

Stage 4, part 5: Summary

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The advances in technology have shaped, and continue to shape our lives immensely in all areas of life. The internet has revolutionized communication in our everyday lives, and it's slowly beginning to change the way we approach healthcare as well.

A fairly new area that's being brought on by the internet is the Internet of Things, usually abbreviated as IoT or IOT. IoT means increased connection of all our devices. This enables them to monitor and collect massive amounts of data about our lives and our environment, which in turn gives us whole new ways to solve the problems that face us, like the problems in healthcare.

The internet has already improved healthcare in some ways; Patient treatment history and plans can be easily shared between doctors and clinics over online databases, and statistic insights can be found from a collection of (anonymized) treatment information.

The true potential of these advancements can be had when they're combined. IoT devices, for example wearable bands or implanted sensors, can gather data from the patient at all times. When they're connected to the internet, they can send this data to databases, where the patient's doctor can easily see and analyze it. This can reveal trends that are wholly invisible today, and all without the patient needing come to the clinic. The devices can also alert the medical authorities when they detect that the patient is in critical condition.

An important but often overlooked part of this vision of the future is the requirement of open standards. It's critical that all parts of the system use the same interfaces, and that is only possible if manufacturers can freely use them.

Source: [1]

References

- [1] N. Bui and M. Zorzi, "Health care applications: A solution based on the internet of things," in *Proceedings of the 4th International Symposium on Applied Sciences in Biomedical and Communication Technologies*, ser. ISABEL '11, Barcelona, Spain: ACM, 2011, 131:1–131:5, ISBN: 978-1-4503-0913-4. DOI: 10.1145/2093698.2093829. [Online]. Available: <http://people.cs.pitt.edu/~chang/231/y14/internetThingsHealthcare.pdf>.