Discussion 6B

Discuss how IoT can affect individuals and countries who cannot afford these technologies? What responsibility exists to make IoT technologies available to all? You must start a thread before you can read and reply to other students.

Cisco Systems provides a simple definition for the “Internet of Things” (IoT): “…simply the point in time when more ‘things or objects’ were connected to the internet than people” (see Resource 2). These internet-connected devices range from basic consumer applications to industrial and commercial systems. Basic consumer IoT devices generally exist to bring convenience to everyday tasks, such as a dog feeder which keeps track of how much your pet eats and lets you know when you need to purchase more food. Industrial systems, on the other hand, may provide a significant improvement in throughput, safety, and convenience. Consider a digital control system which monitors factory safety conditions, machine health, and performs hundreds of automated tasks instantly which otherwise might take several days for a human to complete. It’s reasonable to say that the IoT gives modernized factories and commercial facilities a competitive advantage, one that might not only shape a local economy but the world’s economy.

As of this year, the Earth’s population continues to close-in on 8 billion, and one report claims that there are over 4 billion internet users. Out of those 4 billion users, only perhaps half enjoy the daily convenience of smart technologies. Do the countries immersed in the IoT have a responsibility to make that technology available to all? My answer is summarized by a well-known Chinese proverb: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Much good can and has been accomplished by bringing better technology to a less developed country. Consider the miracle of clean, running water. What we take for granite, many places in the world still do not enjoy this convenience which not only promotes better health but also increases the time a society can spend in other tasks such as developing internet technology. Again, it’s not so much a question of why, but how. For an unprepared country, rapidly imposed smart technologies could cause more harm than good. Once again, consider our factory digital control system which can perform hundreds of automated tasks, eliminating the need for human intervention. If such technology was “given” or “easily” accessible to a less-developed country, what might the consequences be? How many wage-earning, family-providing workers might lose their job to the machine? Do these individuals have the skill-sets needed to find work elsewhere? Would this sudden advancement in technology create an imbalance in that society? Would certain cultural aspects be lost? The keyword here is “unprepared.” All things should be done in order and balance. A better approach would be to teach other countries the needed skills needed to eventually make the various advancements on their own. As per the IoT, I think most countries will naturally evolve to use these technologies as their own technologies evolve and they are able to participate in the global free-market.

Resources:

https://beebom.com/examples-of-internet-of-things-technology/ (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet\_of\_things (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

https://wearesocial.com/blog/2018/01/global-digital-report-2018 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

https://www.bartleby.com/73/484.html (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.



