

# The Dawn of IoT

20 historical facts  
that might surprise you

**1929**

The first radiosonde is launched.

Robert Bureau launches the first radiosonde, a device that used wireless telemetry, converted to Morse code, to transmit temperature and barometric pressure from a weather balloon.

**1978**

First service trial of Bell Labs-developed cellular system is conducted in Chicago.

**1969**

UCLA and Stanford connect over ARPANET.

UCLA and Stanford Research Institute connect over ARPANET, the forerunner to the Internet, introducing packet switching.

**1981**

Hayes AT modem command set automates dialing and control of communications links.

**1982**

Micro switches are installed in a Coke machine to monitor inventory.

Believed to be the first Internet-connected device, graduate students at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science install micro switches in the department's Coke machine so they could monitor inventory from their computers.

**1984**

The first handheld wireless cell phone—the Motorola Dyna TAC 8000X—is purchased for \$3,995.

**1990**

A toaster is turned on and off through the Internet.

Internet pioneers John Romkey and Simon Hackett connect a toaster to the Internet, allowing it to be turned on and off online.

**1992**

The first mass-produced GSM digital cell phone, the Nokia 1011, became commercially available.

**1998**

The first mobile payments are made.

The first mobile payments are made in Finland and Sweden to purchase soft drinks from a machine and pay for parking.

**1999**

The term "Internet of Things" is used.

The term "Internet of Things" is used by Kevin Ashton of Proctor & Gamble during a presentation on RFID technology. The phrase referred to a future world where all types of electronic devices link to each other via the Internet.

**2001**

The influential Forrester/MIT report on the "X-Internet" forecasts many elements of the Internet of Things (IoT).

**2004**

Wi-Fi hotspots are offered by AT&T and other carriers.

**2004**

Cingular Wireless tests its 3G Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS) network in Atlanta.

**2008**

AT&T becomes the first telecom to establish a group to explore IoT.

**2014**

The number of active mobile-connected devices surpasses the number of people in the world (7.22 billion versus 7.2 billion).

**2014**

AT&T opens an innovation center devoted to IoT.

AT&T becomes the first telecom to open an innovation center devoted to IoT with its Foundry in Plano, TX. AT&T also becomes the first telecom to open a dedicated research facility for connected cars with the AT&T Drive Studio in Atlanta.

**2015**

The AT&T network had nearly 22 million IoT connected devices worldwide.

**2015**

AT&T plans to launch Numbersync.

AT&T reveals plans to launch Numbersync, a service that will link compatible devices to subscribers' primary mobile numbers over the AT&T network. It will allow subscribers to make and receive calls and texts from phones, tablets, or wearables using their main phone number.

**2015**

AT&T and TUMI announce they're working together to create a wireless device to track luggage around the world.

