

The Internet of Things (IoT) Journey

Where it all begins (2/2)

The environment

Our Environment

When looking around, we see numerous of things, in fact, we see and process so much, that we are barely aware of all that is going on. When you take a painting or look at the audience of a sports game, and you ask someone else to do the same, the outcome may be very different. When you look at a room from an IoT perspective, you will notice the same. Each person's view results in a different list of possibilities.

Although this is no scientific cognitive science article, we do consider these basic principles the base of 'sensors' and sensing the world around us.

What is there to sense

Our primary focus will be about the places we live in and surround us, and search for IoT possibilities there. This article is to broaden the view of opportunities even before we even engage in it!

Modern sensors can track a lot. The Dutch Wikipedia (Link: <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sensor>) has a beautiful list of things in the world we can sense today. This list might not cover everything, but it does cover a lot more then we'd came up with at first.

Temperature	Humidity	Pressure	Throughput	Acidity (pH)
Proximity	Weight/Force	Redox	Turbidity	Conductance
Magnetic Fields	Electronic Usage	Direction	Slope	Chemical Composition
Height	Distance	Movement	Image	Light

When searching for IoT projects, you will notice there are just a few things from the list above, used in IoT projects. These projects are often focused on temperature, light, distance and movement. Using the list above the possibilities are endless and opens a whole new opportunity.

The IoT meeting room case

When you see this modern room below, there are the usual elements from an ordinary meeting room: The table, chairs, a big screen, windows in all sorts, a bin and so on.

Here IoT can play a significant role. Think about the possibilities if a room can automatically adjust to the wishes and demands of the group to visit.

- The number of chairs will be equal to the number of visitors, who'd be tracked when sitting down. The lights and sun guards will be automatically adjusted when all people sit down to start the meeting.
- The air quality and pollutions will be checked in advance, and windows opened when thresholds go low.
- When the meeting ends, the room will again use all sensors to determine how much work is required to clean the place up. It will use the sensors measuring the garbage left behind (and send notifications to the room organizer in case it is not done properly).
- Sensors will 'tell' rooms that do not require cleaning; smart heating will only heat up when people are in the room and detect when there is no need for additional heating or light.



Think about it, what would you do with this room if you had infinite IoT possibilities?