IoT: The Upcoming Revolutionary Technology

by Grant Haataja

The Internet of things, commonly abbreviated as IoT is the concept of networking devices like appliances, vehicles, and anything other type of electronic device. Although the concept was first presented in 1999 by Kevin Ashton, it wasn't until 2010 when nations such as China started to commit to making IoT a priority.

The way IoT works is by having appliances and other electronics networked, (usually through Wi-Fi or Bluetooth), to send and receive information to other devices. A great example of the convenience of this would be to have controls to your heating/cooling system in your house on your smartphone. You could turn the temperature in your house down 10 degrees Fahrenheit while you were gone for the day, and kick the heat back on an hour before you came home. You could have it set to control all the lights to make sure you were conserving power when no one was home. It could control garage doors, fans, stereo systems, and refrigerators all from your hand-held phone.

Of course, this opens up a whole new world of privacy and security weaknesses for hackers to exploit, but as with any computer this can be countered with enough forethought and security maintenance, so generally the advantages are found to outweigh the disadvantages.

From 2017 – 2018, the number of devices connected to the IoT has risen from 20.35 billion to 23.14 billion, and that number is expected to increase beyond 75 billion by 2025. The market is rapidly expanding and becoming more mainstream, and before long it will be as normal in our lives as laptops and smartphones are.

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