## We need to prepare for the Internet of Things

### 28th April, 2015

A top technology analyst has warned that the world might not yet be ready for what is called the Internet of Things. This is the next stage of the digital and technological revolution. It will greatly transform our lives via the interconnectedness of all the devices, services and appliances we use in our daily life. The technology research company Gartner predicts that by 2020, nearly 26 billion devices will be on the Internet of Things. All of these things will communicate with each other to make even simple decisions, like ordering a new carton of milk, a seamless experience. The fridge will simply contact the delivery service when it senses stocks need replenishing, and hey presto – no need to go shopping.

The ComputerWorld magazine says that while the Internet of Things has, "the potential to drive fundamental economic and social change," there are "serious obstacles" to ensuring the infrastructure of this technological revolution is in place in time. These include the building of new data storage centres, data storage and management and data security. Gib Sorebo, a cyber-security expert, warns of the unforeseen. He says "the law of unintended consequences" on the Internet could pose problems with the explosion in the number of connected devices. He predicts that privacy will become a primary concern because of the huge number of things in our daily life that will be connected to the Internet.

Sources: *ComputerWorldUK / SCMagazine / AllAfrica.com*

## Writing

It's great that the Internet will control more of our life. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

> *technology / ready / the next stage / technological revolution / research / decisions / potential / obstacles / infrastructure / data storage / consequences / explosion*

## True / False

a) A tech expert said we will never be ready for the Internet of Things.  T / F

b) The Internet of Things will bring big changes to our life.  T / F

c) In the next 10 years, over 25 billion devices will be connected online.  T / F

d) A fridge will be able to re-order supplies that are running low.  T / F

e) The Internet of Things has infrastructure obstacles to overcome.  T / F

f) We have enough data storage facilities for the Internet of Things.  T / F

g) There will be little that is unexpected from the Internet of Things.  T / F

h) The Internet of Things will not throw up any concerns about privacy.  T / F

## Synonym Match

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | warned | a. | refilling |
| 2 | stage | b. | smooth |
| 3. | greatly | c. | ability |
| 4. | seamless | d. | step |
| 5. | replenishing | e. | propel |
| 6. | potential | f. | key |
| 7. | drive | g. | cautioned |
| 8. | unforeseen | h. | enormous |
| 9. | primary | i. | unexpected |
| 10. | huge | j. | considerably |

## Discussion – Student A

a) What do you know about the Internet of Things?

b) What would life be like without the Internet?

c) What do you think is the most useful thing about the Internet?

d) What technological revolutions do you think will happen?

e) What are the bad things about devices being interconnected?

f) Is it better to order milk yourself or let a computer do it?

g) Will we need workers in the future?

h) How good would it be to have no need for shopping?

## Phrase Match

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | the next | | a. | devices |
| 2 | 26 billion | | b. | need replenishing |
| 3. | a seamless | | c. | storage |
| 4. | when it senses stocks | | d. | of things |
| 5. | hey | | e. | consequences |
| 6. | serious | | f. | experience |
| 7. | data | | g. | a primary concern |
| 8. | unintended | | h. | presto |
| 9. | privacy will become | | i. | stage |
| 10. | the huge number | | j. | obstacles |

## Discussion – Student B

a) What bad things could the Internet of Things bring?

b) How worried are you about the unforeseen?

c) What is the law of unintended consequences?

d) What are your favourite devices and why?

e) Would you like your life to controlled by connected devices?

f) How concerned are you about privacy on the Internet?

g) What do you think of the idea of our brain being connected to the Internet?

h) What questions would you like to ask an Internet expert?

## Spelling

1. technological nlteuoivor

2. It will greatly oatrmsrnf our lives

3. aplpnacsie we use in our daily life

4. a meesslsa experience

5. when it senses stocks need reilpgnneish

6. ehy ertops

7. the Internet of Things has the noatletpi

8. serious ascsbeotl

9. data togsare centres

10. warns of the fesoeunner

11. the iosexopnl in the number

12. a pmrayri concern

## Role Play

**Role A – Privacy**
You think privacy is the biggest problem the Internet of Things will cause. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as big a problem. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): a loss of jobs, machines taking over or a lazy lifestyle.

**Role B – Loss of jobs**
You think a loss of jobs is the biggest problem the Internet of Things will cause. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as big a problem. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): privacy, machines taking over or a lazy lifestyle.

**Role C – Machines taking over**
You think machines taking over is the biggest problem the Internet of Things will cause. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as big a problem. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): a loss of jobs, privacy or a lazy lifestyle.

**Role D – Lazy lifestyle**
You think a lazy lifestyle is the biggest problem the Internet of Things will cause. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as big a problem. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): a loss of jobs, machines taking over or privacy.

## Speaking – Digital problems

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest problem from digital connectivity at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Privacy
- Internet costs
- Less control of life
- Laziness
- Machine-made mistakes
- Loss of jobs
- Machines taking over
- Hackers

**Answers – Synonym Match**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. g | 2. d | 3. j | 4. b | 5. a |
| 6. c | 7. e | 8. i | 9. f | 10. h |

**Answers – True False**

| a F | b T | c T | d T | e T | f F | g F | h F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.