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e-Lite

Definitions of Ambient Intelligence

Ambient intelligence: technology and design

Fulvio Corno

Politecnico di Torino, 2014/2015



<http://praxis.cs.usyd.edu.au/~peterris>



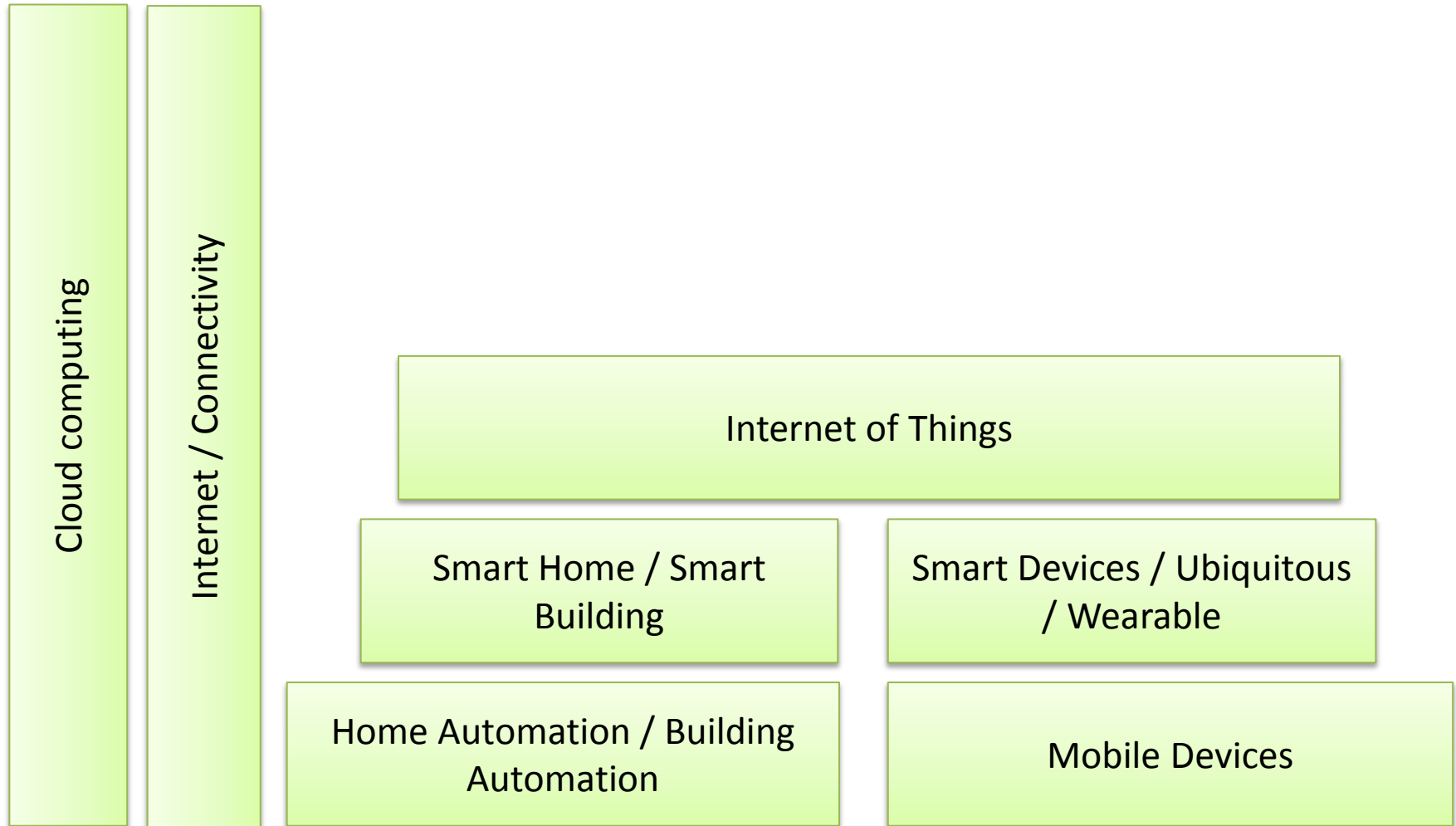
Summary

- Technology trends
- Definition(s)
- Application areas
- Requested features
- Architectures

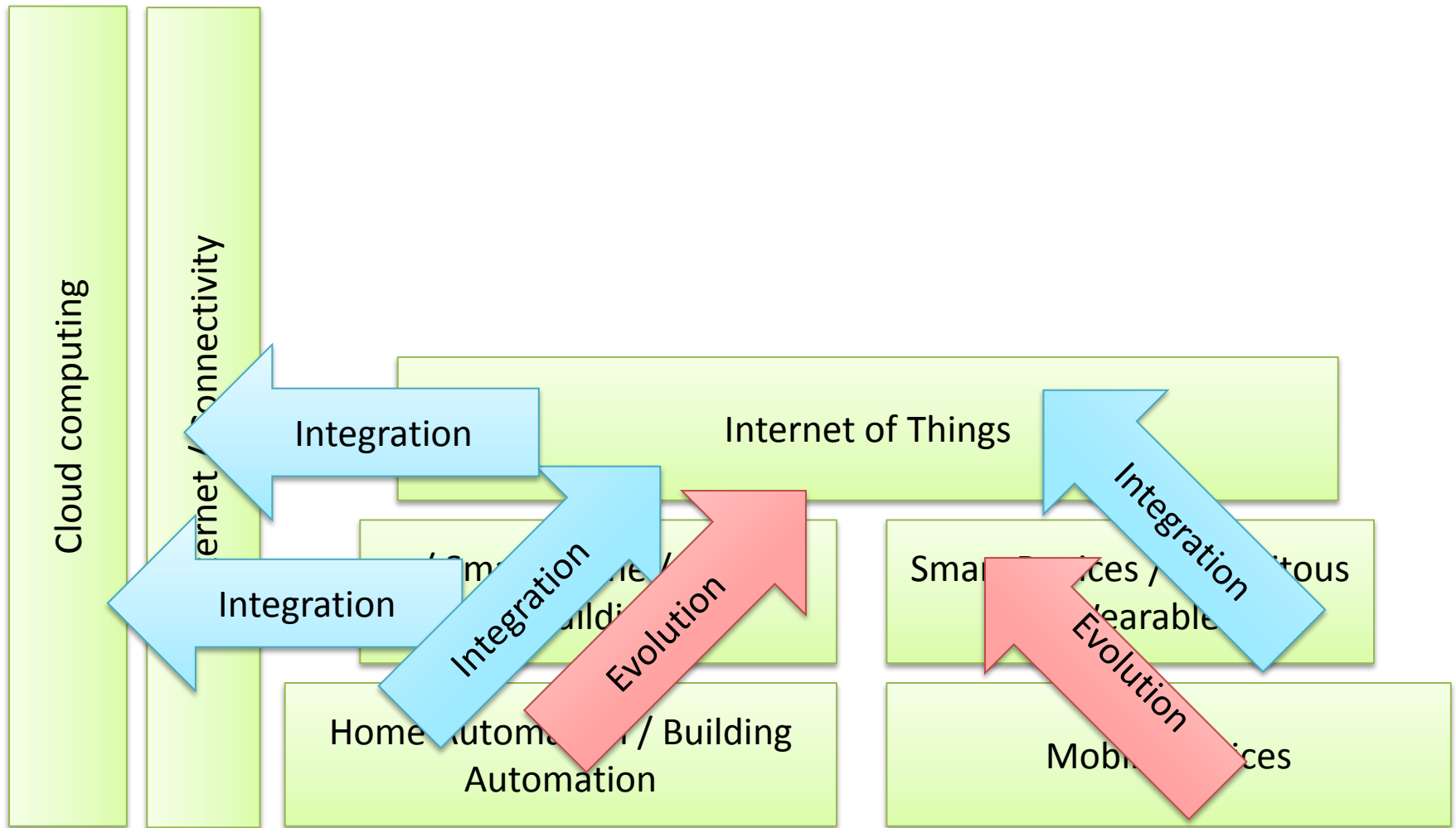
Definitions and Application Areas

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

Technology trends

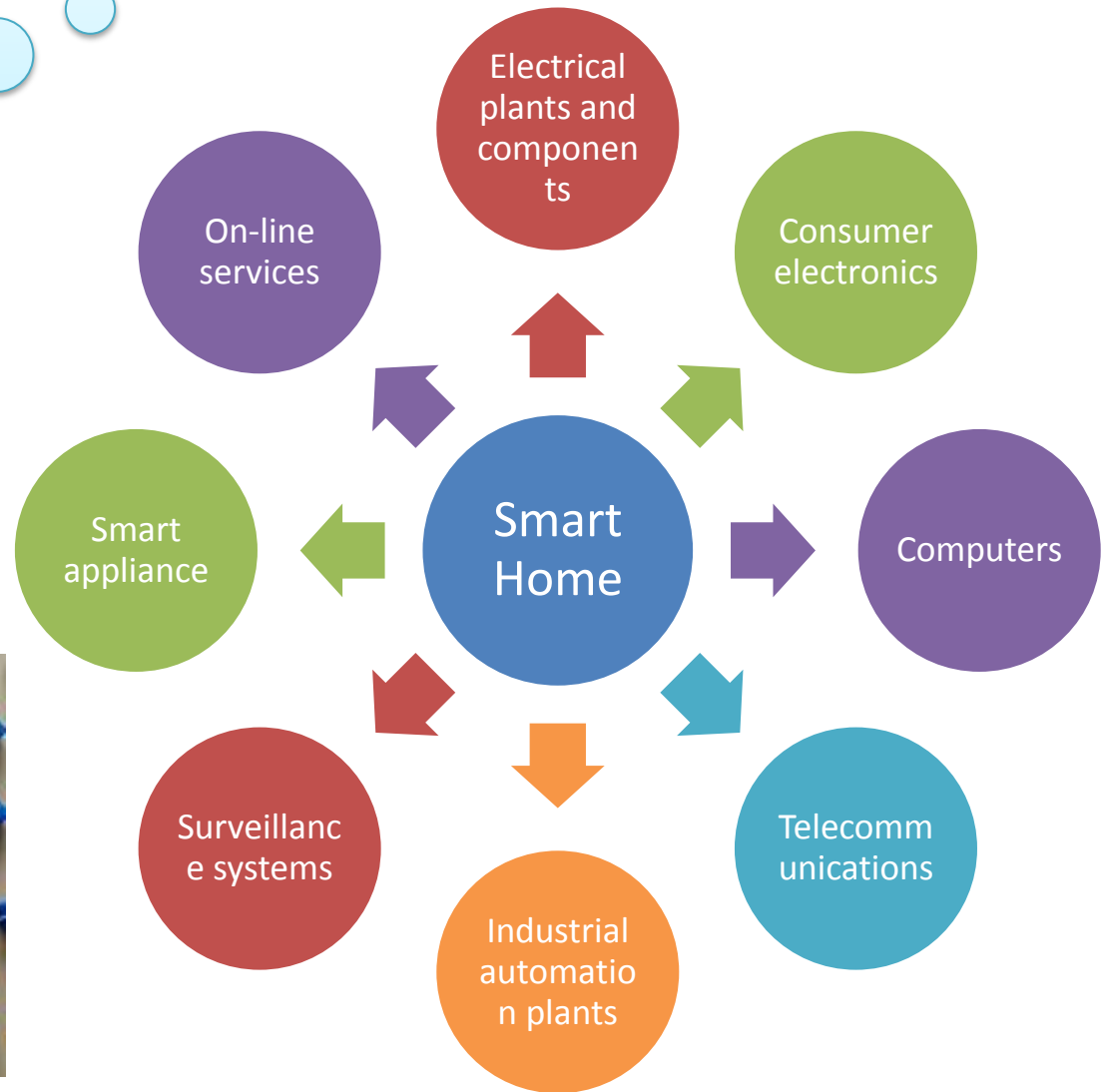


Technology trends

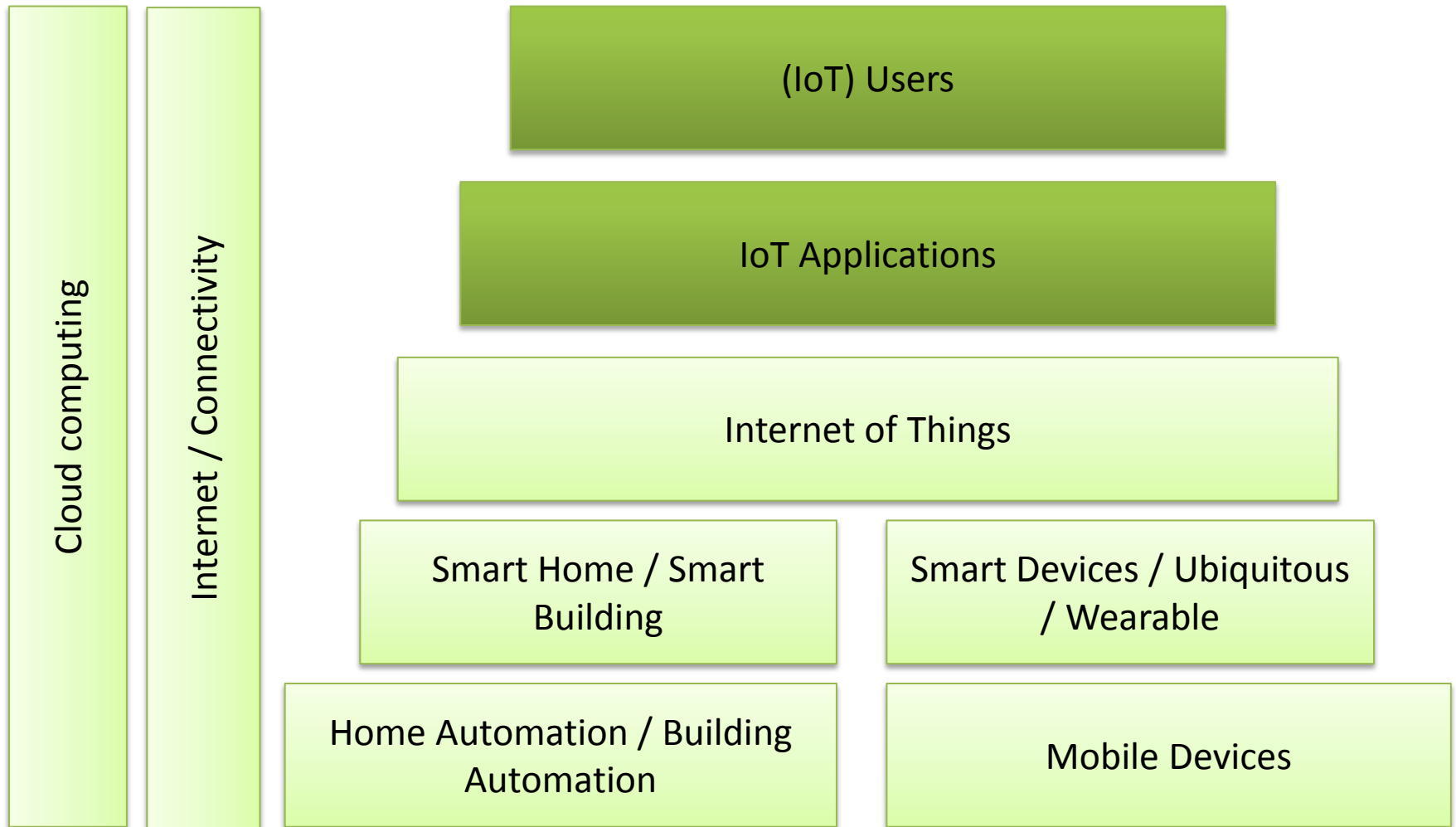


Conquering the user

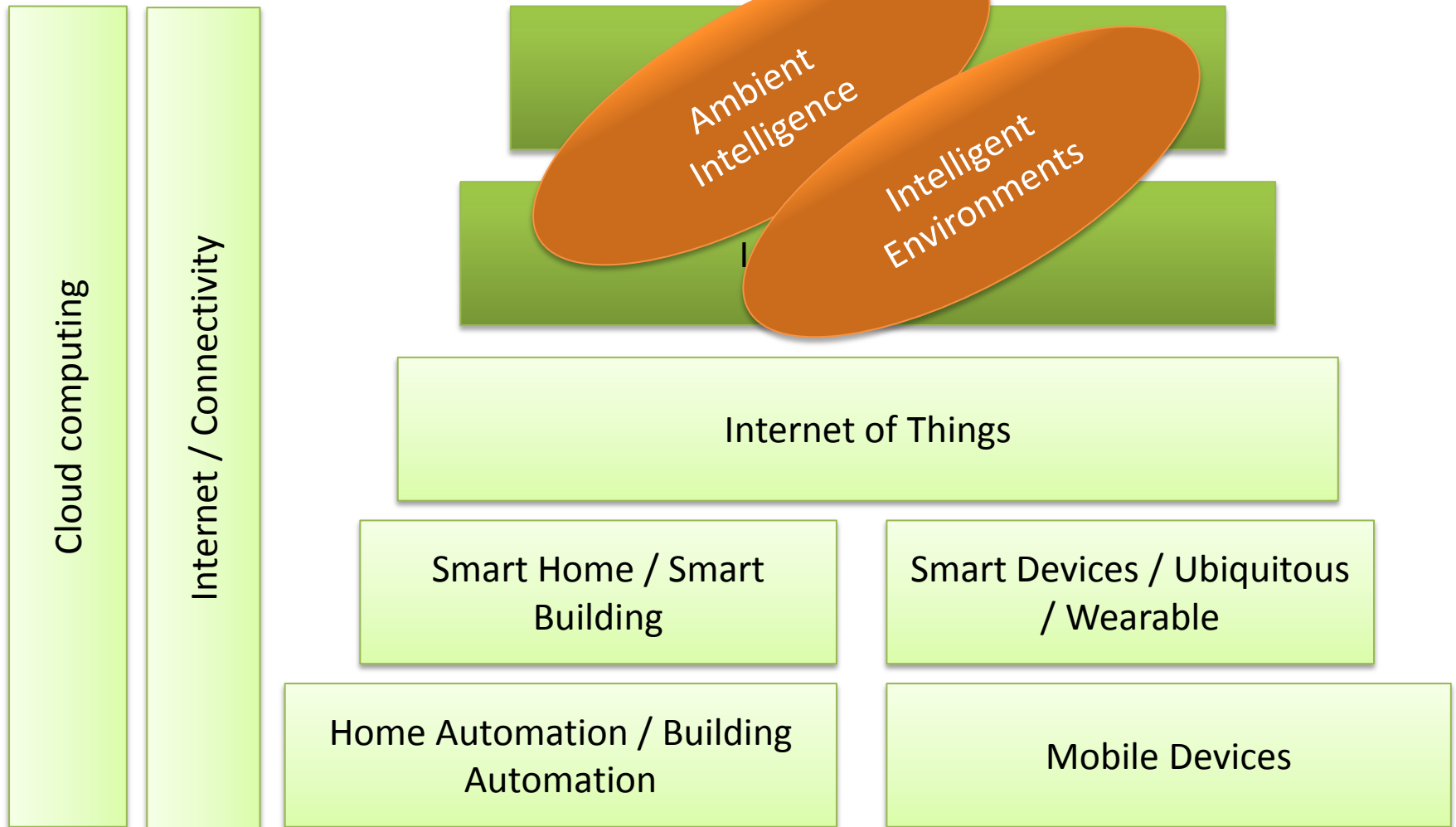
Controlling the smart home market is appealing to producers of...



Technology trends



Where research is...



Definitions and Application Areas

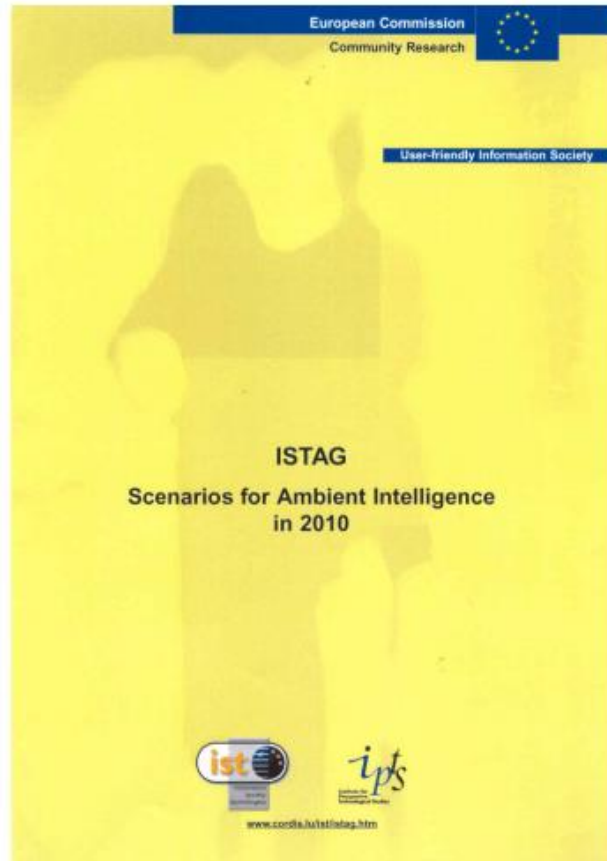
DEFINITION(S)

What is Ambient Intelligence?

- Wide area
- Expectations evolving over time
- “Definition” or “prediction”?

- Multiple definitions found, from complementary points of view
- Some researchers trying to define a common framework

The starting point



Published in 2001

- The concept of Ambient Intelligence (Aml) provides a vision of the Information Society where the emphasis is on **greater user-friendliness**, more efficient **services support**, **user-empowerment**, and support for **human interactions**. People are surrounded by **intelligent intuitive interfaces** that are embedded in all kinds of **objects** and an **environment** that is capable of **recognising** and **responding** to the presence of **different individuals** in a **seamless, unobtrusive** and often **invisible** way.

Some other definitions

Definition

A developing technology that will increasingly make our everyday environment sensitive and responsive to our presence [4].

A potential future in which we will be surrounded by intelligent objects and in which the environment will recognize the presence of persons and will respond to it in an undetectable manner [1].

“Ambient Intelligence” implies intelligence that is all around us [5].

The presence of a digital environment that is sensitive, adaptive, and responsive to the presence of people [6].

A vision of future daily life ...contains the assumption that intelligent technology should disappear into our environment to bring humans an easy and entertaining life [7].

A new research area for distributed, non-intrusive, and intelligent software systems [8]

In an Aml environment people are surrounded with networks of embedded intelligent devices that can sense their state, anticipate, and perhaps adapt to their needs [9].

A digital environment that supports people in their daily lives in a nonintrusive way (Raffler) [10].

Comprehensive Aml definition

- “An **Ambient Intelligence** system is a digital environment that proactively, but sensibly, supports people in their daily lives”

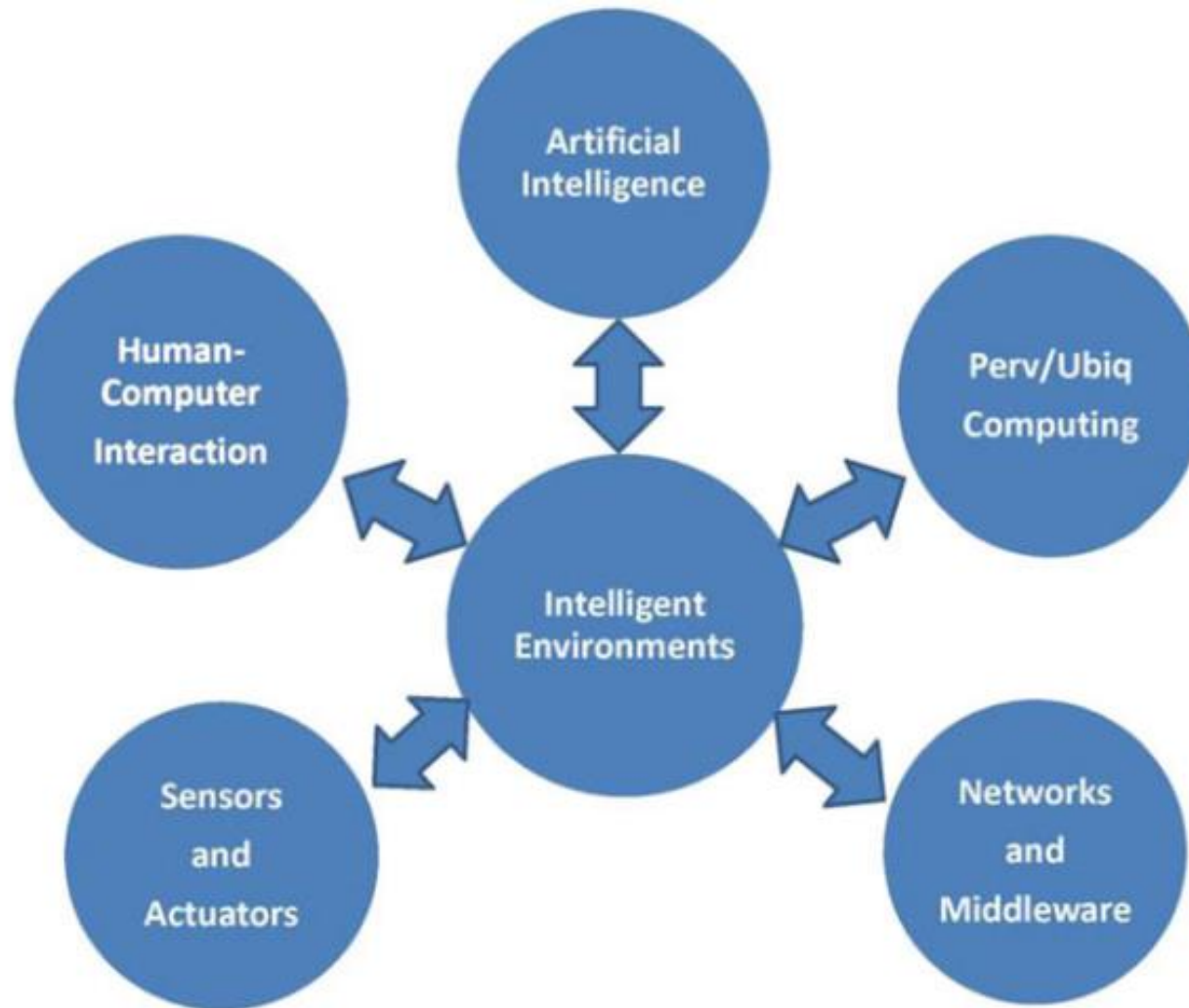
Cook et al, Ambient Intelligence: Technologies, applications and opportunities, 2009

Comprehensive IE definition

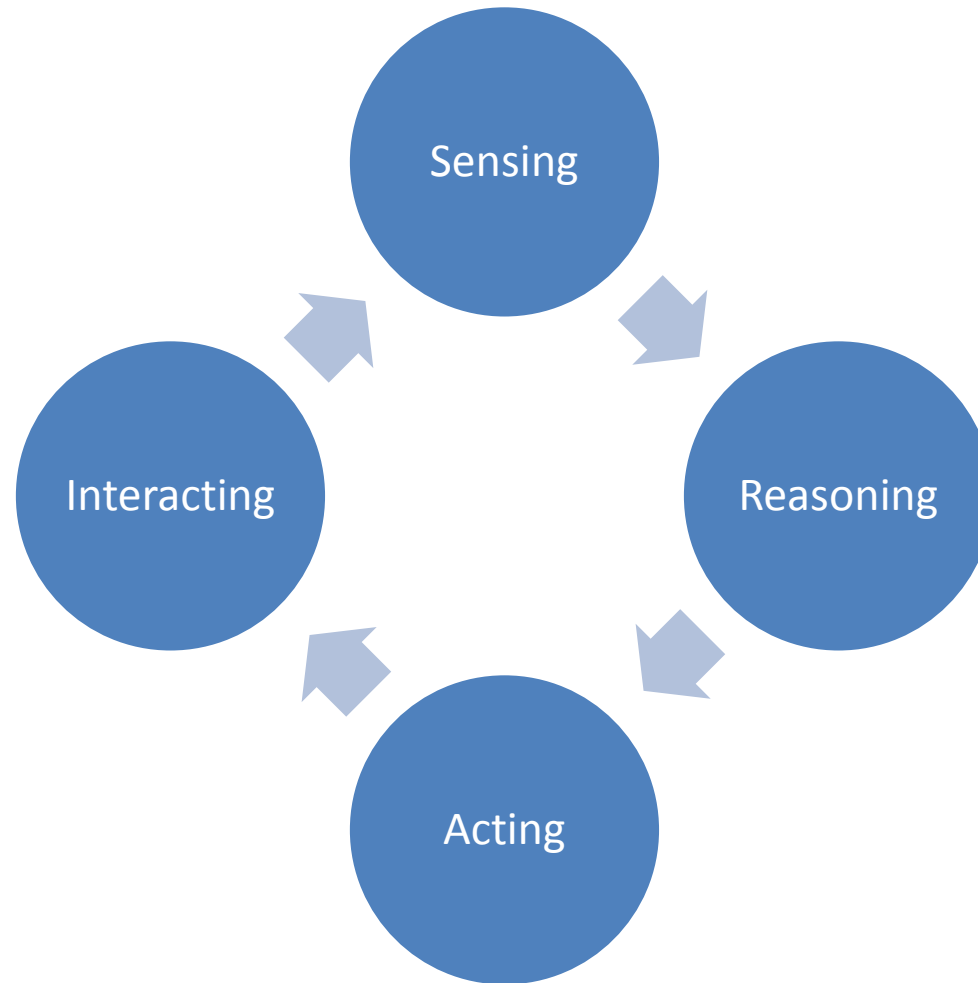
- “An **Intelligent Environment** is one in which the actions of numerous networked controllers (controlling different aspects of an environment) is orchestrated by self-programming pre-emptive processes (e.g., intelligent software agents) in such a way to create an interactive holistic functionality that **enhances occupants experiences.**”

Augusto et al, Intelligent Environments: a Manifesto, 2013

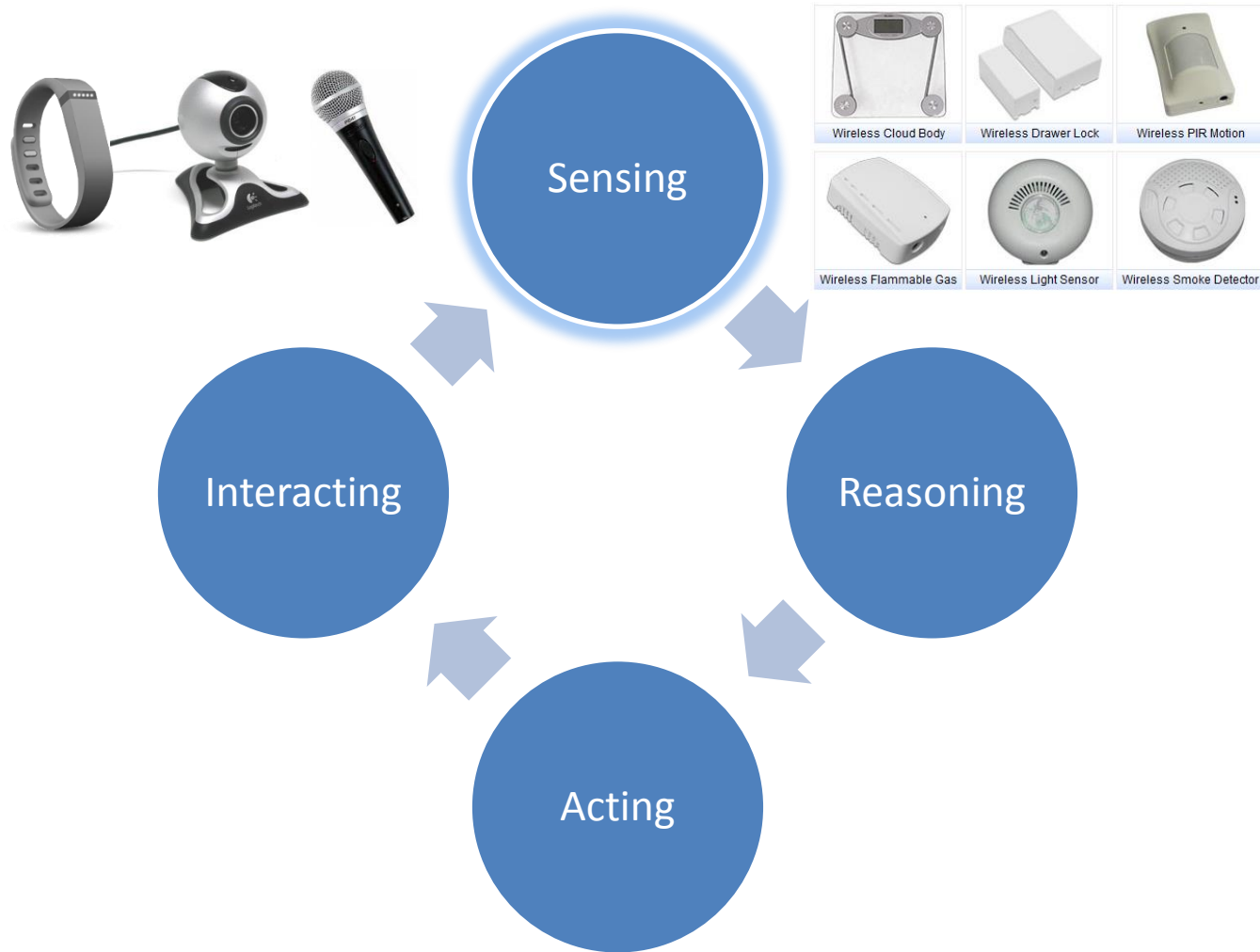
Interactions among disciplines

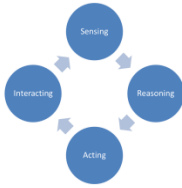


Main steps for Aml



Main steps for Aml





Sensing

- Sensors, sensor networks
 - Wired or wireless
 - Independent or embedded in a device (eg. Smartphone)
- Ambient or body

Sensing type	Common uses
Strain and pressure	Floors, doors, beds, sofas, scales
Position, direction, distance and motion	Security, locator, tracking, falls detection
Light, radiation and temperature	Security, location, tracking, health safety, energy efficiency
Solids, liquids and gases	Security and health, monitoring, pool maintenance, sprinkler efficiency
iButton	Used to identify people and objects
Sound	Security, volume control, speech recognition
Image	Security, identification, context understanding

Examples (ambient, wireless)



Examples (wearable)



Metria™ Informed Health
3-axis accelerometer, Galvanic Skin Response,
2 temperature sensors (body, skin)



Self-tracking
Steps, calories, sleep, distance, ...



<http://www.notchdevice.com/>
Inside clothes
Haptic Feedback
Movement capture



emotivo
you think, therefore, you can



Sensor data

Huge

Noisy

Missing points

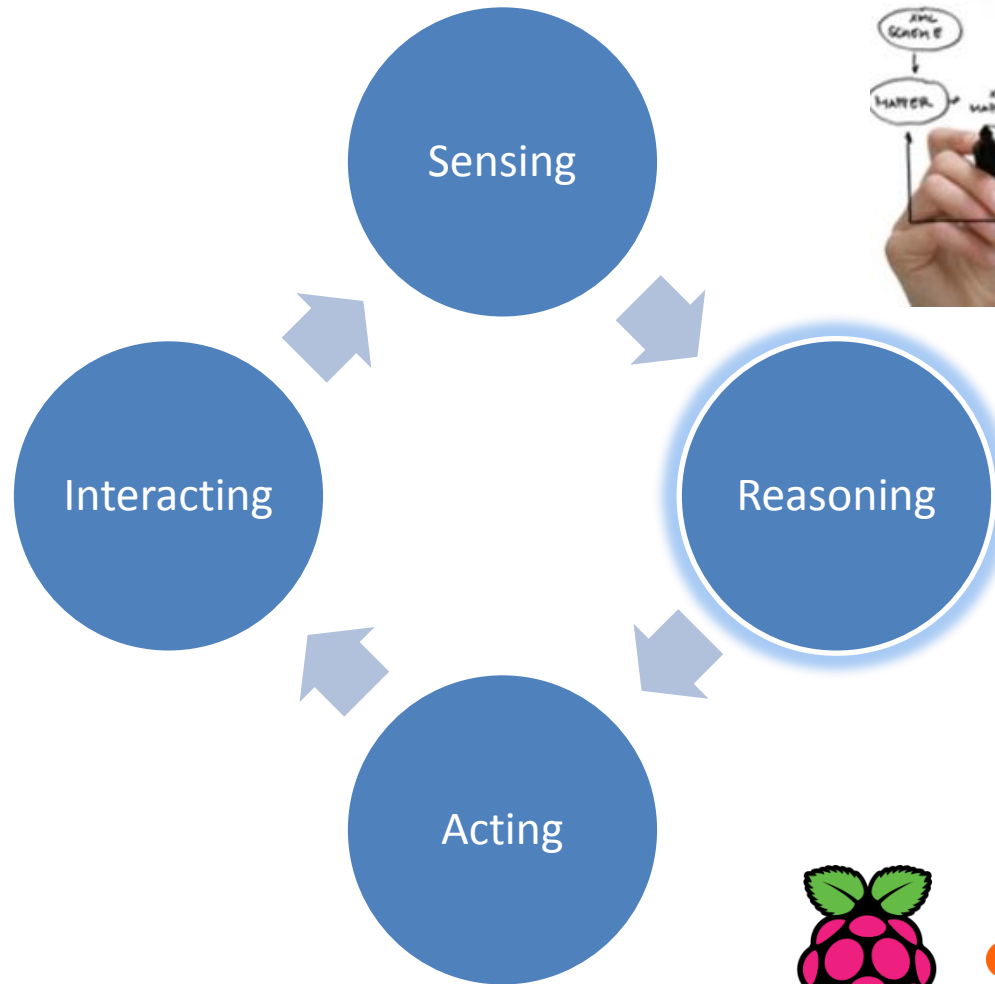
Heterogeneous
measures

Time- & space-
dependent

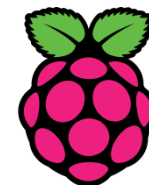
Raw vs.
processed

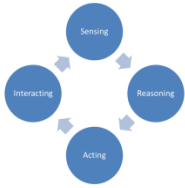
- “Making sense of data”
- Stream data processing
- Signal processing algorithms
- Sensor fusion
- Big data handling
- Filtering, disambiguation, interpretation

Main steps for Aml



{JSON}

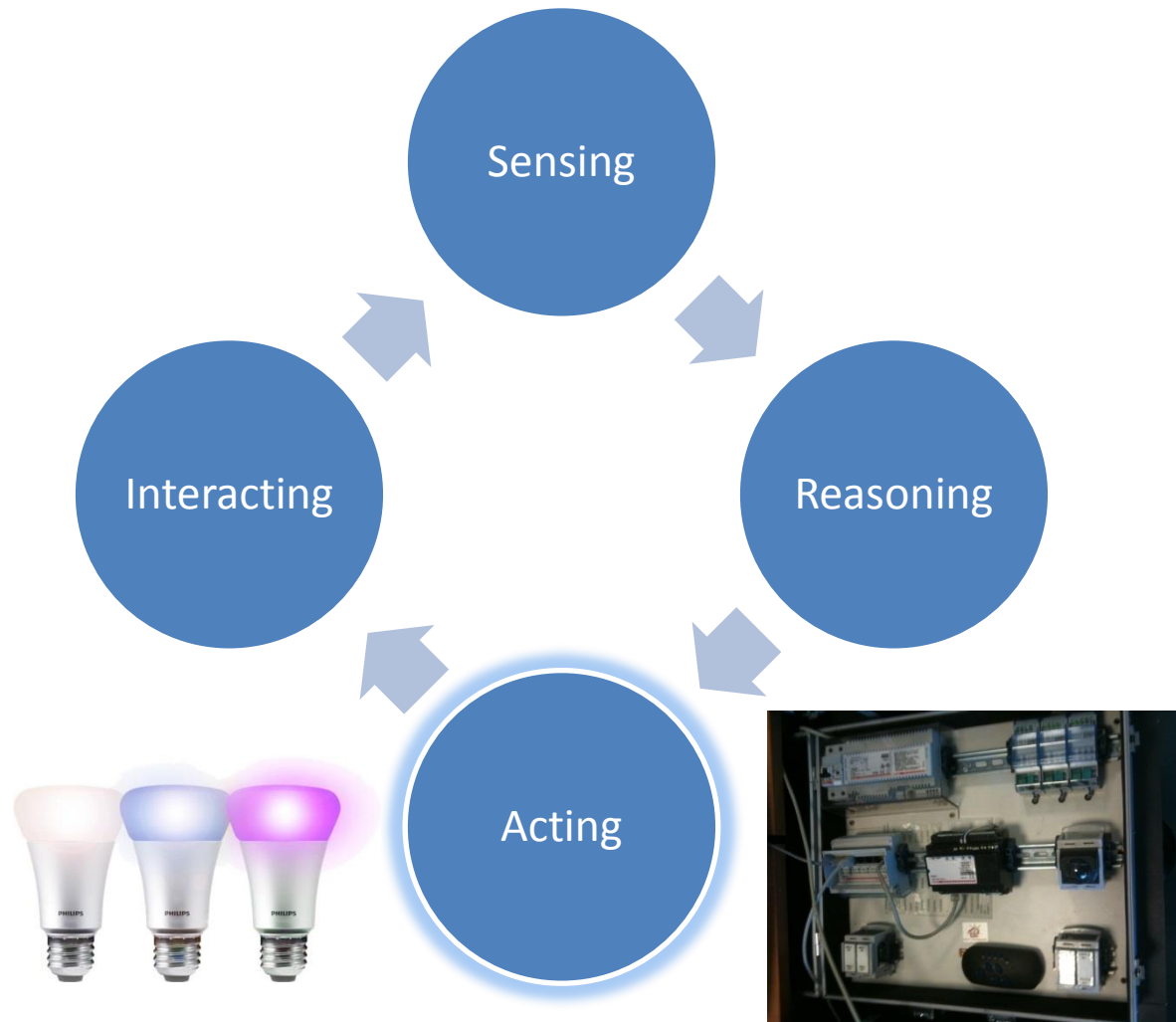


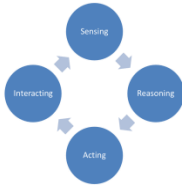


Reasoning

- Needed to provide responsiveness and adaptability
- Interpret and recognize context and activity
- User modeling, context modeling
- Context detection and context awareness
- Mobility tracking
- Activity recognition, activity prediction
- Decision making
 - Acting vs. suggesting
- Centralized vs. Distributed

Main steps for Aml





Acting

- Home automation systems (lights, doors, windows, temperature, ...)
- User Interfaces or Wearable devices (notifications, information, alerting, ...)
- Robots



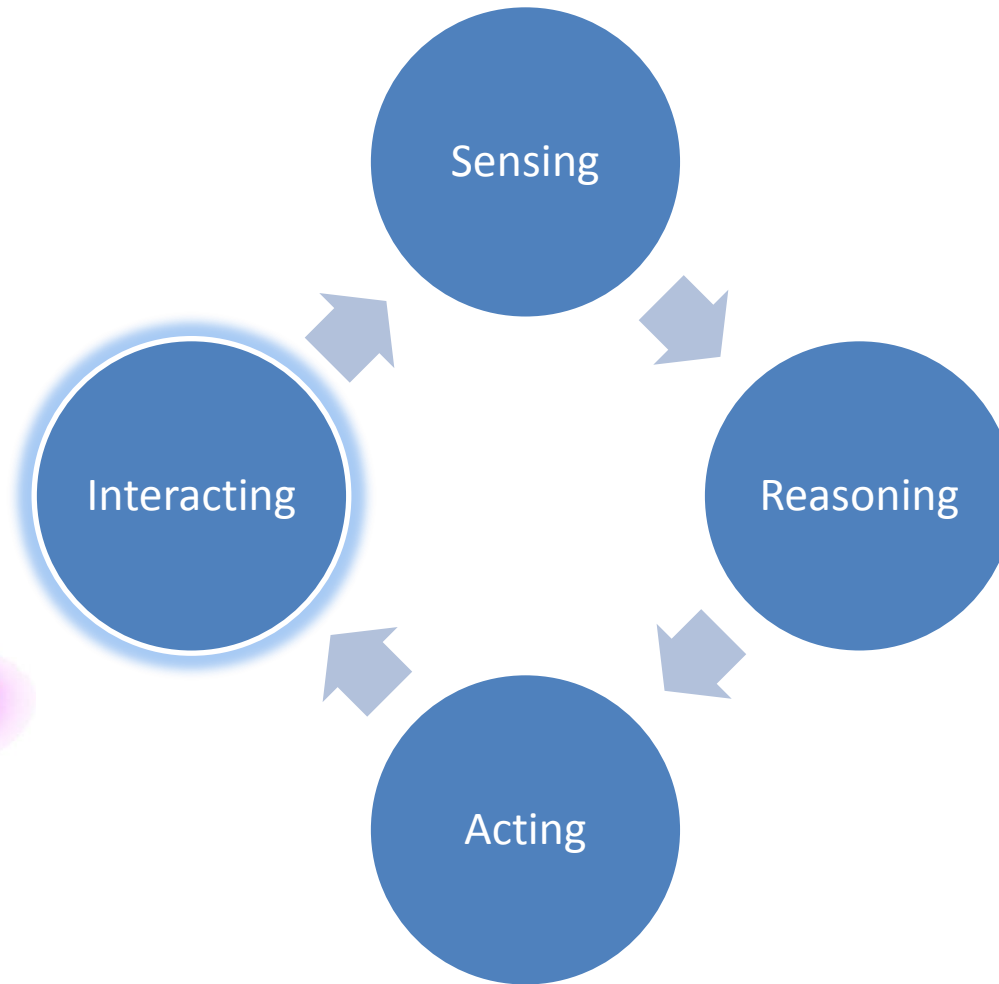
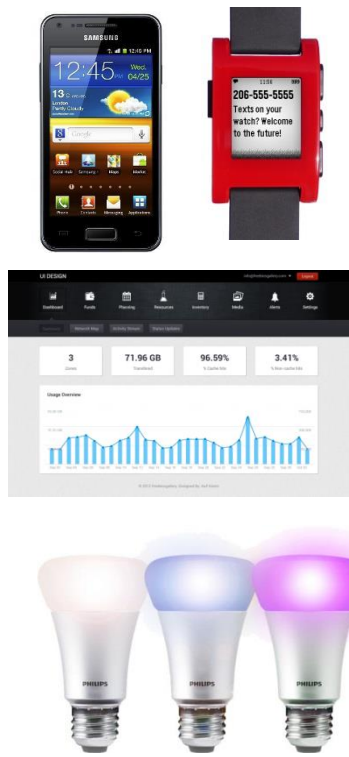
2014/2015

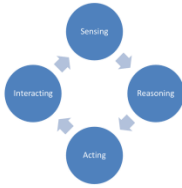
Ambient intelligence: technology and design



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Main steps for Aml





Interacting with users

- Traditional user interfaces
 - Web, mobile
- Home fixtures
- Natural user interfaces
 - Speech, gestures, body motion tracking, emotions, facial expressions, attention, ...
 - Interaction bypasses ICT equipment (“disappearing computer”)
- **Should be** the most important aspect of an Aml, but...



Don't push technologies



#IoT: The Internet of Things and Humans

The IoT requires thinking about how humans and things cooperate differently when things get smarter.

by Tim O'Reilly | @timoreilly | +Tim O'Reilly | Comments: 9 | April 16, 2014

<http://radar.oreilly.com/2014/04/ioth-the-internet-of-things-and-humans.html>



Most of what we need for smart cities already exists

Culture, play, and an emphasis on fair use will help smart cities take root.

by Glen Martin | @GlenWM5440 | +Glen Martin | Comments: 1 | May 1, 2014

<http://radar.oreilly.com/2014/05/most-of-what-we-need-for-smart-cities-already-exists.html>

Related Buzzwords...

- IoT – Internet of Things
 - Physical objects are part of the Internet infrastructure. Objects are capable of interacting with other objects
- M2M – Machine to machine communication
 - Technologies that allow both wireless and wired systems to communicate with other devices of the same type
- IoE – Internet of Everything
 - The Internet of Everything is the networked connection of people, process, data, and things (Cisco)
- Smart Homes, Domotics
 - Today's solutions, with limited or no intelligence

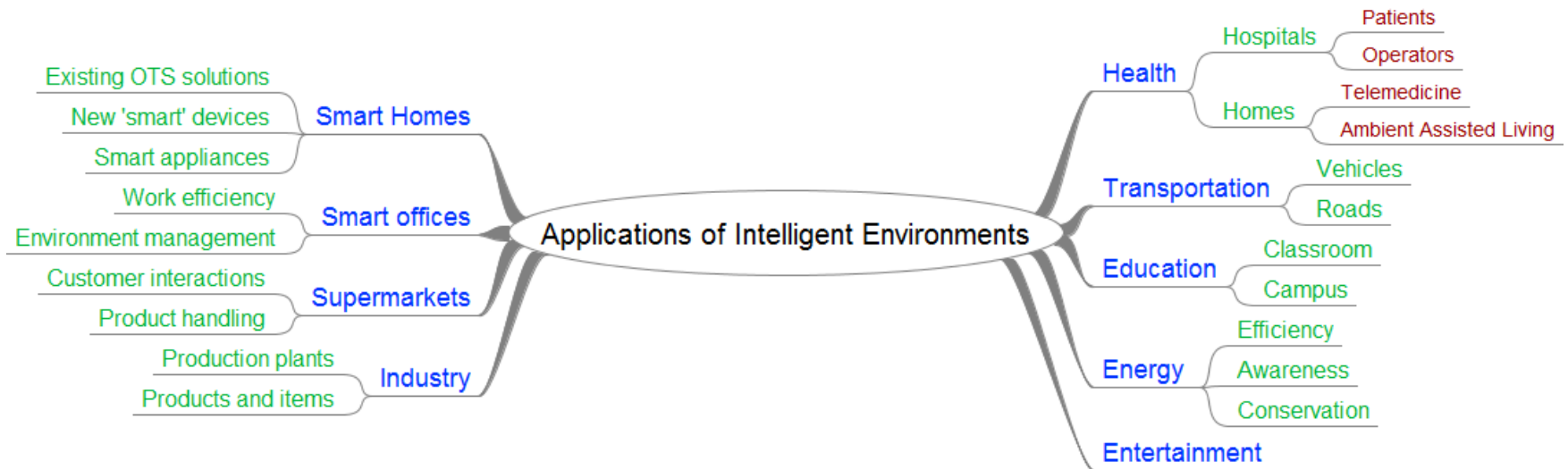
Definitions and Application Areas

APPLICATION AREAS

Application areas

- The general principles are applicable to different types of environments
 - Private homes
 - Public/shared buildings
 - Open spaces
- The type of applications is extremely varied
- The approach and many founding technologies are shared across application domains

Some application areas



Note:
Just “Smart” or
Really “Intelligent” ?

A recent example...



<https://nest.com/>

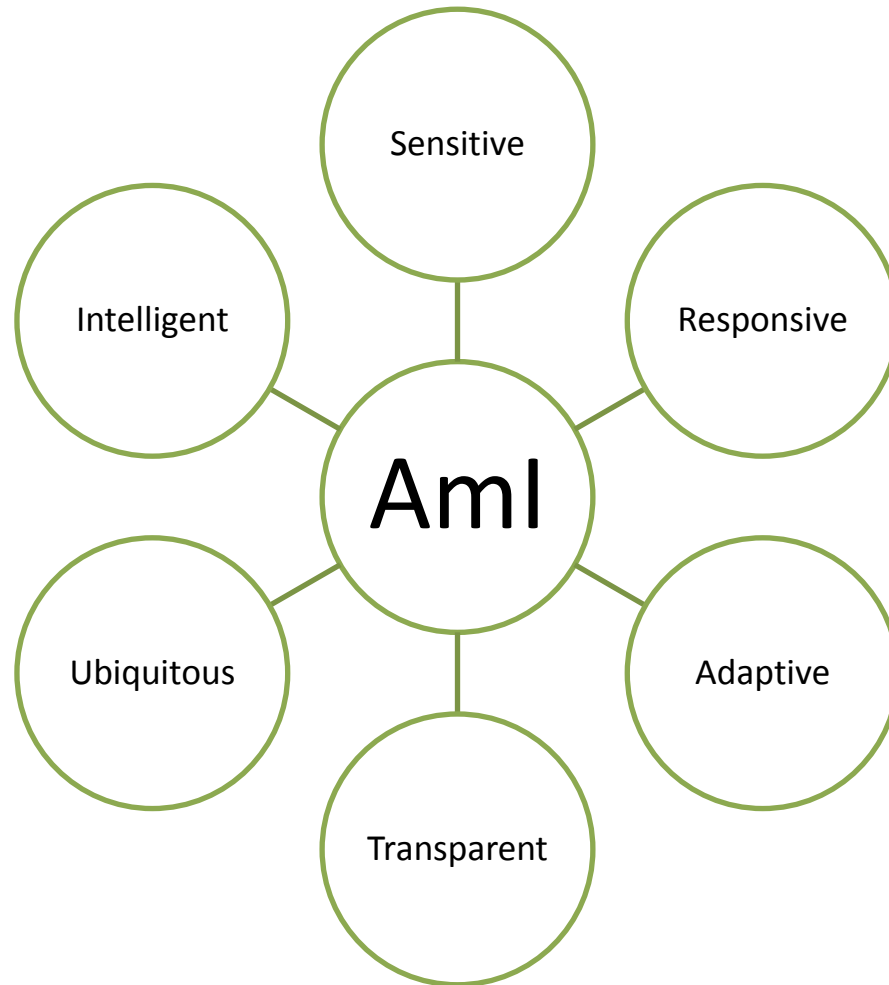
Definitions and Application Areas

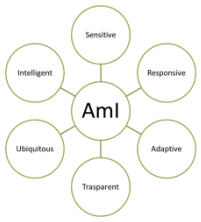
REQUESTED FEATURES

Features

- What are the features characterizing an Aml system?
- What is really an “intelligent” system, versus a “smart” one, versus an “automated” one?
- What characteristics are implied by the Aml definition(s)?

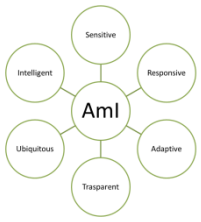
Features





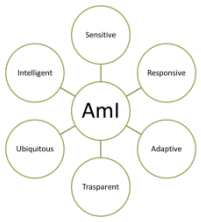
Sensitive & Responsive

- Able to sense
 - The environment
 - The occupants
- Able to process sensor data
- Able to respond to user needs
- Able to act on the environment



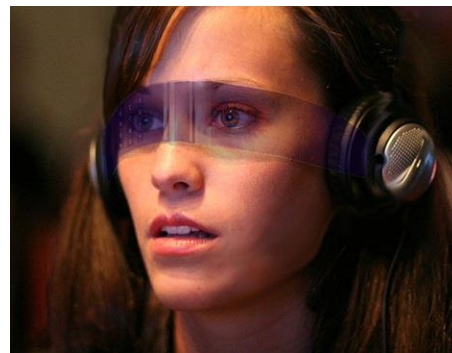
Adaptive

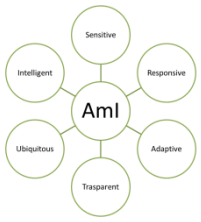
- Able to infer a situational context
 - From environment data
 - From user data (identity, presence, actions, ...)
 - From statistics and preferences
 - From external information sources
- Able to adapt to the context
 - the interpretation of sensing
 - the generated response
- «Context-Aware Computing»



Transparent

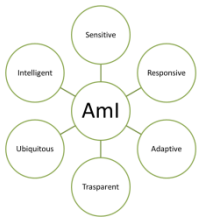
- «The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it» (Weiser, 1991)
- «Disappearing computer»





Ubiquitous

- Ubiquitous Computing, Pervasive Computing
 - Ubiquitous: present, appearing, found everywhere
 - Pervasive: spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people
- Able to be distributed over the ambient and over different people
- Requires mobility, miniaturization, wireless communications, energy management
- Requires interoperability, discovery, self-configuration



Intelligent

- Incorporates Artificial Intelligence:
 - Machine learning, agent-based software, robotics
 - Hearing, vision, language, knowledge processing
 - Semantic web, reasoning
- AI is an enabler for achieving context awareness, adaptivity, proactive responsiveness

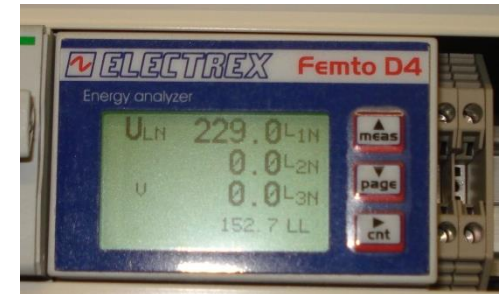
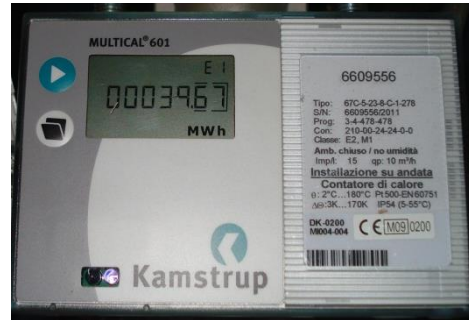
Definitions and Application Areas

ARCHITECTURES

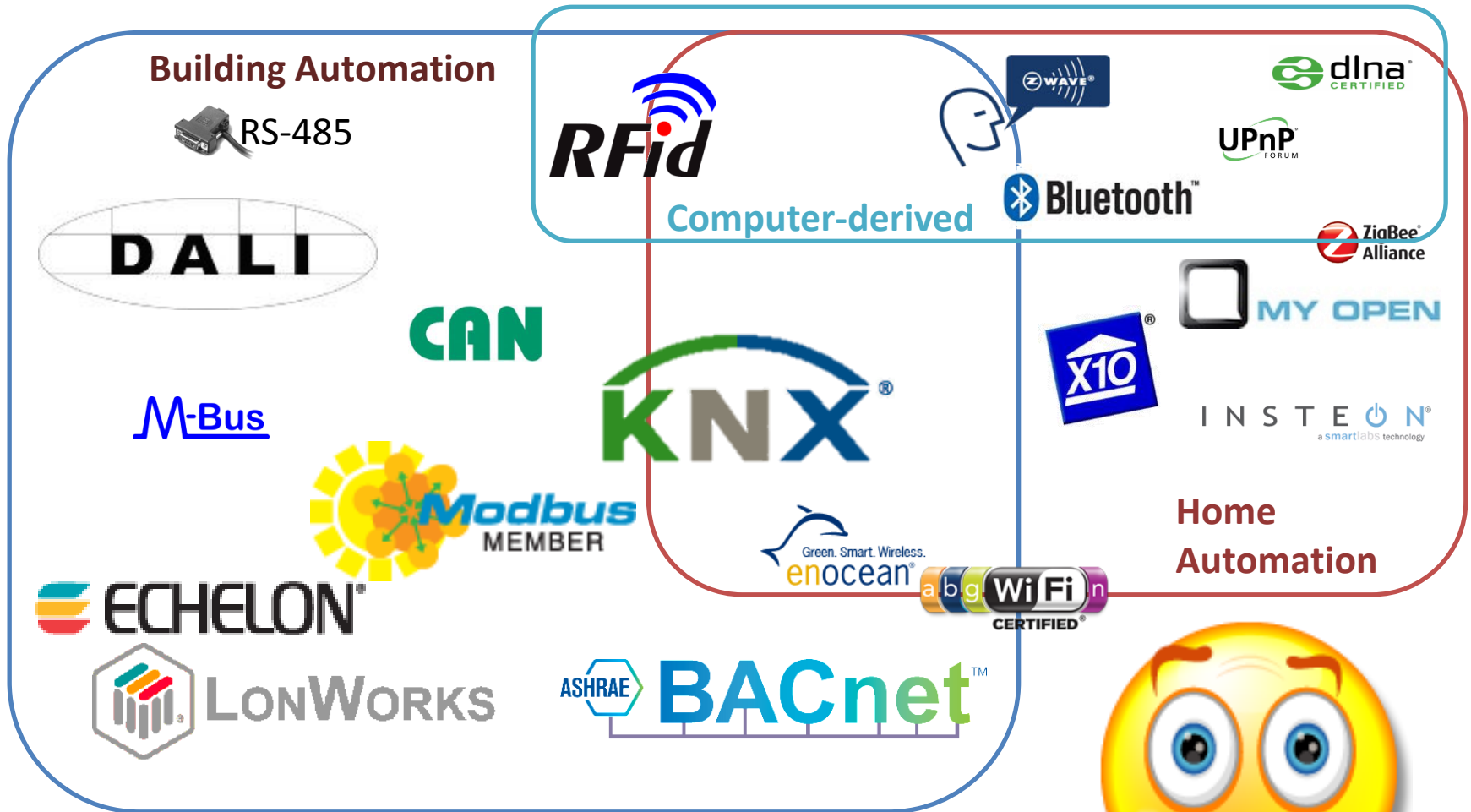
Aml requires complex systems

- Drawing from many different fields of Computer Science and Electronics
- Requiring the most advanced solutions for integrating such diverse and numerous subsystems and devices
- Needing to switch from one-off prototypes to scalable, reusable, plug&play, industrially robust solutions
- Industries and researchers need to play together with standardization initiatives
- Need to (re)gain the central role of end users

Home automation technologies

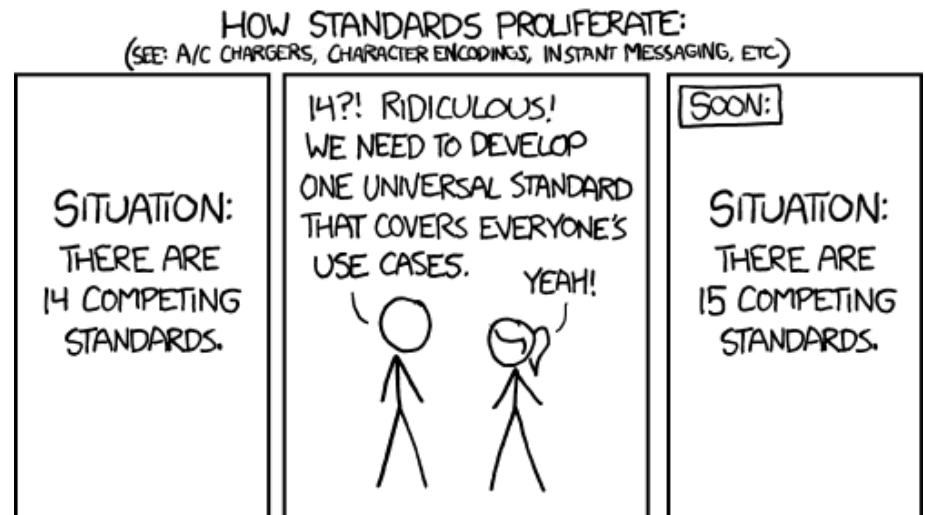


Home automation technologies



Standards?

- Users are in the hands of manufacturers
- Technologies and protocols
 - Don't interoperate
 - Rapid obsolescence
 - Don't trust new «Universal Standards»

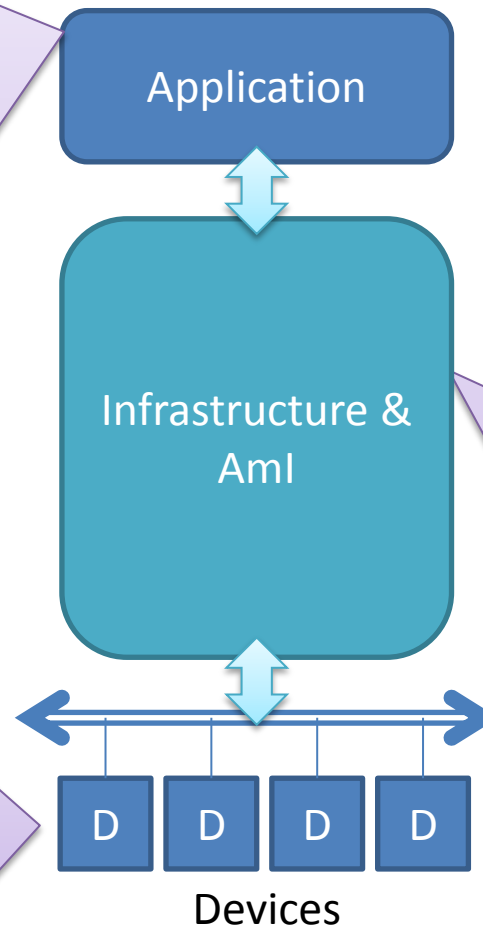


<http://xkcd.com/927/>

System overview

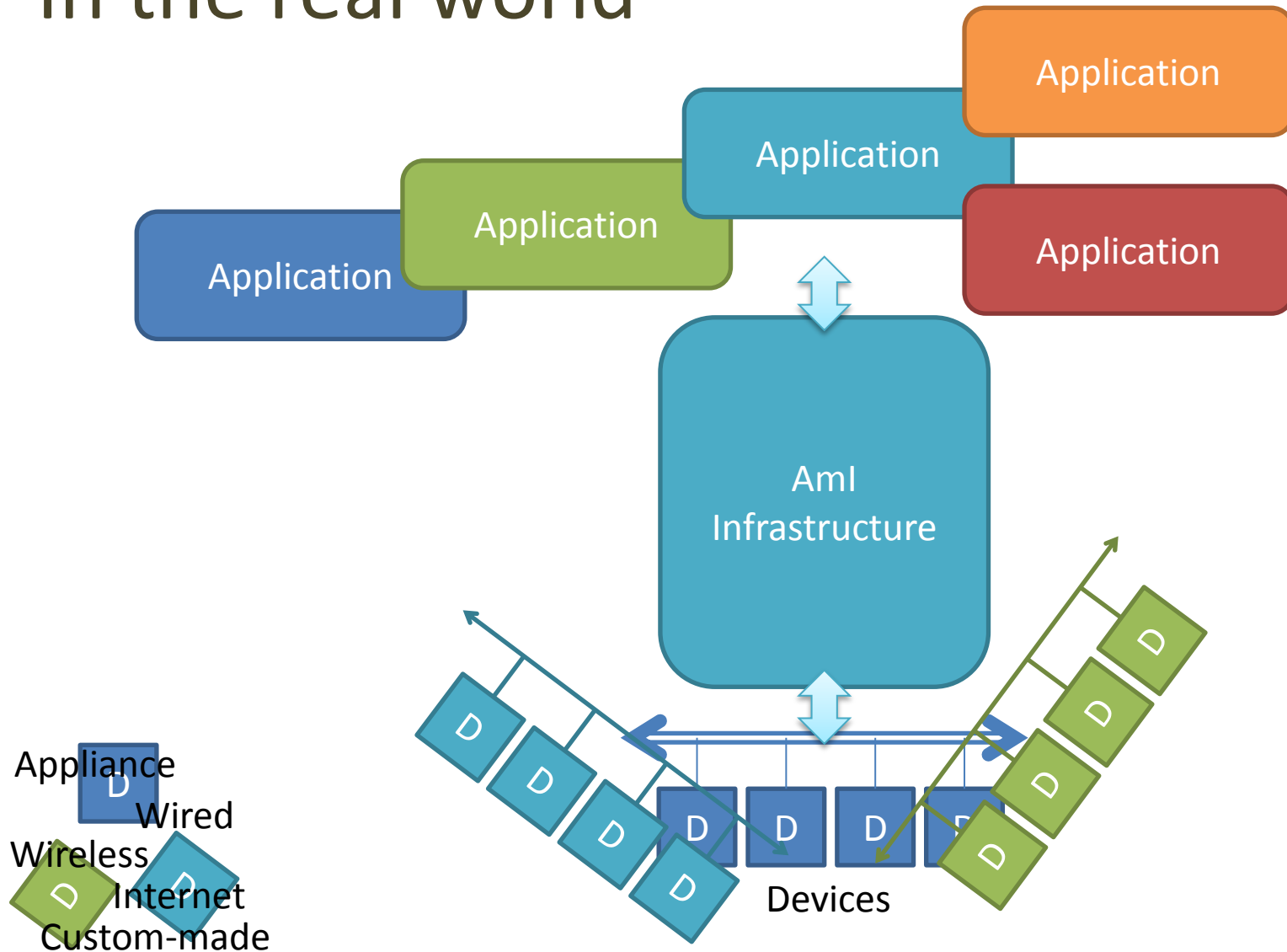
- **Dashboard** (visualization, monitoring, ...)
- **Historical data** (storage, querying, warehouses, ...)
- **Alarms** (anomalies, thresholds, ...)
- **Remote control** (actuation, [de]activate actions, set-points, ...)
- **Trends** (historical data analysis, real-time data analysis)
- **Real time computations** (computing derived values, virtual sensors, ...)
- **Ambient intelligence** (comfort, energy saving, scenarios, dynamic adaptation, ...)
- **Integration** with information systems

- **Ambient sensors** (temperature, humidity, CO2, pollutants, illumination, wind, ...)
- **User sensors** (presence, movement, accesses, ...)
- **Energy meters** (electrical energy and power, gas and water usage, ...)
- **Actuators** (relays, valves, motors, displays, ...)
- **Automation Systems**
- Types of **interconnection**



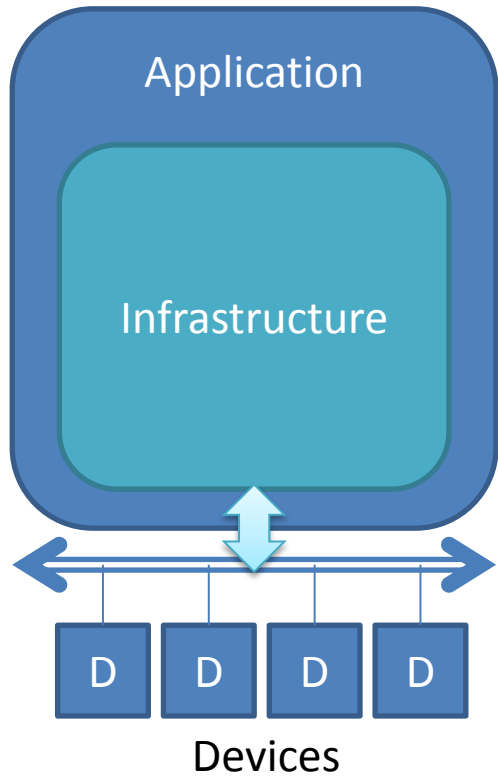
- **Sensor Technologies**
- **Communication protocols**
- **Scale** (local, geographic)
- **Number of devices**
- **Sampling Frequencies**
- **Security/ authentication**
- **Data types**
- **Bidirezional**
- **Data Encoding**
- **Polling / Pushing**

In the real world

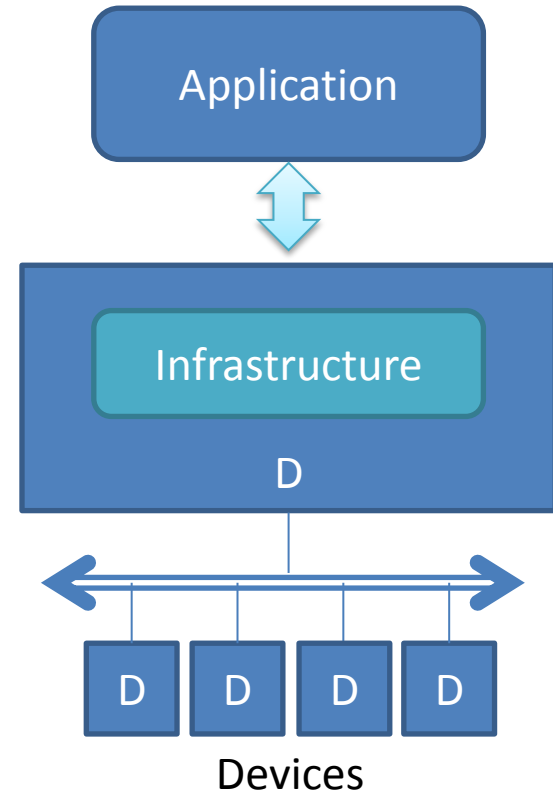


Errors to avoid

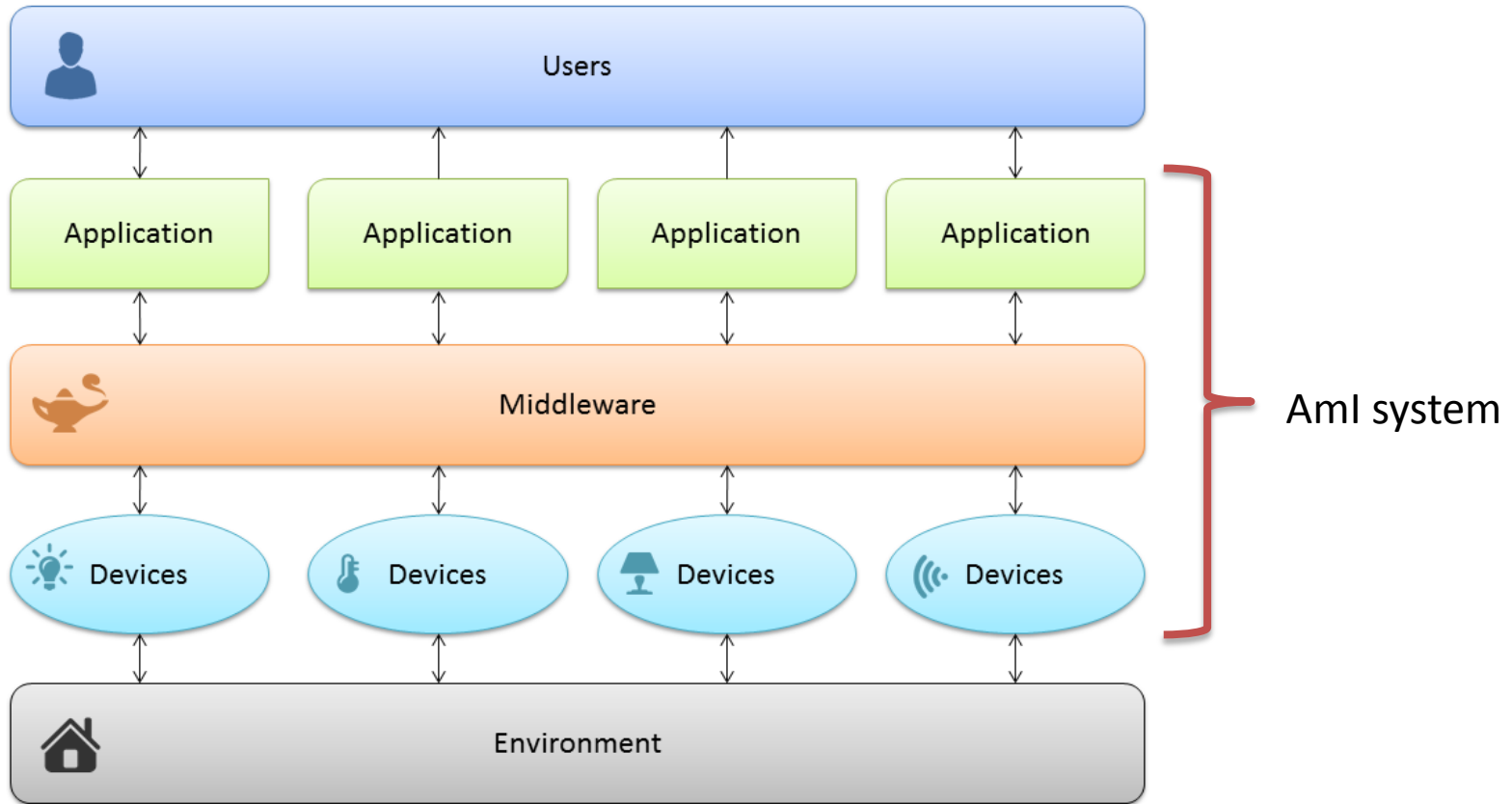
«All you can eat» application



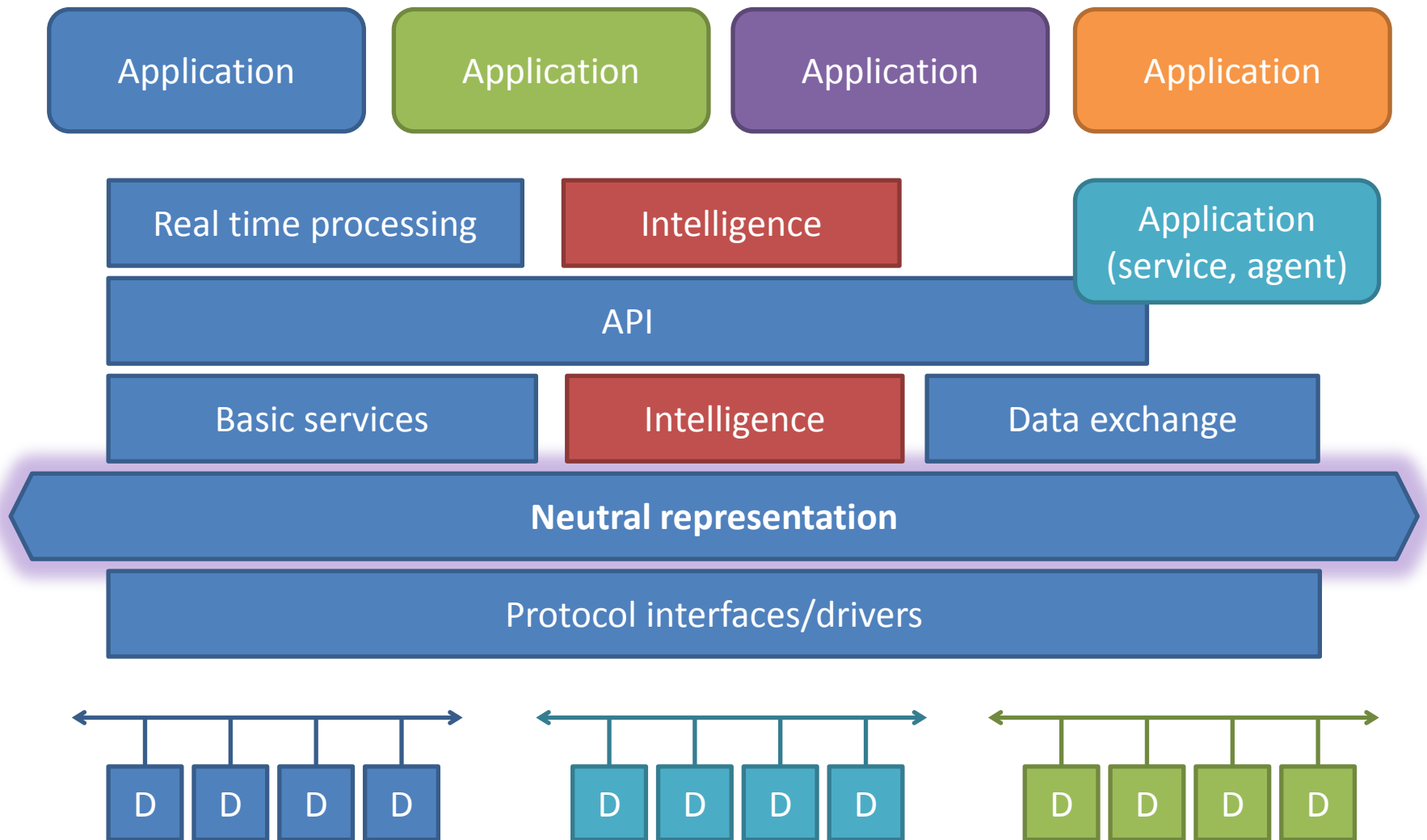
The «tooooo smart gateway»



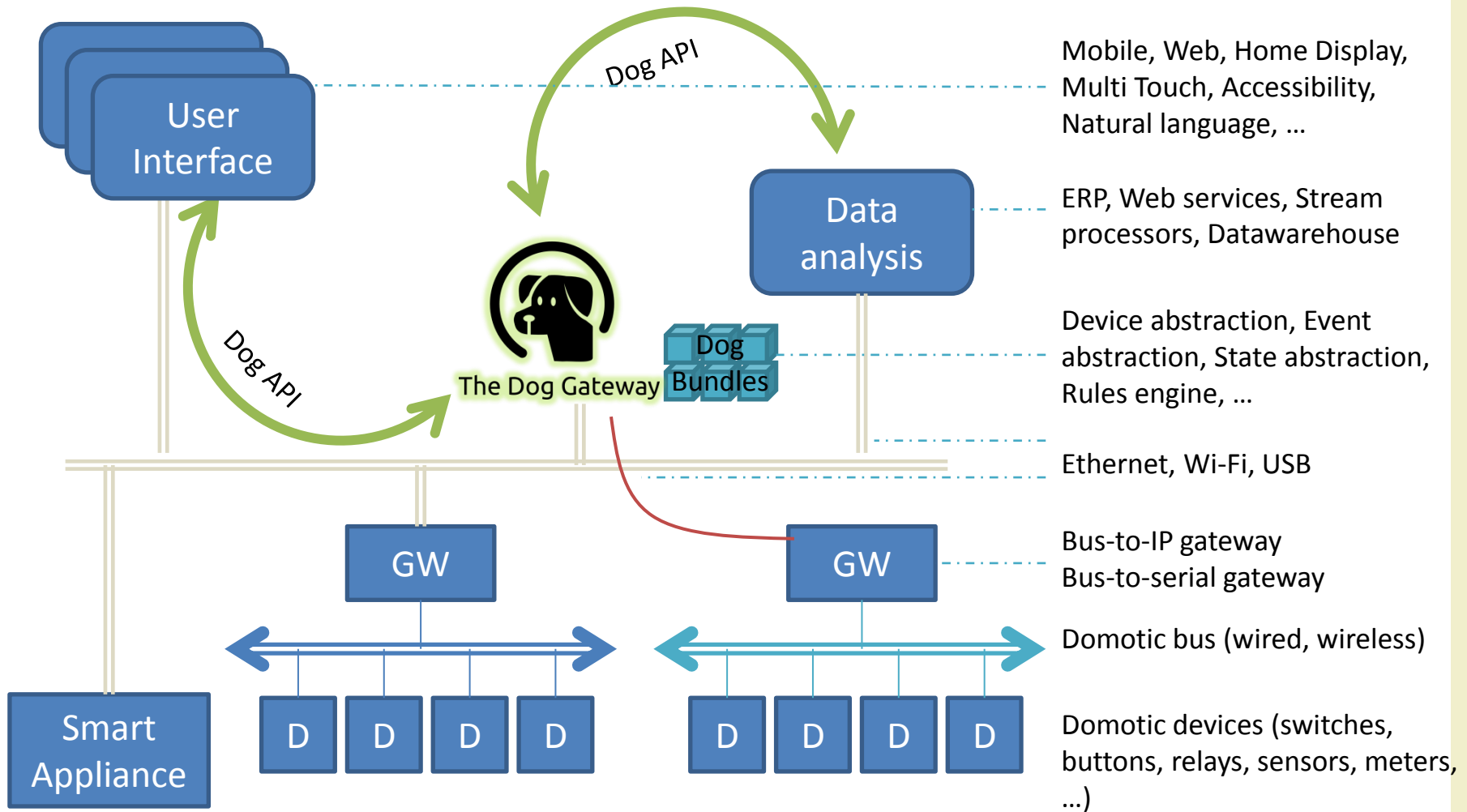
Target approach



Open Horizontal Aml Architectures



An example middleware



Resources

- Scenarios for Ambient Intelligent in 2010, ISTAG Group, 2001
- Smart Environments: Technology, Protocols and Applications, DJ Cook, S Das, John Wiley & Sons, 2004
- How smart are our environments? An updated look at the state of the art, DJ Cook, SK Das - Pervasive and mobile computing, 2007
- Ambient intelligence: Technologies, applications, and opportunities, DJ Cook, JC Augusto, VR Jakkula - Pervasive and Mobile Computing, 2009
- Intelligent environments: a manifesto, JC Augusto, V Callaghan, D Cook, A Kameas, I Satoh - Human-centric Computing and Information Sciences, 2013
- Ambient Intelligence: A Survey, F Sadri, ACM Comput. Surv., October 2011

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