

# Security and Privacy Challenges in the Internet of Things

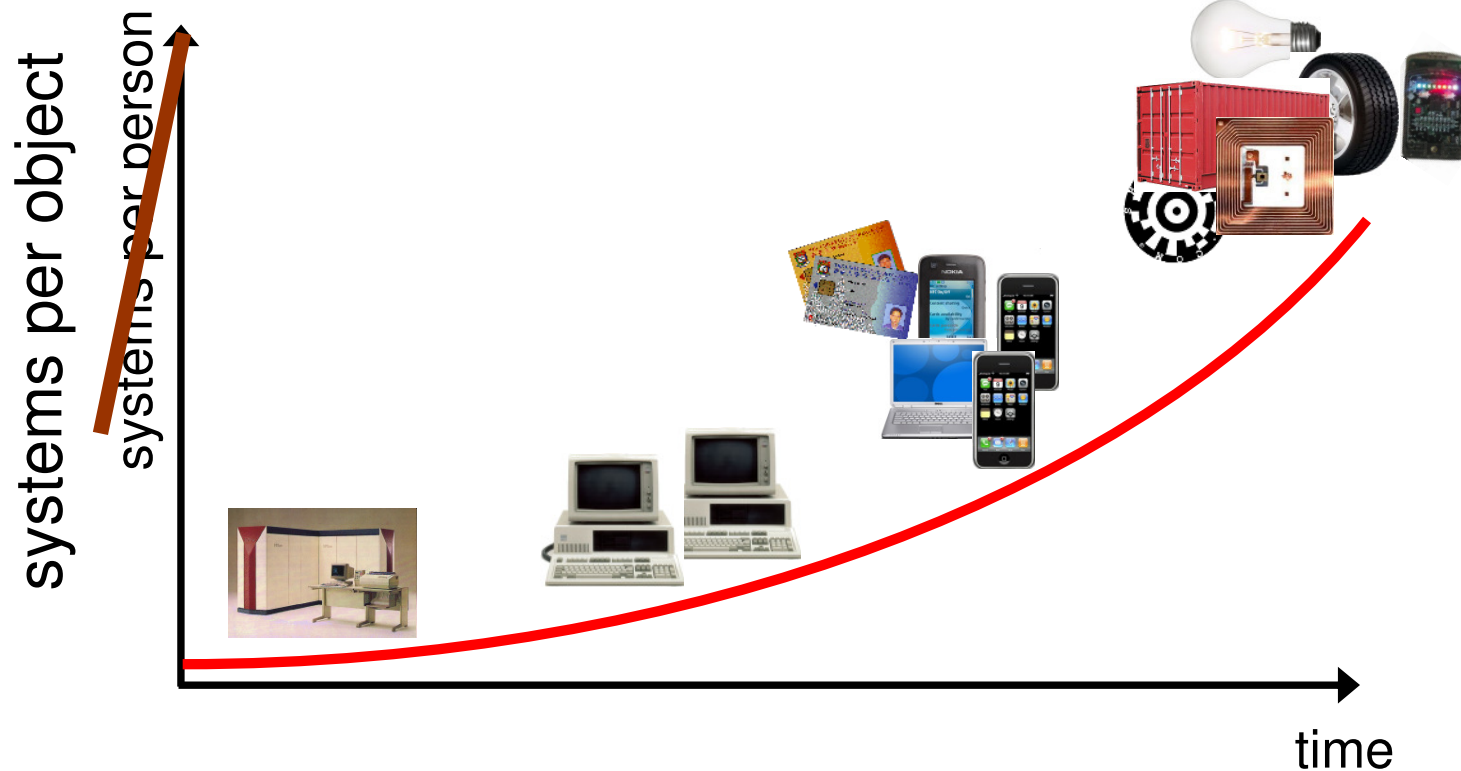


**Christoph P. Mayer**

**6. Mar 2009 - KiVS Workshop on Global Sensor Networks (GSN09)**

**Institute of Telematics, University of Karlsruhe (TH)  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)**

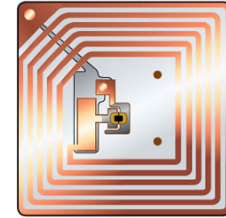
- Evolution of our technological environment



Every object has an identity  
 → lives in the physical *and* in the digital world

- Wall-Mart uses RFID heavily in supply chain

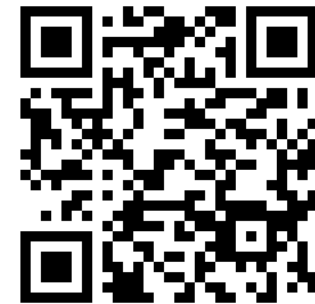
- forced suppliers to use (e.g. pallets)
- faster handling → scan pallet
- general: 1.8bn produced 2005, 33bn forecast 2010



identity linking

- Tagging the physical environment with 2D barcodes

- 2D barcodes encode (Data Matrix Code)
- attach *digital information* to physical objects
- physical world ↔ digital world



[www.tm.uka.de/~mayer](http://www.tm.uka.de/~mayer)

environmental property linking

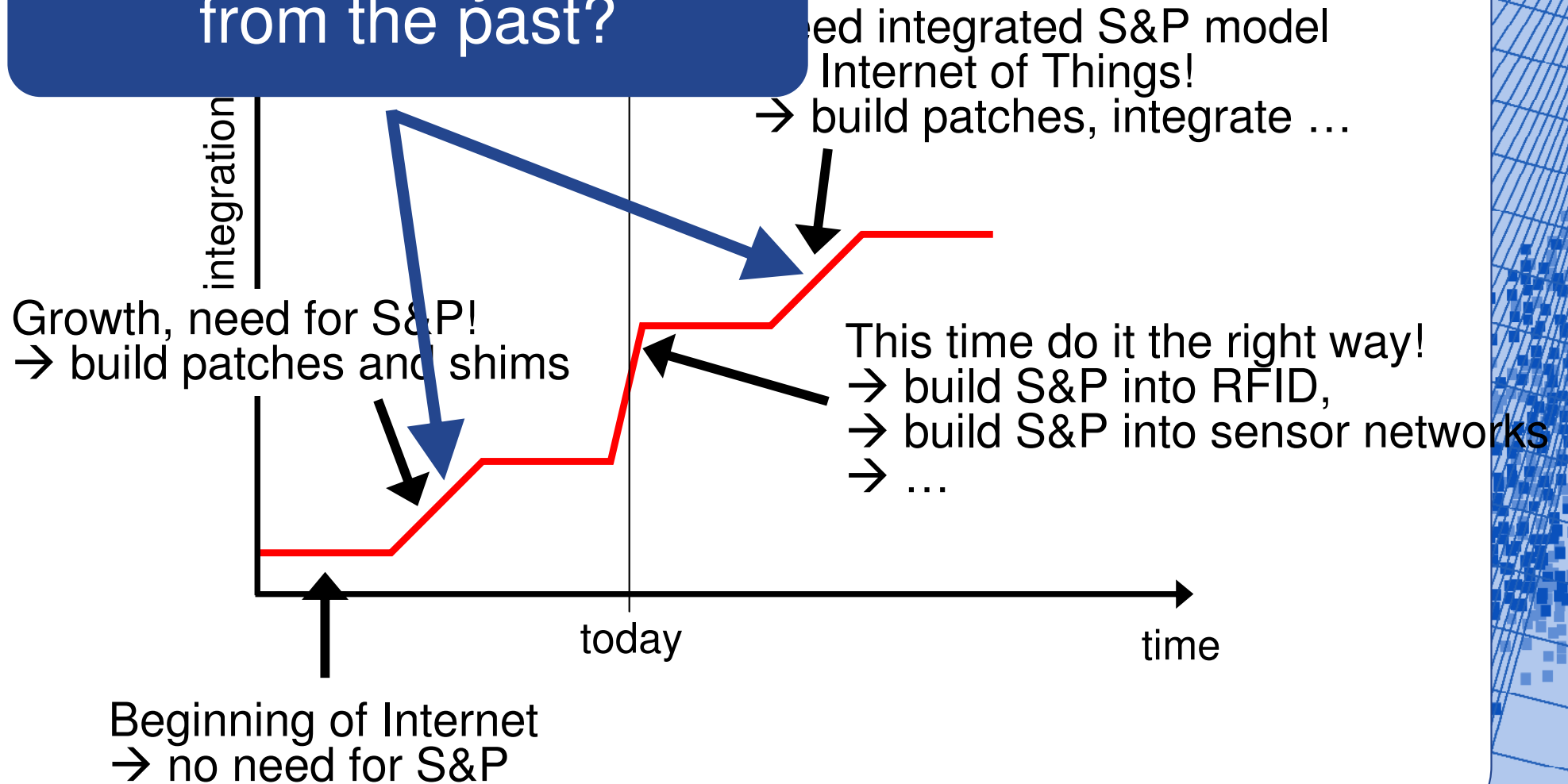
- Monitoring environmental conditions (e.g. volcano activity)

Integration of current technologies will spawn great value → physical-digital world mashups

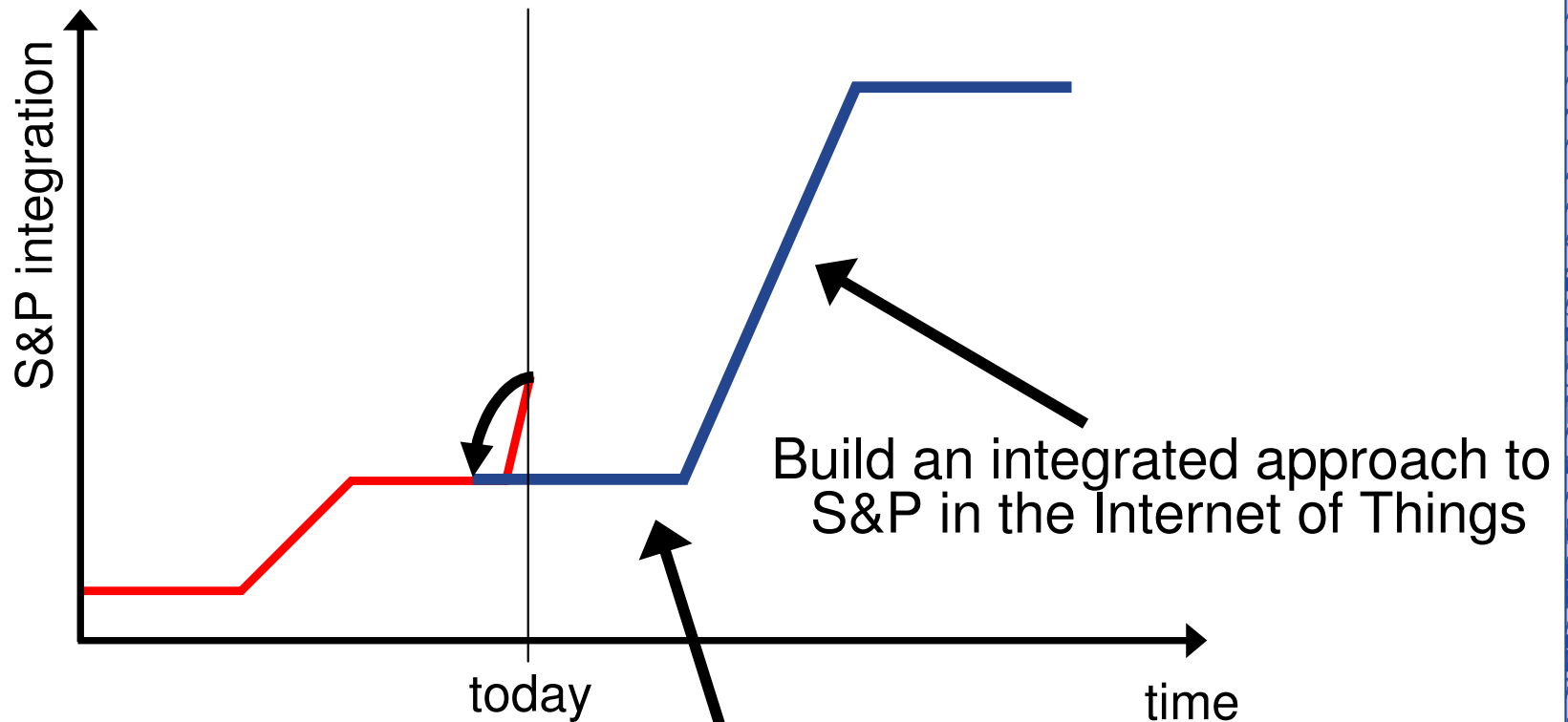
- RFID is *not* the Internet of Things
  - one of many enablers for the Internet of Things
  - currently the most popular with large number of deployments
  - looking at security and privacy only from the RFID perspective is wrong!
- Pitfalls from thinking RFID is all
  - Evolution of an RFID object name service (ONS)
    - ▶ other identification techniques need object registries, too
    - ▶ what about 2D barcodes, sensor nodes, etc.
    - ▶ ONS should be about identities, not bound to identification technology
  - Broken Security&Privacy model for Internet of Things
    - ▶ S&P research in RFID, in sensor networks, in ...
    - ▶ think of a system that uses RFID, sensor networks, mobile phones ... how to integrate? RFID tag and 2D barcode attached to sensor node?
    - ▶ will separate security models prevent a system model?

→ Thinking of the Internet of Things in more general may yield a better security and privacy model

Did we really learn from the past?



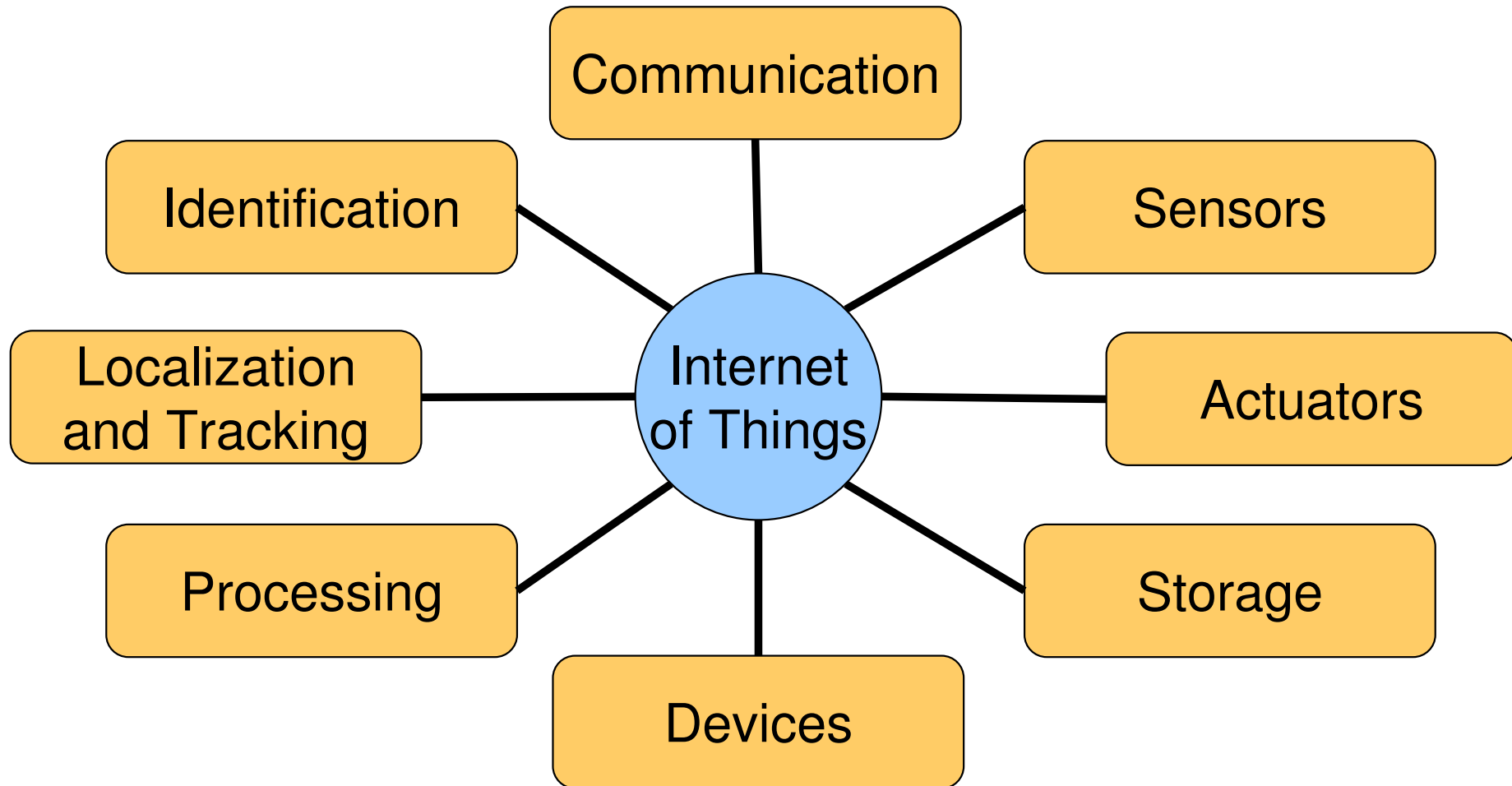
- Is there a better evolutionary road?



Take time to develop a system approach for S&P in the Internet of Things

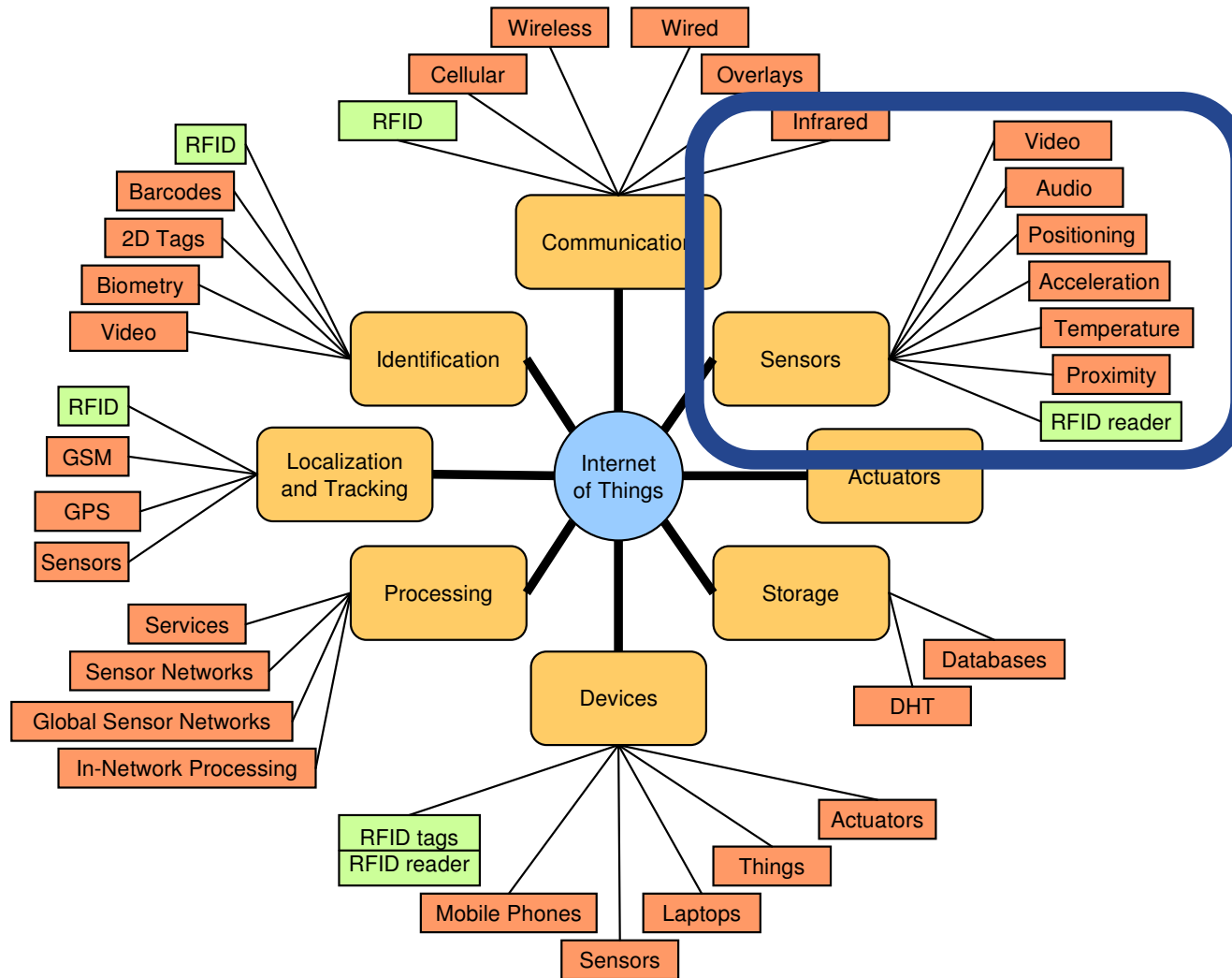
- First small steps towards systematic approach
  1. Categorization of topics in the Internet of Things
    - ▶ Take a step back from the technical perspective
    - ▶ What are the generic topics taking part?
  2. Assign technologies to topics
    - ▶ What technologies fall into which topics?
    - ▶ Do technologies appear in several topics?
  3. Analyze sensitivity of topics to S&P
    - ▶ See how sensitive topics are to S&P properties?
    - ▶ Don't analyze technologies, analyze topics!
  4. Analyze state of research in topics
    - ▶ How much research has been done for the S&P properties?
    - ▶ Has something been neglected?

- What **topics** make up the Internet of Things

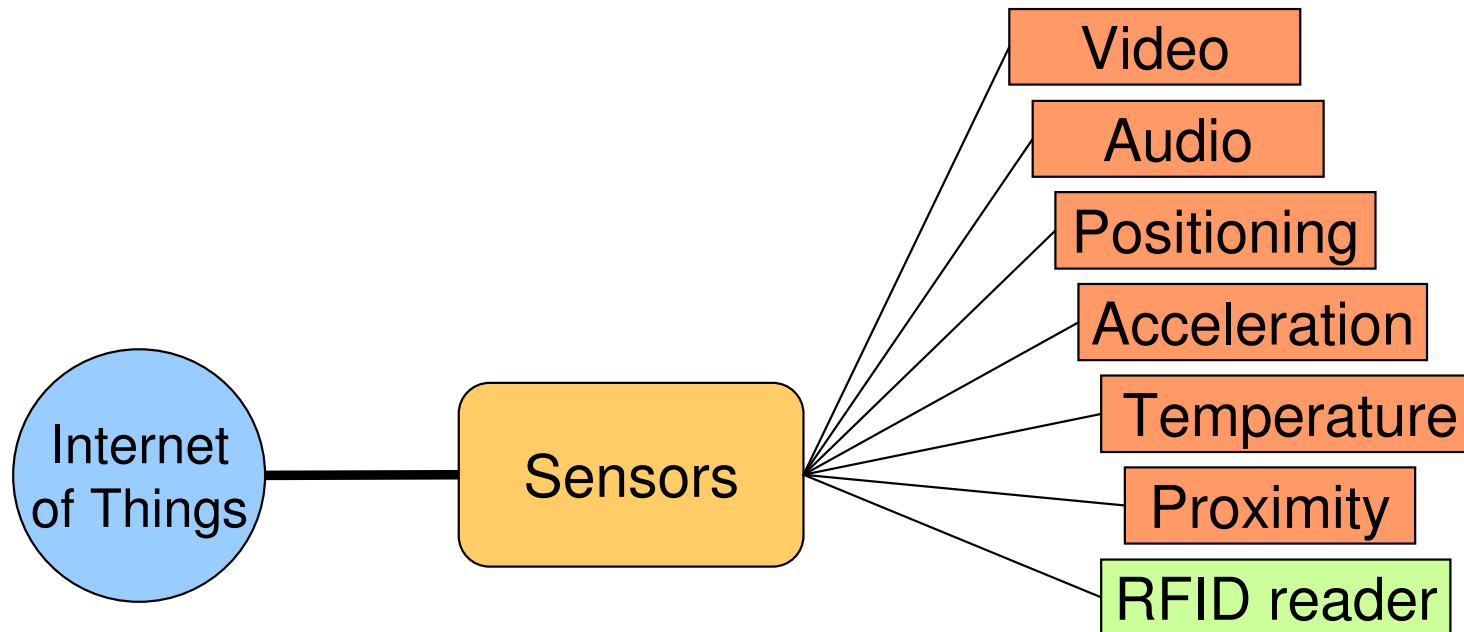




- What **technologies** are attached to the topics

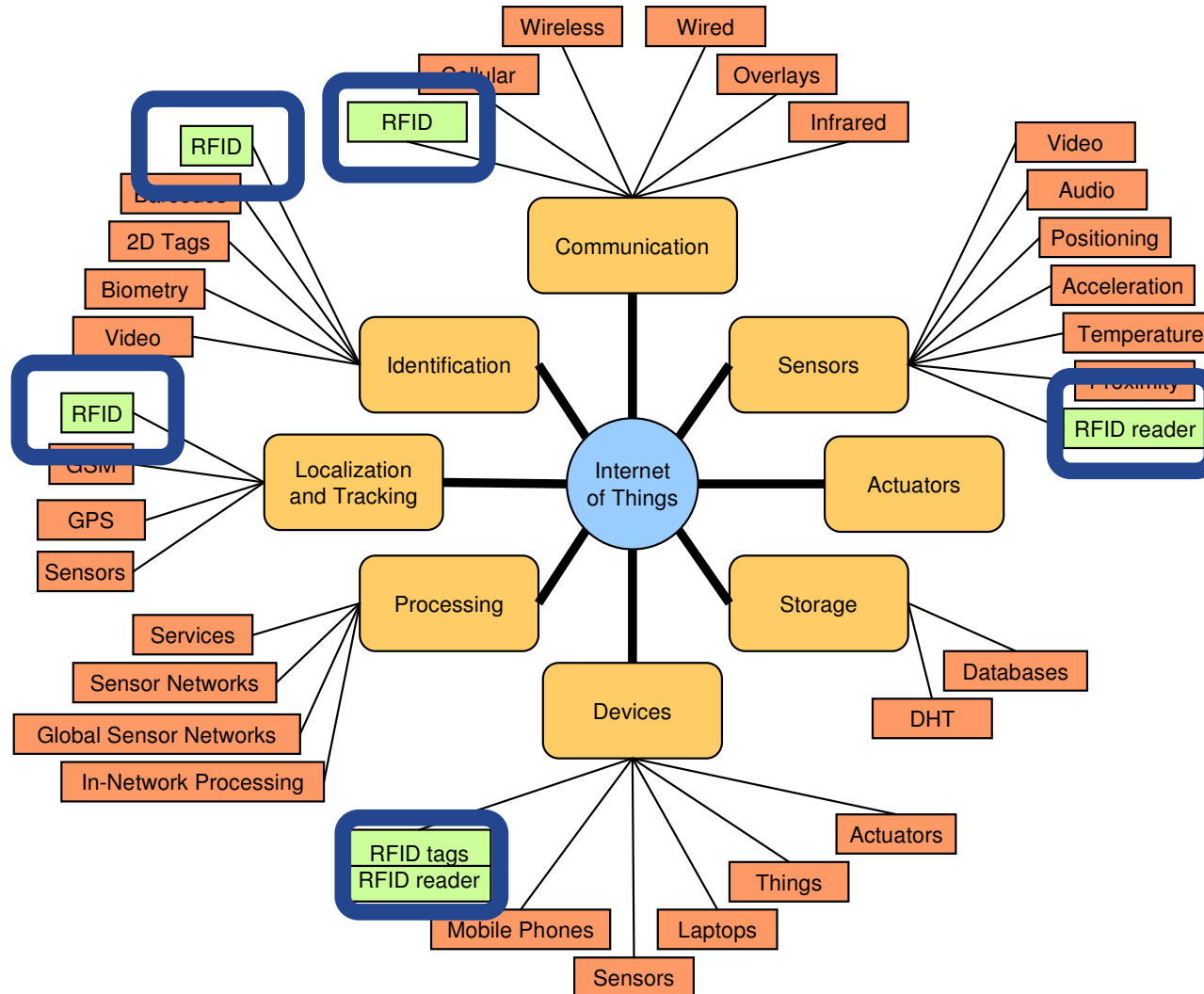


- What **technologies** are attached to the topics

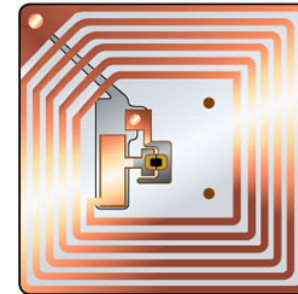


- Definitely not complete, needs more work
  - but completeness it not the point here!
  - providing a first approach to categorization

- Important point: RFID spans several topics



- Important point: RFID spans several topics
  - Communication
    - ▶ between tag and reader
  - Sensors
    - ▶ the reader senses the tag
  - Devices
    - ▶ reader and tag are devices
  - Localization/Tracking
    - ▶ if you know the reader location, you roughly know the tag and therewith object location
  - Identification
    - ▶ the unique identification of the tag through the reader



- Mid summary: **takeaway points** from last slides
  - RFID is assigned to several topics
  - Being unaware of this dual-use can end up badly
    - ▶ Same with IP addresses! Used as locator and identifier.  
Now research into ID/Locator split
  - Point is not to take RFID apart technically, but be aware of the multi-use when developing protocols
  - S&P currently done per technology, not per topic

### Key question

Is it possible to design generic S&P mechanisms for a *topic* rather than for a *technology*?

- Now that we have the general topics  
 → how sensitive are they to S&P properties?

Topic \ Property	Integrity	Authenticity	Confidentiality	Privacy	Availability	Regulation
Communication	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	+
Sensors	+++	++	+	+++	+	+++
Actuators	+	+	+		+	++
Storage	+++	++	+++	+++	+	+++
Devices	+++	+	+	++	++	++
Processing	++	+	+	+++	+	+++
Localization/Tracking	+	+	+++	+++	+++	+++
Identification	++	+	+++	+++	+++	+++

- Example
  - Communication has high sensitivity to confidentiality
    - ▶ don't want others to read my data
  - Sensors have low sensitivity to confidentiality
    - ▶ can always place my sensor near and sense the same physical property, therefore *sensing in itself* is not confidential

- State of research in areas highly sensitive  
 → research areas that have been neglected?

Property \ Topic	Integrity	Authenticity	Confidentiality	Privacy	Availability
Communication	2	2	3		1
Sensors	2			1	
Actuators					
Storage	3		3	1	
Devices	1				
Processing				1	
Localization/Tracking			3	1	2
Identification			3	1	2

- Example
  - Devices highly sensitive to integrity but few research
    - ▶ devices that can affect to the physical world
    - ▶ physical world DDoS from digital systems

- And what now?
  - categorization and analysis is a first step towards understanding the Internet of Things
  - need to work out details
  
- Develop generic S&P mechanisms
  - that work on a topic, not on a technology
    - ▶ similar to privacy preserving data-mining
    - ▶ makes interworking between technologies easier
  - generic mechanisms with specializing properties
    - ▶ can't deploy protocol for RFID and WLAN communication, but what about RFID and 2D barcodes?
    - ▶ what are the common, what is different?
    - ▶ proving properties of the protocol can be easier

→ Enables to develop an integrated S&P approach for the Internet of Things



- ## Summary

- RFID  $\neq$  Internet of Things, need more generic S&P approach
- looking at topics, not directly at technologies can make it easier to develop a S&P model
- generic S&P mechanisms can provide better interworking that is required for the Internet of Things

- ## Outlook

- categorization, sensitivity etc. only reflect my opinion, need discussion about these
- try to develop generic mechanisms, is it possible, is it better?
- learn from others
  - ▶ cryptographic identifiers, privacy preserving data mining, ...
  - ▶ multi-channel protocols (difference between RFID and 2D barcodes?  $\rightarrow$  mainly the channel)



**Thank you!**  
**Question?**