IoT Platforms

Frank Walsh

What are IoT platforms

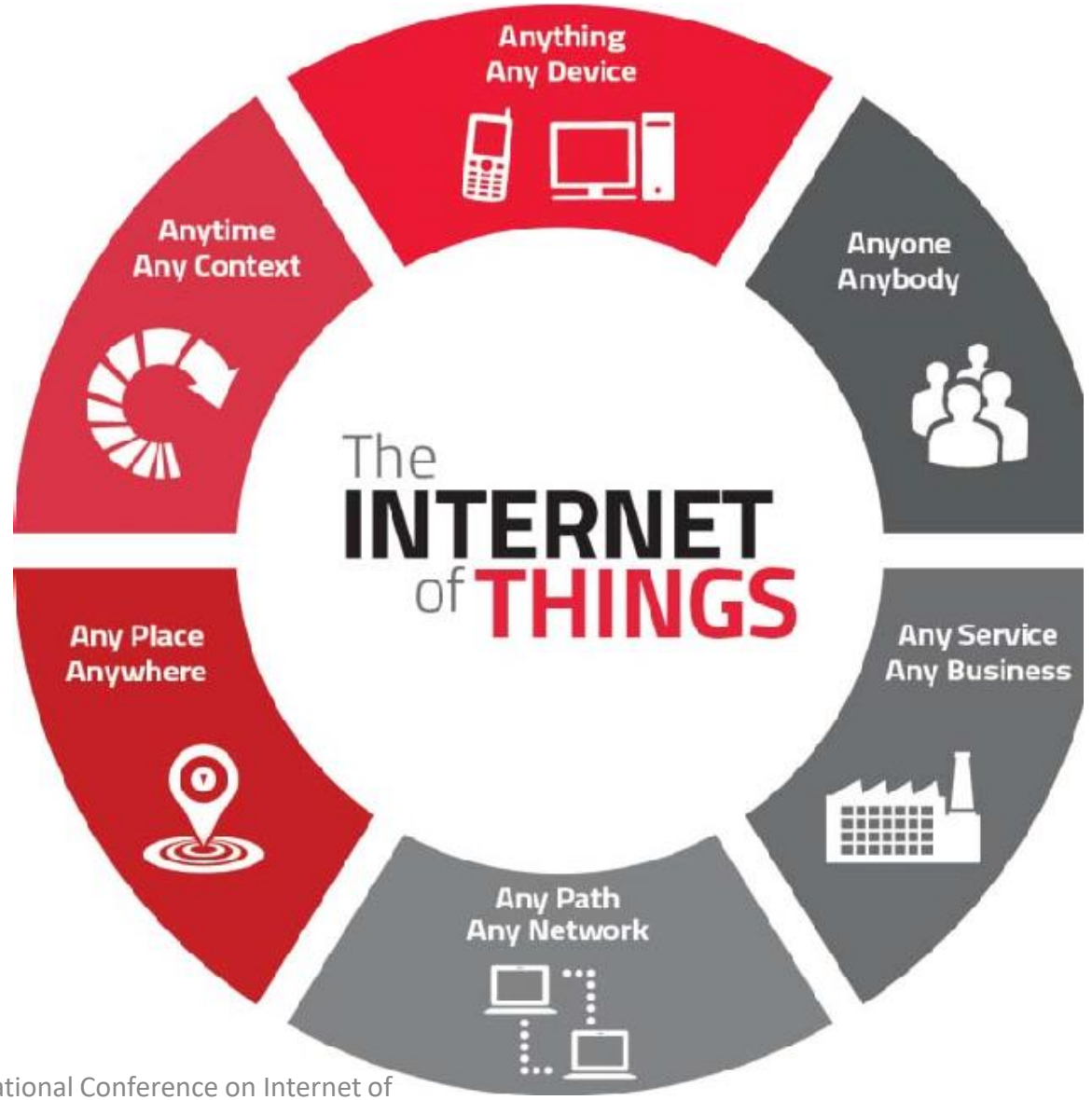
- IoT applications combine sensors, devices, data, analytics and integrations in a seamless and unified way
  - e.g. your project!
- IoT Platforms provide software tools and components to:
  - connect sensors, devices, and data networks
  - Analyse and store data
  - Integrate with other apps
- So what? 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

- 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 usecased
- IoT platforms should promote scalable, iterative development
  - Allow for quick app development
  - Ability to adapt/optimise apps quickly

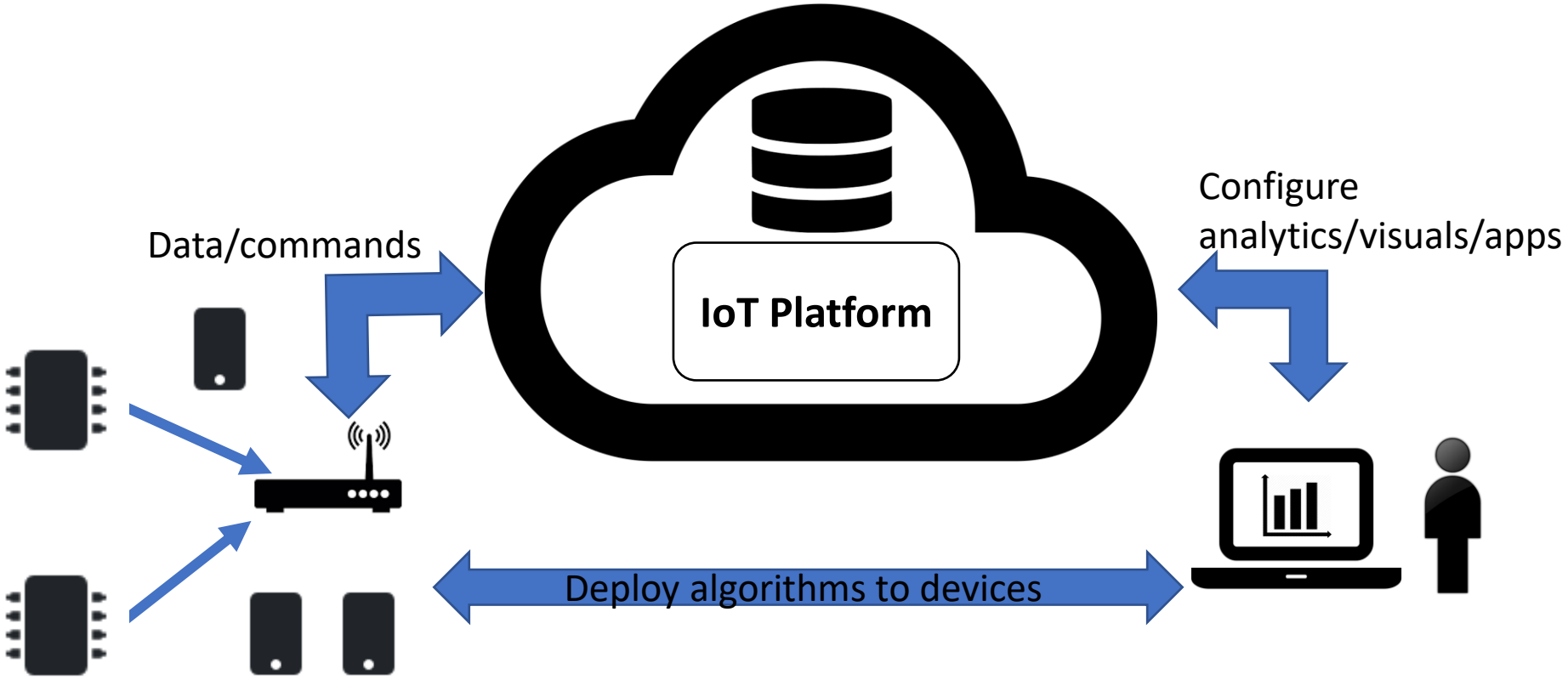
IoT Platform Characteristics

- 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



Published in 2016 IEEE International Conference on Internet of Things (iThings) and IEEE Green Computing and Communications (GreenCom) and IEEE Cyber, Physical and Social Computing (CPSCom) and IEEE Smart Data (SmartData)

IoT Platform – general architechture



IoT Platform Advantages

- Use sofware 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:

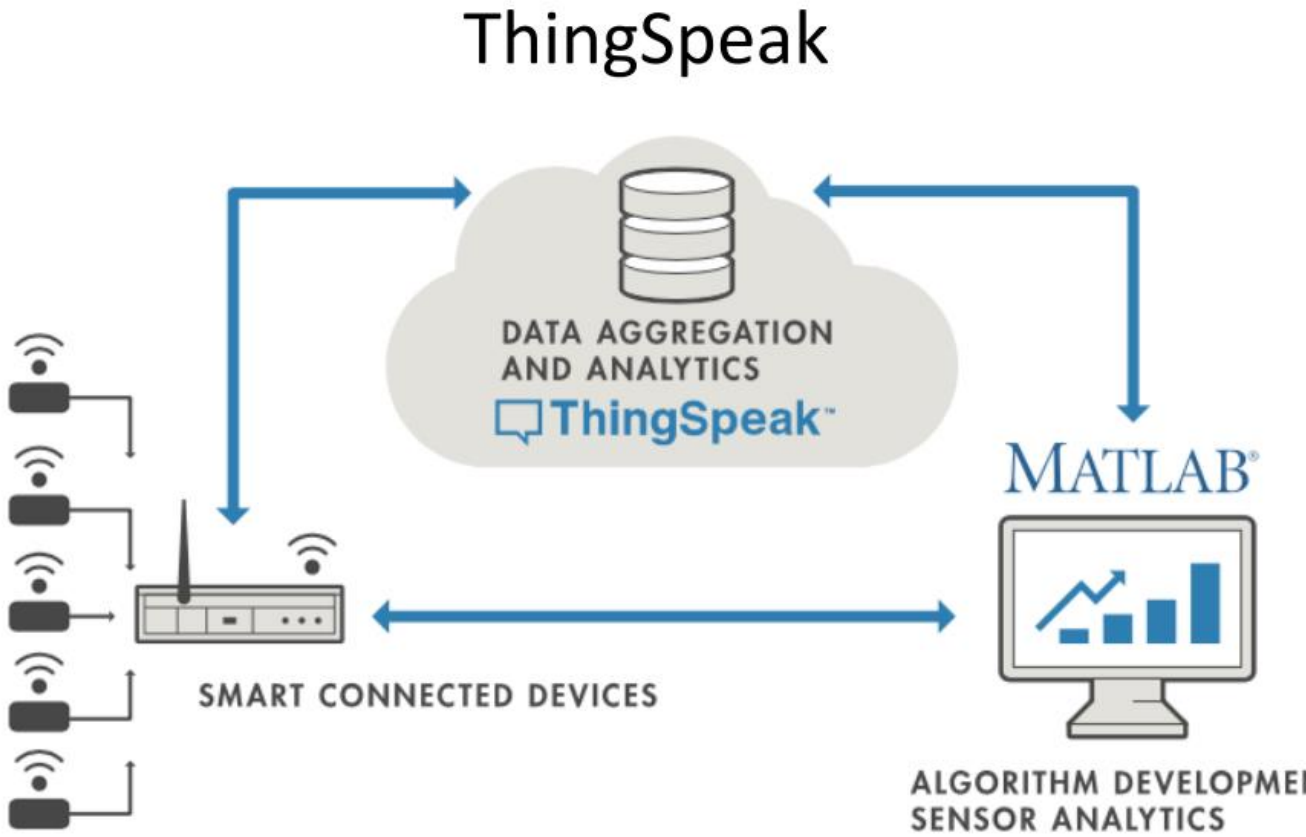
Thingspeak

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/toolboxs
- SDKs/librarys 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

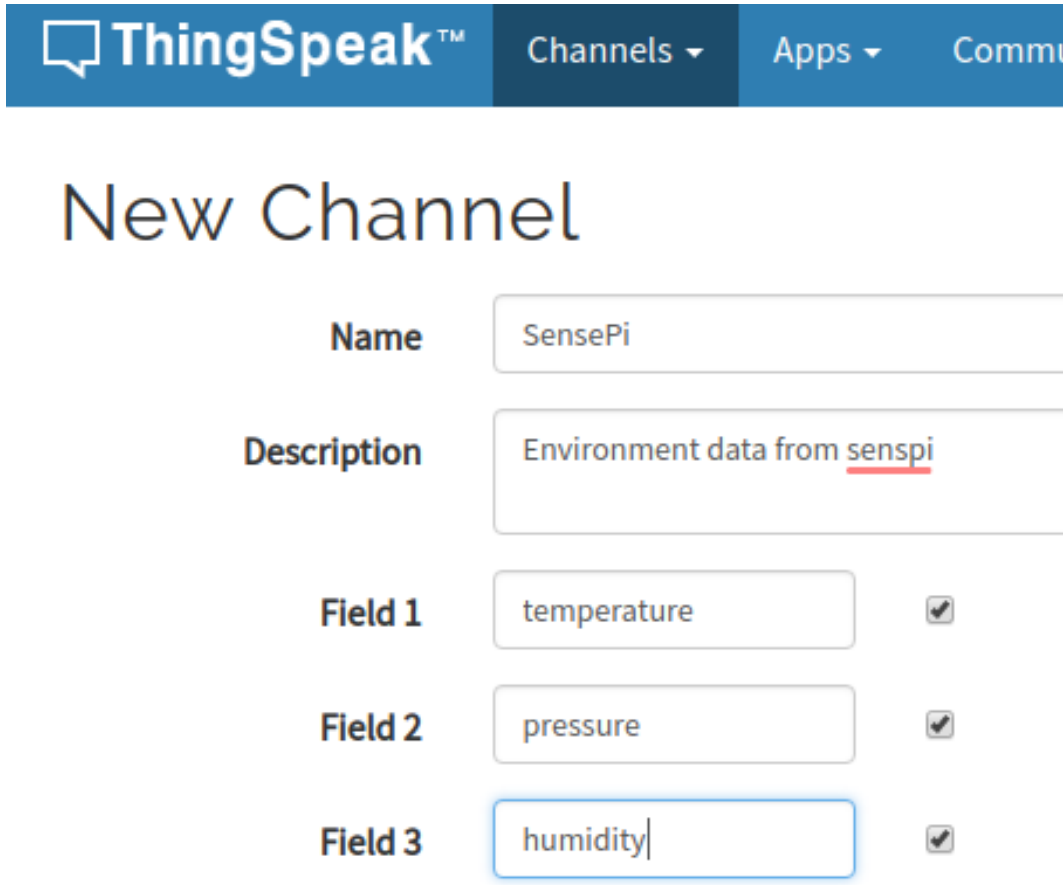
- Test for certain conditions and perform actions

ThingSpeak – Create new channel

CREATE A NEW CHANNEL TO COLLECT DATA FROM DEVICES

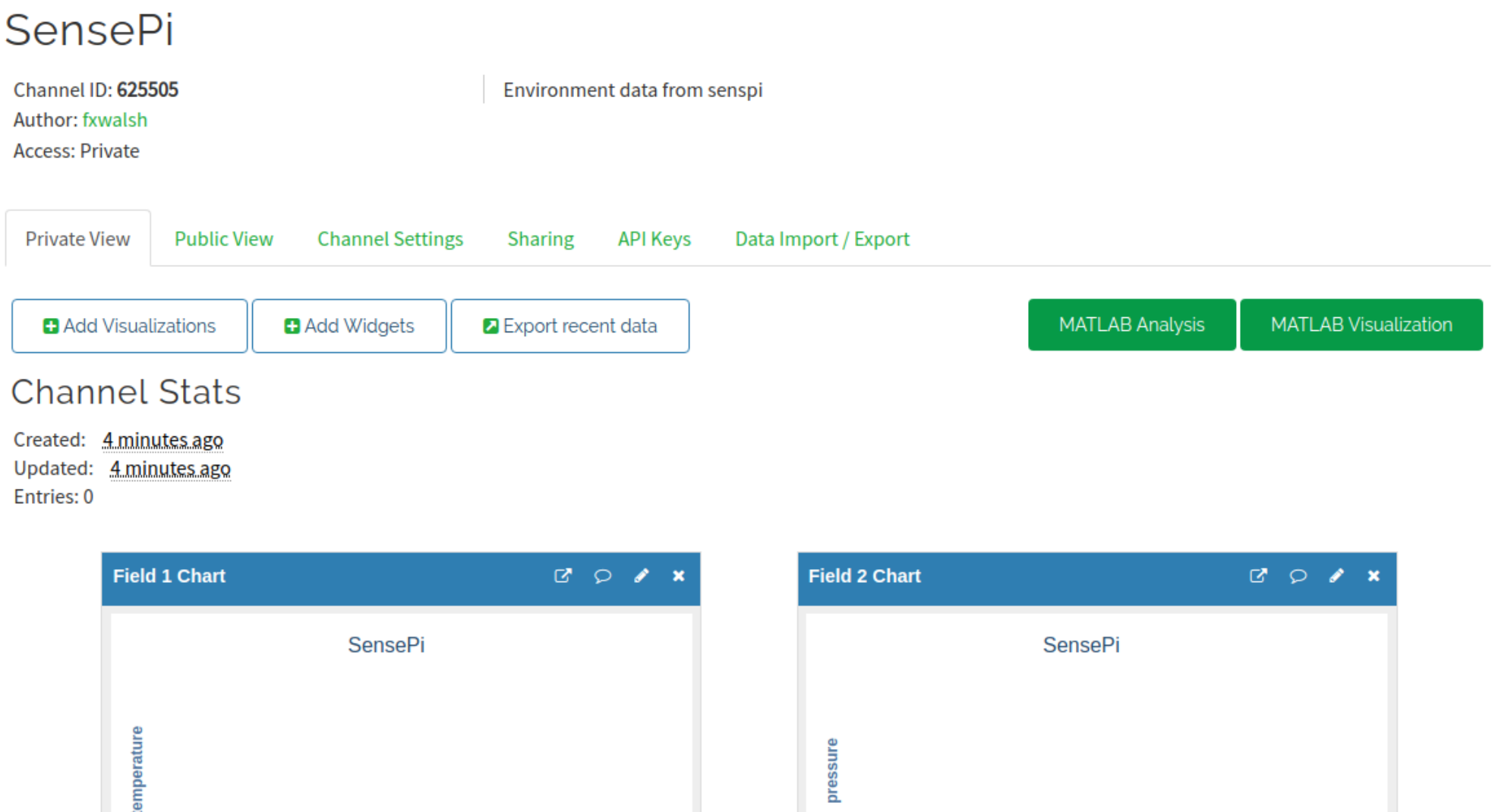
DEFINE DATA FIELDS FOR THE CHANNEL(MAX 8)

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



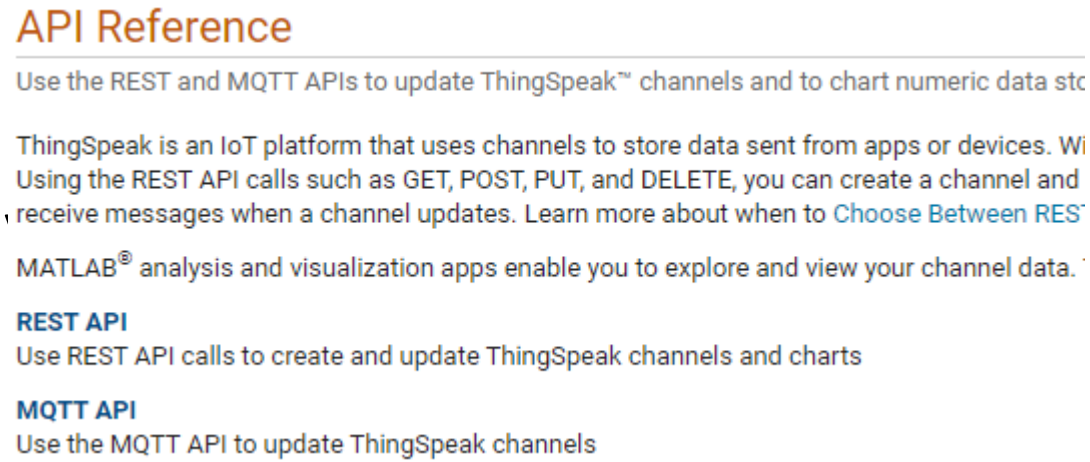
Thingspeak - New channel

- Once saved you can access channel page:



Thingspeak - Add data to channel

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



GET 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

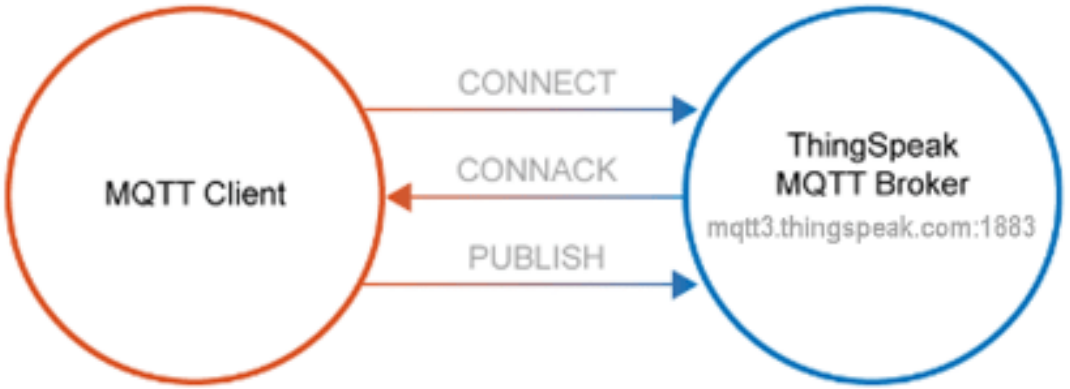
- Make HTTP request from Python:

```
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

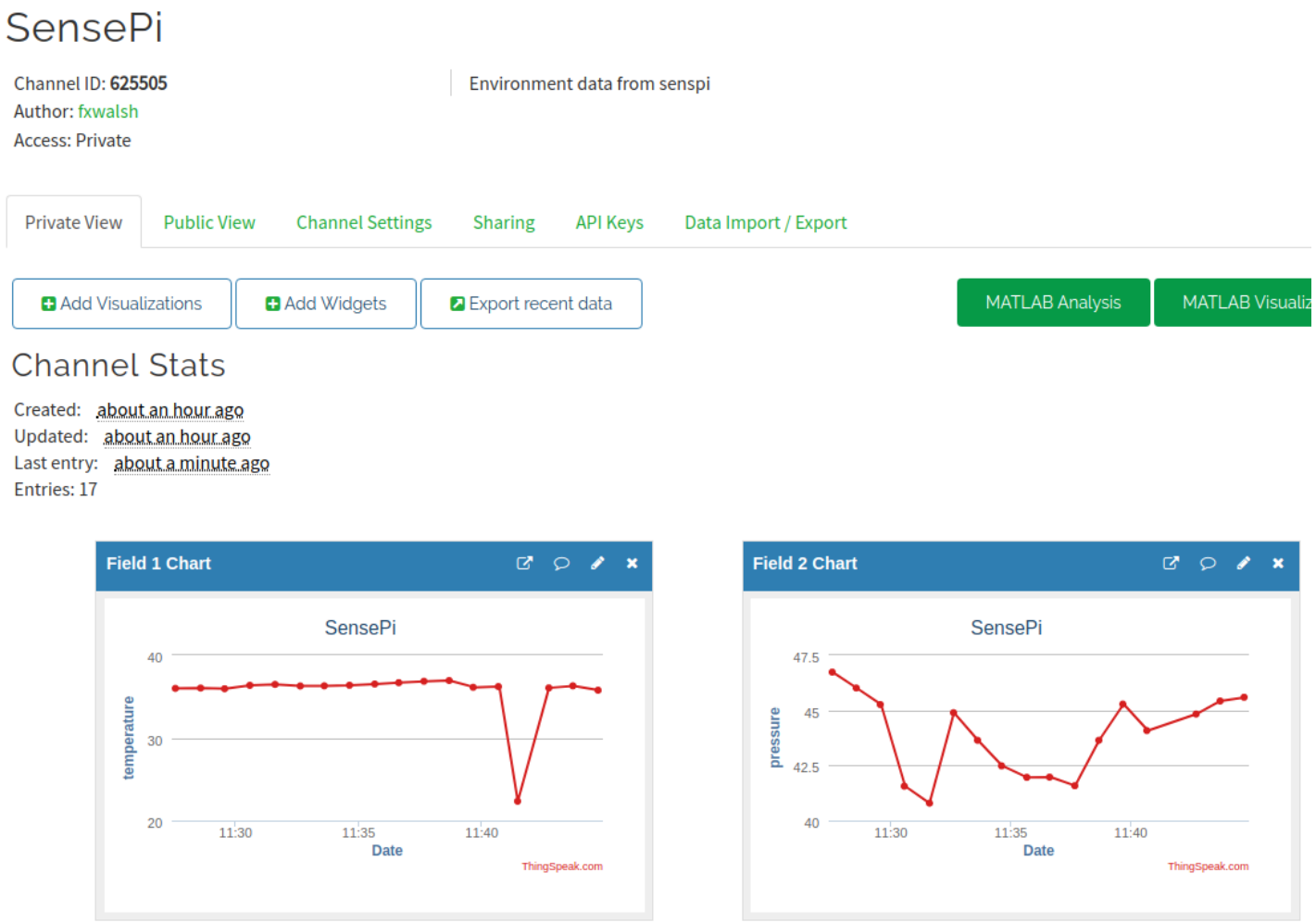
channels/<channelID/publish/fields/field<fieldnumber>

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.

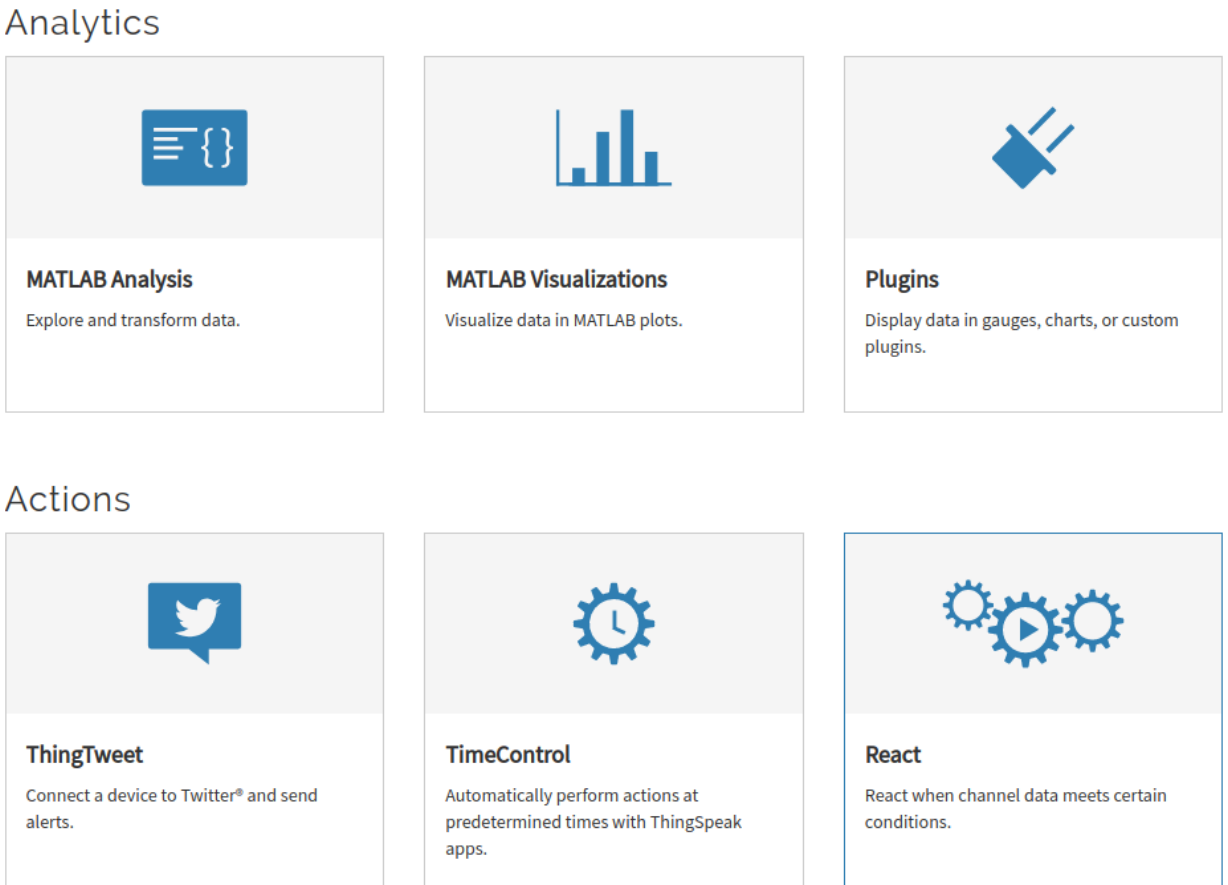
Think Speak – Analyse data

- Thingspeak will visualise each field by default in channel view



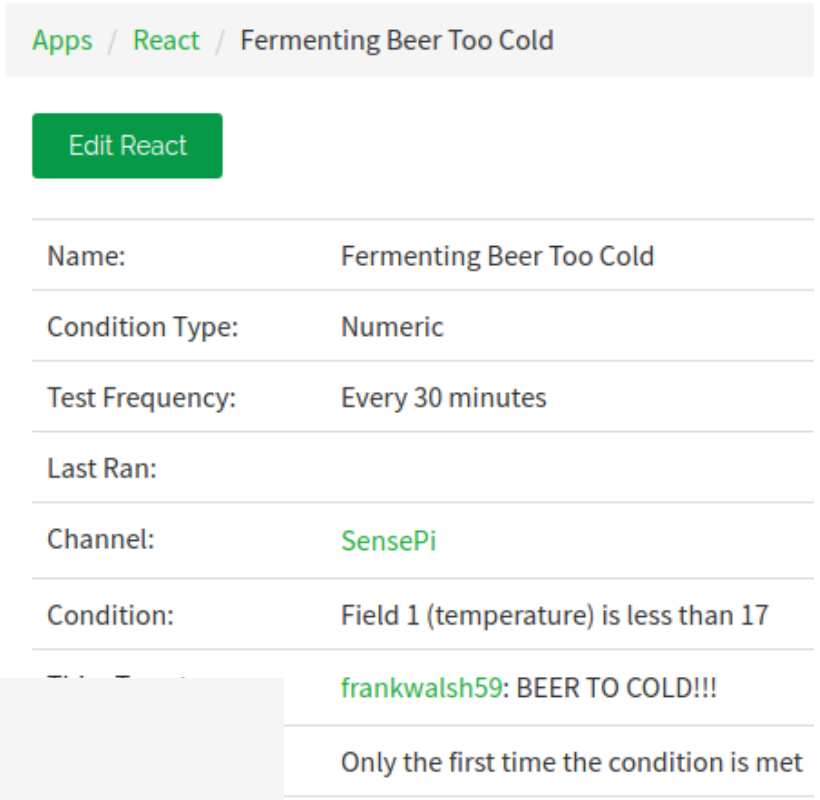
Thingspeak - Apps

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



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!
```

ThingSpeak Example: Analysis

- Can write Matlab Code to analyse and transform data
- Possible uses:
  - Clean data (remove outliers)
  - Statistical analysis
  - Transfomations
  - 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