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# Definitions of Ambient Intelligence

## 01QZP Ambient intelligence

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Politecnico di Torino, 2015/2016



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



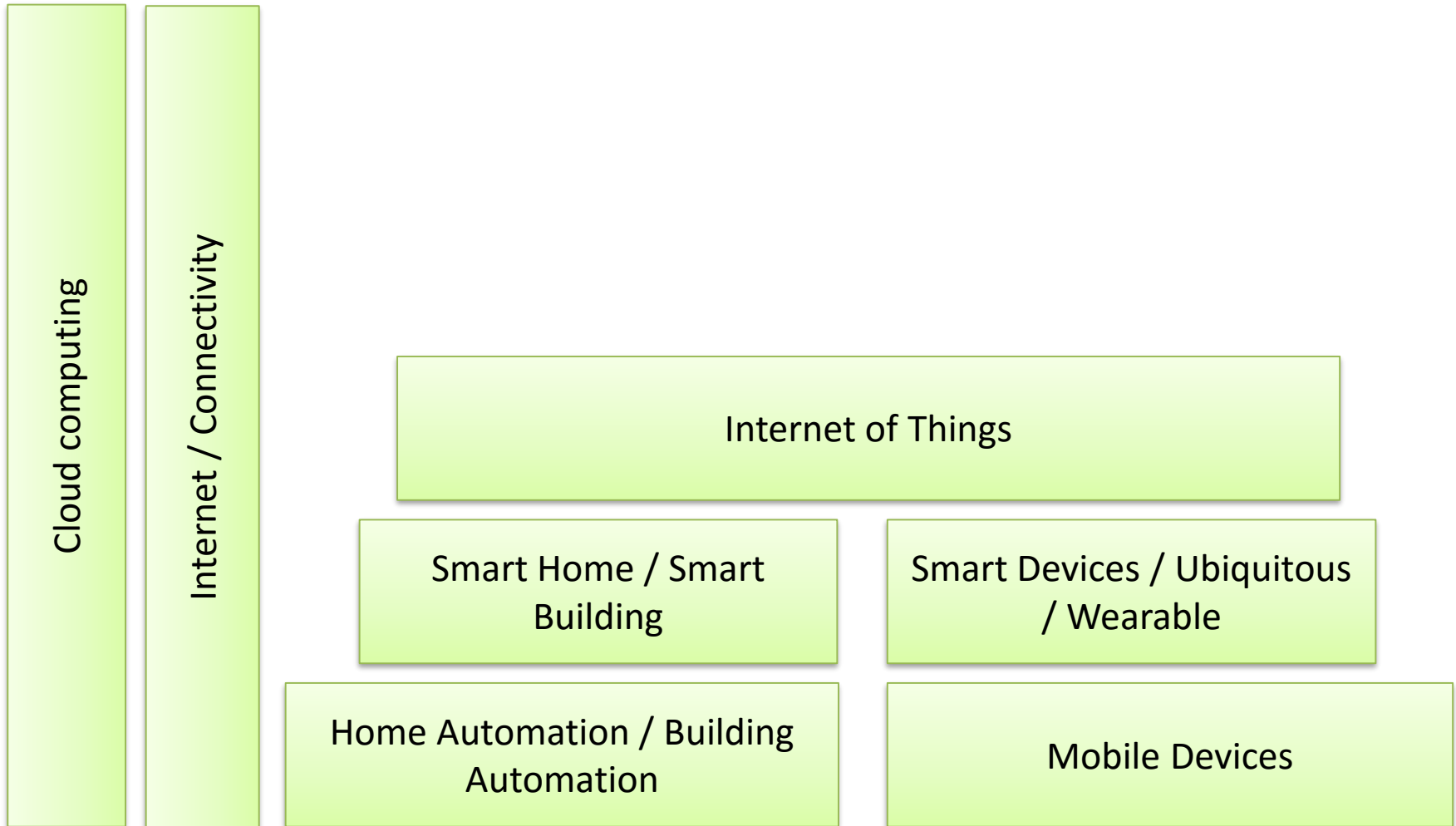
# Summary

- Technology trends
- Definition(s)
- Requested features

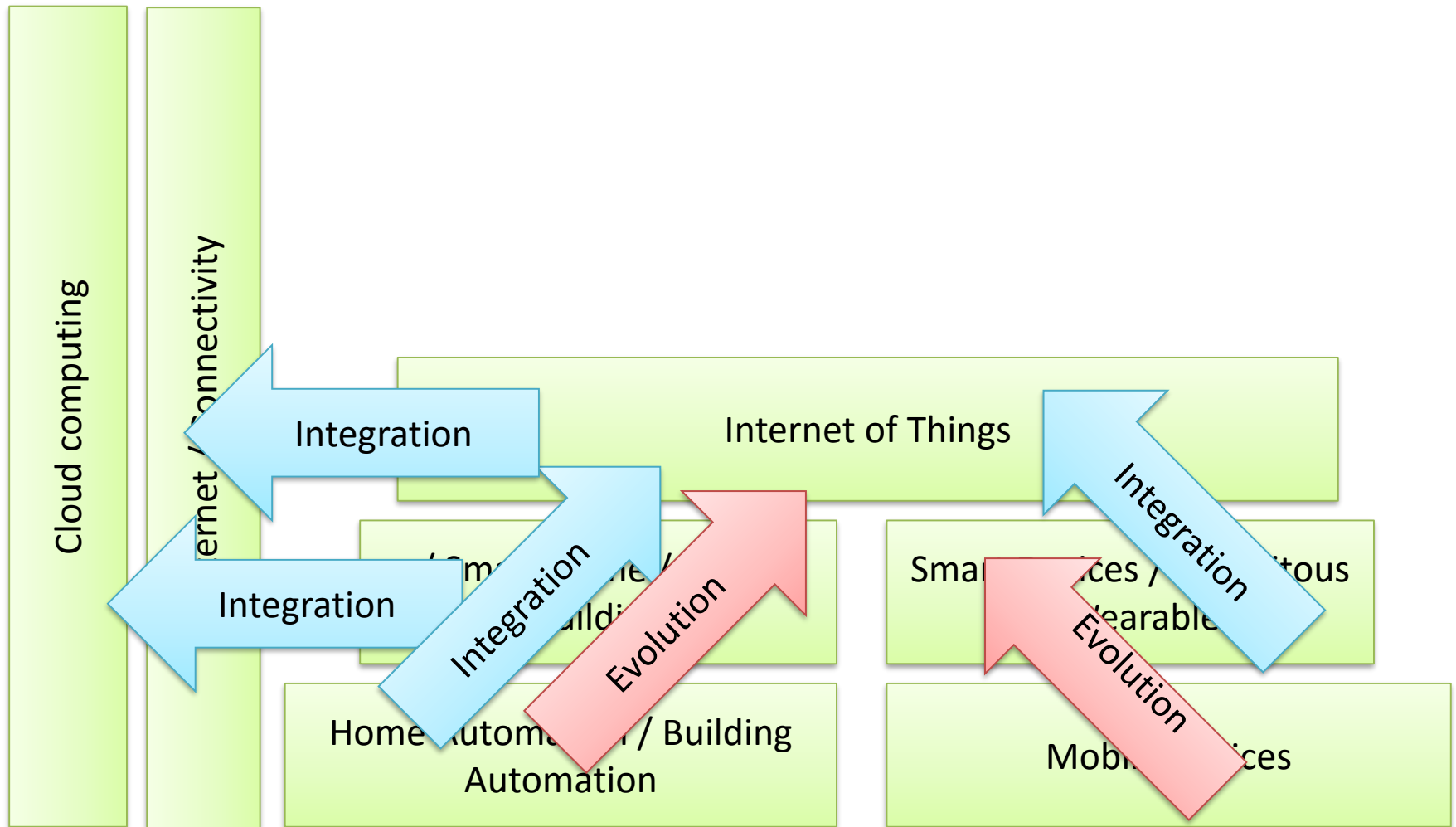
Definitions and Application Areas

# **TECHNOLOGY TRENDS**

# Technology trends

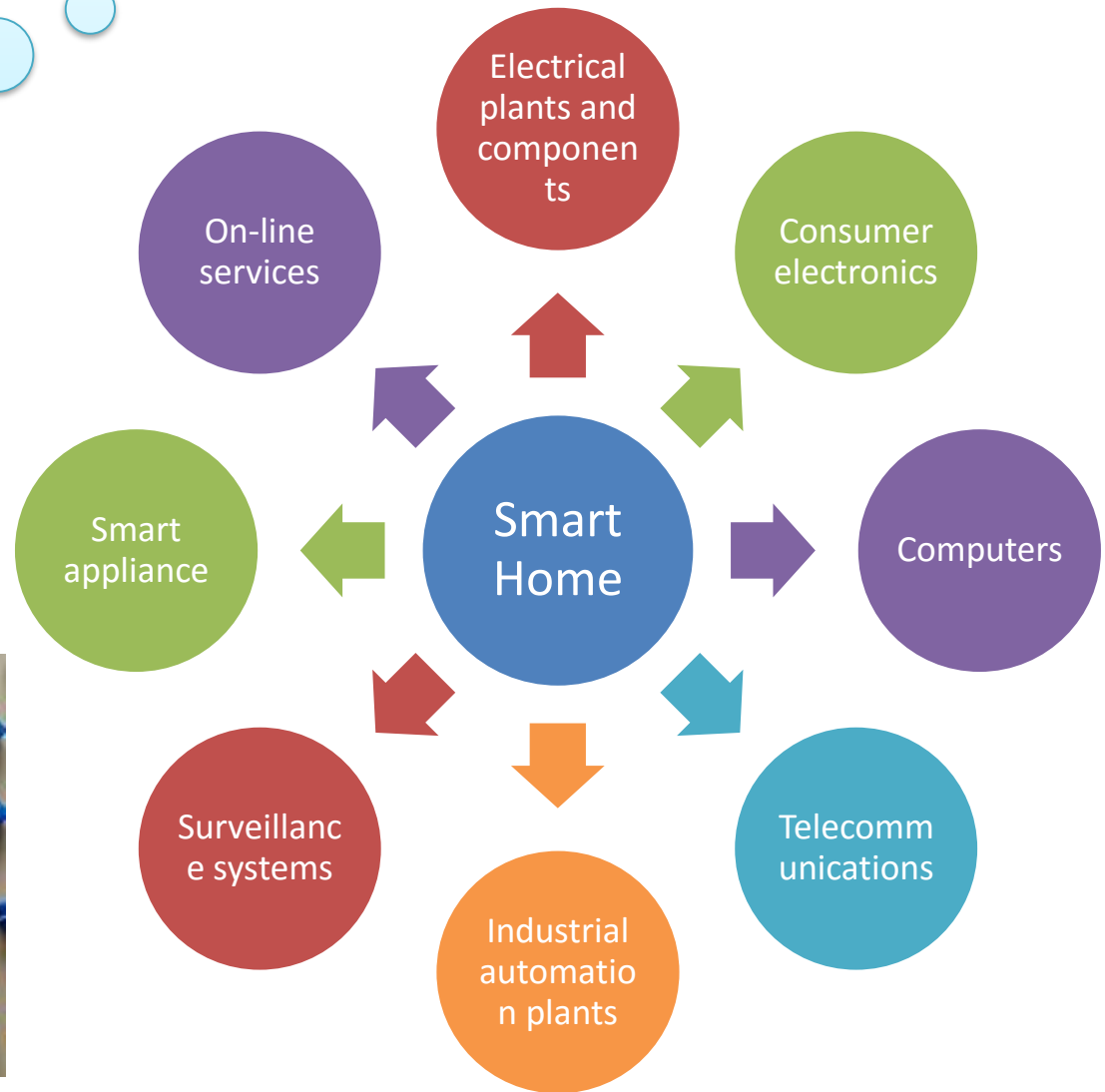


# Technology trends

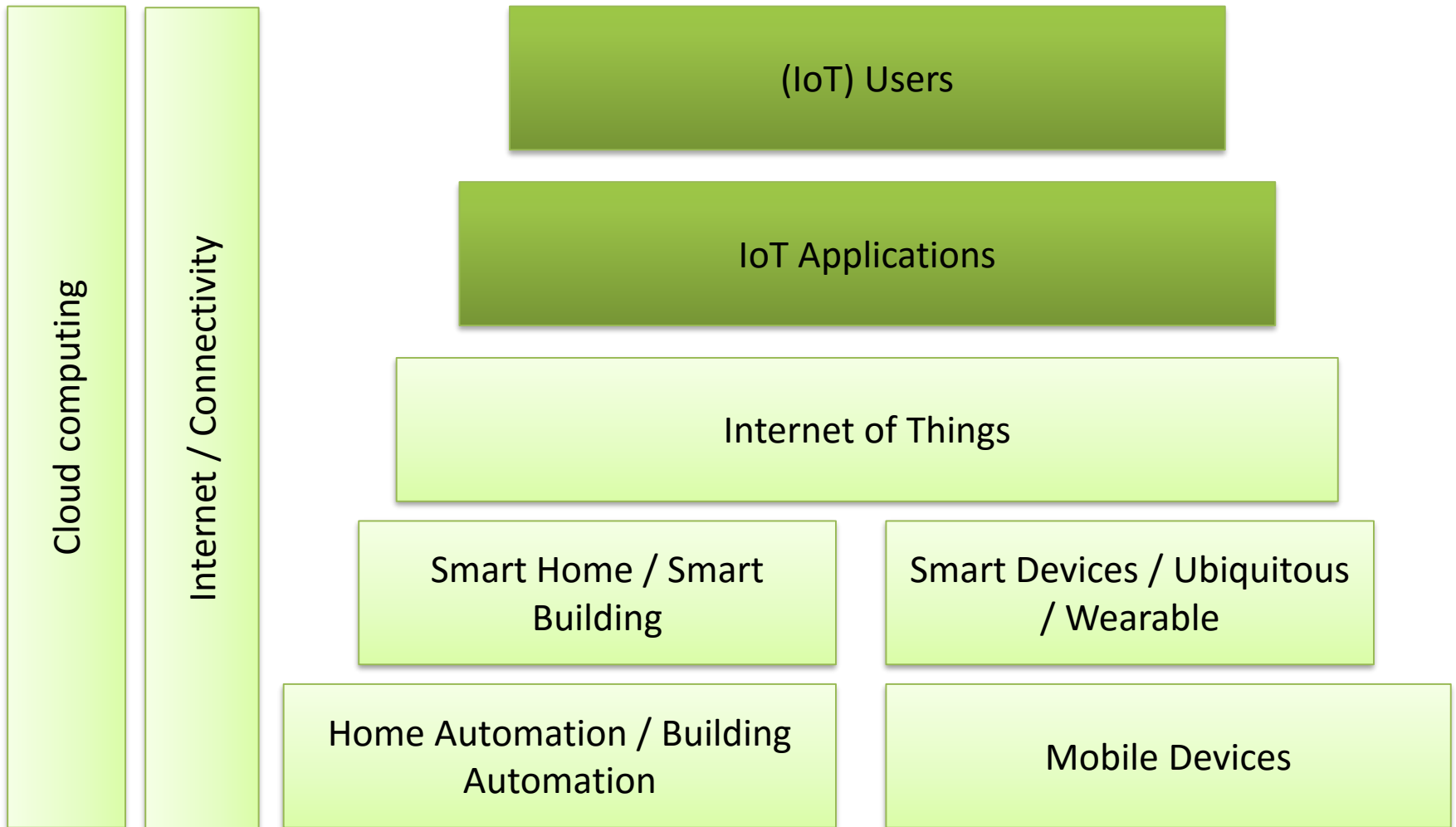


# Conquering the user

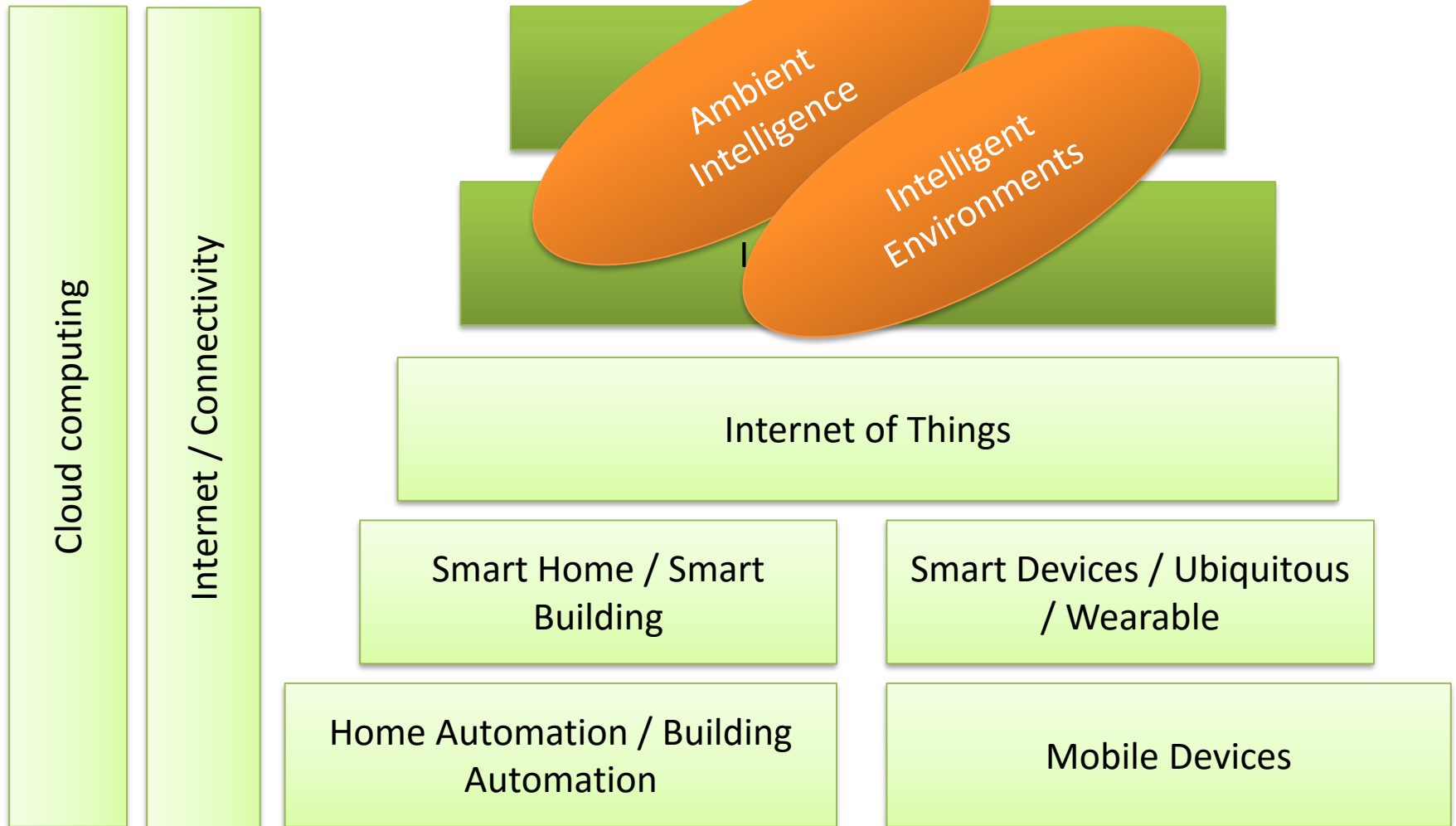
Controlling the smart home market is appealing to producers of...



# Technology trends



# Where research is...





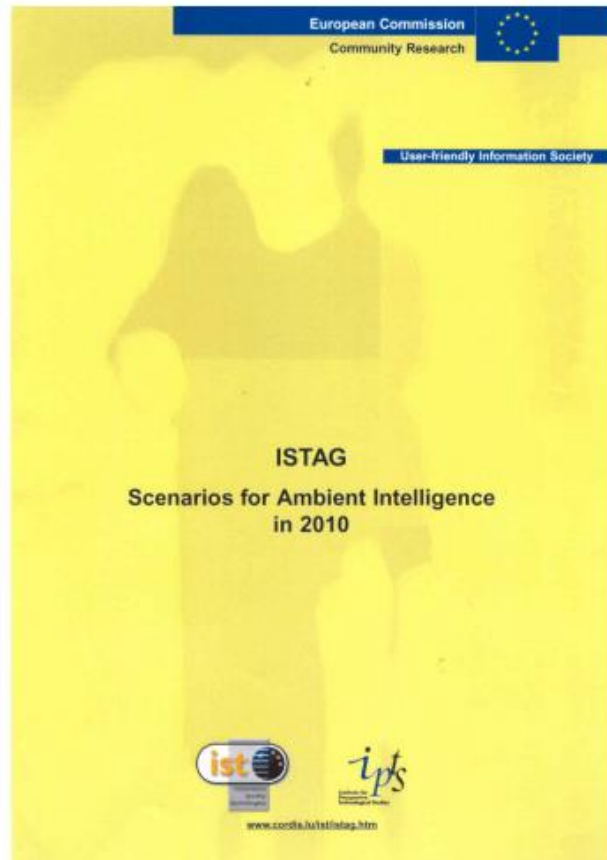
Definitions and Application Areas

# **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”

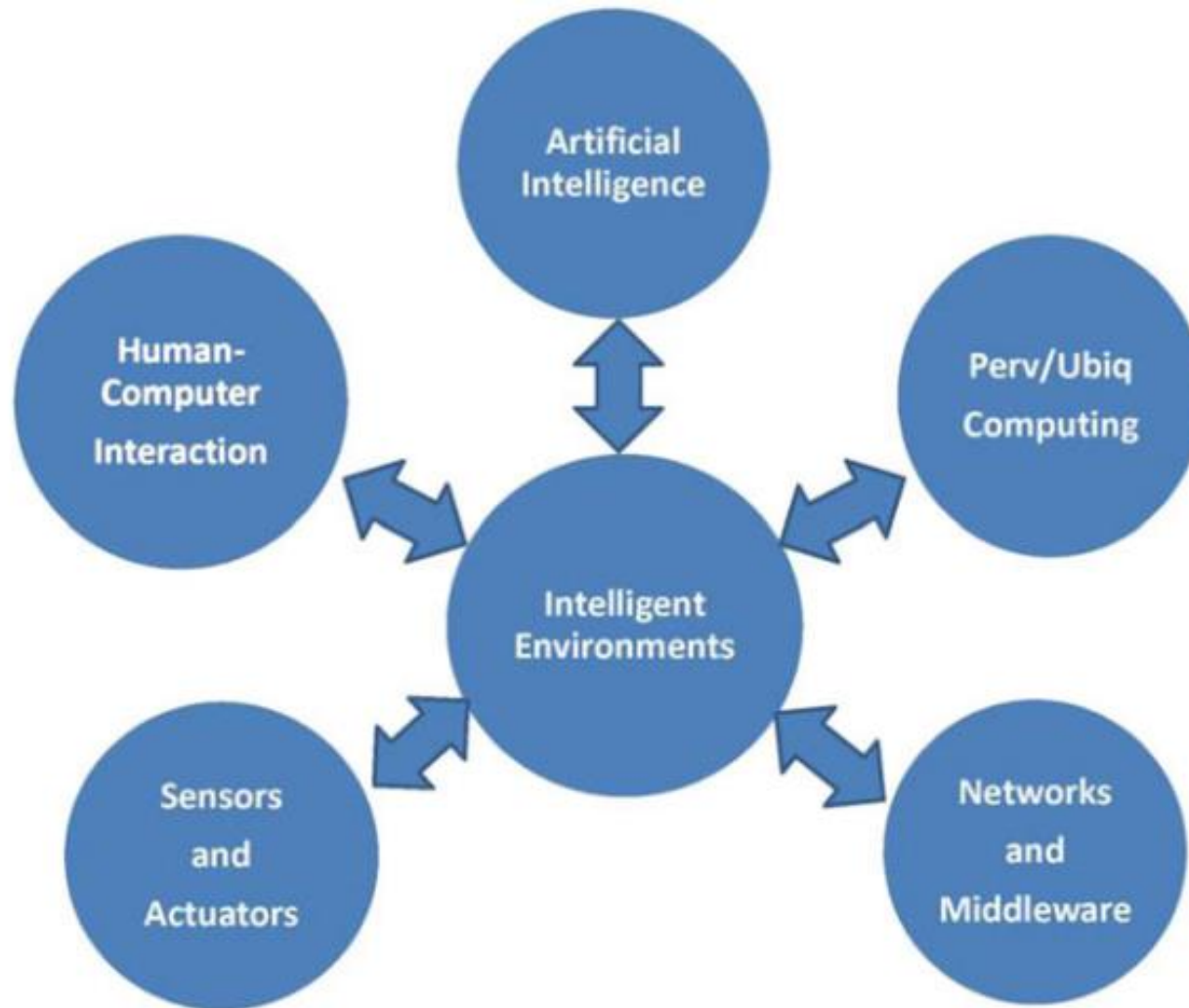
Cook et al, Ambient Intelligence: Technologies, applications and opportunities, 2009

# Comprehensive IE definition

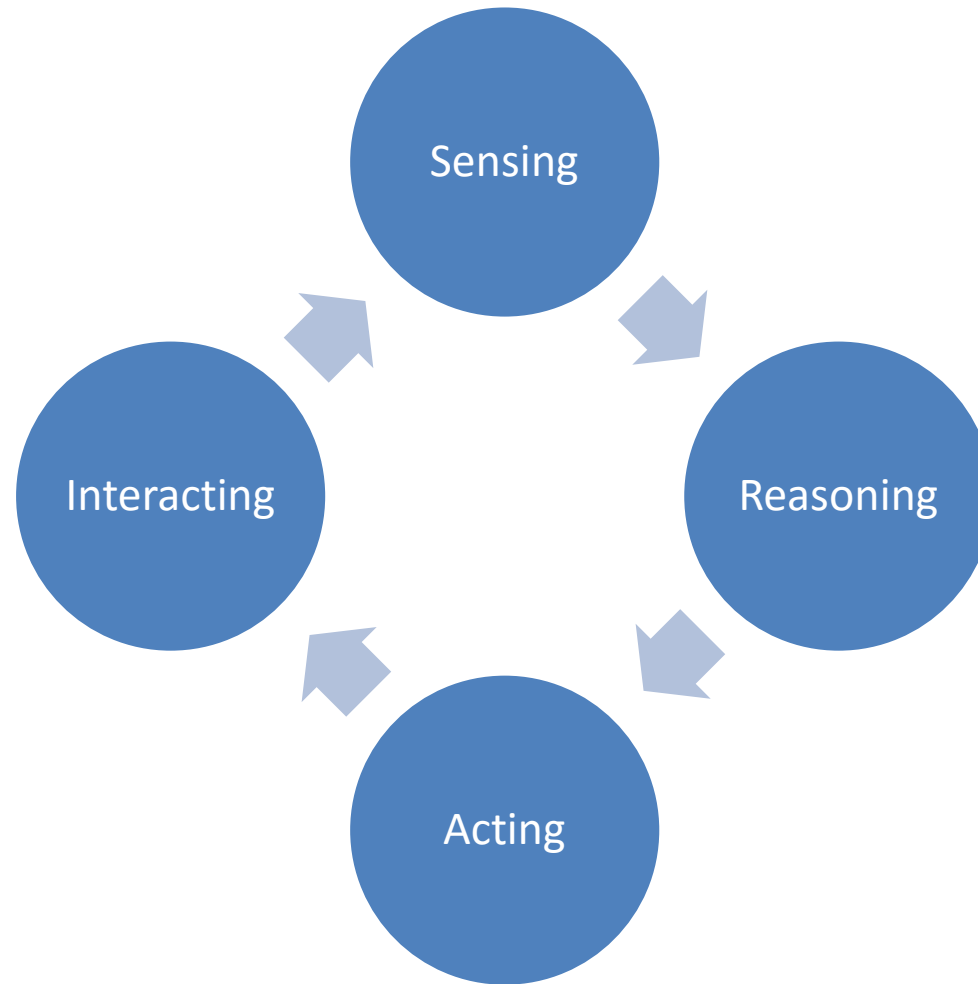
- “An **Intelligent Environment** is one in which the actions of numerous networked controllers (controlling different aspects of an environment) is orchestrated by self-programming pre-emptive processes (e.g., intelligent software agents) in such a way to create an interactive holistic functionality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

Augusto et al, Intelligent Environments: a Manifesto, 2013

# Interactions among disciplines

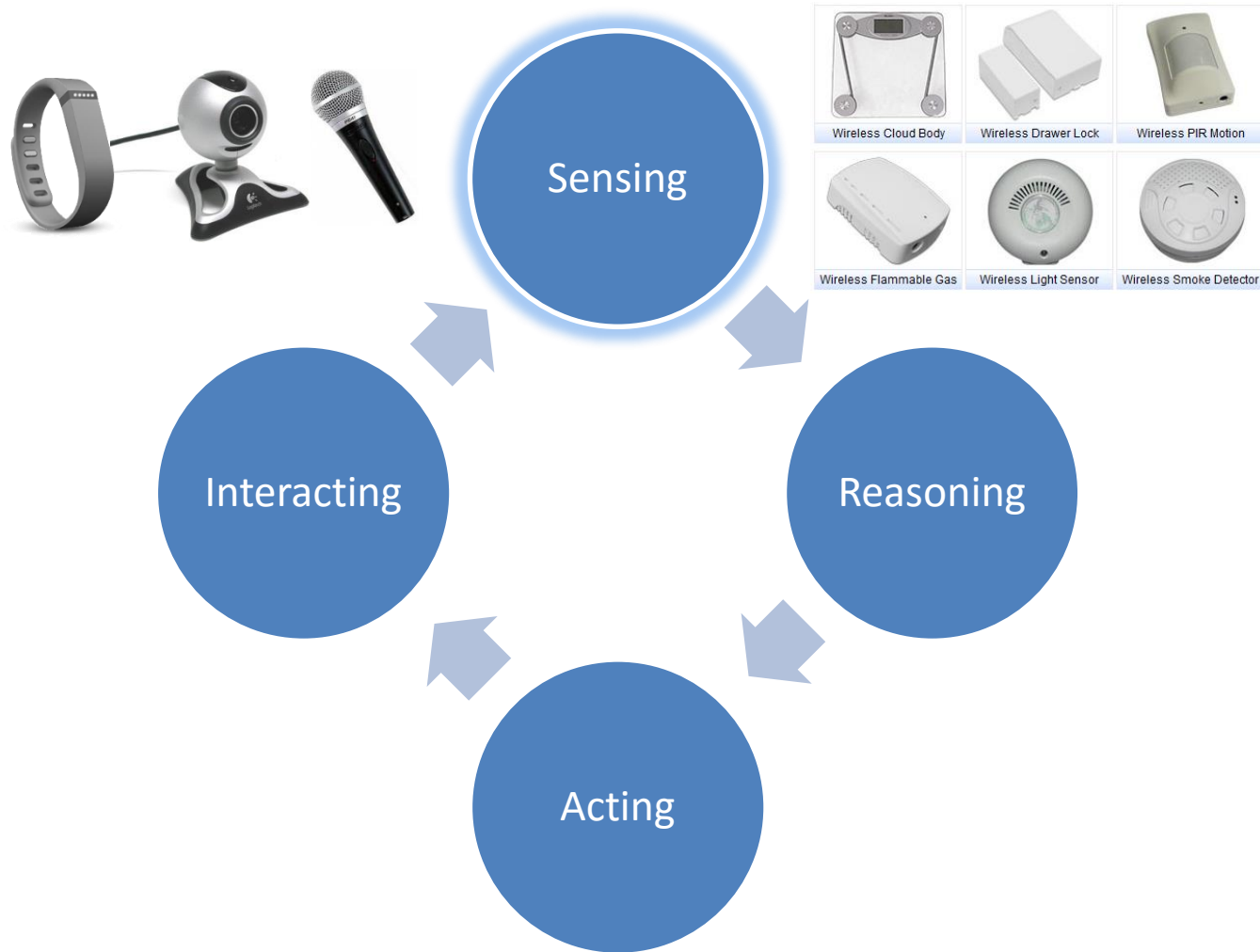


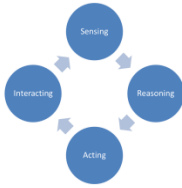
# Main steps for Aml





# Main steps for Aml



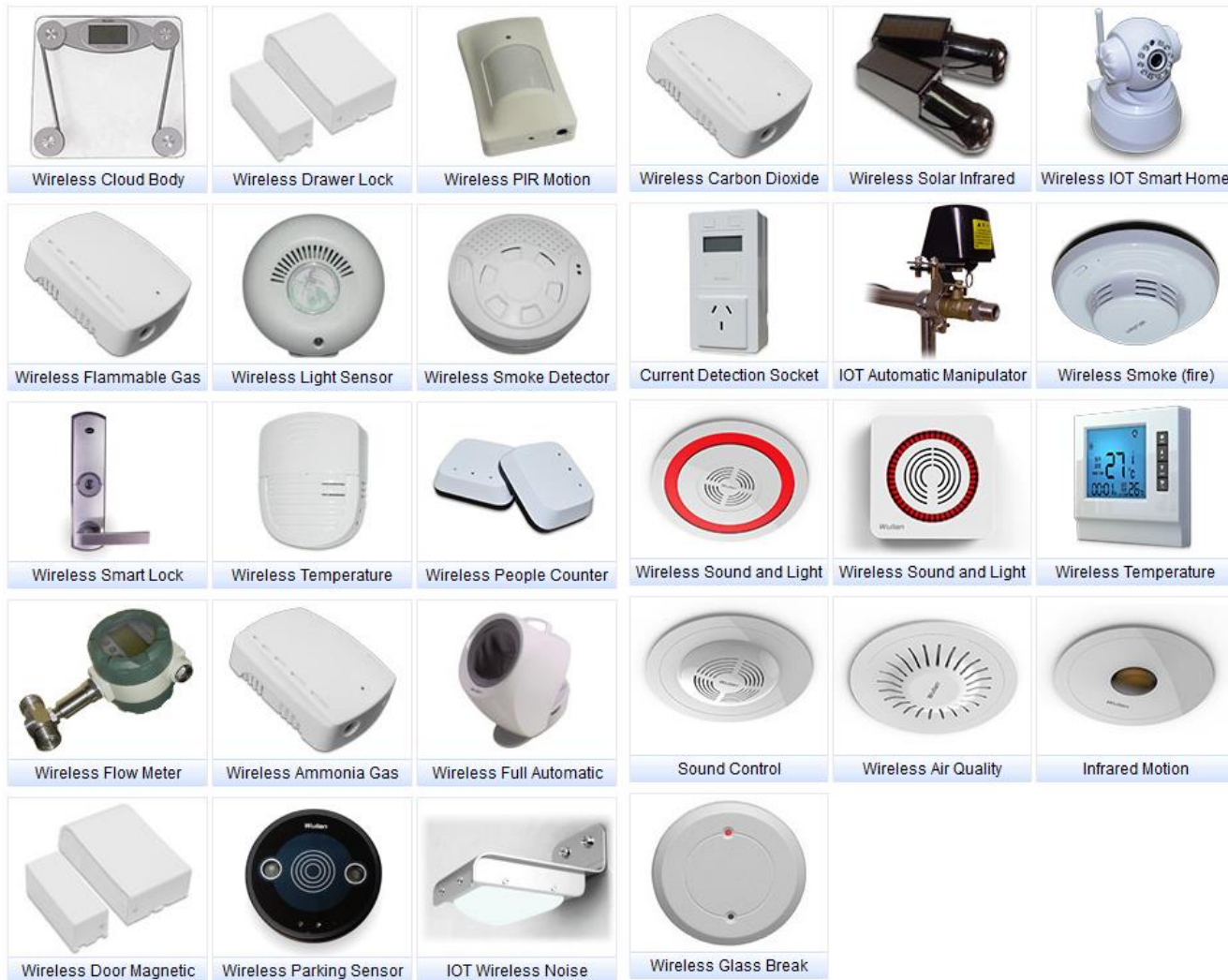


# Sensing

- 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



**emotive**  
you think, therefore, you can



# Sensor data

Huge

Noisy

Missing points

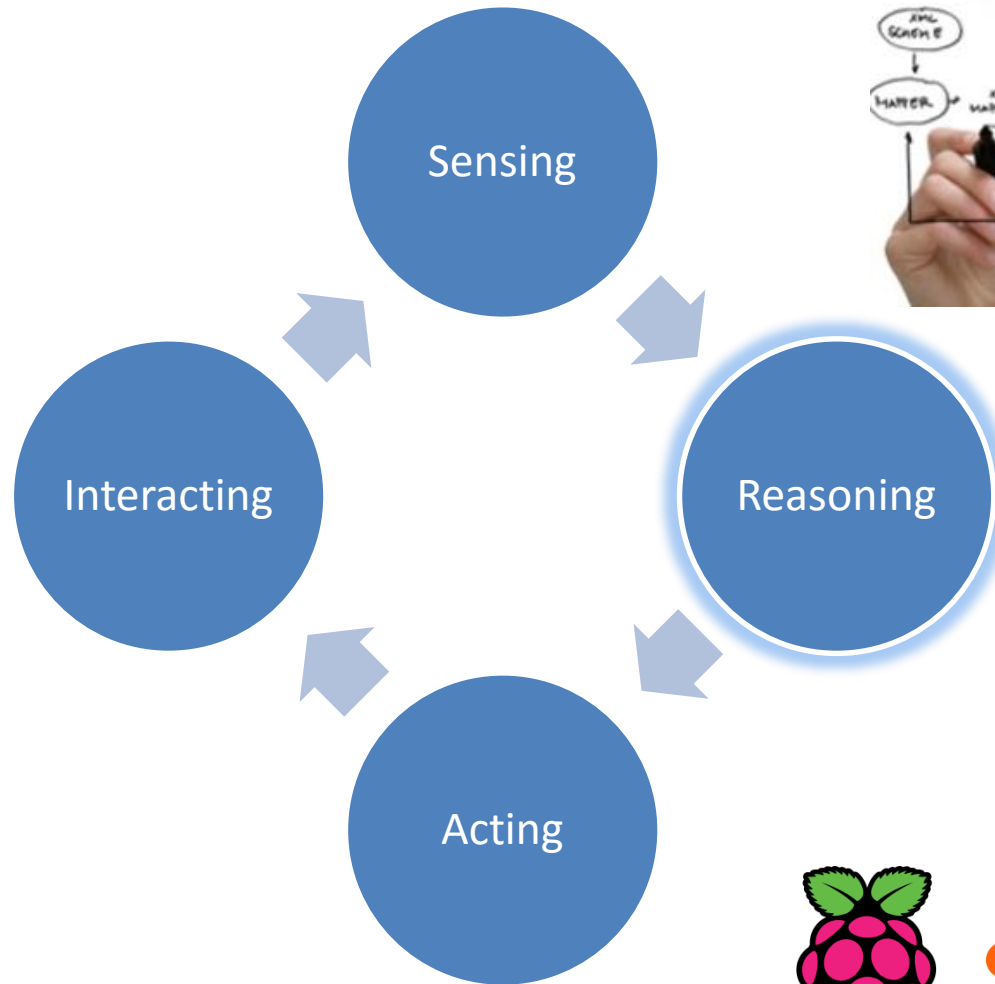
Heterogeneous  
measures

Time- & space-  
dependent

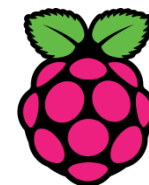
Raw vs.  
processed

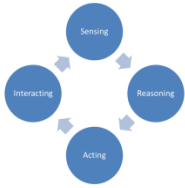
- “Making sense of data”
- Stream data processing
- Signal processing algorithms
- Sensor fusion
- Big data handling
- Filtering, disambiguation, interpretation

# Main steps for Aml



{JSON}

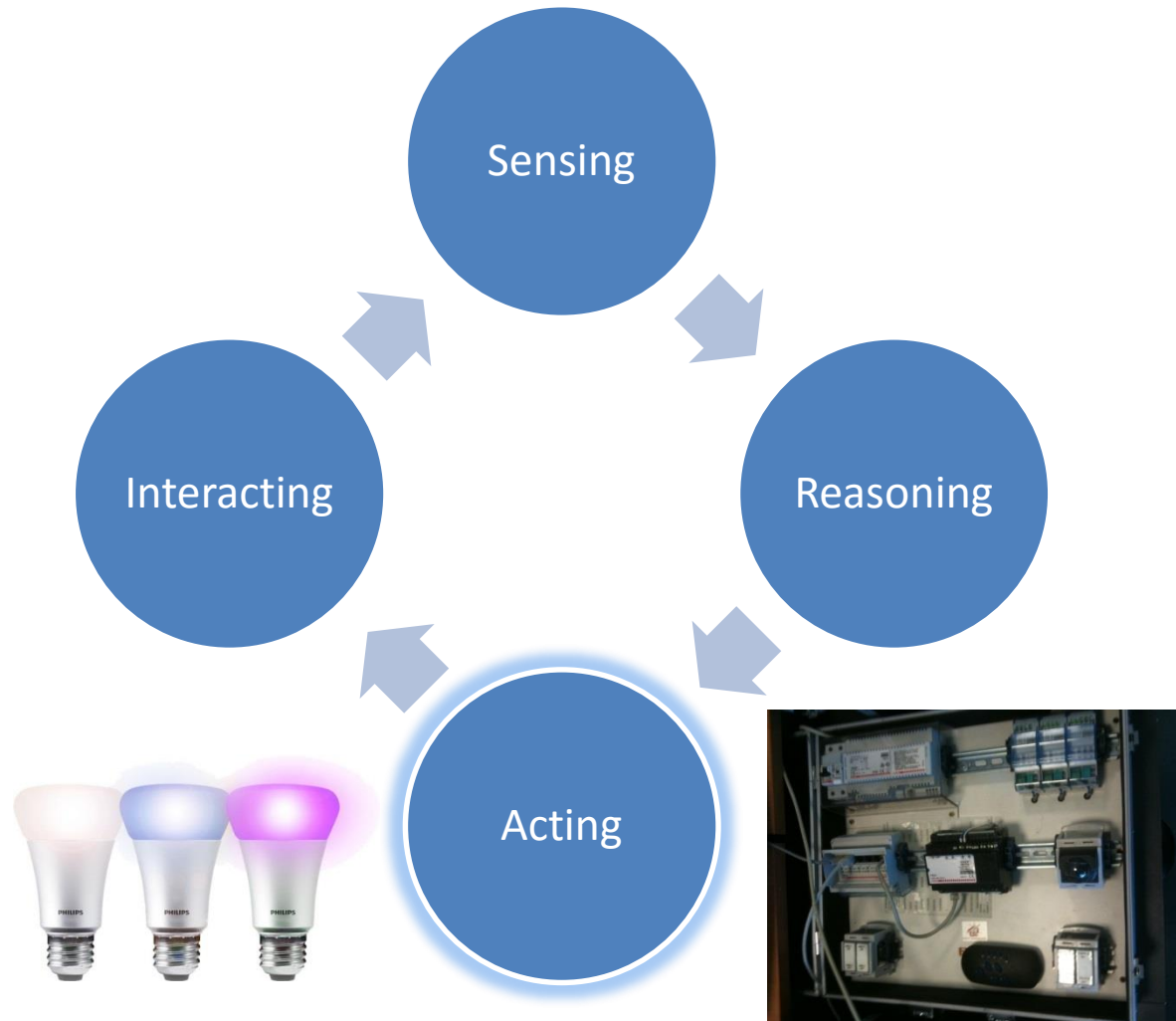




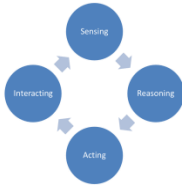
# Reasoning

- 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



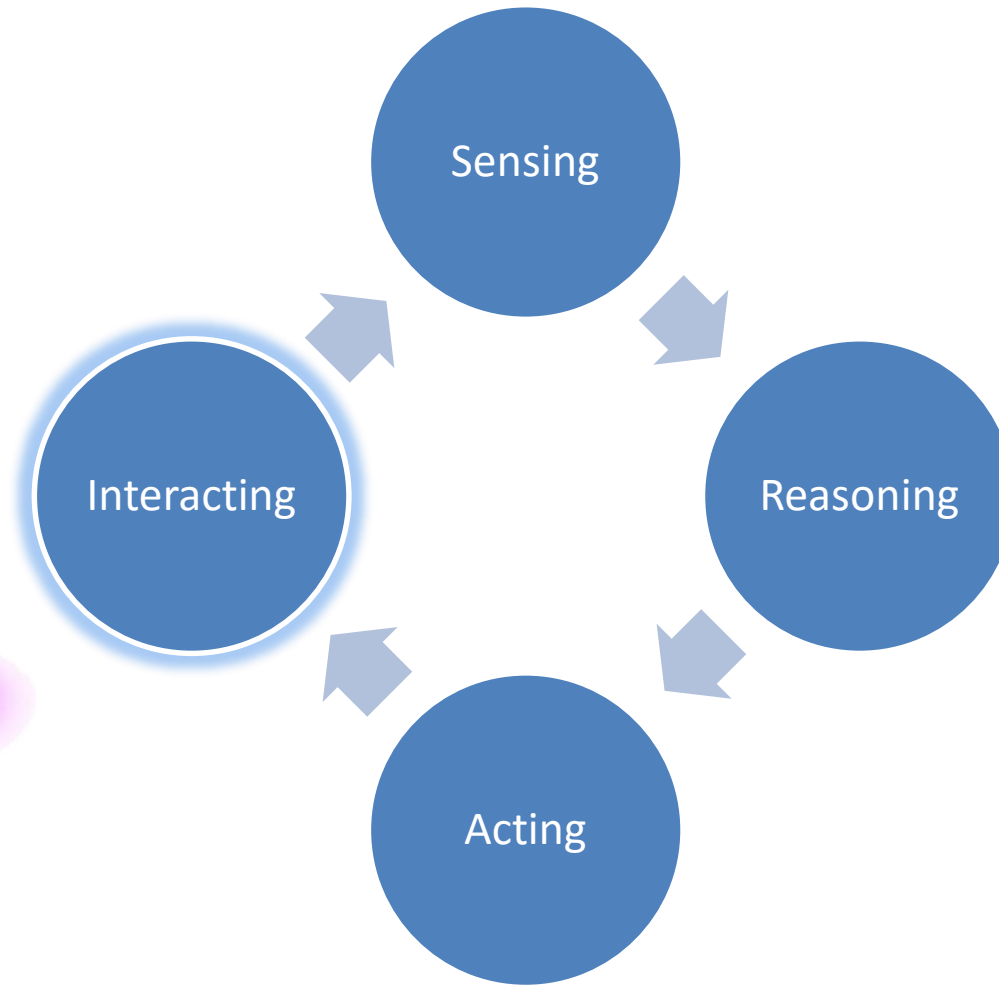
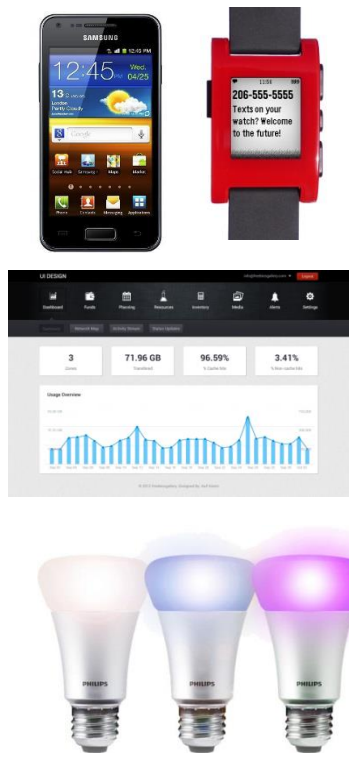
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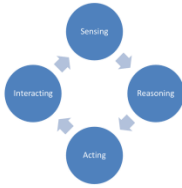


Ambient intelligence

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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>

# 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

# 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

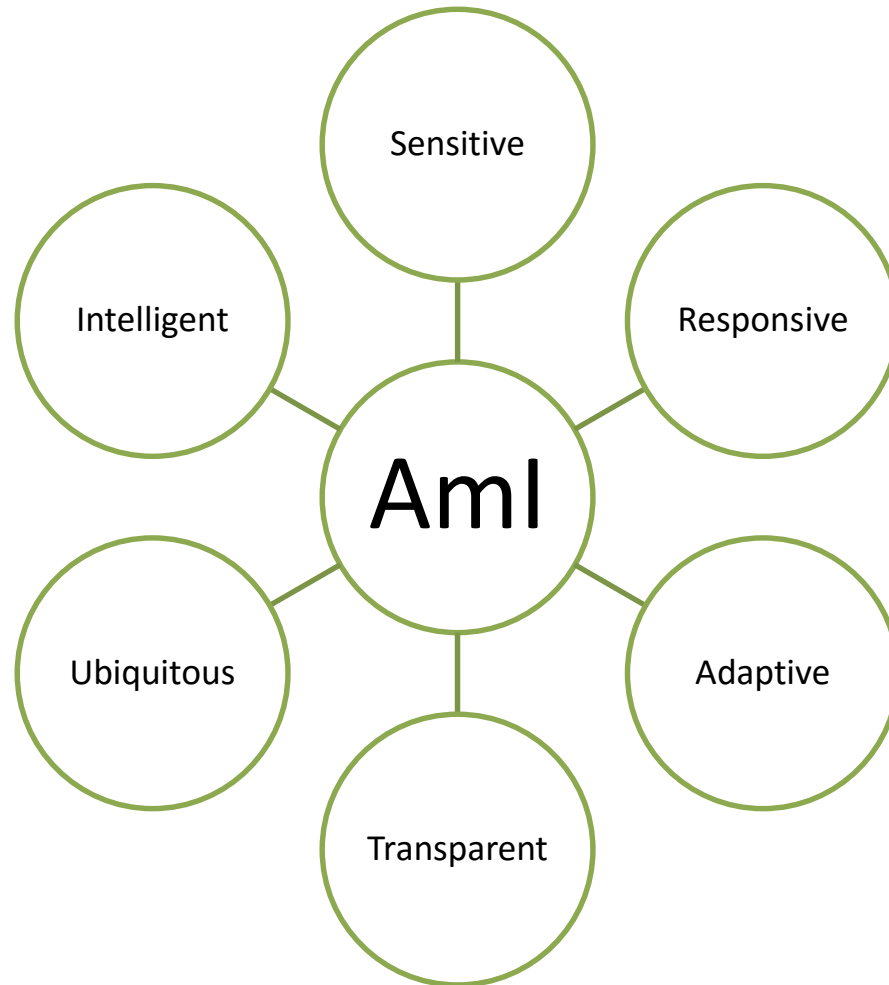
# **REQUESTED FEATURES**

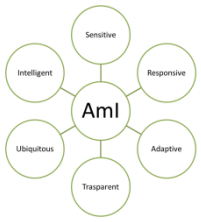
# Features

- 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)?



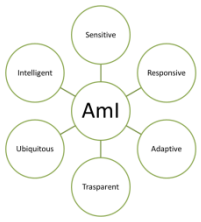
# Features





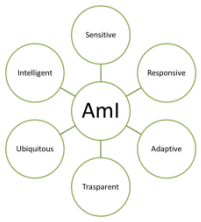
# Sensitive & Responsive

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



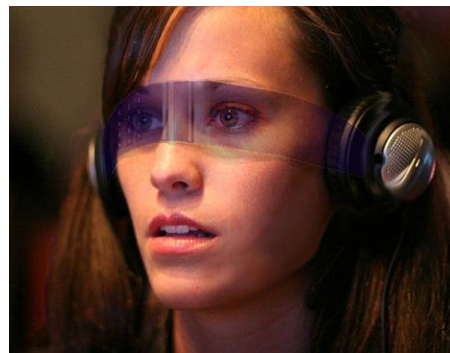
# Adaptive

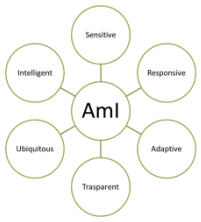
- Able to infer a situational context
  - From environment data
  - From user data (identity, presence, actions, ...)
  - From statistics and preferences
  - From external information sources
- Able to adapt to the context
  - the interpretation of sensing
  - the generated response
- «Context-Aware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



# Transparent

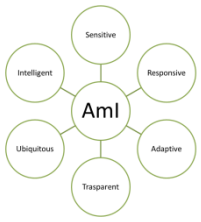
- «The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are indistinguishable from it» (Weiser, 1991)
- «Disappearing computer»





# 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

# 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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