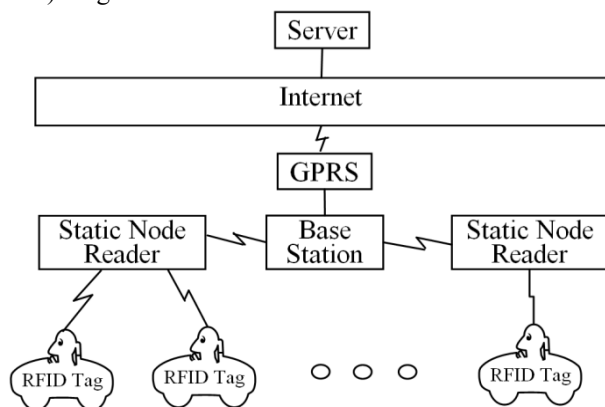


Figure 1: Objectives of IoT

## 2. Radio-frequency identification (RFID)

It was seen as a prerequisite for the Internet of Things in the early days. If all objects and people in daily life were equipped with identifiers, they could be managed and inventoried by computers. Besides using RFID, the tagging of things may be achieved through such technologies as near field communication, barcodes, QR codes, Mobile Computing, Ambient Intelligence. The RFID tag represents a simple chip or label attached to provide object's identity. The RFID reader transmits a query signal to the tag and receives reflected signal from the tag, which in turn is passed to the database. The database connects to a processing center to identify objects based on the reflected signals within a (10 cm to 200 m) range. RFID tags can be active, passive or semi-passive/active. Active tags are powered by battery while passive ones do not need battery. Semi-passive/active tags use board power when needed. Active RFID readers have their own battery supply and can instantiate the communication. RFID is the first technology used to realize the M2M concept (RFID tag and reader). The RFID reader transmits a query signal to the tag and receives reflected

signal from the tag, which in turn is passed to the database. The database connects to a processing center to identify objects based on the reflected signals within a (10cm to 200m) range.



**Figure 2:** RFID-based sensor network

### 3. Protocols in IOT

#### 3.1 Constrained Application Protocol (CoAP)

The IETF Constrained RESTful Environments (CoRE) working group created CoAP, which is an application layer protocol for IoT applications. The CoAP defines a web transfer protocol based on *REpresentational State Transfer* (REST) on top of HTTP functionalities. REST represents a simpler way to exchange data between clients and servers over HTTP. REST can be seen as a cacheable connection protocol that relies on stateless client-server architecture. It is used within mobile and social network applications and it eliminates ambiguity by using HTTP *get*, *post*, *put*, and *delete* methods. REST enables clients and servers to expose and consume web services like the Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) but in an easier way using Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs) as nouns and HTTP *get*, *post*, *put*, and *delete* methods as verbs.

#### 3.2 Message Queue Telemetry Transport (MQTT)

MQTT is a messaging protocol that was introduced by Andy Stanford-Clark of IBM and Arlen Nipper of Arcom (now Eurotech) in 1999 and was standardized in 2013 at OASIS [70]. MQTT aims at connecting embedded devices and networks with applications and middleware. The connection operation uses a routing mechanism (one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-many) and enables MQTT as an optimal connection protocol for the IoT and M2M.

#### 3.3 Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP)

XMPP is an IETF instant messaging (IM) standard that is used for multi-party chatting, voice and video calling and telepresence. XMPP was developed by the Jabber open source community to support an open, secure, spam free and decentralized messaging protocol. XMPP allows users to communicate with each other by sending instant messages on the Internet no matter which operating system they are using. XMPP allows IM applications to achieve authentication,

access control, privacy measurement, hop-by-hop and end-to-end encryption, and compatibility with other protocols.

#### 3.4 Advanced Message Queuing Protocol (AMQP)

AMQP [75] Is an open standard application layer protocol for the IoT focusing on message-oriented environments? It supports reliable communication via message delivery guarantee primitives including at-most-once, at-least-once and exactly once delivery. AMQP requires a reliable transport protocol like TCP to exchange messages.

#### 3.5 6LoWPAN

Low power Wireless Personal Area Networks (WPANs) which many IoT communications may rely on have some special characteristics different from former link layer technologies like limited packet size (e.g., maximum 127 bytes for IEEE 802.15.4), various address lengths, and low bandwidth [89]–[91]. So, there was a need to make an adaptation layer that fits IPv6 packets to the IEEE 802.15.4 specifications. The IETF 6LoWPAN working group developed such a standard in 2007. 6LoWPAN is the specification of mapping services required by the IPv6 over Low power WPANs to maintain an IPv6 network [89]. The standard provides header compression to reduce the transmission overhead, fragmentation to meet the IPv6 Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU) requirement, and forwarding to link-layer to support multi-hop delivery.

#### 3.6 Z-Wave

Z-Wave as a low-power wireless communication protocol for Home Automation Networks (HAN) has been used widely in the remote control applications in smart homes as well as small-size commercial domains [101]. This protocol was initially developed by ZenSys (currently Sigma Designs) and later was employed and improved by Z-Wave Alliance. Z-Wave covers about 30 meters point-to-point communication and is specified for applications that need tiny data transmission like light control, household appliance control, smart energy and HVAC, access control, wearable health care control, and fire detection. Z-Wave operates in ISM bands (around 900 MHz) and allows transmission rate of 40 kbps. The recent versions also support up to 200 kbps. Its MAC layer benefits from a collision avoidance mechanism. Reliable transmission is possible in this protocol by optional ACK messages.

### 4. Health Care

*Smart healthcare* plays a significant role in healthcare applications through embedding sensors and actuators in patients and their medicine for monitoring and tracking purposes. The IoT is used by clinical care to monitor physiological statuses of patients through sensors by collecting and analyzing their information and then sending analyzed patient's data remotely to processing centers to make suitable actions. For example, Masimo Radical-7 monitors the patient's status remotely and reports that to a clinical staff. Recently, IBM utilized RFID technology at one

of OhioHealth's hospitals to track hand washing after checking each patient. That operation could be used to avoid infections that cause about 90 000 deaths and losing about \$30 billion annually. Generally in the case of accidents someone has must intimate to the hospital for getting ambulance, but in the case of IoT whenever accidents are takes place, the wearable devices automatically gives signal to nearest Wi-Fi router and then hospitals to get the ambulance, based upon her health conditions like heartbeats.

IoT can be used to supplement patient treatment through remote monitoring and communication, and to keep track of patients as they move through a healthcare facility. Read on to discover the specifics of these IoT deployments.

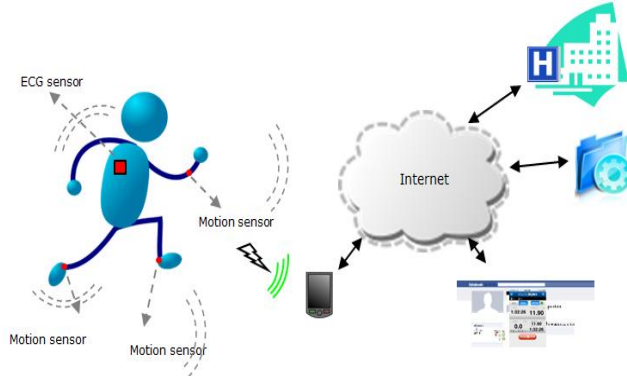


Figure 3: Helathcare using IoT

Hospitalized patients whose physiological status requires close attention can be constantly monitored using IoT-driven, noninvasive monitoring. This type of solution Employs sensors to collect comprehensive physiological information and uses gateways and the cloud to analyze and store the information and then send the analyzed data wirelessly to caregivers for further analysis and review. It replaces the process of having a health professional come by at regular intervals to check the patient's vital signs, instead providing a continuous automated flow of information. In this way, it simultaneously improves the quality of care through constant attention and lowers the cost of care by eliminating the need for a caregiver to actively engage in data collection and analysis. There are people all over the world whose health may suffer because they don't have ready access to effective health monitoring. But small, powerful wireless solutions connected through the IoT are now making it possible for monitoring to come to these patients instead of vice-versa. These solutions can be used to securely capture patient health data from a variety of sensors, apply complex algorithms to analyze the data and then share it through wireless connectivity with medical professionals who can make appropriate health recommendations.

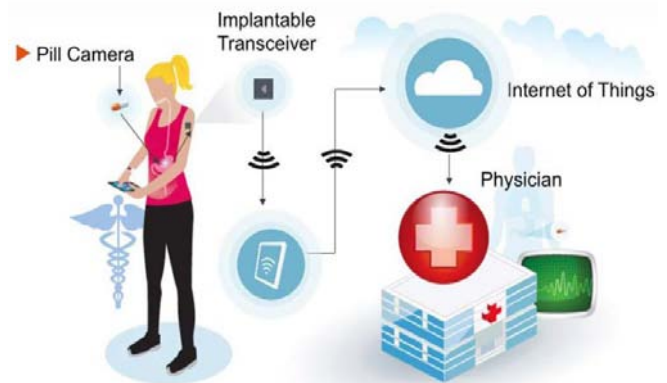


Figure 5: Remote Patient Monitoring

Smart sensors, which combine a sensor and a microcontroller, make it possible to harness the power of the IoT for healthcare by accurately measuring, monitoring and analyzing a variety of health status indicators. These can include basic vital signs such as heart rate and blood pressure, as well as levels of glucose or oxygen saturation in the blood. Smart sensors can even be incorporated into pill bottles and connected to the network to indicate whether a patient has taken a scheduled dose of medication.

## 5. IoT Hardware Devices

Different types of Single Board Computers (SBCs) integrated with sensors and built-in TCP/IP and security functionalities are typically used to realize IoT products (e.g., Arduino Yun, Raspberry Pi, Beagle Bone Black, etc.). Such devices typically connect to a central management portal to provide the required data by customers. One of the key learning platforms for IoT is the Raspberry Pi. The RasPi is a popular platform because it offers a complete Linux server in a tiny platform for a very low cost. In fact, one of the most difficult parts of using Raspberry Pi for learning about IoT is picking the right projects with which to begin. The following figure shows the view of Raspberry Pi 2 – MODB.



Figure 4: Raspberry Pi 2 - MODB

Windows 10 IoT Core is a new edition of Windows targeted towards small embedded devices and maker boards such as Raspberry Pi2. IoT core is designed to work with low-level bus interfaces such as I2C, SPI, and USB. You can write a Universal Windows Application using a variety of programming languages in Visual Studio to rapidly create maker projects. You can use Windows 10 IoT Core to read sensor data, control actuators, connect to the cloud, create IoT applications and much more. The Starter Pack from Adfruit includes parts to get you started. Some other boards

are also available to perform IoT operations; those are PanStamps, TinyDuino, RFDuino, Intel Edison, UDOO etc.

## Conclusion

In summary, one vision of the future is that IoT becomes a utility with increased sophistication in sensing, actuation, communications, control, and in creating knowledge from vast amounts of data. This will result in qualitatively different lifestyles from today. What the lifestyles would be is anyone's guess. It would be fair to say that we cannot predict how lives will change. We did not predict the Internet, the Web, social networking, Facebook, Twitter, millions of apps for smartphones, etc., and these have all qualitatively changed societies' lifestyle. Especially for healthcare system, it is most useful to every human. So health problems are easily predicted at the beginning stage based on IoT healthcare system.

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