

Internet of Things(IoT):

Projects for CIOs to Consider in 2015



As the IoT gathers momentum in 2015, many CIOs have plans to implement at least a few pilot projects, if not full-fledged projects. Most of these will be green field initiatives as the tools, platforms and frameworks for IoT projects are still evolving. The biggest dilemma for CIOs and CTOs as well is how to choose the right platforms for IoT projects. Well, they can either build their own platform through a suite of Open Source tools or go with trusted enterprise players and build around their offerings.

Risks associated with IoT projects are quite distinct from the risks in other new green field new initiatives of past such as Social, Big Data, Mobility, DevOps, etc. If incorrectly handled, there are some definite set of new risks associated with IoT, which could put enterprises in legal complications and loss of business.

Risks to Look Out for in IoT Projects

Internet of Things is all about improving the daily life of humans by providing an ecosystem of connected environment along side machines in an effort to enable machines to:

- Better understand human needs and emotions
- Replace humans in mundane repetitive tasks
- Help humans become smarter in advanced non-repetitive tasks

In other words, the human centric aspect takes center stage in IoT projects.

Here is a lineup of IoT use cases for 2015 where the human angle is a key factor. Failure in these areas could be devastating for both humans and the serving enterprises.

1. The Healthcare Sector

IoT initiatives are already helping patients enjoy preventive treatment as well as consumer healthcare services faster. Enterprises provisioning IoT need to ensure robust platforms to deliver successful applications that leave no room for error.

The diabetic care app, allows patients to instantly access and aggregate their health information from multiple devices anywhere in the world. In addition, it also applies advanced analytics to control patient blood sugar to precise levels.

Helium levels in an MRI machine need to be monitored to ensure proper device operations. Using IOT, connected devices and field engineers can be dispatched to hospitals prior to the depletion of a machine's helium level, thus avoiding a complete shutdown and patient rescheduling.

Infant monitors send parents real-time information such as their baby's breathing, body temperature, sleeping position, and other activity levels.

2. The Automobile Industry

Implementing IOT applications in the automobile industry is directly linked to the road safety of the drivers/consumers and other fellow passengers.

Intelligent auto solutions make smarter cars by connecting them to the cloud, thus enabling car owners to make better decisions based on reliable data. From multi-point monitoring to engine diagnostics and scheduling the service to automated emergency response, smart automobiles are equipped to handle everything intuitively.

As is evident, any wrong decisions or improper usage of the IOT application can prove disastrous for its users.

3. IoT at Home

IOT is poised to improve home security in a big way. Some of latest home security devices are designed to detect variances in motion, heat and

sound, and then send an optional alert to the customer. But then again, if anything were to go wrong, it could compromise the home security and may even risk the lives of people, or result in the loss of properties.

Mitigating IOTs Risks and Ensuring Better Business Value

It needs to be noted that although IOT brings new innovations and benefits, the risks associated with it are unlike those with past innovations. In the past the risks were limited to financial, reporting or data processing risks. However, the risks from IoT implementation have the potential to affect basic human and community life.

Considering these inherent risks of IOT projects, it is recommended that enterprise work with proven players in enterprise IT initiatives with skilled resources and knowledge expertise to initiate the IoT pilot projects on familiar platforms.

Numerous reputed organizations like Microsoft, IBM, CISCO, and SAP are offering initiatives and platforms in IOT. Other big players such as GE, Intel, Google, and Bosch....also offer such IOT enabled services and products. It is advisable that enterprises stick to these larger companies to enable them to concentrate on the true business value and construct innovative IOT projects, while simultaneously mitigating the associated risks.