Presentation review by Leah Clark, Editor, User Friendly, Los Angeles Computer Society – November Issue

The Internet of Things
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Are you ready for the Internet of Things? This is an environment where everything around you - your home, car, wearable clothing - is a "thing." IoT adds digital interactivity to all "things." You are probably already using some smart "things." Would you like to have dinner ready, music playing, or lights and heat turned on when you get home? Are we ready for machine to machine communication? Today's Internet is a network of machines and a network of people. Today, more than a billion devices contain embedded sensors capable of connecting to one another or to the Internet. When IoT takes hold, we'll wonder how we ever lived without it! The IoT will do a lot of things we do for ourselves - more reliably.

Wearables can be an aid to police for catching people by tracking their location. They can track your fitness progress, warn you when you've had enough sun exposure, and monitor medications, blood pressure, heart rate, and sleeping patterns, etc.

Your refrigerator will be able to monitor your inventory, and let you know when you're running out of eggs. We'll be able to text messages to and from our appliances. A vacuum cleaner can be programmed to clean the house at a given time. With the Nest Thermostat, you can program the temperature of your house from anywhere. Smart light bulbs can be remotely controlled, and change color for mood lighting. Your home's security can be controlled by smart locks, opening or unlocking your doors from anywhere. Smart knives and forks vibrate and light up when you've eaten enough. Markets will be able to have smart shopping carts to take us to the items on our lists, and then scan the items in the cart to keep a running total. An Amazon Dash Button quickly reorders your favorite items.

This new technology opens up career and professional opportunities for young people in app development. Data analysis will be the career of the future.

But all of this wonderful stuff brings security concerns. Smart TVs and web accounts are vulnerable to "Red Button" attacks. They need to be as secure as your computer. Your refrigerator can be hacked! Appliances, cars and medical devices can be hacked!
Another concern is that we may run out of IP addresses, since all appliances will need their own.

As an aside, Judy recommended NoMoRoBo, a free service to block pesky robo calls and unwanted solicitations. The Do Not Call List has become ineffective because people can find ways to get around it.