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PTC 227 - Internet of Things (IoT) Connectivity

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June 9, 2015

The Key Challenge of Connectivity in the Internet of Things

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"An underground coal miner is not a cow."



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What is a Device?

A Modem? A Cellular Router? A Manufacturing Factory? A Chicken Coop? A Smart Pill Dispenser? A Coal Mining Machine? Sensors on iDigi/Exosite/Device Cloud Du Jour? All of the Above? None of the Above?

Sources of Device Data & Interaction

Source Comments **Solution Options** Devices/Sensors 100's of Gateways and Sensor ThingWorx SDK, ThingWorx EMS in Gateway, Packages. More appearing every day. Tens of thousands of Server Side Protocol Adapters for standalone sensors w/ local Industry Standard Protocols (e.g. connectivity. MQTT, CoAP) **OEM Equipment** Unique/Proprietary Protocols to each Embedded ThingWorx EMS OFM ThingWorx EMS as a Gateway ThingWorx SDK Internet/Web ThingWorx Device Cloud Extensions Horizontal and vertical providers. **Based Device** New ones appearing every month Clouds Intranet / Local Factory Systems, Building Direct connection to on-site Networks Automation. OSI PI, SCADA, HMI, ThingWorx server, or OPC /EMS etc based edge solution

"The nice thing about standards is that there are so many to choose from " *

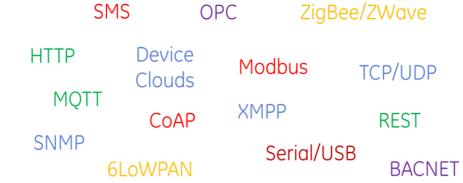
> "Standards are like toothbrushes, everyone agrees that they're a good idea but nobody wants to use anyone else's." *

* Attribution of who and when this was originally said this seems to have been lost to the ether

Some More Thoughts on Standards

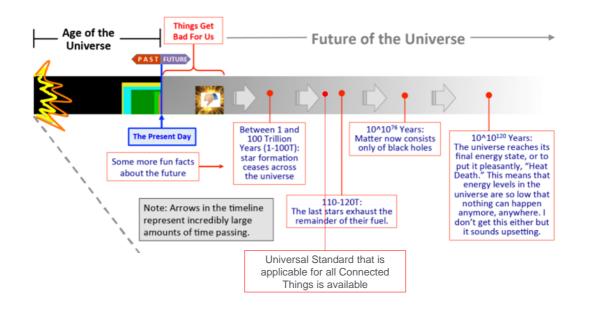
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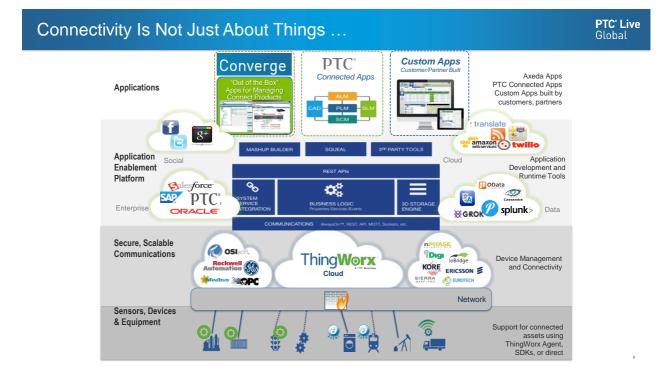
SMS ZigBee/ZWave OPC



* Andy Tannenbaum - Computer Networks, 2nd ed

Estimated Timeframe For a Universal IoT Standard





Or Just About Data

Discovery/invocation

- Device discovery & registration
- Metadata and capability discovery

· Bi-directional file transfer

- Software updates, log/config file access, etc
- Streaming/tunneling
 - Remote access (SSH, VNC, etc.)
 - Images/video

Device monitoring/management

- Availability/connection status
- Communications provisioning/monitoring



So What's A Company To Do?

- Ignore the noise and the shiny objects, focus on you business and your industry.
- Keep abreast of the standardization efforts in your industry.
- Find a partner with a platform that doesn't force you into compromises with a generic "one size fits all" protocol.
- Choose a platform that can handle both your current and future connectivity needs – evolution and change are inevitable.

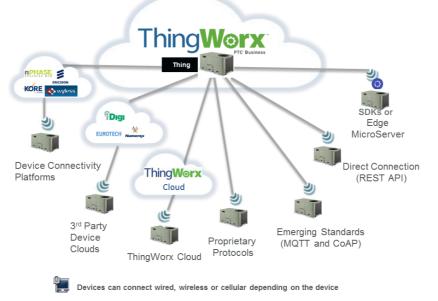




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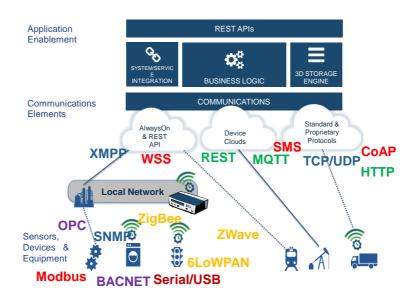
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The ThingWorx "All of the Above" Approach to Connectivity



Which Enables Support for Both Short and Long Haul Protocols

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Connectivity In ThingWorx: Protocol Adapters



- Utilizes built-in ThingWorx platform extensibility model.
- Support for emerging standards such as CoAP and MQTT.
- Can be used in situations where an existing deployment is already in place using either standard or proprietary protocols.
- Also used in new deployments where the edge device is highly resource constrained and the EMS or SDK is not appropriate.
 ThingWorx

Connectivity In ThingWorx: Device/Sensor Cloud Extensions



- Utilizes built-in ThingWorx platform extensibility model.
- Easy integration via HTTP REST, SOAP, and proprietary APIs.
- Used in situations where an existing deployment is already in place or service specific hardware is used.
- Existing integrations with iDigi, Eurotech, Xively, Sierra Wireless, Novatel and others.



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Connectivity In ThingWorx: AlwaysOn™ with Edge MicroServer and SDKs

Thing Worx



- Also provides secure, audited file transfer and application tunneling (e.g. Remote Desktop, SSH).
- Transport agnostic works in both wired and wireless settings.

EMS

- Lightweight (~750KB), pre-built, embeddable software component.
- Used where edge intelligence and/or data aggregation is needed.
- Exposes RESTful API to external components.
- Supports Windows & Linux environments

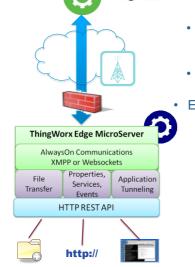
SDKs

- Libraries for building custom agents
- Full AlwaysOn capabilities
- Multiple languages including Java, C, .NET, iOS, and Android
- Language specific extensions for easy development

Thing Worx

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Device OnBoarding Examples



Integration Examples: Smart Pill Dispenser

- Device Type: Fixed Function
- Connectivity Mechanism: SMS
- Integration: Direct to SMS Gateway
- Approach: Modeled Smart Pill Dispenser
- in ThingWorx Composer. Parsed SMS messages to update properties and invoke services.
- Application: Alerted physician & caregiver based on certain messages. Displayed status/warnings.
- Timeframe: Integration to SMS gateway: 0.5 days, message parsing: 0.5 days.
- Total: On-Boarding: 1 day, Application: 2 days.

Integration Examples: Multitech OCG-D Gateway

- Device Type: General Purpose Gateway
- Connectivity Mechanism: ThingWorx Protocol
- Integration: ThingWorx Edge MicroServer
- Approach: EMS ran out of the box on OCG-D ARM/ Linux platform. Used native EMS scripting to interact with I/O and radio on OCG-D.



- Application: Device monitoring dashboard interacting with I/O on the OCG-D.
- Timeframe: EMS Integration to OCG-D: 1 hr, Lua scripting for I/O: 0.5 days, application development: 1 day.
- Total: On-Boarding: 0.5 day, Application: 1 day.

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- Device Type: Fixed Function
- Connectivity Mechanism: Eurotech Everyware Device Cloud API
- Integration: ThingWorx Extension (pre-built)
- Approach: Use out-of-the-box integration to Eurotech cloud, w/Eurotech ReliaGATE for data acquisition. Modeled exercise equipment.
- Application: Personal fitness gamification, remote monitoring & proactive service of fitness equipment.
- Timeframe: Device Cloud integration: 0 days, modeling of equipment and specific device I/O: 2 days,
- Total: On-Boarding: 2 days, Application: 5 days.

Integration Examples: ARM mBED Platform

- Device Type: Sensor/Data Acquisition System
- Connectivity Mechanism: AlwaysOn
- Integration: ThingWorx C SDK
- Approach: C/C++ code using ARM environment. Complete, bi-directional connection.
- Application: Interactive dashboard displaying sensor readings, capturing history, and interaction with actuators.
- Timeframe: Custom "agent" development and model: 2 days
- Total: On-Boarding: 2 days, Application: 1 day.



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Integration Examples: AnyData OBD-II Device

- Device Type: Fixed Function
- Connectivity Mechanism: Proprietary TCP/IP Protocol
- Integration: Platform Extension
- Approach: Create Platform Extension in Java to handle AnyData OBD-II Device's proprietary TCP/IP protocol
- Application: World CNG monitoring Taxi's, vehicle fleets that have been converted to Natural Gas
- Timeframe: Platform Protocol Extension: 4 days, Modeling: 1 day, Mashups: 2 days.
- Total: On-Boarding: 4 days, Application: 3 days.



Integration Examples: Manufacturing

- Device Type(s): Industrial controller (Siemens PLCs) and data historian (OSI PI).
- Connectivity Mechanism: ThingWorx AlwaysOn through embedded OPC and ADO.NET to manufacturing equipment
- Integration: ThingWorx EMS + .NET Adapter
- Approach: Use pre-built ThingWorx adapters to OPC and ADO.NET. Dynamically browse exposed sensors and map them to ThingWorx model components (Things).
- Application: Manufacturing monitoring/execution, bridge from cloud to production systems behind firewall
- Timeframe: 5 days
- Total: On-Boarding 1 day, Application 4 days



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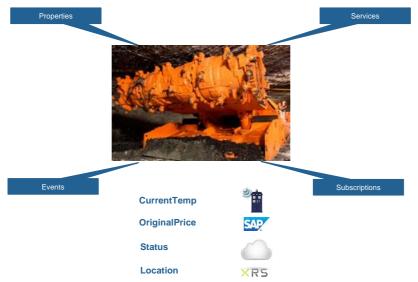
- Device Type: Sensor/Data Acquisition System
- · Connectivity Mechanism: ThingWorx protocol and ZigBee
- Integration: ThingWorx EMS
- Approach: EMS ran unmodified on Libelium Gateway. ThingWorx scripting used to connect to ZigBee protocol. Libelium WaspMote and sensors types modeled as "Things".



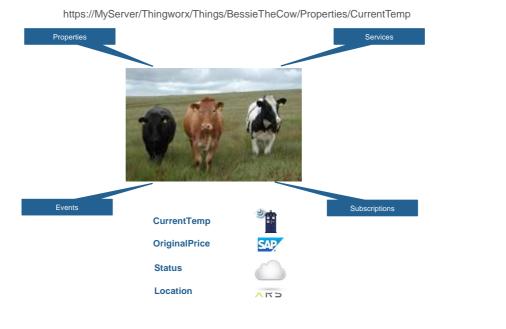
- Application: Golf Course monitoring plus integration into work order system and chemical inventory/data.
- Timeframe: EMS Integration: 1 hour, Xbee Integration: 1 day, Modeling: 1 day, Application: 3 days.
- Total: On-Boarding: 1 day, Application: 4 days.

Summary: Abstraction at the API Layer is Far More Important Than Interoperability at the Protocol Layer

https://MyServer/Thingworx/Things/BigBerthaTheMiner/Properties/CurrentTemp



Summary: Abstraction at the API Layer is Far More Important Than Interoperability at the Protocol Layer



Summary: Winning In the Internet of Things Requires:

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- Inclusion of devices, systems, and people as participants (and revenue sources)
- Extremely rapid on-boarding of new device types, regardless of connection (cellular, broadband, private network, etc.)
- A way to develop and deploy innovative applications 10X faster than the competition



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