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International Journal of
Physical Sciences



30 June 2019
ISSN 1992-1950
DOI: 10.5897/IJPS
www.academicjournals.org

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Modesta E. Ezema, Francis A. Okoye and Anthony O. Okwori

Full Length Research Paper

A framework of 5G networks as the foundation for IoTs technology for improved future network

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Received 28 November, 2018; Accepted 10 February, 2019

The quest for improved communications among objects interconnected in a network has long been awaited. The current fourth generation network (4G) does not enable the range of services the future require, as the fifth-generation network (5G) will be faster and more flexible. The 5G networks and Internet of Things technology seem to be the reality that best describes the basic principles of the future generation mobile network technology (5G). It is anticipated to let loose a substantial IoT environment where millions of connected devices will get their communication requirements concerning speed, latency, and cost. The fifth-generation network (5G) symbolizes a fundamental change in structural design in the communication network which will open a renowned future revenue generation through ground-breaking services made possible through 5G-enabled devices with laptops, smartphones, smart cities, and tablets. The use of 5G seems to be pictured as a complicated union of future-generation technical improvements on telecommunication networks which will assist 5G to become the mechanism for future-generation IoT services. These include highly developed inflection plans for accessing a wireless network, network sharing abilities, mechanized network request, network function virtualization, and support for cloud-optimized distributed network applications. In this paper, a framework of the expected integration of 5G and internet of things (IoT) will be presented showing how the expected solution of the communication need for millions of people, interconnected devices, smart cities, smartphones in a network will be achieved, and communication among users will be enhanced. The presented framework that would help to understand, evaluate and access the various generations of mobile networks, and view how the 5G network will be an improvement for better performance were discussed.

Key words: Network, technology, internet of things, device, communication.

INTRODUCTION

Even though 4G network is good, there are still some flaws associated with it, such as the working environment and tempo which is a disadvantage to all transmission system as in cases of 2G and 3G. Some isolated areas

and various structures in urban areas have no network due to the current transmission principles and apparatus. This has to be enhanced to meet up with the envisaged 5G network that has the brand new skill that is capable

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of delivering transmission and many other superior functions every where (Essays, 2018).

The proposed future invention of mobile transmission network (5G) will help the emancipated drift of various information upon which an established IoT depends. The 5G and IoT are closely related since the marvelous bulk of data created by the IoT will require the pliability that 5G is able to accommodate and hence the IoT will drive the progressive form of the 5G network. The association of the duo will bring the latest valuable configuration that will provide all end user's demand and communication among users will be enhanced, as expected. IoT will only be fully accomplished when documents are liberated flowing between different computers, geographies, industries and vendors, solving highly interspersed problems end-to-end. To differentiate between our current experiences and the expected solutions, the future solutions will only take suitable peripheral Internet of Things (IoT) building blocks from convoluted database services in a quick, changing and powerful way to generate the needed information. This is made possible with the use of lower-power wide-area networks (LPWA). In sophisticated and huge IoT projects, it is used with a number of other group knowledge such as other cell tools and permanent outline. In other words, it parades a mix of wireless technology and low power wide area network. If the proposed system is fully implemented and the 5G is enabled and connected between the main tools needed to allow communication between bespoke and Internet of Things (IoT) building blocks, an enhanced communication will be achieved.

METHODOLOGY

The empirical study conducted was not included in this write up; it will come up in our next paper. This paper is a review of literature on how 5G and IoT can combine effectively to achieve immediate change on the way we do things. The two hottest trends in technology "IoT and 5G" are combining to transform our future by interconnecting everything: humans, cars, appliances, utilities, transportation infrastructures, mailboxes, light switches and anything else that might benefit from an intelligent connections. This IoT emphasis is clear in the 5G use-case model which falls into three categories (Figure 5).

5G MOBILE NETWORKS

To refer to the 5G network as the super-fast mobile streaming network is not an overstatement. It is almost around the corner. Network providers all over the world are now preparing to test 5G networks throughout 2018, with the initial 5G-ready smart phones anticipated to be released early 2019. The expectation is that the 5G

network will bring higher broadband speeds over mobile networks. The implication is that there will be increased speed of data processing, that is, easy loading and downloading of information like in videos rapid data transfer, etc.

The details of how the 5G will operate are still under research (Wired, 2018). 5G networks can simply be defined as the fifth generation of cellular machinery with expected capacities that can significantly improve the speed, coverage and receptiveness of wireless networks. Imagine an enhanced processing speed from the range between 10 to 100 times faster than the initial connection, and when compared with fiber-optic cable it is still faster even in downloads. The issue is not just about fortifying your phone's linkage to the web; 5G is seen both as the future basis for enabling self-driving cars to communicate with each other, and for people to wirelessly pour out super high essential virtual reality content into their headsets (Cheng, 2018). The quest for network operators and mobile phone users to process their data at faster rate over the network gave rise to 5G network which can be seen from two perspectives: 1) As a service that will enhance the already established 2G, 3G, 4G, Wifi, and other modernization subject to greater area and better authenticity. 2) As a gadget with very high speed in contraction in end-to-end latency (GSMA Intelligence, 2014). As regards prevalence of (IoT) acceptance from end-user products like Nest thermostats to enterprise applications in production, healthcare, and agriculture with increasing popularization of smart phones and computers, the restriction of 4G LTE machinery will ensure timely speed up of production of 5G infrastructure in order to maintain the network requirements at the moment and time yet to come. Also, agriculture with increasing popularization of smart phones and computers in the aforementioned statement embraces the introduction to 5G cell transmission standards, and the recent types of devices that utilize it. In principle, 5G is the name of a class of transmission equipment, which means "whatever's next" (Sanders, 2018). The quest to develop 5G network are as a result of the following elements: to brace the growing need for broadband services especially in mobile networking and generate services for IoT including for machine (M2M) applications (Global mobile Suppliers Association, 2015). 5G is a new technology measured to be the union of Internet services with inheritance of cell networking standards leading to what is commonly referred to as the 'mobile Internet' over non uniform Networks (Non Nets), with very enhanced speed broadband (Rodriguez, 2015). The advancement of 5G network is accepted to be the merging of internet services and cell network quality that can eventually lead to long awaited "Ambulant Networking" over varied networks with high speed broadband (Rodriguez, 2015). 5G simply signifies the fifth formation of mobile technology that will be designed to address the issue of business connections of the year 2020 and beyond. The

expectations of this great network are to solve the problem of mobile interconnections, transform socio-economic activities, increase productivity and quality health conditions. The amazing improved connectivity will require a lot of use cases and business models. In the expected 5G network, there is need for new radio interface(s) powered by higher repetition as can be seen in IoTs which goes beyond 4G. The law in development of mobile technology says that the formation of new mobile technology is motivated by the need to close the gap between the new technology and its forerunner. The current 3G and 4G mobile wireless system can no longer satisfy connectivity need through internet protocol core network; their main focus is channeled towards generating continuous connections as can be found in 3G, WLAN, LTE and bluetooth cellular networks. 5G network is user-ruling in operations rather than the operator-ruling as applicable in 3G and utility ruling as seen in 4G (NGMN Alliance, 2015). The technology of interconnecting devices with router or switches will not be used in 5G network. It is expected that the 5G will be dynamic and easy to open than its successor. It can merge network connections across multi-network technologies, in order to comply with the satellite, clouds and information center, home access, and many more open system and devices of communication. Amongst all, the 5G network will be free and can conform to user's preference to deal with network driven applications in a changing and flexible atmosphere. The major concern of the future network is armor, data integrity, robustness and buoyancy. The increased want and distinct style of mobile network places an increased strain on cellular networks. In other to take care of broad area posed by the new application, the fifth formation network (5G) of wireless network will bring the basic framework for most new device with manageable traffic arrangements. The change from 4G network to 5G network is postulated by the development of two views for 5G enabled network performance by the researchers. These are next-formation and hyper-connected perception radio access technology. In the hyper-connected perception, 5G mobile operators generates a fusion of preceding hi-tech covering 4G, 2G, 3G, Wi-fi and others to attain greater scope, accessibility, and huge network density with regards to cells and devices, with the main deviator being larger network as a coordinator for Machine-to-Machine (M2M) benefits and the (IoT) (Hakiri and Berthou, 2015). This includes a modern radio automation to allow low power, low throughput field equipment with deep function cycles of over and above ten years. The Next-formation of radio connection machine view is the classic 'bearing-defining' view, which specifically marks data rates and recess, such that modern radio attachment can be connected against such proof which determines the machine that is fit for 5G network.

The 5G wireless network should allow the evolution and use of big range and enormous connectivity of

complicated and dynamic composite framework. It should be powerful enough to undertake the complicated background of operations to assist the advanced diverse set of modern and yet unexpected businesses, end users and software (e.g., things like smart cities, cell manufacturing mechanization, vehicle link, engine-to-manufacturing mechanization, vehicle link, engine-to-machine (E2M) unit, record surveillance, among others) (5G PPP Architecture Working Group, 2016) all these with overly separated conditions that will advance cell network abilities and potentials to their ultimate. It would enable the further extensive use of all accessible non-contiguous spectrums. The proposed 5G network framework for 'yet to come' Internet will add many composite networks that require distributing assets at all levels to meet the rapid growth of traffic patterns from various services and applications.

The main target of 5G networks is to swing into the atmosphere, adequately, many and cheap modern services to change business as well as creativity. In addition, the 5G technology will provide bespoke network solutions channeled to support vertical exchange such as energy, food and agronomy, health, among others. Contrary to the development of past formation of mobile networks, 5G will not only need better networking solutions but also a refined union of grand computing and storage architecture (Hakiri and Berthou, 2015). The development of 5G networks will be around people and equipment and will originally conform with the demands of these groups as stated:

- i) Grand broadband (xMBB) that distribute gigabytes of bandwidth on demand,
- ii) Grand machine-type transmission (gMTT) that links up billions of sensors and machines,
- iii) Analytical machine-type transmission (cMTT) that enables prompt response with grand consistency and enables, for example, private control over robots and autonomous driving.

5G is the expected match for the IoT by implementing a medium to link up enormous number of sensors, providing devices and actuators with severe energy and communication pressure (5G Infrastructure Association, 2015). 5G will join computing structure and storage assets to form one program and unified configuration. When this is consolidated, it will enable increase and more changing management of all shared assets, as well as the merging of permanent, free and newscast services. It is more than an expansion of mobile broadband. It will be a key organizer of the future digital world; the next formation of universal ultra-high broadband architecture that will support the change of processes in all economic sectors and the growing consumer merchandise demand. The expected 5G structure should rely on trivial network administration for free and wireless structures as well as fixed network for economic organization and activities.

Lastly, it should be able to gratify numerous requirements arising from “vertical regions” and other numerous use cases coming from various regions.

DEVELOPMENT OF 5G FREE NETWORKS

The expected 5G structure evolved from the series of free network technologies starting from 0G to 4G. The 0G is as old as the Second World War; then mobile operators established call centers even though there were very few channels available.

The 0G popularly known as zero generation had the following technologies Improved Free Telephone Service (IFS), Push to Talk (PTT), Public Land Mobile Telephony (PLMT) and Swedish abbreviation for cell Telephony system D (MTD) (Meraj and Kumar (2015)). The zero generation represent the age of non-existence of cellular phones and radio devices. As mechanics grows, the need for better devices evolved which give rise to the development of 0.5G wireless network. 0.5G is another class of automation with better component than the fundamental 0G computers. These recent free telephone structure can be identified from immediate closed radio telephone structure, in that they have their phone numbers which is reachable to them and can be used for financial services; also, they are not a section of a sealed system such as a police radio or taxi dispatch network, for instance, the pioneer general commercial free phones. The Auto radio Puhelin (ARP) came on board in 1971 in Finland. In Germany, the second of its kind, the B-Netz was set in motion in 1972.

In 1980, 1G network was invented, the first of its kind, and was referred to as analog brick phone as it was introduced by cellular technology. It was in the varying form as C-Nets, AMPS, TACS, etc., and was purely planned and designed for voice call but not for data services (Shivam et al, 2014). 1G was reinstated by 2G wireless digital standards because of its drawback in cryptography, indigent sound quality and slow speed of exchange. After the 1G generation, the next is the 2G network which was also introduced in 1980. When compared with the 1G generation, it was designed with code division multiple access (CDMA) and binary multiple access computers, for instance, time division multiple access (TDMA) (Sharma, 2013). Because of the way it was designed, the 2G has better data services, higher roaming and advanced efficiency. 2G communication is publicly conjoined with global system for mobile (GSM) services; thereafter, the successor 2.5G is being fueled by general packet radio service (GPRS) along with GSM. After the 2.5G, the 3G network or the third generation network was invented, and is referred to as universal free Telecommunications-2000 (IMT-- 2000), which fulfills the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) specification for cell phones and mobile transmission services. It employs Wide Brand Wireless Network with which transparency is developed and voice calls are explained

with Circuit Switching. Other features of 3G network include connections with videos and television and modern worldwide roaming. It has a capacity of 15-20 MHz used for internet services and operates at the range of 2100 MHz (Sharma, 2013). Above all, it has reduced the world to a small village by the use of Wide Band Voice Channel which makes communication possible to any part of the world. Some technologies used in 3G mobile network include Wideband CDMA,

WLAN, Bluetooth, Universal Mobile Telecommunication Systems (UMTS), High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA), etc. Exchange of data is done with packet switching method of data transfer. The interpretation of voice calls are through circuit switching. Other characteristics include Global wandering transparency in calls, Fast transmission, Internet, free Television, Video Conferencing, Video Calls, Multi Media Messaging Service (MMS), 3D gaming and Multiplayer-Gaming.

The 4G Mobile Network popularly known as Fourth Generation Mobile Network is a descendant of 3G and 2G group specifications which names all-Internet protocol, packet-switched networks, mobile ultra-broadband (gigabit speed) connection and multi-carrier transmission. It is fundamentally the extension in the 3G technology with more bandwidth and services available in the 3G (Bhalla and Bhalla, 2010). 4G technology is fundamentally the target audio/video featured streaming feature in the end to end internet protocol.

The Fifth Generation Mobile Network 5G (5th formation free networks or wireless systems) denotes the future applied science above the 4G specifications. 5G network is supposed to be the quality level of wireless communication in mobile technology. All the past wireless technologies talked about implementing the tranquility and data sharing but 5G is transferring a modern idea changing life to mobile life see Figure 1. The modern 5G network is projected to accomplish the checks and applications offered by it. The emergence of internet technology will bring new ideas into mobile technology where various wireless technologies will be used by mobile phones making it possible for terminals to combine different technologies.

5G FRAMEWORK

The 5G framework is a leading network technology element and different devices are characteristically rebuilt to adapt to this modern situation. The same thing applies to the service providers which has to imbibe the new technology and can implement the higher technology to adopt the value-added services easily. However, rebuilding a system using radio electronics involves the following; it has to be able to detect atmospheric conditions, structural location, and temperature. As regards the ability to respond to radio signal in operating environment, the cognitive radio technology acts as a transceiver that can perceive and react to radio signals. It

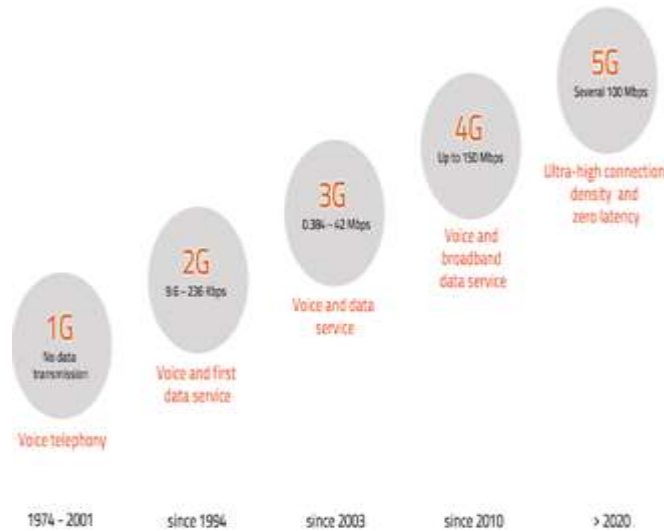


Figure 1. Generations of mobile network.

detects the atmospheric change and acts accordingly to provide continuous quality service. The best technology for 5G is that it is wholly IP based and best suitable for free and wireless network (Gubbi et al., 2013).

Figure 2 (framework) consists of a predominant user terminal and then some free and independent radio connections. Each of the radio systems works like the internet protocol connection for the external cyberspace. The aforementioned internet protocol technology is one modeled completely to assure adequate regulation of data for correct routing of IP packets connected to a certain functional link, such as periods between client applications and servers elsewhere on the Internet.

INTERNET OF THINGS

In recent times, researchers have embarked on researches to enable various real world entities to be connected to each other through internet of things (IoT). This recent topic has special, social, and commercial significance. For instance, customer products, non-perishable goods, automobile, industrial and utility components, sensors, and other everyday objects combine with Internet connectivity alongside influential data analytic abilities that guarantee adjustment in the way we do things, inhabit, eat, and relax among others. Recently also, there is a complete advancement of the present day Internet into a network of coordinated entities *that* not only collect information from the domain and relates with the universe, but also uses prevailing Internet standards to deliver services for data transfer, analytics, and applications (Rose et al., 2015).

IoT came with a framework where network related objects and computing abilities connect to objects, sensors and everyday items usually not regarded as

computers enabling devices to generate, transmit and absorb data with slim human intervention (Rose et al., 2015). It is an enhanced and electronic system; an analytic system that applies networking, sensing, big data, and expert system technology to execute completely, a system for a product or service. This technology is embodied in a wide spectrum of networked products, systems, and sensors, which take dominance of improvement in computing power, electronic, miniaturization and network interconnections to offer modern abilities not already achievable. IoT depicts a situation where physical equipment with sensors is connected through either wired or wireless to the internet (Lopez Research LLC, 2013), the application of IoT machines is meant to change various aspects of our lives. Examples of modern IoT devices like energy management devices, Internet-enabled appliances, home automation components/ instruments are taking us towards the perception of intelligent home giving more protection and energy competence. Other private IoT instruments like the health monitoring devices e.g., wearable thermometers and blood pressure apparatus are changing the way health care services are delivered. The expectation of IoT are not limited to the area of networked automobiles, knowledgeable traffic machines, roads with sensors, etc., which keeps leading us to the expected smart cities and will go a long way to reduce congestions and power consumption. We expect the IoT to change power generation and dissemination, along with industrial production using interconnected sensors. It will confirm its important positions in ICT and the growing society (Vermesan and Friess, 2013).

Internet of Things connecting the world helps the connection of different networks together with improved protections, analytics, and management abilities (Figure 3) (Evans, 2011).

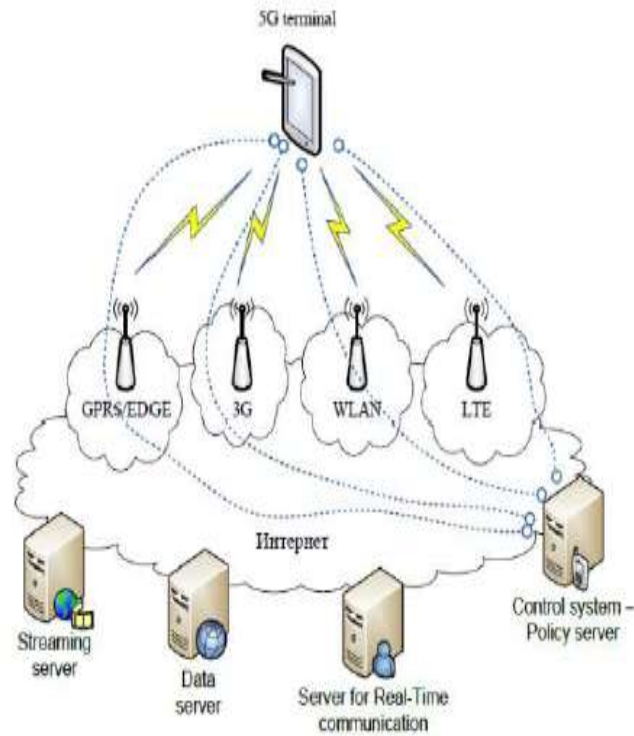


Figure 2. 5G frame work.

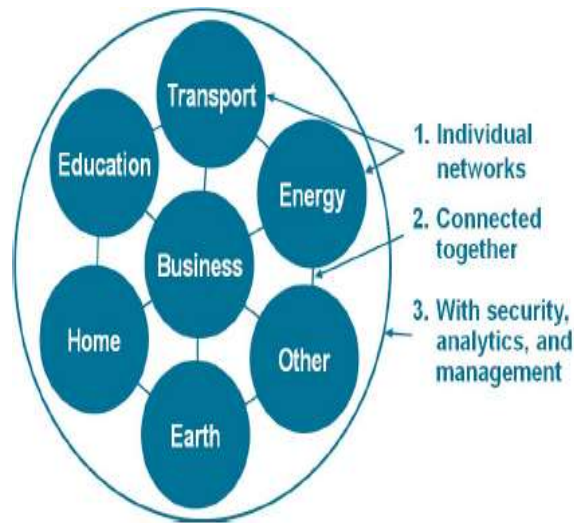


Figure 3. Internet of Things connecting the world.

CHARACTERISTICS OF IOT

The essential characteristic of IoT is that it can be made to reason, networked with sensors, use of small instruments and active engagement [Internet of Things]. The knowledge of Expert system using its features adds

value to an aspect of our life, the use of its knowledge base and inference engine. Other features of the IoT include;

i) Connectivity: Machines connected in the internet of things do not join the significant providers. It made

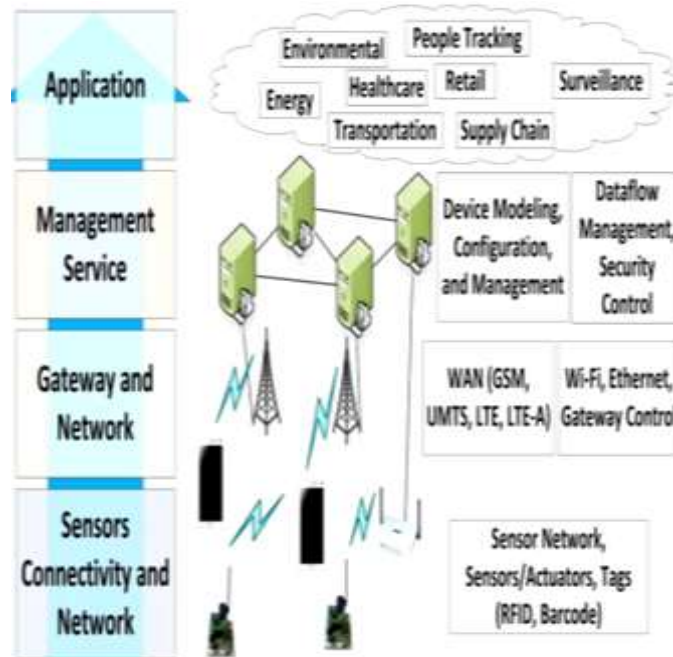


Figure 4. Architectural layers of IoT.

networking to be working on a little scale while maintaining its status quo, and also creates connections between its instruments.

ii) Sensors: IoT loses its perception without sensors. Sensors gave IoT its fame by changing IoT from a standard docile network of instruments to a functional network capable of bringing the world together.

iii) Engagement: The communication in the current networking is inactive; however, IoT brought a modern model for active content, product, or service engagement.

IOT ARCHITECTURE

The IoT has four major layers which include; sensor connectivity and network layer, the gateway and network layer, the management service layer and the application layer see Figure 4 below.

In the sensor connectivity and network layer, there is detector network, sensors, actuators, tags, which include RFID and computer codes. The detector tier supplies sensor link and networking. At the extreme, it takes off with the tags which include RFID and computer codes. Then, at the apex, it has the detector and actuators. At this level we have solid state, catalytic, spinner, photoelectric, geographical positioning system, photochemistry, infrared, accelerometers, and the like. At the apex we have our network connectivity listed; local area networking (LAN), wireless network (Wi-Fi) and wired (LAN) network (the Ethernet). We also have PAN in small scale, which we have on the wired and wireless

side. Our focus here is on the wireless network, which includes Ultra Wi-Band (UWB), Sigsbee, Bluetooth, 6LoWPAN, and few other wired technologies. At the detector layer, we have the sensors and smart devices real-time information to be collected and processed. Sensors adopt small function and little data rate connectedness. Here we want our wireless sensor structure establishment to be made in such a way that this sensor message is chained and can be transferred to required site for further transformation. We have different types of sensors that are arranged according to their function; these include body sensors, military sensors, environmental sensors, home sensors, surveillance sensors, and others. Which Sensor aggregators are the portal units, that need to be provided through network connectedness? These occur at different levels; at LAN, we have the Wi-Fi and Ethernet, at PAN there is ZigBee, Bluetooth, and 6LowPAN, and other protocols as well. Some sensors do not require linkage to a LAN portal; they may be directly linked to the Internet through WAN.

The portal and association layer comprises a wide area network, a mobile transmission network, a Wi-Fi, Ethernet, portal control among others. The portal and system layer contains micro-controllers, radio transmission units, signal processors and modulators, entrance points, implanted and operating systems, SIM modules, encryption among others. It contains portal network which connects the gateways and the sensor message together. In this area, we have our WAN and our LAN skill. In further details, the portal and network layer must encourage substantial volumes of IoT data

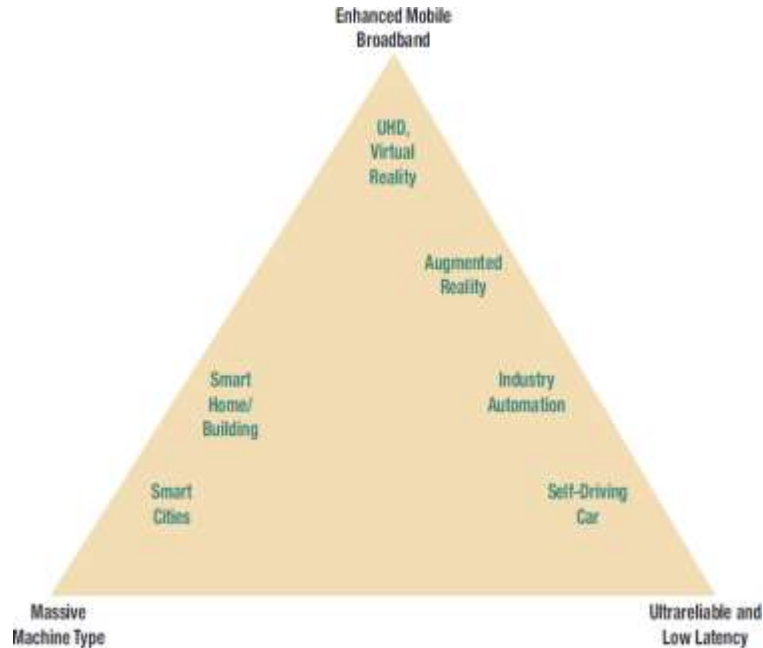


Figure 5. Use case categories in IoT.

created by wireless sensors and smart devices. It needs a vigorous and dependable presentation as regards reserved, unrestricted, or hybrid network modules. In addition, network models are planned to encourage the transmission quality of assistance requirements for dormancy, error probability, scalability, bandwidth requirements, and safety while achieving high levels of energy efficiency. In addition, it is necessary to incorporate different types of networks into a single IoT program. IoT sensors are combined with various types of protocols and varied networks using different tools. IoT networks must be scalable to competently serve a wide range of services and presentations over a large scale network where in this large scale network, some parts may have various protocols and packet types, alongside different security requirements.

The organization overhaul layer focuses on machine modeling, shaping and control. It includes dataflow management as well as security control services. Management service layer provides operational support system (OSS) which includes device modeling, configuration, management, performance management, and security management. It also contains charging provision system (CPS) which includes charging writing, service analytics platform for statistical analysis, data mining, text mining, in-memory analytics, and predictive analytics. Other services include management service for security, always needed access control, encryption, and identifying the accessed. In addition, business rules management (BRM), rule definition, modeling, simulation and execution. Business method management (BPM) is also a workflow technique for modeling, simulation, and

execution.

The application layer contains energy, environment, healthcare, transportation, supply chain, retail, people tracking, and surveillance among other applications. The application layer facilitates horizontal market, fleet management, asset management, supply chain, people tracking, and surveillance. These applications are used in our environment, energy, transportation, healthcare, retail and military. In the application layer, various applications from industry sectors can use IoT for service enhancement. Applications can be classified based on the type of network availability, the coverage size, heterogeneity, business model as well as real-time or non-real-time requirements.

5G IN INTERNET OF THINGS

The two hottest trends in technology, “IoT and 5G” are combining to transform our future by interconnecting everything: humans, cars, appliances, utilities, transportation infrastructures, mailboxes, light switches and anything else that might benefit from an intelligent connection (Rysavy, 2016). This IoT emphasis is clear in the 5G use-case model which falls into three categories (Figure 5).

At the top of the triangle, “enhanced mobile broadband” augments 4G broadband capabilities, reaching for 100 Mbps typical throughput rates and peak rates well over 1 Gbps. At bottom left, “massive machine type” represents the IoT applications emerging today with 4G LTE, but at much denser levels. 5G calls for networks able to support

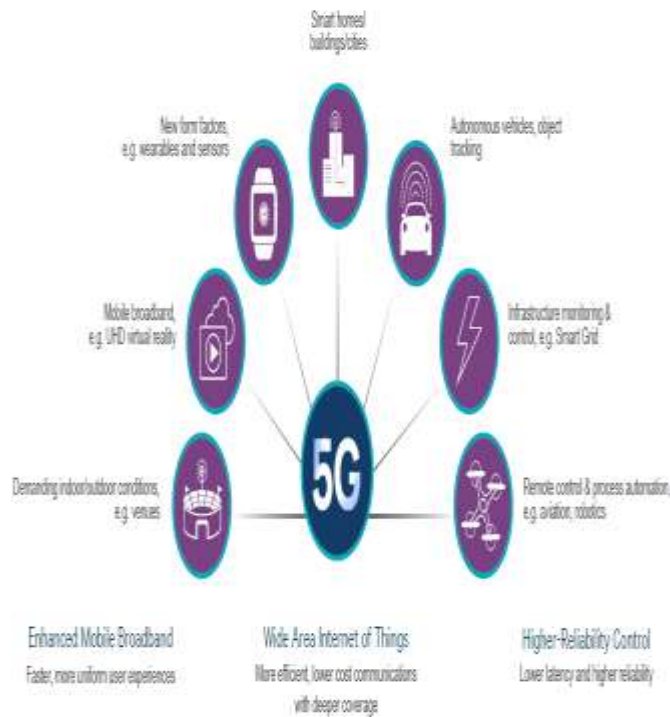


Figure 6. Expansion of 5G to support IoT.

up to 1 million devices per square kilometer, 10 times more than with 4G. What those devices will be, exactly, depends on IoT developers, but smart cities are an oft-cited example. 5G also includes a 100-times gain in energy efficiency, translating to much longer life for battery-operated devices, whether sensors in the environment or fitness bands. The third category, “ultrareliable and low-latency” communications, is entirely new. It will power applications never before feasible, including the use of cellular networks for autonomous vehicles, industrial automation, new forms of telemedicine and applications yet to be invented. 5G will enhance existing and expand to new use cases to further support its implementation in IoT as shown in Figure 6 (Vincent, 2016).

5G is critical for enabling certain advanced IoT use cases that require ultra-fast response times (Tseng, 2016) such as:

- i) Smart city solutions: Faster and lower-latency data transmissions will allow for real-time communications among connected smart city devices, allowing for more efficient urban environments. For instance, traffic control will greatly improve when road conditions can be analyzed in real time by using intelligent IP-enabled cameras. Businesses will also flourish in smart cities, as 5G connectivity will allow them to not only collect greater amounts of video footage, but also to process the information in real-time.
- ii) Entertainment: One technology to get excited about,

for instance, is virtual reality (VR). According to Mark Zuckerberg, virtual reality (VR) is a killer application of 5G as 5G will provide the necessary backbone to enable high-speed, next-generation gaming and video platforms, which will require vast amounts of data and ultra-fast processing speeds.

- iii) Advertising: In the near future, companies will need to reinvent their marketing strategies to always remain several steps ahead of their customers. Success will require using predictive analytics to create or generate campaigns that are in line with the latest consumer trends. 5G connectivity will allow brands to target consumers faster, and with greater accuracy (Tseng, 2016).

WHAT IS 5G NETWORKS SLICING?

Mobile operators and telecommunications vendors are scrambling to prepare themselves for the arrival of the first commercial 5G networks, expected to happen in the 2020 timeframe. One of the most innovative aspects of the 5G architecture will be its reliance on 5G network slicing, which will let operators provide portions of their networks for specific customer use cases, whether that use case is the smart home, the IoT factory, the connected car, or the smart energy grid.

Each use case receives a unique set of optimized resources and network topology, covering certain SLA-specified factors such as connectivity, speed, and capacity that suit the needs of that application.

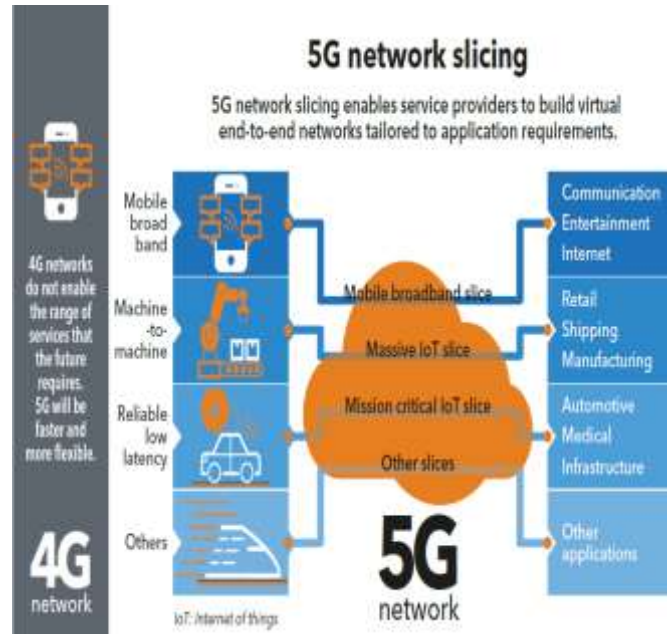


Figure 7. 5G network slicing.
Source: ITU News.

The basics of 5G network slicing

Network slicing is a type of virtual networking architecture in the same family as software-defined networking (SDN) and network functions virtualization (NFV), two closely related network virtualization technologies that are moving modern networks toward software-based automation. SDN and NFV allow far better network flexibility through the partitioning of network architectures into virtual elements. In essence, network slicing allows the creation of multiple virtual networks atop a shared physical infrastructure.

In this virtualized network scenario, physical components are secondary and logical (software-based) partitions are paramount, devoting capacity to certain purposes dynamically, according to need. As needs change, so can the devoted resources. Using common resources such as storage and processors, network slicing permits the creation of slices devoted to logical, self-contained, and partitioned network functions

Conclusion

The fifth-generation, or 5G, wi-fi networks promise to convert the IoT from a cerebral concept into a realistic reality. The result could no longer be most straightforwardly a brand new technology of connected services and products but also a new feeling of freedom for IoT product designers. The 5G networks will allow devices connect directly amidst an outer central hub, allowing them to share computing resources in an allotted way.

The result will be more powerful communications that require less battery strength self-contained, and partitioned network functions.

5G network slicing

According to 5G Americas, a clear benefit of 5G networks slicing for network operators will be the ability to deploy only the functions necessary to support particular customers and particular market segments. "These results directly in savings compared to being required to deploy full functionality to support devices that will use only a part of that functionality. And a derivative benefit is the ability to deploy 5G systems more quickly because fewer functions need to be deployed, enabling faster time-to-market."

Some vendors, such as Ericsson believe that 5G network slicing will be the key ingredient necessary for 5G to meet its technical requirements. The new era of 5G connectivity will be characterized by its centerpiece active and bendy networks as a way to connect the entirety to the whole thing and the whole lot of stuff to anybody, making feasible a new generation of studies in all sectors, along with independent riding, smart cities, the Internet of Things, the age of machines, wearable technologies and of direction in cellular computing. According to Ericsson, "The greater elasticity brought about by network slicing will help to address the cost, efficiency, and flexibility requirements that will be imposed by future" (Figure 7).

Essentiality of network slicing to 5G

GSMA Intelligence estimates that there will be 1.2 billion 5G connections by 2025, accounting for 40% of the global population, or approximately 2.7 billion people. It hypothesizes that the coming 5G network architecture is “a real opportunity to create an agile network that adapts to the different needs of specific industries and the economy” with network slicing serving as a key enabler of that 5G reality.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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