International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (IJTSRD)
Volume 9 Issue 4, Jul-Aug 2025 Available Online: www.ijtsrd.com e-ISSN: 2456 – 6470

Smart Everything

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ABSTRACT

"Smart Everything" refers to the growing integration of advanced or digital technologies, especially artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), sensors, connectivity, and data analytics, into everyday objects, infrastructure, and systems to make them intelligent, autonomous, responsive, and interconnected. The import is to help improve efficiency and productivity, reduce resource wastage, enhance convenience and quality of life, to enable predictive maintenance and faster decision-making, and to facilitate sustainability and environmental monitoring. We try in this paper to examine the usefulness of Smart Everything, its challenges and solutions to them to make them more beneficial to humanity.

KEYWORDS: *Smart everything, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), sensors, data analytics, Internet of Things (IoT).*

How to cite this paper: Paul A. Adekunte | Matthew N. O. Sadiku | Janet O. Sadiku "Smart Everything" Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-9 | Issue-4, August 2025, pp.851-858, URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd97355.pdf

IJTSRD97355

INTRODUCTION

"Smart Everything" is an umbrella term that refers to the integration of digital technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), sensors, big data, and machine learning (ML) into everyday objects, systems, and environments to make them intelligent, connected, and autonomous, as shown in Figure 1. The concept represents the evolution of digital transformation across industries, infrastructure, homes, and personal devices.

It envisions a world where physical and digital environments seamlessly interact, where objects are made to be "smart" by being embedded with sensors and connected to the internet so as to collect data, make decisions, and to communicate with other devices or users without human intervention. These technologies are foundational to the concept of a "smart world," which includes: smart homes, smart cities, smart transportation, smart healthcare, smart agriculture, smart manufacturing, smart education, and smart governance [1-4].

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The movement toward ubiquitous intelligence has historical roots that evolved in stages across different technological revolutions as discussed below:

1. Foundations: Early automation and computing (1940s-1970s)
   - During the early computing era the seeds of smart technology were sown.
   - Alan Turing's conceptualization of intelligent machines in the 1940s and Claude Shannon's information theory laid the groundwork for smart systems.
   - Early automation was used in manufacturing, e.g., in General Motors' automation division (1950s) [5, 6].
2. Rise of microprocessors and networking (1980s-1990s)
   - The introduction of the microprocessor in 1971 enabled compact and affordable computing.
   - Embedded systems began to appear in consumer electronics and industrial devices.
   - The development of local area networks (LANs) and later the Internet allowed for communication between devices [7, 8].

3. Emergence of smart devices and IoT (2002s)
- The term "Internet of Things" (IoT) was popularized by Kelvin Ashton in 1999.
- The 2000s saw the proliferation of smartphones, RFID, sensor networks, and wireless connectivity.
- Cities, homes, and industries began adopting smart solutions, e.g., smart grids, smart meters, and smart appliances [9, 10]. The first smart grid pilot project was launched in the United States in 2008, as shown in Figure 2.

4. Expansion to smart everything (2010s-Present)
- The 2010s marked the shift from isolated systems to integrated smart ecosystems:
- *This concept of smart cities gained momentum, with initiatives like Songdo IBD in South Korea. There are also smart cities in Barcelona and Singapore.
- *smart homes (e.g., using Alexa, Google Home).
- *smart healthcare, smart agriculture, and smart transportation.
- Advances in cloud computing, AI, 5G, and edge computing accelerated this transformation [11, 12], as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

5. The future: Ubiquitous intelligence (2020s and beyond)
- This is now the era of ambient intelligence where devices proactively assist users.
- Technologies like a lot (AI + IoT), quantum computing, and digital twins are pushing smart systems to new levels of autonomy and efficiency [13, 14].

KEY FEATURES OF SMART EVERYTHING

Some of the key features of Smart Everything include among others:

1. Interconnectivity (Ubiquitous connectivity): Devices and systems communicate with each other, enabling seamless data exchange and coordination between physical and digital environments. Smart devices are interconnected through wireless communication (e.g., Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Zigbee) [1].

2. Embedded intelligence: The devices are equipped with microprocessors, sensors, and AI algorithms that allow them to collect, process, and respond to data in real time [10].

3. Automation and Autonomy: In this case, smart systems are able to operate independently (i. e. without human intervention), and make decisions based on data analysis and predetermined parameters – improving efficiency in areas such as home automation, smart factories, and transportation [13],as shown in Figures 5.

4. Context awareness: Smart environments can sense and interpret contextual information such as location, temperature, or user activity to adapt their behavior accordingly [15].

5. Interoperability: Smart systems use standardized protocols and platforms to ensure compatibility across devices and systems from different manufacturers [16].

6. Real-time data processing and analytics: The collected data from devices is processed in real time using cloud or edge computing, enabling faster decision-making and responsiveness [17].

7. Scalability: Smart technologies are designed to scale up efficiency, accommodating thousands or millions of interconnected devices and services [12].

8. Security and privacy: Smart systems implement cybersecurity measures to protect data and privacy, due to the vast amounts of sensitive data transmitted and stored [18].

9. User-centric design: Smart devices often prioritize intuitive interfaces and user experience, enabling easier interaction and personalization [19].

10. Sustainability and efficiency: Smart technologies aim to optimize energy use, reduce waste, and enhance resource management across sectors like agriculture, transport, and urban planning [3].

11. Adaptability: The systems are able to learn from experience and adapt to changing conditions, and improving their performance over time.

SOME EXAMPLES OF SMART EVERYTHING

Some of the examples of smart everything includes:

1. Smart homes: These are homes equipped with devices that automate and remotely control lighting, heating, security, and appliances, e.g., smart thermostats (e.g., Nest), voice assistants (e.g., Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant), smart doorbells (e.g., Ring), and automated lighting and blinds [20].

2. Smart vehicles: These vehicles make use of sensors, AI, and connectivity to enhance driving safety, automation, and user experience, e.g., Tesla's Autopilot system, GPS-based traffic navigation (e.g., Waze), connected electric vehicles (EVs), and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communication [21].

3. Smart cities: In this case, urban areas make use of digital technology and data analytics to improve infrastructure, transportation, governance, and sustainability such as smart traffic management

(adaptive signals), smart waste bins that signal when full, public Wi-Fi and surveillance systems, and E-governance platforms [22].

4. Smart healthcare: These are health systems and devices that monitor, diagnose, and treat patients through connected technologies, e.g., wearable health monitors (Fitbit, Apple Watch), smart pill dispensers, remote surgery with robotics, and AI-based diagnostics (skin cancer detection) [23], as shown in Figure 6.
5. Smart education: Learning environments enhanced by digital platforms, AI tutors, and real-time performance tracking, e.g., AI tutoring systems (Carmegie Learning), smart classrooms with interactive whiteboards, learning management systems (Moodle, Google Classroom), and adaptive learning apps [24].
6. Smart agriculture: This is technology-driven farming that improves productivity and resource use, e.g., soil moisture sensors, drone-based crop monitoring, automated irrigation systems, and livestock tracking via RFID [25].
7. Smart industry/Manufacturing (Industry 4.0): These are factories and production systems that use cyber-physical systems for automation and predictive maintenance, e.g., IoT-enabled machinery, digital twins, predictive maintenance with AI, and collaborative robots (cobots) [26].
8. Smart ports and logistics: These are digitized and automated transportation hubs for more efficient global trade, e.g., automated container handling, port community systems, real-time cargo tracking, and predictive logistics and supply chain systems [27].
9. Smart retail: This has to do with retail environments with digital technology for personalized and data-driven shopping experiences such as smart shelves with RFID, checkout-free stores (Amazon Go), AI-driven recommendation systems, and augmented reality fitting rooms [28].

SOME BENEFITS OF SMART EVERYTHING

1. Enhanced connectivity and automation: Smart devices (homes, cities, industries) communicate via IoT networks to automate tasks and coordinate actions without human intervention [29].
2. Energy and cost savings: Smart homes and buildings optimize energy use through connected thermostats, motorized shades, appliance scheduling, and smart lighting - reducing heating and cooling bills by say 10% and overall energy use by say 20%. Moreover, Industrial IoT supports predictive maintenance that prevents failures and avoids reactive costs [30, 31].
3. Increased efficiency: This will assist in the reduction of waste and improving productivity via automation and optimization.
4. Enhanced decision-making: Data-driven insights and recommendations for better-informed decisions.
5. Improved quality of life: This is by personalized services, enhanced safety and security, and as well as promoted well-being.
6. Sustainable development: Optimized resource utilization, reduced pollution, and promoted energy efficiency [32-34].

CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges faced by smart everything includes:

1. Data security and privacy – There is the need for robust security measures and privacy policies which are very essential to protect sensitive information.
2. Interoperability and standardization – This involves the development of common standards and protocols for seamless integration and data exchange.
3. Scalability – When the number of devices rises, managing them becomes more difficult.
4. Complexity – As IoT devices become more advanced, their complexity rises and becomes harder to design and manage.
5. Energy efficiency – In order to maintain long battery life, the energy consumption of many IoT devices must be optimized.
6. Connectivity – To operate correctly, IoT devices require reliable connectivity which can be difficult in remote locations or areas with low network coverage.
7. Cost – As for any new technology, the designing and installation of IoT devices is expensive, which is a major obstacle, especially for smaller businesses.
8. Skill gap – Addressing the need for specialized skills in areas like data science, machine learning, and cybersecurity [32-36].

SOLUTIONS TO CHALLENGES FACING SMART EVERYTHING

Some of the solutions to the challenges facing smart everything are as presented below:

1. Security solutions
- Implementing robust security protocols: This is by the use of encryption, authentication, and secure communication protocols to protect IoT devices from cyber threats or attacks.
- Regular software updates: Ensuring that IoT devices receive regular software updates to patch vulnerabilities and prevent exploitation.
- Network segmentation: This is by segmenting IoT devices from critical infrastructure to prevent lateral movement in case of a breach [37, 38].

2. Interoperability solutions
- Standardization: Need for establishing common standards and protocols for IoT devices to ensure seamless communication and data exchange.
- API integration: By the use of open APIs to enable integration between IoT systems and platforms.
- Industry-wide collaboration: This calls for encouraging collaboration between industry stakeholders to develop and adopt common standards [37, 39].

3. Infrastructure solutions
- Investing in robust infrastructure: There is the need for the building of high-performance, reliable, and secure digital infrastructure to support IoT growth.
- 5G connectivity: Leveraging 5G networks to enable faster data transfer speeds, lower latency, and greater connectivity.
- Edge computing: This is the processing of data closer to the source to reduce latency and bandwidth usage [39, 40].

4. Data management solutions
- Data analytics: Using AI and Machine Learning (ML) to analyze and make sense of large amounts of IoT data.
- Data storage: The implementation of efficient data storage solutions to manage and process IoT data.
- Data security: Ensuring the security and integrity of IoT data through encryption, access controls, and other measures [39, 40].

5. Sustainability solutions
- Energy-efficient design: Designing IoT devices to be energy-efficient and minimize environmental impact.
- Sustainable materials: The use of sustainable materials in IoT device construction to reduce waste and minimize environmental footprint.
- Recycling programs: Implementing recycling programs for IoT devices to reduce electronic waste [41].

CONCLUSION

Smart everything represents a transformative shift in how we live, work, and interact with technology. By integrating advanced technologies such as AI, IoT, and data analytics, smart systems can enhance efficiency, convenience, and decision-making in various aspects of life. The future directions would be in continued innovation, increased adoption, and addressing the challenges to unlock new opportunities for growth, sustainability, and improved quality of life.

More information on Smart Everything can be found in the books in [42-44] and from the following related journals:
- International Journal of Internet of Things and Cyber-Assurance.
- Journal on Internet of Things.
- IEEE/CAA Journal of Automatica Sinica.
- IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications.
- IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics.
- IEEE Internet of Things Journal.
- Journal of Smart Internet of Things (JSIoT).

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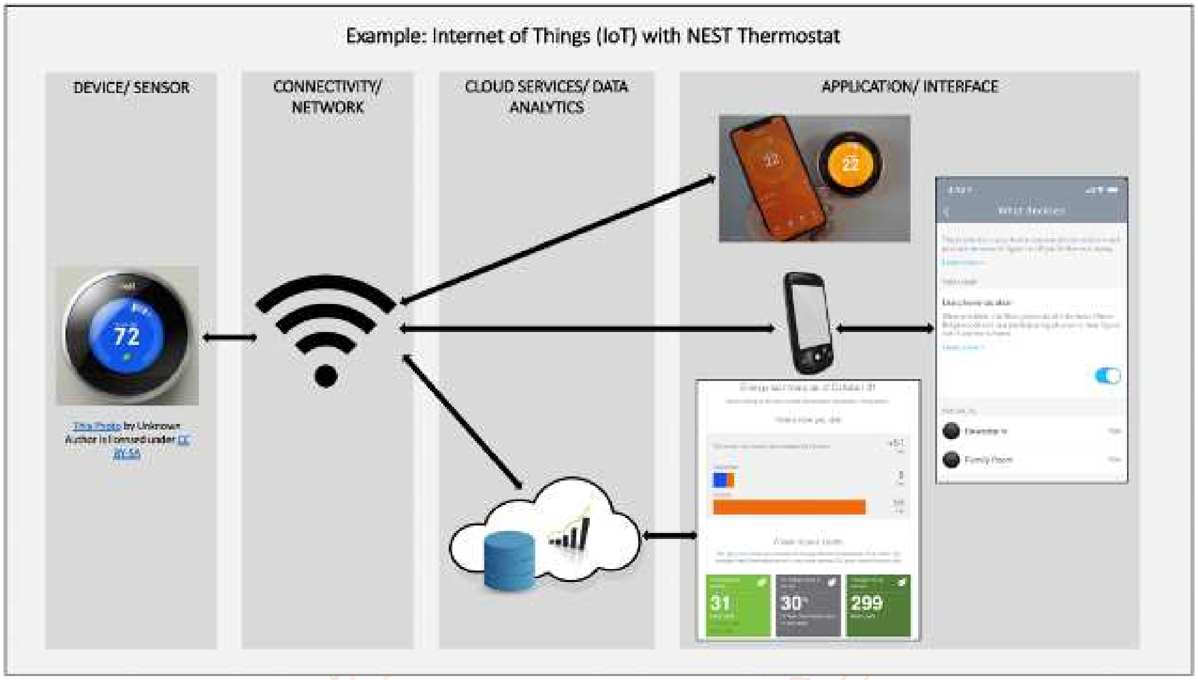

Figure 1. Internet of Things
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_of_things

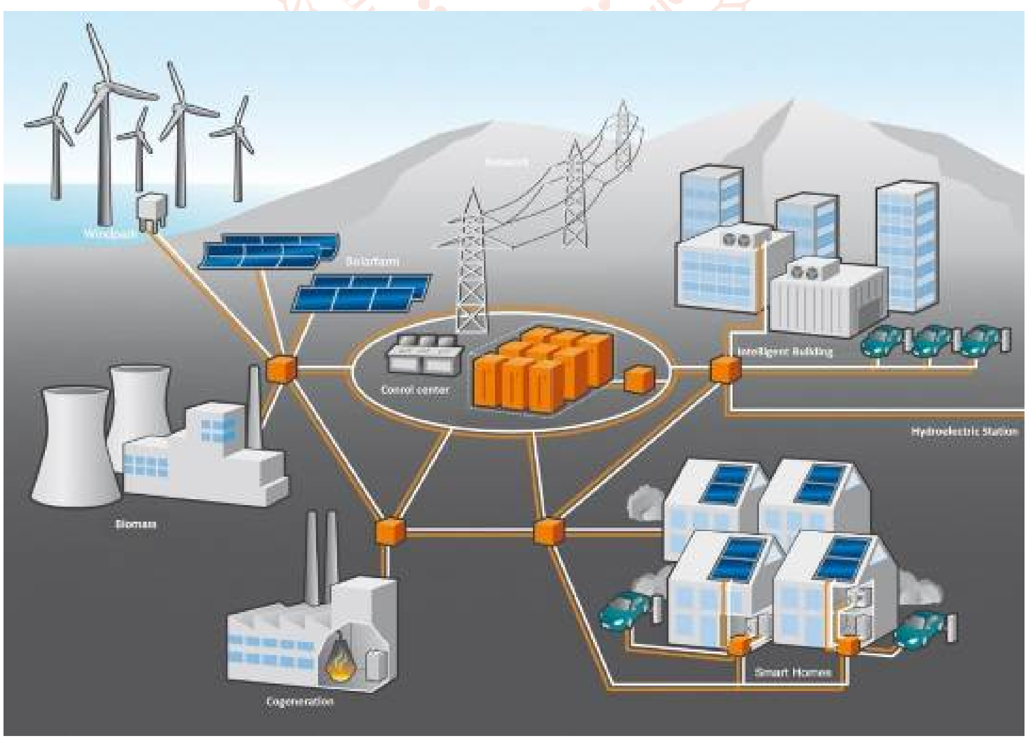

Figure 2. Smart grid.png
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Smart_grid.png

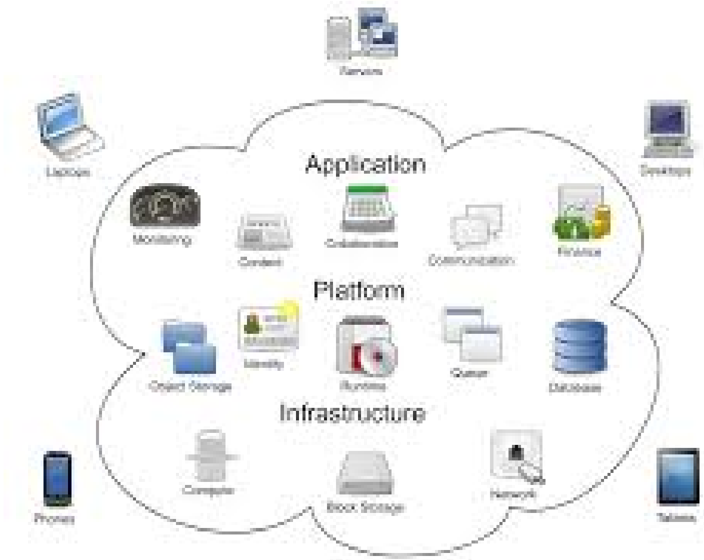

Figure 3. Cloud computing
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloud_computing

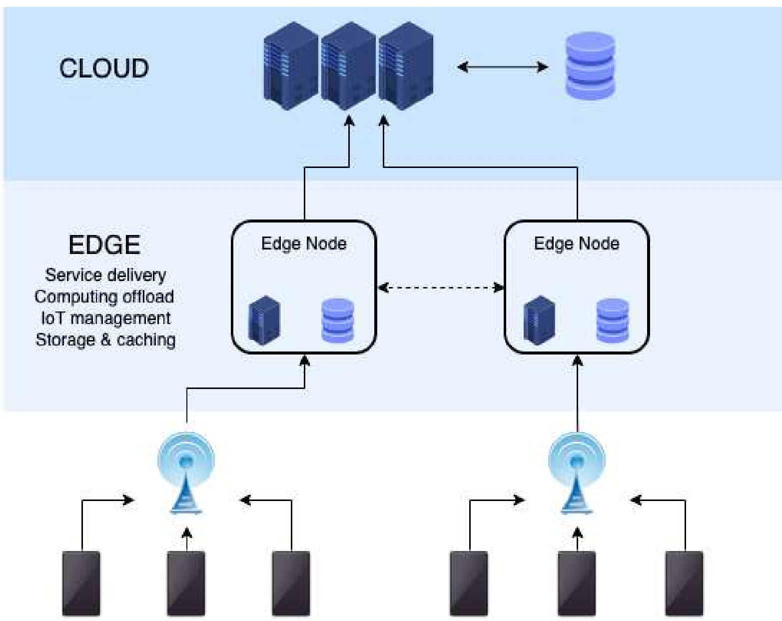

Figure 4. Edge computing
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edge_computing

Figure 5. Home automation
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_automation

Figure 6. Swarm robotic platforms
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swarm_robotic_platforms