

## The Internet of Things Will Expand Connected Life Despite Concerns About Vulnerabilities, Risks and Infringements of Civil Liberties

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 6, 2017) – The Internet of Things (IoT) will continue to spread rapidly between now and 2026 while raising a host of potential challenges, according to canvassing of more than 1,200 experts by Pew Research Center and Elon University’s Imagining the Internet Center.

5 These experts believe further human and machine connectivity will progress despite events such as the recent WannaCry ransomware disruption and Mirai bot attack – events that highlight serious global vulnerabilities in rapidly evolving technology networks. The experts also fear that a hyperconnected world poses threats to civil liberties.-

10 “Participants in this canvassing said a variety of forces will propel more connectivity over the next decade that manifests in things like cars, medical devices, public infrastructure and home ‘smart’ systems,” said Lee Rainie, co-author and director of Pew Research Center’s internet, technology and science research. “They argue that humans crave connection; that the IoT will bring advantages that are useful; that people’s desire for convenience will usually prevail over their concerns about risk and these factors will make it difficult – if not impossible – for people to opt out of a highly connected life. At the same time, a small share of the experts predicted that significant numbers will withdraw to at least some degree from connected life due to possible risks that will arise as the IoT rolls out.”

20 This report, part four of a five-part series on the future of the internet, is based on a nonscientific canvassing of 1,201 respondents conducted from July 1 to Aug. 12, 2016. Participants were asked the following question: *As billions more everyday objects are connected in the Internet of Things, they are sending and receiving data that enhances local, national and global systems as well as individuals’ lives. But such connectedness also creates exploitable vulnerabilities. As automobiles, medical devices, smart TVs, manufacturing equipment and other tools and infrastructure are networked, is it likely that attacks, hacks or ransomware concerns in the next decade will cause significant numbers of people to decide to disconnect, or will the trend toward greater connectivity of objects and people continue unabated?* Some 15% of these respondents said significant numbers are likely to disconnect and 85% chose the option that most people will move more deeply into connected life.

25 Many participants addressed one or more of the following prompts they were asked to consider: *1) What is the most likely kind of physical or human damage that will occur when things are networked? 2) How might governments and technologists respond to make things more secure and safe? 3) Is it possible to network physical objects in such a way that they will generally remain safe for the vast majority most of the time?*

35 “We asked this question because powerful voices in the security community have warned about vulnerabilities posed by the spread of the Internet of Things – from heart pacemakers to highways to applications that control homes,” said Janna Anderson, director of Elon University’s Imagining the Internet Center and co-author of this report. “The experts we questioned in this canvassing clearly expect the IoT will continue to spread even as risks proliferate because the promise of the IoT is that lives will be healthier, safer and more convenient. At the same time, these experts argue that

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45 people are being lured or pushed into a world they don't fully understand, full of hazards that even the IoT's creators cannot fully mitigate<sup>1</sup>.

50 Most of their concerns are tied to worries over harm from bad actors and over the motivations of the corporate and government bodies that create, operate and regulate rapidly emerging complex networks. Many respondents lack faith in their capacity to perfectly plan, build, update, regulate and maintain these systems in a way that serves the public good as well as their own interests.”

Dana Page, *PEW Research Center*, June 6, 2017

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<sup>1</sup> mitigate = to make less dangerous

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## DEUXIÈME PARTIE (10 points)

Vous êtes Janet Ward, technicienne informatique spécialisée ou Peter Ward, technicien informatique spécialisé dans les objets connectés.

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