

The Internet of Things or Everything (IoT or IoE) is not as complicated as it sounds

By

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The
Internet
of Things.
Here.
Now.

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- The Internet of Everything. It's the topic on everyone's lips, the buzzword of the year. It promises to transform the way we live and work, to free us from mundane tasks, and create entirely new jobs in entirely new industries.
- Ask anyone in technology to explain the IoE and they'll probably use words like sensors, big data and networks, and tell you how, together, these produce real-time insights and business intelligence.
- No wonder the man on the street isn't as excited about the IoE as those in the industry are. For something that is expected to have massive impacts on the lives of every person on the planet, the IoE should be easier to understand.

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- **Demystifying the IoE**

The high-level definition of the IoE is a collection of sensors that feed information into a database to make sense of things. That's not the most user-friendly explanation. Let's rather think of the IoE as a human body, we will call him Uzo. Uzo's central nervous system is the database and his senses (sight, smell, touch, etc.) are the sensors. When information enters Uzo's nervous system (database) through his senses (sensors), he interprets it immediately and responds accordingly – he pulls his hand away from a hot stove, he turns down the volume on the TV if it's too loud. The heat from the plate, and the TV volume is all data, which Uzo analyses in real-time, allowing him to make instant decisions. He uses this information to protect himself by predicting outcomes before they occur, like seriously injuring himself.

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- **Making businesses smarter**
- This is, how the IoE works. Businesses in any stages can monitor and analyse just about any variable. This analysis allows them to make better business decisions in response to changing conditions, in real time. They can also predict what is likely to happen in the future and put measures in place to protect themselves from financial loss or to better position themselves to leverage future opportunities.
- These decisions or business intelligence keep them ahead of their competitors, help them save time and money through unnecessary downtime, and ensure their systems always perform optimally.

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- Let's consider some of the variables; a courier company, we will call it '*DigitalDeliveries*'. By monitoring traffic patterns through apps like JonnyWaka, GPS data and traffic light sensors, '*DigitalDeliveries*' can calculate the fastest route between destinations, saving it time on the road and allowing it to complete more deliveries in a day, which equates to more revenue. By monitoring the weather, '*DigitalDeliveries*' will know when to move packages undercover to prevent damage from rain. Saving it money from damage claims.
- A key aspect of the IoE is that big data is time-stamped. Traffic information from yesterday is useless to '*DigitalDeliveries*' today. It needs to know what is happening right now so that it can react appropriately.

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- **Humans as sensors**

Thousands of Nigerians use the IoE every day, possibly without realizing it. People opt in to share their movements and to report road hazards, faulty traffic lights and police sightings, meaning they are, essentially, the sensors that submit data – of Uzo's senses.

- The effects? People are able to avoid congested roads and discover new routes that get them to work faster. Imagine how much simpler our lives will be when we can look inside our fridges from our phones while doing grocery shopping, or when we can turn on the air condition from work to arrive to a cool home in hot weather?

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- There is not a single stage that will not benefit from the IoE, but we first need to understand how it works so that we can get more people excited about it and more people developing for it so we can all realize these benefits sooner.
- [Digital Africa Conference and Exhibition](#) 2016 edition is Themed “Accelerated Development for Africa with IoE (Internet of Everything)” holds from the 1st – 3rd of June, 2016 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. The Internet of Everything has gone from a small and interesting topic of conversation to an industry with the potential to change the way the world functions.

THANK YOU