

Section A(Compulsory)

Internet, 'network of networks' may very well be termed as one of mankind's finest inventions and 'Internet of Things' (IoT) could be pitted as the optimal enablement of this invention, owing to its scale and utility. This scenario outlined earlier will soon be real as the internet is becoming accessible at one's fingertips and over diverse devices. The ABI Research data states that there are more than 10 billion wirelessly connected devices in the market today; with over 30 billion devices expected by 2020. In fact, with millions of devices enabling internet connectivity, this network is not just expanding to reach more individuals, but it is likely to bring about a 360 degree change in the way we communicate and operate. As per Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) statistics, there are more than 205 million people connected to the internet in India.

Internet is visibly making every object or machine around us smarter, right from connected toothbrush, sportsgear with embedded sensors and smart refrigerators. We will soon live in an ecosystem where these 'dumb devices' would acquire intelligence through an inbuilt OS enabling the devices to get connected with other paired/authorised devices. For example, consider a power controller at home enabled to communicate with the GPS device of a user's car. In the world of 'Internet of Things,' the GPS device triggers the power controller at home, to switch on lights and other important appliances whenever the car reaches a stipulated geographical radius. Again, the power controller triggers devices at home which are connected to the internet, to schedule tasks as per triggers received. While the ecosystem is being enhanced for all the good reasons, this security aspect is getting immensely threatened because if the object is connected to the internet, hackers will find it, and if it has an OS they can hack it.

The dynamism of the IoT is one of its most challenging features as most of us in our day-to-day lives might come across many of these smart devices, yet be unaware of the consequences that might pop-up if they are not secured appropriately. More the connected devices, greater is the range of 'significant' security challenges across data privacy and physical security that have the potential to disrupt functionality of consumers and businesses in new ways.

The benefits as well as associated risks around Internet of Things will affect organisations and governments to a great extent. For example, in today's BYOD enabled enterprises, while the device-to-device communication has become easier, the apps and services that the devices possess, have a potent security risk. More challenging perhaps is the potential for data aggregation across smart devices, internet-based services and existing data pools.

According to a recent whitepaper by Symantec, targeted attacks against the energy companies are increasing every year, with the intent of stealing intellectual property of new technologies created for this space. It was observed that modern energy systems are becoming more complex as the supervisory control and data acquisition or industrial control systems sit outside of traditional security walls. And as smart grid technology continues to gain momentum, more new energy systems will be connected to the Internet of Things, which opens up new security vulnerabilities related to having countless connected devices.

Lessening the risks

Security risks in the world of connected devices have already been demonstrated against smart televisions, medical equipment, security cameras, routers, trash-cans, baby monitors and traffic systems. Yet most of us sitting in our living rooms, roaming in a market place, enjoying vacation might not realise the bane. Essentially there needs to be a two-step approach to mitigate the security risks posed through connected devices. First, an embedded security software for in-device security can enable devices to filter and prevent proliferation of threats. Second, from a manufacturer's perspective,

major software vendors should figure out how to notify customers and provide patches for vulnerabilities.

Question(20 marks)

1. Internet of Things(IoT) will have a snowballing effect in the way technology is used in day-to-day business enabling digital lifestyle and, at the same time, expanding fertile grounds for cyber-attacks. What in your view are the various ways in which business enterprises are getting impacted? Also suggest a structured approach to counter the threats and protect the data and information assets for a business enterprise.

Section B (Attempt ANY 5 @ 6 marks each. All questions carry equal marks)

1. Enterprise systems are becoming a necessity for doing business for business organisations of any size. What in your view should be a proper approach for small and medium scale enterprises to implement such system in their organisation?

2. There has been lot of technology convergence happening in all forms of business. What can possibly be some of the critical issues which can affect business in such a scenario?

3. Discuss the approaches of few companies where IT has a strategic role in their business model.

4. Discuss the business requirements of information at various levels in an organisation hierarchy along with the characteristics of decision making process.

5. Discuss the role of social media analytics for a business enterprise.

6. Distinguish between predictive and prescriptive analytics with appropriate example.

7. Distinguish between OLAP and OLTP systems. Explain the following concepts in context to Data Warehousing : Roll-Up, Roll-Down, Dice and Slice. Give relevant example to illustrate the concepts.