

# Cry for Help

## Computer Tips & Tricks

### Internet of Things

The “Internet of Things” is a new phrase used to describe how machines and devices talk to each other.

It isn't quite the same as machines being self aware – as coined in several robotics movies, but it is a smarter machine than we have known in the past.

Let me use an example.

Early photocopiers, had a flashing light to tell you it was out of toner, or needed fixing.

Photocopiers these days are connected to the internet, they are smart, two weeks before they run out of toner they send a message to the supplier to order toner so that it is delivered before you need it, and similarly it calls for help when it needs a service.

Hopefully we won't get self aware photocopiers asking us why we didn't order the pink model.

So the Internet of Things (IoT) is something you are going to hear a lot more about. Machines that talk to each other have the potential to take away the trivial decision making we do every day. Eg a sensor in the hall way, notices your presence, it also knows it is dark – so it turns the light on for 2 minutes (so it also saves you turning the light off)

Or, a sensor on the pergola notices that the temperature has increased to 25, and that the forecast for today is a maximum of 35, so it instructs the louvers to close and so shade the house. To check that things are working while you are away, you logon to your house to see the current temperature and you also see that the louvers have closed as expected.

This is the new ‘automatically’ – it just happens.

**Jonathan Harris**

**JNH Software P/L**

**0417 33 66 21**