

The INTERNET of THINGS



Rajeev Shah is the founder and managing director of Automagic Apps, the UK's first app incubation fund, and a published author, investor and entrepreneur. Rajeev's focus is to help improve people's lives with carefully crafted mobile applications, leveraging the value of the device that you carry with you every day...

The internet is a wonderful thing, and in the space of a few short years has become one of the most striking features of our modern society. A constantly changing entity, the internet continues to grow and develop as we do, and already it is shaping up for the next big step in its evolution, the 'internet of things'.

Just as we are seeing the launch of more and more products that are able to connect to the internet and interact with it in new ways, the 'internet of things' is a concept where even household items are able to connect to make our lives simpler. So instead of just computers being connected, everything from your light switches, your fridge, your car and even your heart-monitor can be connected in some way shape or form.

A good example might be a fridge that can detect if milk is running low and sends a message to your mobile phone to remind you to buy some more. Taking this example a little further, it is quite easy to imagine a blood pressure monitor that relays blood pressure information directly to the user's doctor – or even a toothbrush that records oral hygiene habits and passes this information on to the dentist.

Interestingly enough, we are already starting to see elements of the 'internet of things' creep into our daily lives today, as increasingly, the technology we use finds innovative new ways to permeate our lives. Smart phones are an excellent example of this as users can download applications, or 'apps', to help them with almost any element of their daily lives. Readers may be aware for example that one dentist actually created a free app to help users time how long they brush their teeth. Taking this concept a little further it is easy to see that it's not

just patients, but dental professionals too, who can benefit from innovative technology such as this.

Take CPD for example. The new Dental CPD Pro app lets you log your CPD wherever and whenever you do it, and relays this information to your eGDC account automatically – like a personal assistant taking care of the extra admin tasks you would otherwise have to do by hand. The app makes efficient use of technology to streamline the way you log your learning – a very important, yet undeniably menial, task. In an instant, this app both saves you time and allows you to keep your precious attention where it is most needed.

But app opportunities don't just stop there. As well as CPD, there are a whole range of apps on the market that can help make your professional life that little bit easier. For organisation, App Stores such as iTunes and Google Play include a diverse mix of different applications to help with your work-related needs. These include simple to-do lists as well as sophisticated project management apps that can be synced between devices so you can always stay on top of your workload. There are even apps available for professional networking so you can stay connected no matter where you are in the world.

With so many amazing opportunities out there, the internet really is a wonderful thing. With an app for just about everything you can possibly dream of, there has never been a better time to get connected, and join the online revolution.

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