



IBM Midsize Insider Blog

Title: The Impact of the IoT on Midsize Security

The Internet of Things (IoT) will take the number of interconnected devices to a whole new level – to 40 billion by 2020. That’s according to new research by ABI. As a result, the impact of the IoT will continue to affect firms especially when it comes to security.

The IoT World

In an IoT world, more objects and people are becoming increasingly connected via the Internet with the ability to communicate and transfer data over the network forever changing the way the world works. Research by ABI, featured in [Yahoo! Finance](#), also predicted active wireless connected devices will top 16 billion this year. That totals to a 20 percent increase compared to 2013.

According to ABI, just how IoT devices will continue to approach data standards and wireless protocols remains is left to be seen. The fact that so many firms and organizations are defining the IoT around their own interests causes the problem of interoperability. Meanwhile security is still considered a major problem as legacy and older technology originating from a breath of vendors affects how networks can be secured in the most effective manner.

Midsize IoT

Midsize firms that aim to innovate understand what the IoT can do for them. Organizations are implementing IoT solutions across multiple industries ranging from consumer products, transportations, public services, healthcare and retail in an effort to improve both their business processes and consumer experience. As a result of early adoption, firms can experience a greater competitive advantage to being interconnected including increased productivity and cost-savings. Gartner points out that the Internet of Things is about the digitization of business and smaller firms stand by this concept are set to advance in new ways.

The downside to the IoT is integrating an existing information infrastructure with the right security to keep corporate data and networks as safe as possible. The Internet of Things relies on the innovation of mobile and cloud and that means new security considerations will pop up. It’s a challenge for IT professionals, especially those with limited resources, but it is a challenge that can be met with the consultancy of experienced security vendors. At the end of the day, smaller enterprises aim to implement next generation identity access and controls. In the new IoT world, a smaller firm must defend against loss with a flexible, end-to-end system that can thwart attacks and meet the new challenges posed by cybercriminals.



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Future Considerations

According to new research by ABI the Internet of Things is predicted to grow. As a result, security will continue to be top of mind and can be approached by IT professionals with the right solutions. Solutions that take midsize data, applications and infrastructure into consideration will be more important than ever as the IoT continues to move forward and evolve.

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