

A Review on IoT Technologies: Trend, Challenges and Future Directions

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Conflicts of interest: Nil

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Abstract

One of the most significant technological advances of the last few years, IoT is revolutionising several industries, including healthcare, agriculture, smart cities, and industrial automation. Among the topics covered in this article are the latest advancements in IoT technology, the obstacles to their widespread adoption, and potential future methods for optimising its features. Through an examination of current research and case studies, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of the impact, current limitations, and potential for future expansion of IoT. Current studies indicate that IoT has altered the digital landscape, paving the way for smarter cities, improved healthcare, more efficient agriculture, and streamlined supply networks. Given the increasing number of connected devices, IoT technology has the ability to spark significant innovation across several domains. However, other problems with connectivity, security, scalability, and data management still need fixing as the usage of the IoT increases. This review research aims to summarise current IoT advances, highlight stakeholder problems, and evaluate future potential for enhancing IoT systems while overcoming these hurdles.

Keywords: IoT, Challenges, Limitations, Industrial automation, smart cities, Healthcare

INTRODUCTION

IoT is a creative new paradigm in information technology wherein hitherto unreachable physical objects, systems, and gadgets interact with one another and the internet to acquire, exchange, and evaluate data. In large part to IoT and the explosion of IoT devices in many various industries, including healthcare, agriculture, smart homes, and manufacturing, better cities, more efficient businesses, and improved quality of living are all feasible. Although IoT has great potential, its general adoption is hampered. IoT trends, challenges, and future orientations are very vital if we are to reach its full potential and influence its general acceptance. Examining the trends driving

IoT technologies ahead, the challenges hindering their general adoption, and the possible future development pathways, this study explores the current situation of IoT technologies.

1.1 Trends in IoT Technologies

Edge and Fog Computing: One main IoT trend is the shift towards edge and fog computing. Many of the IoT devices' produced data is real-time and has to be handled immediately. Regarding mission-critical apps as healthcare, industrial automation, and autonomous driving, conventional cloud-based computing simply cannot meet the need for quick responses. Edge computing lowers the demand for

far-off data centres and drives data processing closer to the source by placing computations on devices or nearby servers. By linking the cloud and edge nodes across a distributed computing node network, fog computing advances this concept and enables even more optimisation. Both approaches help IoT systems grow by lowering bandwidth usage and latency, hence reducing latency. Real-time data processing at the edge of a network helps IoT applications to boost speed, dependability, and efficiency.

5G Connectivity: IoT looks quite different now that 5G networks are here. Because of their ultra-low latency, higher bandwidth, and ability to support a large number of connected devices, 5G perfectly helps to enable the great adoption of IoT devices. Users of 5G might experience nearly zero latency and lightning-fast connections, therefore enabling data transfers in real time that were not conceivable in past years. This invention will drive the spread of IoT projects like smart cities, which depend on the simultaneous transmission of thousands of sensors to control infrastructure, control traffic, and track the surroundings. 5G is a necessary enabler for the IoT in industries like healthcare and manufacturing because of its low energy consumption and great capacity; devices sending vast volumes of data while keeping connected in hostile situations rely on this ability.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Integration: The combining of IoT with AI and ML is one main trend driving forward IoT system development. What makes IoT devices so important is our ability to evaluate and understand the enormous amounts of data they generate. IoT devices can now analyse and analyse data on their own, producing forecasts, optimisations, and judgements in real-time thanks to artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms. Healthcare companies may, for instance, check patients' vitals using IoT devices run on artificial intelligence to spot any health issues before they get more serious. Predictive maintenance systems employ ML to examine data from IoT sensors and project when equipment is likely to fail, therefore improving operational efficiency and reducing

downtime. IoT combined with artificial intelligence is producing smarter and more flexible systems; these systems could learn from their errors and grow with time.

Blockchain Technology: Blockchain technology has drawn a lot of attention in IoT as it may help to address significant issues with data security, privacy, and openness. As more IoT devices generate and transmit enormous amounts of data, the requirement of preserving the authenticity and integrity of data is rising. Blockchain provides a secure place for storing and sharing IoT data as it is an irreversible and distributed ledger system. Blockchain technology raises data dependability by allowing all transactions between IoT devices to be verified and recorded on an unchangeable ledger. This helps immensely IoT applications like supply chain management as it enables total visibility and monitoring of every product. Furthermore suited for blockchain's ability to provide secure peer-to-peer interactions are scenarios involving multiple IoT devices or parties conducting intricate transactions, including energy trading systems or autonomous automobiles.

1.2 Challenges in IoT Adoption

Security and Privacy Concerns: Two of the main issues with IoT ecosystem are security and privacy, even although IoT technology is gaining increasing popularity. Often operating in complex, scattered circumstances, IoT includes many devices positioned in inaccessible or far-off regions. Because of the sensitive data these devices collect, they are easy target for hackers. Using security holes in IoT devices might enable attacks include ransomware and DDoS. Furthermore, a lot of IoT devices lack appropriate security mechanisms like strong encryption or effective authentication, so they are easily hacked. The lack of defined security protocols adds even another level of complexity to the issue as numerous manufacturers apply different security methods, which may not be compatible with one another. Strong and standard security features like E2E encryption, safe authentication, and regular software updates are what will help users to trust and utilise IoT devices.

Interoperability and Standards: Regarding standards and interoperability, the fact that devices produced by different firms cannot interact with one another is one of the main challenges to general IoT adoption. Usually speaking via a network, IoT system devices, sensors, and actuators interact with one another. Nevertheless, compatibility issues develop as different devices follow different standards or utilise different communication protocols. The possibility for incompatibilities between devices produced by different businesses is one difficulty in creating integrated IoT systems. Lack of standardising makes installing IoT networks more difficult and slows them down. Among the many projects in progress to provide common frameworks and standards for interoperability are OCF and IoT Protocol. Still difficult, however, is getting everything to run on every platform and device.

Data Management and Storage: Legitimate concerns include storage, management, and analysis of the enormous volumes of IoT device generated data. IoT data might be challenging for conventional data management systems to handle given its scale and complexity. The massive volume of data generated by the spread of IoT devices might overwhelm even cloud storage. Distributed data storage technologies like fog computing and the edge are being used more and more to process and store IoT data nearer the source in order to lower latency and bandwidth limitations. Still, a major challenge is managing this data so that it is accurately identified, processed, and evaluated. Advanced data analytics, real-time processing, and artificial intelligence will be very crucial to help one understand the enormous numbers generated by IoT devices.

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability: Making the IoT everything run responsibly and effectively in terms of energy consumption is one of the main challenges of it. For battery-operated or remotely situated IoT devices especially, long-term continuous operation without charging or maintenance is absolutely necessary. This means the development of less energy-consuming communication protocols and tools. LPWAN,

energy gathering technologies, and renewable power sources like solar or kinetic energy might all help to solve this challenge. Long-term survival of IoT networks depends critically on the ability to design autonomous devices that can run in resource-limited environments while balancing performance and lowest energy consumption.

Trends in IoT Technologies

Several main elements are driving creativity and IoT technology adoption, which are fastly changing:

- **Edge and Fog Computing:** Edge and fog computing have become crucial technologies in IoT systems by delivering processing near to the data source. This lowers latency, maximises bandwidth use, and enhances real-time decision-making. Applications include industrial automation, smart cities, autonomous automobiles, and real-time data processing are industrial automation, smart cities,
- **5G Connectivity:** 5G networks have transformed IoT. Thanks to 5G's ultra-low latency, high bandwidth, and great device interoperability, IoT is set to transform several sectors like healthcare, smart cities, and autonomous transportation. Faster data transfer and improved connectivity made available by 5G enable the general acceptance of IoT devices across many environments.
- **AI and Machine Learning Integration:** Through the integration of AI and ML algorithms, IoT is opening the path for improved, more autonomous decision-making. AI and ML-powered models scan among masses of IoT data generated for patterns, optimisation chances, and efficiency increases. Among the applications are predictive maintenance in manufacturing, smart grid management, and tailored medical therapy.
- **Blockchain Technology:** People are beginning to see blockchain as a means of addressing IoT security flaws. Blockchain technology assures transparency, traceability, and immutability of transactions, hence enhancing data integrity,

privacy, and trust in IoT systems. Its distributed design, which makes it ideal for managing large IoT networks, helps sectors such as supply chain management and healthcare tremendously.

Literature review

[1] Miraz *et al.* (2015) clarify the state of the art by their analysis of the fundamental concepts and differences among the IoT, IoE, and IoNT. It highlights the many uses across different sectors and shows their trend of growth. This paper presents a thorough review of these technologies along with their current situation, restrictions, and possible future uses. There are, however, no thorough technical analysis of the challenges of application in the real world.

Based on IoT, Gupta *et al.* (2023) [2] offer a smart irrigation system using machine learning that forecasts soil moisture. The project gathers data in real-time using IoT sensors and machine learning algorithms to maximise agricultural water usage. Though preliminary results are promising, little research has been done on the application of the technique to large-scale agricultural regions with different soil types.

Emphasising systems engineering and operational research, Ryan and Watson (2017) [3] list the main challenges facing IoT research. The paper emphasises among other difficulties data protection, system compatibility, and scalability. It provides a strong foundation for understanding the limitations of the IoT, but it offers no experimental validation or solutions for these challenges.

Goyal *et al.* (2024) [4] propose IoT blockchain system as a way to increase industrial automation security with respect to identity theft. The paper outlines the architecture of the framework to show that it is effective in maintaining data integrity. It is having said that, the paper skips the computational difficulty of combining blockchain in IoT devices with low resources.

Miraz *et al.* (2018) [5] mainly stress the expected growth of IoT, Internet of Everything, and Internet of Nanotechnology. It is exciting to consider how these technologies may influence industry and

society. Although the research raises several valid issues, it is mostly theoretical and does not support its conclusions with numerous case studies or evidence.

[6] Venkateshwari *et al.* (2023) provide an intelligent city planning method using time series forecasting of data from IoT. Examining historical data helps the model to improve urban planning and resource allocation. This study avoids addressing privacy and data security in smart city environments even as it makes use of advanced IoT analytics.

The author [7] examines issues with IoT research and how others have proposed fixes. It calls attention to crucial elements like scalability, energy economy, and data security. Although the paper does a decent job of summarising present possibilities, it does not offer any experimental data or details on how to implement them to support its claims.

Ammar *et al.* (2018) [8] point out flaws in present designs in their analysis of IoT security systems. They propose utilising better encryption methods and authentication systems to boost security. The study does not, however, look at the performance costs and advantages of using these security policies under constrained circumstances.

Mamta *et al.* (2023) [9] build a health risk prediction model by use of data from IoT and decision trees. The platform compiles multi-level IoT data to enable exact health outcome prediction. Although the model shows potential in terms of accuracy, the study does not get into specifics of how it performs in real-world scenarios like noisy or incomplete data.

[10] Al-Fuqaha *et al.* (2015) explores IoT basic technology, protocols, and application cases. The authors investigate in great detail the architecture of IoT and its link to cloud computing, big data, and machine learning. Although the survey covers a lot of area, it just touches on the principles hence it does not go into great length on the challenges of application.

Rao et al. (2024) [11] examine material classification using advanced deep learning techniques on a platform built on IoT. Regarding content categorisation generated by IoT, the proposed method shows good performance. Still, the approach neglects the computational needs for using deep learning models in IoT systems with limited resources.

Derhamy et al. (2015) [12] evaluates commercial IoT frameworks by means of feature, constraint, and rates of industrial adoption analysis. One important lesson is seeing how these systems open the path for IoT implementation in many sectors. Though exhaustive, the paper does not provide performance criteria or benchmarks to assess the success of the examined frameworks.

Table 1: Literature review

Ref	Author	Objective	Methodology	Research Gap
[1]	Miraz et al. (2015)	Review the IoT, IoE, and IoNT concepts and their growth trends.	Literature review focusing on applications, trends, and challenges of IoT-related technologies.	Lack of detailed discussions on real-world implementation challenges and specific use cases.
[2]	Gupta et al. (2023)	Develop an IoT-based intelligent irrigation system with ML soil moisture prediction.	IoT sensors for real-time data and ML algorithms for optimization of water use.	Scalability for large-scale agriculture and diverse soil conditions is not explored.
[3]	Ryan and Watson (2017)	Identify research challenges in IoT and the role of operational research in addressing them.	Theoretical analysis of challenges like scalability, privacy, and interoperability.	Lack of experimental validation or specific solutions for identified challenges.
[4]	Goyal et al. (2024)	Propose an IoT-based blockchain system to prevent identity theft in industrial automation.	Blockchain integration for secure data management and authentication.	Computational overhead and resource constraints of IoT devices using blockchain not addressed.
[5]	Miraz et al. (2018)	Explore the future growth trends of IoT, IoE, and IoNT.	Conceptual discussion forecasting growth and convergence trends.	Lacks practical examples and case studies to support predictions.
[6]	Venkateshwari et al. (2023)	Propose a smart city planning model using IoT data and time series forecasting.	Time series analysis of historical IoT data for urban planning and resource allocation.	Challenges related to data security and privacy in smart cities are not addressed.
[7]	Unknown Source	Examine IoT research challenges and solutions.	Theoretical overview of key challenges such as energy efficiency and scalability.	No specific implementation details or experimental validation provided.
[8]	Ammar et al. (2018)	Survey IoT security frameworks and propose improvements.	Analysis of vulnerabilities in existing architectures and	Performance trade-offs of implementing security measures in

			recommendations for improvement.	resource-constrained systems ignored.
[9]	Mamta et al. (2023)	Develop a health risk prediction system using multi-level IoT data and decision trees.	Decision tree algorithms for processing multi-level IoT health data.	Limited discussion on system performance in noisy or incomplete data scenarios.
[10]	Al-Fuqaha et al. (2015)	Survey IoT enabling technologies, protocols, and applications.	Comprehensive review of IoT architecture, interaction with cloud computing, and big data.	Focuses on foundational concepts but lacks insight into real-world implementation challenges.
[11]	Rao et al. (2024)	Integrate advanced deep learning for content classification in IoT ecosystems.	Deep learning techniques for high-accuracy content classification.	Does not address computational demands of deploying DL models in constrained IoT environments.
[12]	Derhamy et al. (2015)	Survey commercial frameworks for IoT implementation.	Comparison of features, limitations, and adoption rates of commercial IoT frameworks.	No performance metrics or benchmarks to assess framework efficacy.

Challenges in IoT Adoption

Security and privacy continue to rank high on the list of concerns with IoT technologies. The attack surface for cybercrime is growing in proportion to the number of connected devices. Data breaches and invasions of privacy are more likely to occur due to the fact that IoT devices routinely collect personal information. Robust encryption, secure authentication, and constant monitoring are crucial for mitigating these risks. A major barrier to the widespread use of IoT is the lack of standardisation in protocols and device interoperability among different manufacturers. A crucial component of the expanding IoT ecosystem is a set of universally accepted communication standards and frameworks that enable seamless interoperability among devices and systems, irrespective of maker or underlying technology. Data storage, management, and analysis of the massive amounts generated by IoT devices are of the utmost importance. IoT devices generate massive amounts of diverse data, which may be overwhelming for traditional data storage systems. Distributed storage, edge computing, and cloud computing are

some of the technologies that are being investigated to address these issues. The high power consumption of IoT devices is a big problem, especially for remote or battery-operated uses. We must create low-power, energy-efficient devices and communication protocols for IoT if we want these systems to be used in sustainable applications like smart cities, healthcare, and environmental monitoring.

Future Directions in IoT Technologies

These future domains should be given top priority if we are to solve the above described issues and fully use IoT.

- **Advanced AI and IoT Convergence:** AI will increasingly find a role in IoT going forward. IoT devices combined with powerful machine learning algorithms and AI-driven automation might assist to make smarter judgements. Combining data from IoT with artificial intelligence helps systems to acquire intelligence, flexibility, and autonomy.

- **Quantum Computing:** IoT may be drastically changed by quantum computing as it enables quick and effective processing of vast amounts of data. Though the technology is still in its infancy, applying quantum computing to IoT might provide enhancements in data encryption, security, and real-time decision-making.
- **IoT-Enabled Smart Ecosystems:** It is expected that IoT, future revolves around the creation of totally autonomous smart ecosystems. By use of networked smart devices, these ecosystems aim to maximise energy consumption, improve urban planning, transportation, and healthcare systems. Big data, artificial intelligence, and IoT will together enable connected, flexible cities.
- **Edge and Fog Computing Evolution:** Edge and fog computing's future advances will open the path for even quicker, more accurate real-time data processing. Particularly for low-latency uses like driverless vehicles and real-time industrial automation, these technologies will be very vital to the expansion of IoT.

Conclusion

IoT technologies have the potential to transform numerous industries and improve the quality of life globally. However, to fully realize their potential, several challenges related to security, interoperability, data management, and energy efficiency must be addressed. By focusing on innovative solutions such as AI and machine learning, blockchain, and advanced computing technologies, the future of IoT holds promise for more intelligent, connected, and sustainable systems. With continued research and development, IoT technologies will drive the next wave of digital transformation, benefiting various sectors, from healthcare to smart cities and beyond. IoT technologies have made significant strides over the past decade, transforming industries and reshaping the way we live and work. However, the journey is far from over. As IoT adoption continues to expand, challenges such as security, interoperability, data management, and energy

efficiency must be addressed. With the convergence of IoT, AI, 5G, and blockchain, the future of IoT holds immense promise. Continued research, innovation, and collaboration among industry stakeholders will be essential in overcoming current limitations and unlocking the full potential of IoT technologies for a smarter, more connected world.

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