

# IoT Platforms

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# What are IoT platforms

- IoT applications combine sensors, devices, data, analytics and integrations in a seamless and unified way
  - e.g. your project!
- IoT Platforms provide software tools and components to:
  - connect sensors, devices, and data networks
  - Analyse and store data
  - Integrate with other apps
- So what? We know the tech for that now (I2C, SPI, BLE, MQTT, Python...)
- Main selling point of an IoT platform is software that it
  - accelerates the IoT development process
  - Focuses on IoT: brings in best of breed features
  - Provides initial scaffolding for IoT projects

# What are IoT Platform

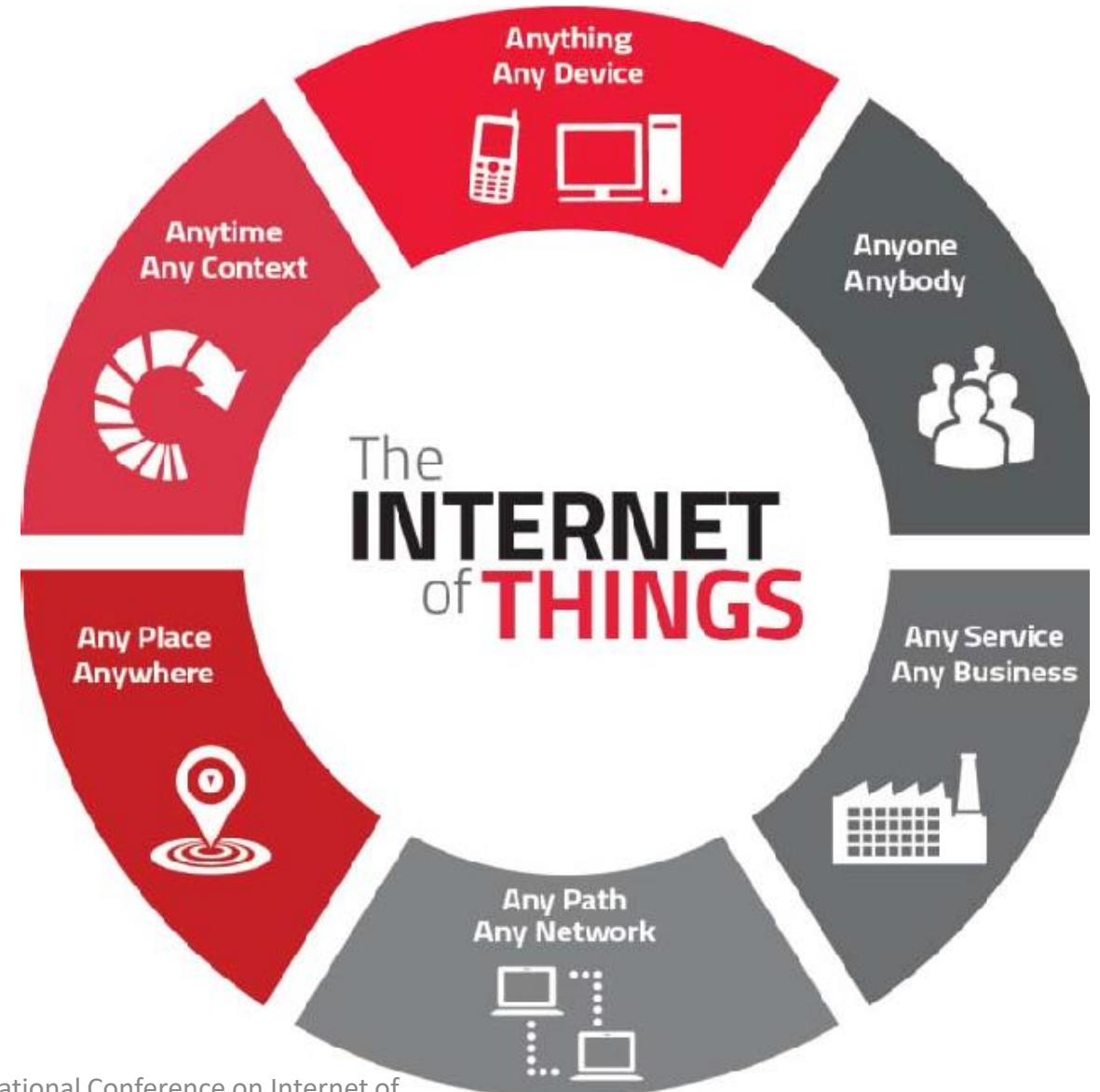
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- Many(not all) are cloud-based platforms that require subscription
- Provide device/language agnostic set of Software Development kits
  - Arduino/RPi/beagleboard
- IoT development is generally iterative:
  - Starts with initial simple use case
  - Once operational, data/insights result in new usecases
- IoT platforms should promote scalable, iterative development
  - Allow for quick app development
  - Ability to adapt/optimize apps quickly

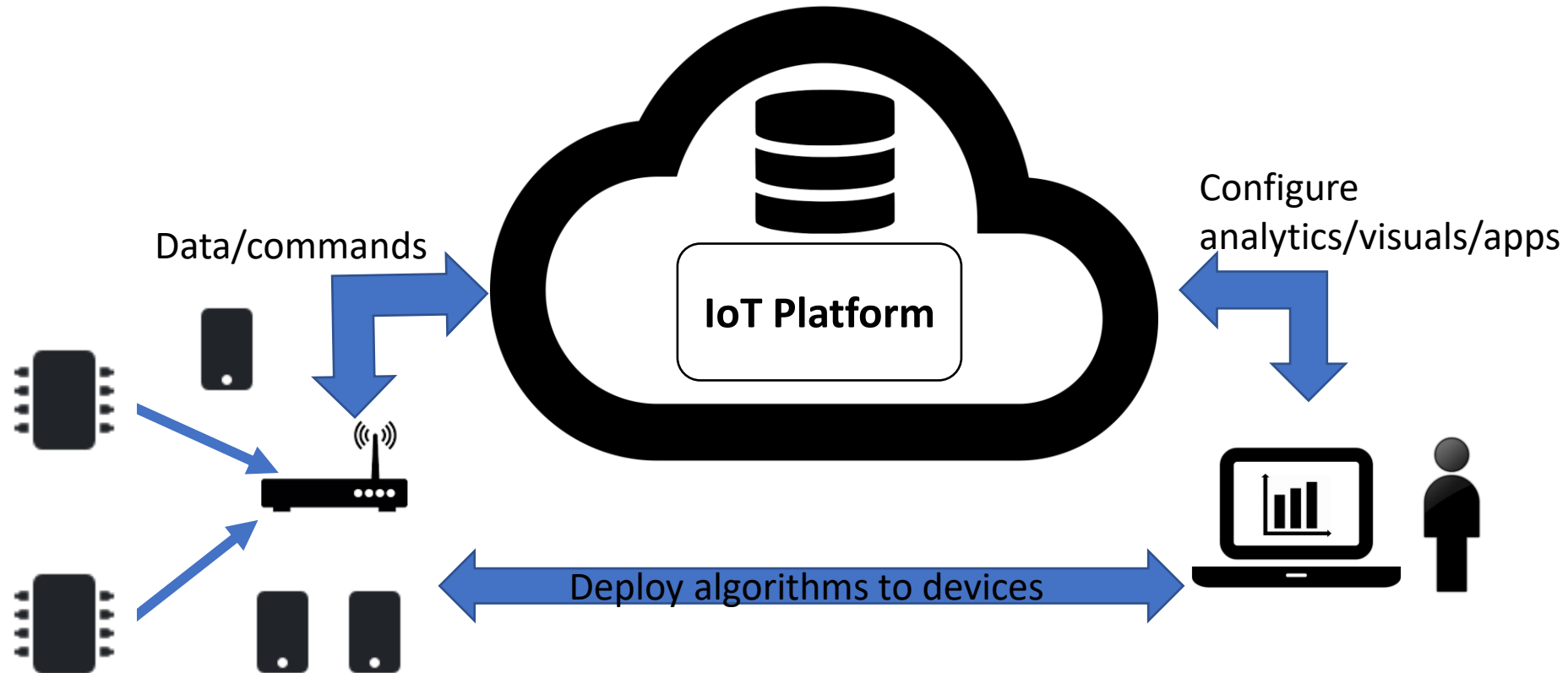
# IoT Platform Characteristics

- Manage many concurrent device connections
- Connectivity across several connection types
- "Off-the-peg" IoT protocol stack
- Manage/analyse/visualise data
- Integrations to other services/apps
- App Development



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# IoT Platform – general architecture



# IoT Platform Advantages

- Use software component that has been pre-built and pre-tested. This increases the reliability of your application and reduces development effort.
- IoT frameworks constantly evolve, providing new features, integrations etc.
- Encourages better "design pattern" for your IoT app.
- Predefined APIs and docs
  - Great for collaboration
- "Baked-in" standards and features:
  - Security, authentication, scalability...

# Which one?

- Connectivity
  - Does the platform provide suitable capability and integrations (WiFi/Cellular/LPWan-Sigfox)
- Maturity
  - In business for long? Critical mass in developer community?
- Free
  - Is there a free tier (handy for evaluation)?
- Service type
  - Platforms try to distinguish themselves – what specialisms/USP does it have?
- Security
  - What security model do they use? Is there security issues reported in past?
- Geographic area
  - Does it operate well at your location (can you select edges/data centres)





Examples:





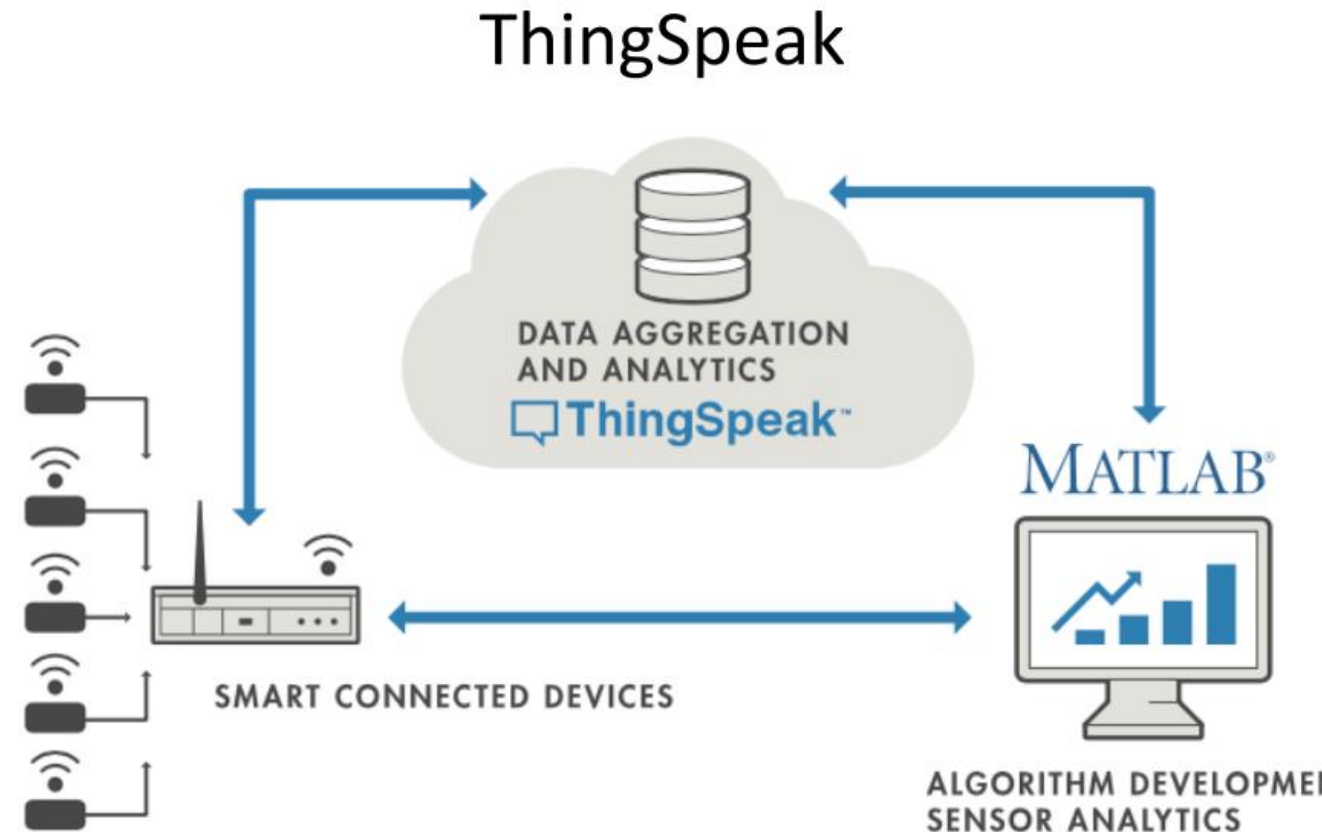
Thingspeak

# Thingspeak

- **ThingSpeak** is a cloud-based IoT platform to store and retrieve data from devices.
  - Uses HTTP protocol/Restful APIs
- "Collect and analyse data quickly and easily"

# Thingspeak Overview

- Account-based
  - Can create free account online
- Brought to you by the people who made Matlab
  - Uses Matlab features/toolboxes
- SDKs/librariys for popular languages/devices
- Restful API means should work with any device



# Thingspeak – basic use

## Create a new channel

- Channels collect data

## Collect data in the channel

- Devices write data to channels

## Analyse the data

- Run analytical algorithms/visualise your data

## Act on the data

- Test for certain conditions and perform actions

# ThingSpeak – Create new channel



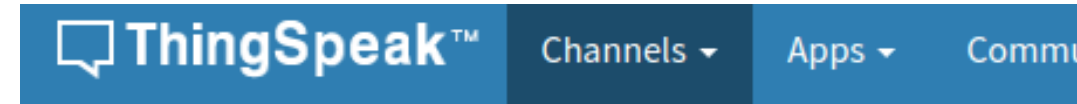
CREATE A NEW  
CHANNEL TO COLLECT  
DATA FROM DEVICES



DEFINE DATA FIELDS  
FOR THE  
CHANNEL(MAX 8)



CAN ALSO INPUT  
LOCATION(LAT/LONG)  
OF CHANNEL SOURCE



## New Channel

Name	<input type="text" value="SensePi"/>	
Description	<input type="text" value="Environment data from &lt;u&gt;senspi&lt;/u&gt;"/>	
Field 1	<input type="text" value="temperature"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Field 2	<input type="text" value="pressure"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Field 3	<input type="text" value="humidity"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Thingspeak - New channel

- Once saved you can access channel page:

## SensePi

Channel ID: **625505**

Author: [fxwalsh](#)

Access: Private

Environment data from senspi

Private View

Public View

Channel Settings

Sharing

API Keys

Data Import / Export

[+ Add Visualizations](#)

[+ Add Widgets](#)

[Export recent data](#)

[MATLAB Analysis](#)

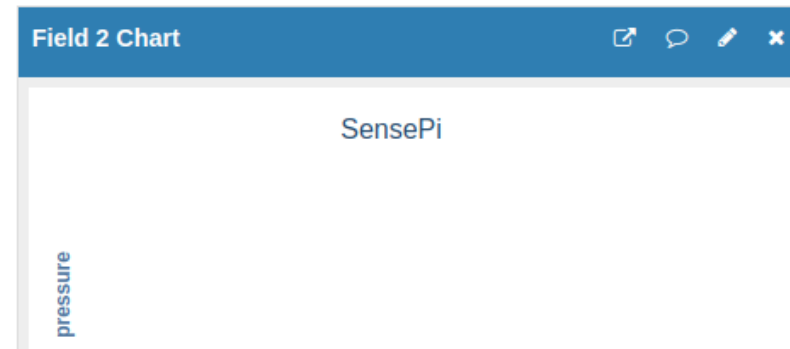
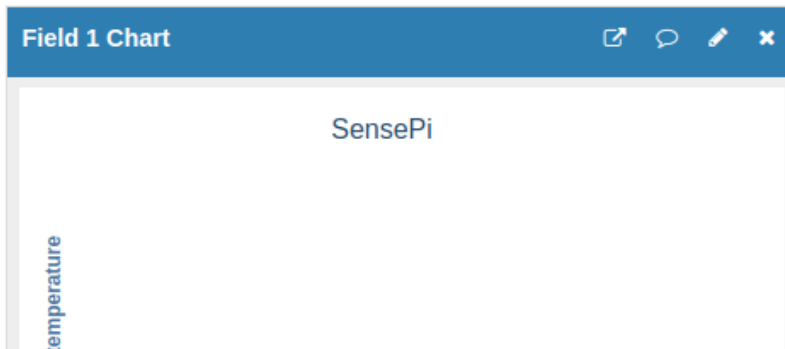
[MATLAB Visualization](#)

## Channel Stats

Created: 4 minutes ago

Updated: 4 minutes ago

Entries: 0



# Thingspeak - Add data to channel

- Programmatically, many ways!
  - Construct HTTP GET request and include field
  - MQTT (see in Lab)

## API Reference

Use the REST and MQTT APIs to update ThingSpeak™ channels and to chart numeric data streams.

ThingSpeak is an IoT platform that uses channels to store data sent from apps or devices. With ThingSpeak, you can create a channel and use the REST API calls such as GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE, you can create a channel and receive messages when a channel updates. Learn more about when to [Choose Between REST and MQTT](#).

MATLAB® analysis and visualization apps enable you to explore and view your channel data.

### REST API

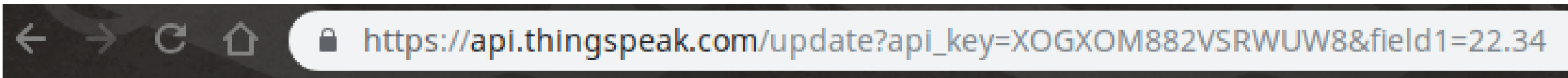
Use REST API calls to create and update ThingSpeak channels and charts

### MQTT API

Use the MQTT API to update ThingSpeak channels

GET [https://api.thingspeak.com/update?api\\_key=<WRITE-KEY>&field1=12](https://api.thingspeak.com/update?api_key=<WRITE-KEY>&field1=12)

- Using HTTP GET request, can test from a browser:



# Thingspeak – Add data with python

- Make HTTP request from Python:

```
def writeData(temp,press,hum):  
    # Sending the data to thingspeak in the query string  
    conn = urllib2.urlopen(baseURL + '&field1=%s&field2=%s&field3=%s' % (temp, hum,press))  
    print(conn.read())  
    # Closing the connection  
    conn.close()  
  
while True:  
    temp=round(sense.get_temperature(),2)  
    press=round(sense.get_pressure(),2)  
    hum=round(sense.get_humidity(),2)  
    writeData(temp,press,hum)  
    time.sleep(60)
```

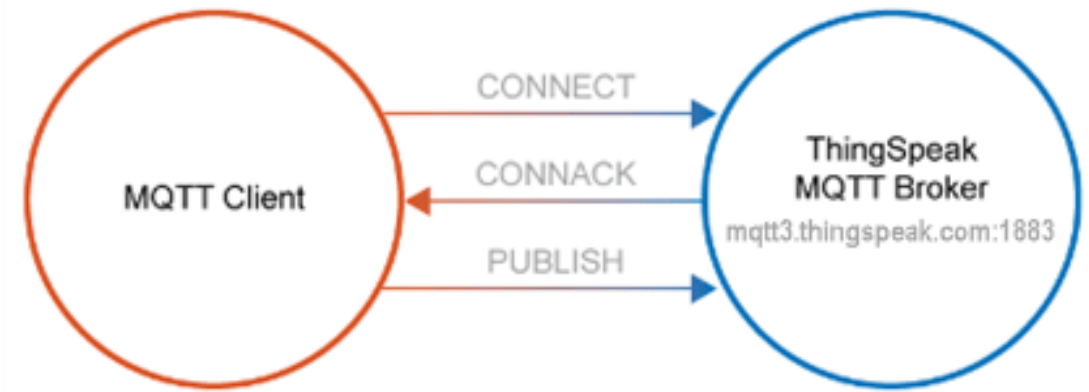


# Thingspeak – Add data with python

Create a MQTT client:

```
# connect to Broker
mqttc.username_pw_set(config["username"], config["password"])
mqttc.connect("mqtt3.thingspeak.com", 1883)
mqttc.loop_start()
topic = "channels/1558158/publish"

# Publish a message to temp every 15 seconds
while True:
    try:
        temp=round(sense.get_temperature(),2)
        payload="field1="+str(temp)
        mqttc.publish(topic, payload)
        time.sleep(15)
    except:
        print('Interrupted')
        try:
            sys.exit(0)
```



## 1. Publish to a channel feed

channels/<channelID>/publish.

## 2. Publish to a channel field

channels/<channelID>/publish/fields/field<fieldnumber>

# Which to use: HTTP or MQTT API

- HTTP (REST) API
  - You need to retrieve any historical data, such as data within a defined time range.
  - You want to Create Channel, Read Settings, Clear Channel, Delete Channel, or Create Chart.
  - You need a response!
- MQTT
  - Your device is power-constrained, and you want lower battery consumption to send data to ThingSpeak. Also, an MQTT PUBLISH operation is typically faster in this scenario.
  - Your device connectivity is intermittent, and you have limited bandwidth usage.
  - You want immediate updates of data posted to a channel.
  - You want messages pushed to you instead of needing to poll the server for new messages.

# Think Speak – Analyse data

- Thingspeak will visualise each field by default in channel view

## SensePi

Channel ID: 625505

Environment data from senspi

Author: fxwalsh

Access: Private

Private View

Public View

Channel Settings

Sharing

API Keys

Data Import / Export

+ Add Visualizations

+ Add Widgets

Export recent data

MATLAB Analysis

MATLAB Visualiz

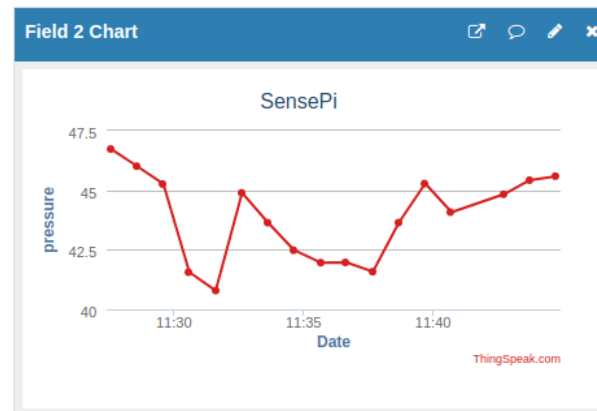
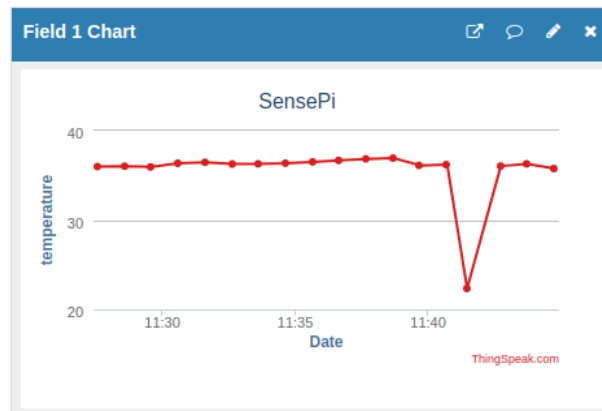
## Channel Stats

Created: [about an hour ago](#)

Updated: [about an hour ago](#)

Last entry: [about a minute ago](#)

Entries: 17



# Thingspeak - Apps

- The Apps tab provides various mechanism to transform, analyse, visualise and act on data.

## Analytics



### MATLAB Analysis

Explore and transform data.



### MATLAB Visualizations

Visualize data in MATLAB plots.



### Plugins

Display data in gauges, charts, or custom plugins.

## Actions



### ThingTweet

Connect a device to Twitter® and send alerts.



### TimeControl

Automatically perform actions at predetermined times with ThingSpeak apps.



### React

React when channel data meets certain conditions.

# ThingSpeak Example: ThingTweet

- Link Twitter account to Thingspeak
- Create a **React** to tweet when a certain condition is met.
- Also tweet from device using HTTP POST:

```
POST https://api.thingspeak.com/apps/thingtweet/1/statuses/update
api_key=WLKX9PPPWCRZ6H1
status=I just posted this from my thing!
```

Apps / React / Fermenting Beer Too Cold

Edit React

Name:	Fermenting Beer Too Cold
Condition Type:	Numeric
Test Frequency:	Every 30 minutes
Last Ran:	
Channel:	SensePi
Condition:	Field 1 (temperature) is less than 17
Message:	frankwalsh59: BEER TO COLD!!!
Options:	Only the first time the condition is met

# ThingSpeak Example: Analysis

- Can write Matlab Code to analyse and transform data
- Possible uses:
  - Clean data (remove outliers)
  - Statistical analysis
  - Transformations
  - Data Fusion
- Generally write results to second channel for further analysis/visualisation.

# Thinkspeak: Convert Celcius to Fahrenheit

Convert temperature units

## MATLAB Code

```
1
2 readChannelID = 12397;
3 % Temperature Field ID
4 temperatureFieldID = 4;
5
6 readAPIKey = '';
7
8 tempC = thingSpeakRead(readChannelID,'Fields',temperatureFieldID,'ReadKey',readAPIKey);
9
10 % Convert to Fahrenheit
11 tempF = tempC*1.8+32;
12 display(tempC,'Temperature in Fahrenheit');
13
14 % Replace the [] with channel ID to write data to:
15 writeChannelID = 1234;
16 % Enter the Write API Key between the '' below:
17 writeAPIKey = 'abcd';
18
19 thingSpeakWrite(writeChannelID,[tempF,tempC],'Writekey',writeAPIKey);
```

Save and Run

Save

# Other Platforms

- Ubidots
- Amazon Web Services
- Microsoft Azure
- Evothings