Current Events

MDC® INDUSTRY EVENTS

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER
Construction & Design Defects & Project Delays
OCTOBER 2016
SWISSÔTEL CHICAGO ILLINOIS

ABA Forum on Construction Law Fall Meeting
Chicago, IL
October 6-7, 2016

Join MDC® for in-depth panel discussions on defect and delay claims and mitigation, planning for the expected, insurance and project risk mitigation, and

Internet of Things (IoT): Managing Risk and Reward

By E. Mitchell Swann, MDCSystems®

A hot topic in the industry today is the "Internet of Things" (IoT). The IoT is the use of "smart" devices, transmitters and systems to facilitate the real time transmission of information, control of equipment and optimized operation of systems; often including or via some Internet-based communication network. The objective is to make the information available anywhere, easily and in real time to improve decision making and operations. Information is collected by the devices and transmitted via a wireless network to a centralized and/or cloud-based "head end" and control commands are sent back via the same system. The IoT has been enabled by advances in the miniaturization of computer processing power, the development of interoperable communications and processing platforms and the growing ubiquity of high-speed, wireless, broadband networks. That's the stuff that puts your email on your smartphone.
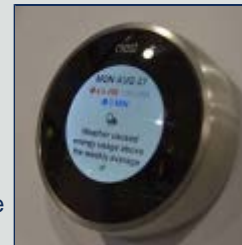
In 2013 the Global Standards Initiative on Internet of Things (IoT-GSI) defined the IoT as "the infrastructure of the information society." While the term IoT and its applications can be very broad, the focus here is on the 'built environment' – smart cities, smart grids, smart buildings, smart homes and smart systems. Since each 'thing' has its own embedded computing system, each thing is uniquely identifiable and addressable through the network and can also communicate with other things on that network. Gartner, Inc, a leading technology research and analysis firm, estimates that there will be more than 20.8 billion "things" in the IoT by 2020.   Current device estimates hover around 6.4 billion in network.
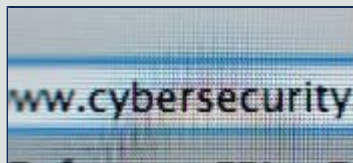
If you have a remotely programmable "learning" thermostat for your home or a security system which can be monitored, armed and disarmed from your mobile, then you are a part of the IoT. The IoT has created the opportunity to greatly expand the reach, enhance flexibility, increase real-time knowledge and amplify productivity

emerging project technologies including data clouds and drones!

Take a moment to stop by MDC's exhibit to pick up company information, or just to say hello. All visitors will have a chance to drop their business card at our booth for a chance to win our raffle and first-rate giveaway.

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ASHRAE Annual Meeting ,
Mitch Swann Presenting
St. Louis, MO
June 25-29, 2016
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Contact Us

MDCSystems® Headquarters
37 North Valley Road
3 Station Square, Suite 100
Paoli, PA 19301

Ph: 610.640.9600
Toll Free: 1.888.MDC.9977
Fax: 610.640.9609

by connecting and integrating what were once 'closed' and isolated systems via the internet. But it also opens up these systems to the wild, wild world of the world wide web – and we know what can go on in that rodeo. What security considerations and concerns should be on your mind as you move to 'the next step?'

As pointed out above, there are some clear benefits to moving to a wireless, IoT base for control, reporting and monitoring systems. The ability to capture, transfer, analyze and respond to data on operations, alarms or other critical parameters is extremely valuable in today's critical path world. In many instances, there is so much data that the 'bottleneck' can be the decision tree that the people go through once bombarded with all that information. If devices and systems can be made to 'learn' and make some level of decisions, themselves, it allows for a more responsive – even anticipatory system. And that should pay dividends.

A little background on how we got here might be helpful.

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Mitch Swann, P.E., Named to Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council

Mitch Swann, P.E., MDCSystems®, is named to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council. The UCC Review and Advisory Council was established by Act 106 of 2008. Appointed by the governor, the 19-member council is drawn from various construction industry trades and professions and local government.

The council is charged with making recommendations to the governor, the General Assembly and the Department of Labor & Industry regarding proposed changes to Act 45, the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, and reviewing the latest triennial code revisions issued by the International Code Council contained in the International Codes enforceable under the Uniform Construction Code.

The council is required to submit a report to the secretary of Labor & Industry within 12 months following publication of the latest triennial codes specifying each code revision that is to be adopted as part of the Uniform Construction Code.

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