

Identity and access management (IAM) is critical to the success of the Internet of Things (IoT) Gartner reports, but as it stands IAM cannot handle the scale of complexity IoT brings to enterprise.



"IAM leaders must reconsider how traditional approaches to cybersecurity and IAM work in a world where devices and services are so abundant, in so many different forms and positioned at so many different points within the IT ecosystem," the analyst says.

The growth of the IoT demands means to define and manage the identities of "entities" (people, services and things) within a single framework-- or, as Gartner puts it, "a new taxonomy for the participants in IAM systems," one dubbed the Identity of Things (IDoT).

IDoT covers all above mentioned entities, each with an identity defining relationships among other entities, be it between a device and a human, a device and other device, device and an application/service or human and application/service. It assumes some characteristics of existing IT asset management (ITAM) and software asset management (SAM) systems, either within or integrated with IAM architecture, or linked into ITAM as attribute scores.

"Existing identity data and policy planning give IAM leaders and technology service providers (TSPs) a narrow view of entities leading to a static approach that does not consider the dynamic relationships between them," Gartner says. "However, the concept of dynamic relationships is vital to the success of future IAM solutions. In fact, the concept of the relationship will become as important as the concept of identity is for IAM in the IDoT. It allows the IDoT to exist and become part of new responsibilities for IAM in the enterprise."

Gartner: IAM "Critical" for IoT

Written by Marco Attard
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It is arguably not certain IAM is the only provider of IDoT relationship and interaction functions, but the analyst insists IAM will retain its role in enterprises. As a result IAM product and service providers need to determine the role IAM will play in the IDoT, as based on enterprise needs and their willingness to provide to such needs.

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