

Internet of Things Common Operating Environment

IMPROVING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD

As the world of Internet of Things (IoT) and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) continues to grow, both in terms of numbers and complexity, security threats associated with IoT/IIoT devices will continue to increase. To further complicate the challenge, no security standards and protocols currently exist for most of these devices.

By 2025, conservative estimates indicate that more than 80 billion devices worldwide will be interconnected and actively communicating with one another. Every network-connected device has security implications that must be mitigated for a device to be considered secure. These security implications are due not only to a device's network connections, but also to IoT and IIoT protocols, locations, and external communications.

APPROACH

PNNL has established the IoT Common Operating Environment (IoTCOE) as an IoT/IIoT research and development laboratory focusing on solving current and future



challenges in new technologies, cybersecurity, and the development of the connected devices space. The IoTCOE is made up of two physical spaces deploying over 60 different IoT and IIoT devices for experimentation individually and collectively—and the device list is steadily growing. One space is in PNNL's Building Management Testbed a facilities and commercial buildings network. The other space is in PNNL's Lab Homes (two homes, one control, and one testbed)—each a full-scale replica of a residential home.



A distinct lack of realistic testing environments are available for IoT/IloT research and development in cybersecurity, electricity distribution and transmission, and energy use. The IoT/COE provides an environment that includes devices for multiple sector collaborations. It is designed to provide a space for collaboration across areas of IoT/IloT research and to support security-minded projects in energy use, cybersecurity protections and defense, supply chain, and IoT/IloT development.

The innovations and data being developed using the IoT/COE will identify and provide the identification of novel solutions, including cybersecurity control implementations; IoT/IloT deployment best practices; new, innovative, and secure IT connections; and communications with IoT/IloT. The IoT/COE will provide important data sets that industry can use to advance security best practices, energy sustainability, and more.

The IoT/COE can isolate devices from interference by competing signals, such as Bluetooth, infrared, ZigBee, wireless, cellular, Ethernet, and radio frequency; thus, providing an ideal collaborative space for unique and innovative research experiments. PNNL's IoT/COE team has also identified normal device behavior as a baseline for experiments, providing a sanitized test environment to conduct experiments and eliminate false positives.

BENEFIT

The IoT/COE affords researchers with a 360-degree view of interconnected devices. This approach to IoT/IloT experimentation is unique and accommodates a myriad of research needs, including the exploration of cutting-edge chemical, physical, and cyber challenges using visual analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

Equipped with residential and commercial IoT devices, the IoT/COE delivers insight into untested hypotheses of IoT/IloT experiments, including those in cybersecurity vulnerability detection, threat prevention and identification, energy usage functions, and more. PNNL's IoT/COE will strengthen our national cybersecurity posture in an interconnected world and inform our understanding of the IoT/IloT connections of the future.

ABOUT PNNL

PNNL draws on signature capabilities in chemistry, Earth sciences, and data analytics to advance scientific discovery and create solutions to the nation's toughest challenges in energy resiliency and national security.

For more information, contact

Penny McKenzie

Cybersecurity Engineer

National Security Directorate

penny.mckenzie@pnnl.gov | 509.375.2081

www.pnnl.gov