

## How to Use the website

[ The User-Guide was developed with early access software and screens and functionality may differ from final release]

### Summary

Use the [IoTWiki](#) to browse long form and interrelated content about IoT such as [What is Fog computing](#). Use the Forums to browse thru current news. Do spend time on Announcements as a way to discover the capabilities of the community and network by making (digital) friends. Blogs especially older ones have a wealth of insight and do skim thru them. Go ahead and ask questions in the discussion forum especially linking to a news or blog posts. Make it easier for community members by formulating your question in a focused manner (Sometime researching to ask the question will clear up doubts). If you are comfortable do contribute by editing IoTWiki and writing blog posts. Raise issues about bugs and software in WebIssue Forum.

Avoid spamming. Avoid posting duplicates. If you have posted in the wrong forum community members will point out and repost in correct forum.

Do spread the word and get more people engaged in **Raising the IoT Quotient of India**.

### Concepts

#### Goal

The goal of IoTForum is to help educate the Indian IoT entrepreneurs, mentors and policy makers on this vast, rapidly evolving technology that will likely transform all industries. **The goal is to raise the IoT quotient of India**. We plan to evangelize usage of "**India appropriate technology**" and cut thru PR and motivated sales talk . We consider that IoT is new and evolving and there are no role models or templates to copy . We must be prepared to make choices without waiting for the train to pass by and then find out best practices or what works.This is new as our policy makers, mentors and advisers are habituated to copy from somewhere else and are too much in awe of printed stuff much of which may not work. *As Start-ups we question the received wisdom and will chart the new untrodden path if needed.*

#### Components

The website consists of two separate components. A wiki (IoTWiki) based on MediWiki that powers Wikipedia and a WPSite which is based on WordPress(WP) site .The WPSite has social features like forming friendships, sending messages and being notified as well as business features of community discussion, reading community curated news and community announcements of events and meetups in one central place and blogging.

#### Discovery

Knowledge discovery is a primary way to become more effective and efficient. As we expect a large volume of content we want to make it easier for infrequent readers to find or discover relevant content. We encourage categorizing item you create by a Category (knowledge) tree ( administered by WPSite Editors) and by tagging ( Fee text users can create). We use a tag cloud and [Category Tree](#) in most places to enable readers to browse and discover issues and concepts. Search is also available but presumes the seeker knows what they are looking for.

## Groups

The WPSite has support for public open interest groups where members can pursue specific interests. The following groups are available now. Each Group has a [Group Landing page](#) and discussion forums. Ultimately the community will decide what groups and what topics are covered in which Group or Forum but this is our starting assumption

Group	Expected Usage
Agritech	A specific vertical around Rural, Food and Agriculture, Dairy and Logistics for these. This has been an active group at IoTForum since 2015 . We hope to evolve to more vertical specific interest group. This will cover the following Categories Markets & Vertical> Agritech
General	A broad Omnibus Interest group covering Regulation & Standards, Markets & Verticals ( use case, Size, ), News(ecosystem, deals, Technology), Showcase ecosystem players like VC, ESDM Suppliers, Industrial designer.
IoT Stack	A place for all things technical around IoT. From conceptual topics around IoT Stack and actual implementation tools and issues for Application SW Dev( IoT Platform, Middleware) and HW Development( Microcontroller's, PCB, Casing, Antenna) & Manufacturing and sourcing
IoT Security	Special Interest around IoT Security
Start-up	Covering Start-up as a business( less the technology and engineering around IoT) Things like strategy ,business models, business development and compliance , News about Start-ups, Showcase start-ups.

**Forums** . Each group has three public Forums

- a. **Announcements**. You can post a short Profile of yourself (if a freelancer or independent consultant) or your company when you first join the WPSite and when a significant update is needed. You can post a announcement for any meetup or Event you are hosting. There are 3 expectations for this community service
  - i. Minimize Noise. Keep your posting brief and provide a link for more information or call to action.
  - ii. Do not spam. Posting an event more than twice will get you banned. Posting a self-promotional more than once in 6 months is likely to get you banned. You can maintain your profile section of WPSite and update that. A notification of this update will go out to your WPSite Friends.
  - iii. The Announcement should be directly connected to you the member. It is your event, meetup, product or company. We discourage PR folks and marketing folks from bulk and mass postings. We are here to help the IoT ecosystem thrive and are concerned at excessive noise drowning out quality content.
- b. **News** You are encouraged to post links to stuff you read that in topical and relevant to the group. Please keep the following in mind
  - i. Post a URL to that item and a short commentary (200 words or less if possible)
  - ii. Classify the news by Category and tag it with appropriate tokens. See Categorization. This is important for discovery as over time the flow of information overwhelms all of us in this hyper communicating digital-social world

- iii. Check the item has not been already posted. If it has added a reply to that item to contribute your Point of View.
- iv. If you have a longer-term Point of View or question you expect to discuss for days and weeks use the Discussion Forum and cross link to the News item.
- c. **Discussion** This is for longer running and more detailed debate or exploration of any news, trend or issue that is of interest. By separating high volume news and announcements into separate forums we hope to let the community engage in extended debate and resolve issues. We expect the consensus or alternative PoV to be summarized in a blog post, lead to an “official” position paper or advisory by IoTForum.

## Blogs

For long form content. Blogs are common across the all Groups. We have partnerships with many prolific national and international bloggers and will be curating content and making it available here. We encourage the community to cross post relevant, unusual or provocative posts that they have authored or have seen somewhere else. As a matter of policy all such cross posting must be clearly attributed and if the content is valuable or behind a paywall evidence that permission has been obtained should be available. We would like to avoid copyright issues.

## Start-up Directory

The IoTForum maintains an active pan India directory which has grown from 120+ in 2014 to 900+ in 2017. This is used to help stakeholders discover relevant start-ups. We have found it in demand from policy makers to understand where help is needed, by start-ups to discover others to partner, journalist to do a deeper dive into a niche and HNI and angel funding. Please check it out .

## Resources

We expect to add curated list of stakeholders like Industrial Designers, HW incubators, Testing labs , IoT Training organizations etc

## TaskForce

These are private by invite only forums where we debate and develop a position for regulatory or policy making. We currently have a FreshThinking taskforce around IoTSecurity and are forming another around OneM2M and M2M Service provider regulation being proposed by TRAI.

## Events

TiE runs almost 2 events a week. IoTForum and partners like IESA, IEEE and [IoTCoE](#) will frequently run events from small (10-30 attendees) like monthly meet or a technical workshop to medium (75-125 attendees) like IoTDay to large (>500 attendees) like IoTNext. This is for “Official” IoTForum and partner events only.

## IoTWiki

IoT is fast evolving and diverse and multidisciplinary. Most individuals are aware of some parts personally or thru trusted “experts” but end up being taken in by hype and press. The IoTWiki is intended to present a survey of topics ( IoT Architecture or IoTPlatform or Business Model) and present a India appropriate PoV. *The IoTWiki is not an encyclopedia.*It’s a young evolving knowledgebase and at the frontier of new stuff. We do not want to be neutral but encourage explicit advice and state your Point of View (PoV) clearly. Reasoned debate helps everyone make informed decisions. Please encourage community members to pen their PoV here

## Terminology

An operational definition of terms used

Unregistered users are visitors. Registered users become *Members* of Groups explicitly or implicitly by taking part in discussion or activity in that group. Members can add a *Topic* in a Forum and *Reply* to a Topic or previous reply in a Forum. They can also *Comment* on a *Post* in Blogs and maintain their own *Profile*. They can make *Friends* with other members and send messages. Members can subscribe to Topics and Posts. They will receive *notifications* from the system on events on subscribed Topics and Posts and updates on Friend's profile. They can send receive messages from friends. There are member activities that are shown by the system.

## User Guide

Under development { Icon}