THE INTERNET OF THINGS & POWER POLITICS:

Implications for Governance of Emerging Technologies

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THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION BUILDING

A PREVIEW OF THE ARGUMENT

Power politics and the nature of the technology in question can influence a governance body's willingness to pursue principles-based/technology-neutral governance.

WHAT IS THE IoT?

The IoT involves Internet-connected objects whose original, primary purpose was not connectivity or communication.

Top: Google Glass, the Internet-connected pair of glasses.
Credit: Google

Top Right: Texts from an IoT toilet from Don't Flush Me
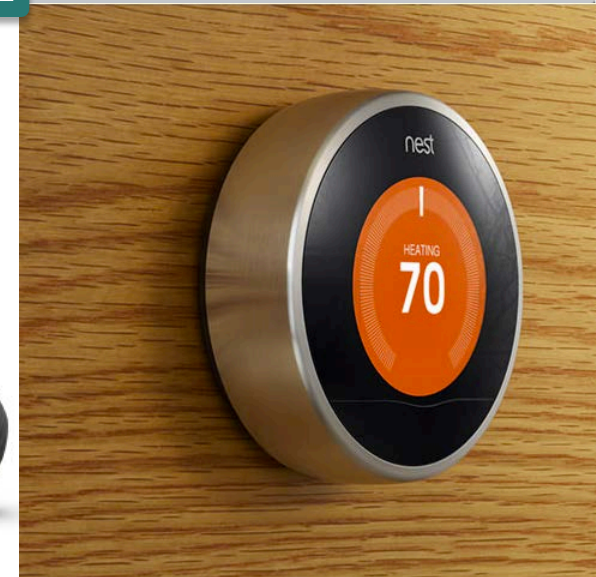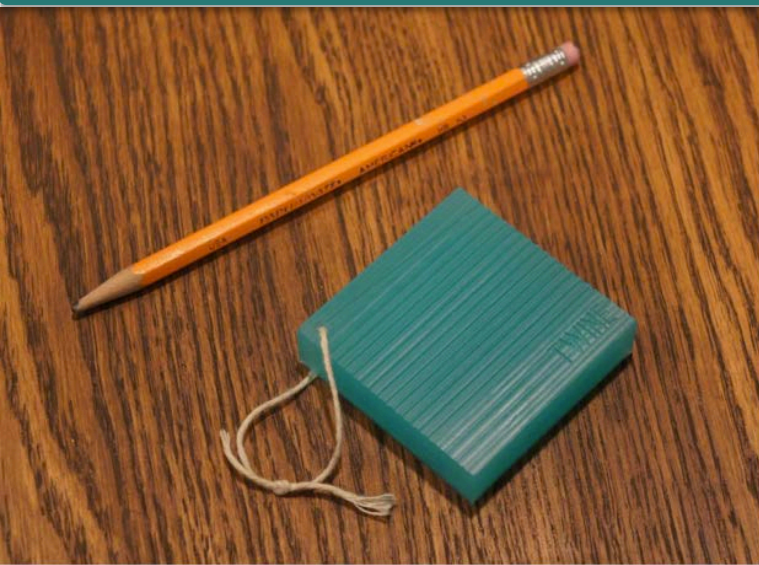*Credit: Don't Flush Me*

Bottom Left: Twine, mobile IoT enabler
Credit: Supermechanical

Bottom Middle: Up, IoT personal wellness monitor.
Credit: Jawbone

Bottom Right: Nest, IoT thermostat.
Credit: Nest

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Messages (646) 576-7448 Edit

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photo Level

The current sewer level is 84. PLEASE DONT FLUSH ME!

Signup

Thanks for signing up! The current sewer level is 84. It's safe to flush.

Ghsksh

Huh? Try "level" or "signup". It's safe to flush by the way.

Send

MAJOR IoT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- Privacy

- Security

- Standards

- International Governance

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sector	Europe	China	U.S.	Total
Government	7	6	1	14
Industry	6	2	1	9
NGO	5	2	1	7
Academia	7	1	0	8
Total	25	10	3	38

IoT & Realpolitik

EUROPE

• Europe wants to build an IoT "that will bring about clear advantages for Europe."
– *European Future Internet Initiative*

• "The first wave of the Internet was forgotten in the EU. The EU realized much too late that there was something going on. The EU wants to make it different this time with IoT."
– *Stefan Ferber, Bosch*

CHINA

- "IoT is a political issue," as China "wants some company to be the leader of IoT industry at an international level."
- Bi Ran, China Academy of Telecommunications Research

UNITED STATES

- The IoT is "one area that I'll want us to examine."
-Edith Ramirez, Chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman

EXAMPLES

EUROPE'S PRIVACY BONANZA – A SECONDARY MOTIVE?

- RFID Recommendation

- IoT Communication, possible IoT Recommendation

- Data Protection Directive

- Data Protection Regulation

- National-level legislation

CHINA: THREAT-ORIENTED IoT SECURITY

- IoT security should "not only includ[e] personal security but also [security for] industry application data, such as transportation and power networks."

  - Zhang Xueli, China Academy of Telecommunications Research

"IoT STANDARDS ARE 100% A MORE POLITICAL ISSUE THAN RFID STANDARDS."
- STEPHANE PIQUE, EU GRIFS PROJECT

THE IoT: A CHANCE TO REWRITE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF NETWORKS

- "The existing discussion on Internet governance is driven by the incumbents. An IoT governance agenda has a different scope and hence needs to include new stakeholders."

  -Peter Friess, EU IoT Research Projects Coordinator

So What?

- Power politics between countries hinders a governance body's willingness to pursue principles-based/technology-neutral governance.

- Network technologies hold greater political and economic significance for governance bodies, and may need refined principles-based/technology-neutral governance models.

WANT TO TALK MORE?

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