Project Seminar on Emerging Technologies

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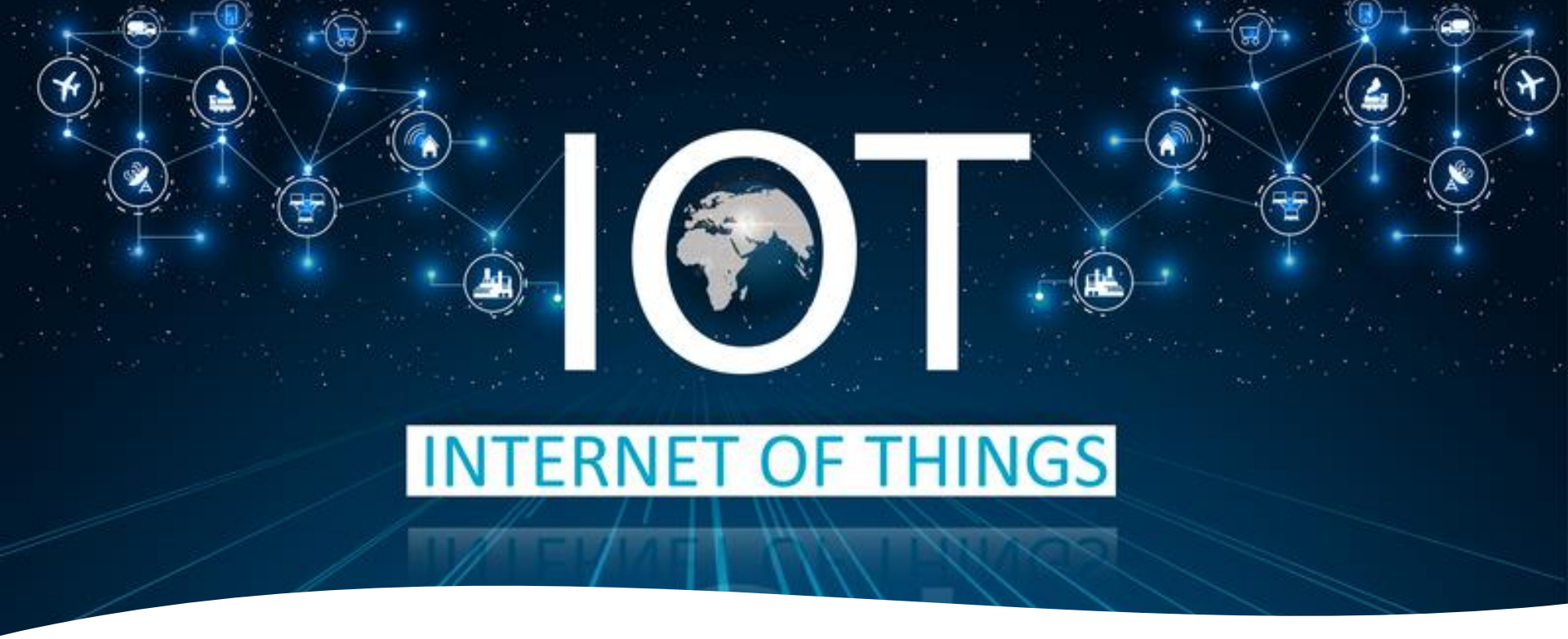
Mitigating Cybersecurity Threats in Internet of Things (IoT) Devices: Strategies and Solutions

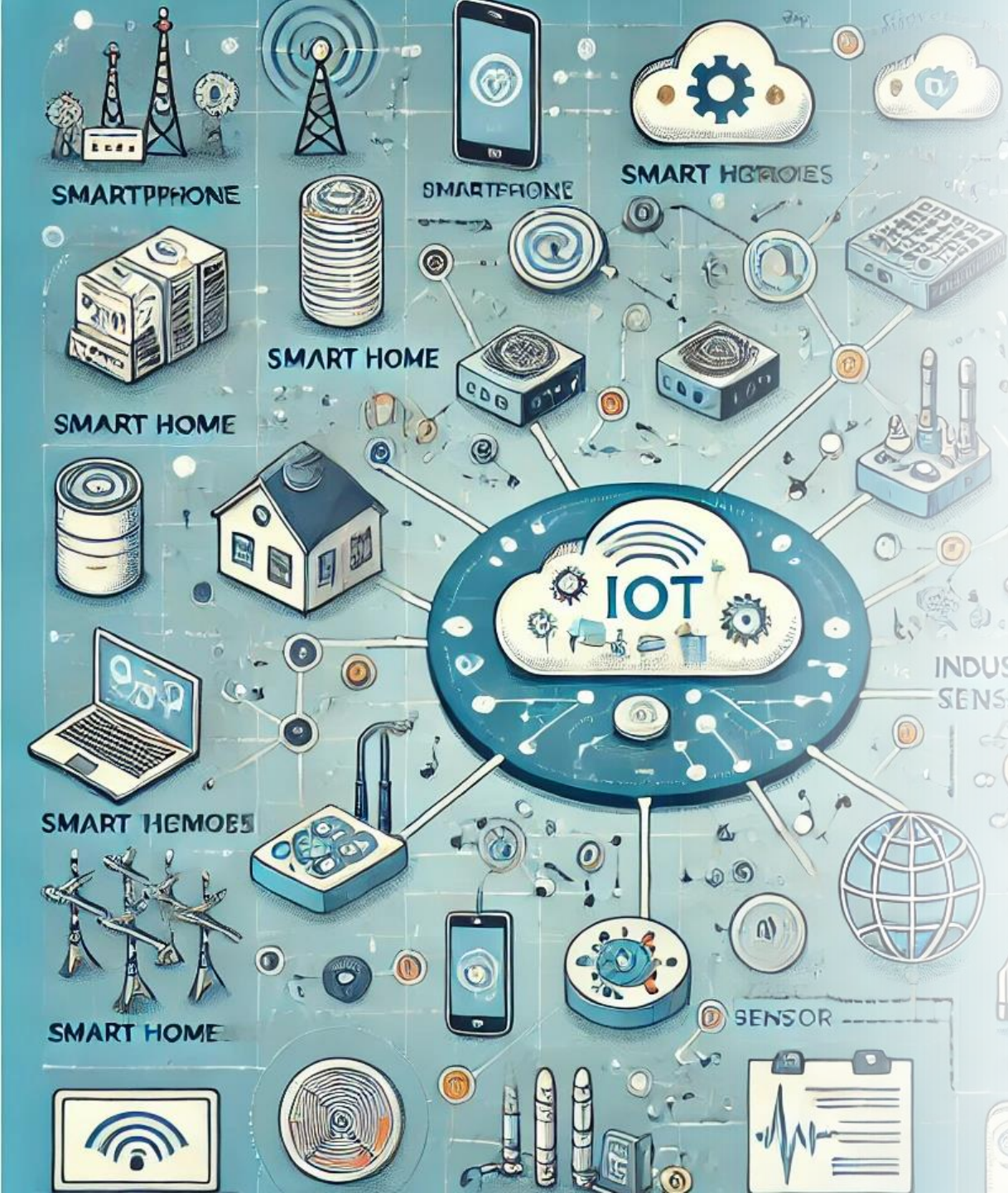


Introduction To IoT

What is IoT?

- A network of interconnected devices that collect, transmit, and process data without human intervention.
- Over 15 billion connected IoT devices globally as of 2023, expected to increase exponentially.

IoT Ecosystem Overview



An illustration showing various interconnected IoT devices and systems.

Cybersecurity Challenges in IoT

- IoT devices introduce significant cybersecurity risks.
- Challenges include resource constraints, lack of robust security measures, and decentralized nature.
- Vulnerabilities to data breaches, malware, and physical attacks.

Current Landscape of IoT Cybersecurity Threats

Types of IoT Devices:

- Smartphones
- Smart Home Devices
- Wearable Devices Industrial IoT
- Medical Devices.

Common Security Threats in IoT

Botnets: Malware enables attackers to access IoT devices and infiltrate networks.

Weak Passwords: Default or simple passwords make devices easy targets.

Data Theft: Attackers steal sensitive financial or personal information.

DoS/DDoS Attacks: Overloading devices or networks with traffic disrupts services.

Impact of IoT Cybersecurity Threats

On Individuals: Identity theft, invasion of privacy, and physical harm.

On Organizations: Operational disruptions, data loss, financial losses, and reputational damage.

On Critical Infrastructure: Power outages, compromised public safety.

CASE STUDIES

The Mirai botnet: Mirai is a botnet malware that exploits poorly protected IoT devices. In 2016, it infected IoT devices by leveraging weak credentials (e.g., default passwords) to build a network of compromised devices. This launched massive DDoS attacks, disrupting major websites like Amazon, Twitter, and Netflix.

The Meris botnet: Meris is an advanced botnet malware, an augmented and refined version of Mirai. It exploits vulnerabilities in IoT devices, particularly targeting routers with outdated firmware, to launch powerful DDoS attacks, peaking at 21.8 million requests per second (RPS).

Strategies for Mitigating Cybersecurity Threats In IoT Devices

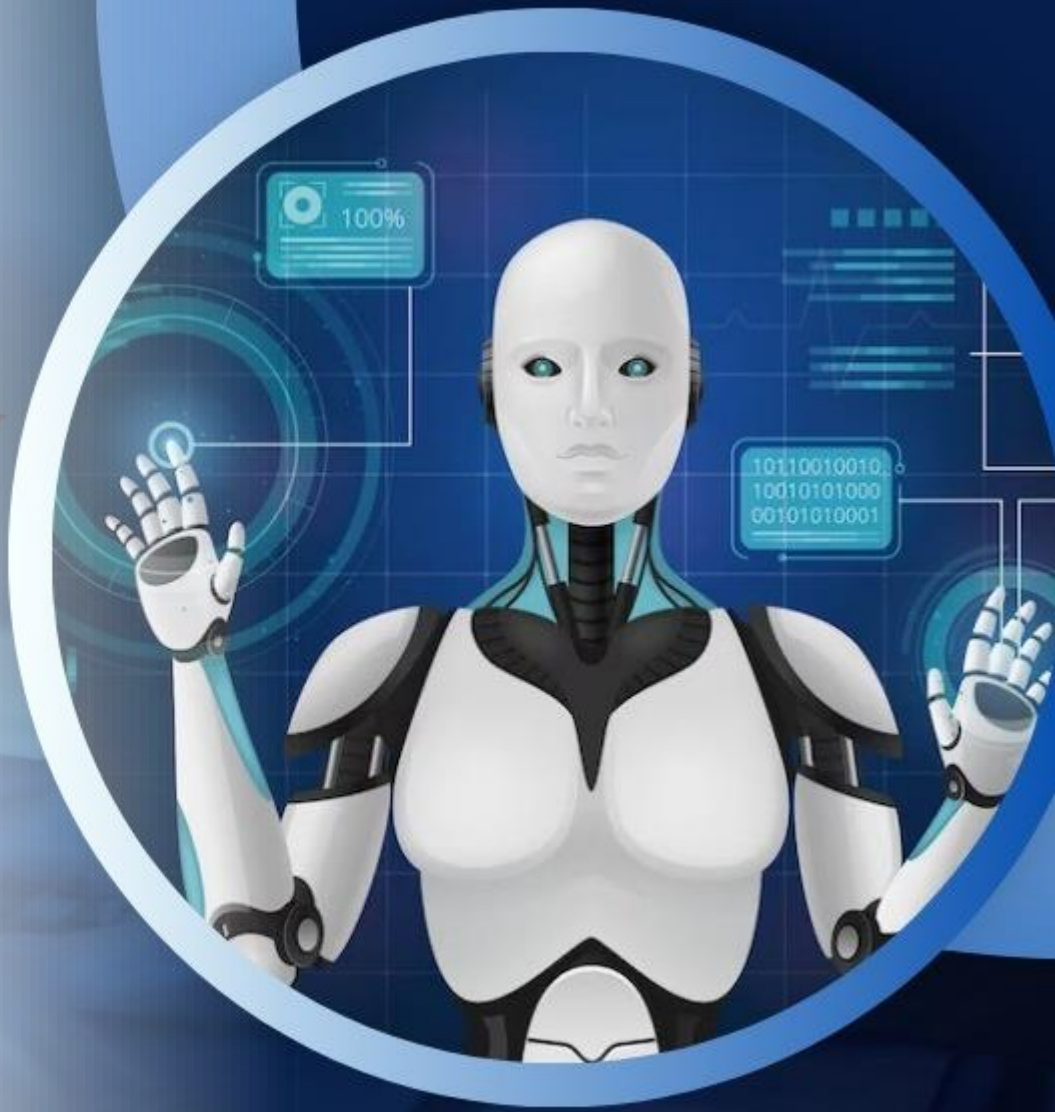
Device-Level Security: Strong authentication, encryption, firmware updates, physical hardening.

Network-Level Security: Network segmentation, firewalls, intrusion detection systems (IDS).

Data Security: Data minimization, tokenization, regular backups, IoT Security by Design, and Legal/Regulatory Approaches.

Solutions and Future Directions

Automate	**Regular Updates**: Automate firmware and software updates to address vulnerabilities.
Implement	**Device Identity Management**: Implement strong authentication and authorization.
Encrypt	**End-to-End Encryption**: Encrypt data across all IoT communications.
Use	**AI and ML Security**: Use AI and ML for advanced threat detection and response.
Training	**User Training**: Enhance security awareness through targeted training programs.



Conclusion

Securing IoT devices requires a multi-faceted approach with regular updates, strong device identity management, and encryption. Advanced technologies like AI/ML and blockchain help mitigate risks from botnets. Collaboration among manufacturers, governments, and users is crucial for a secure and evolving IoT ecosystem.

References

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