

# Communication Options for IoT

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# Parameters

When considering communications options, parameters to be considered are:

Range

Multihop capabilities

Battery consumption

Security

Cost (device)

Cost (service)

Availability

Regulation

# IoT specific case

IoT nodes can accept:

**Low throughput, for many applications**

**Delays**

**Long Sleeping times**

Which ones don't?



# UNITED STATES FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

## THE RADIO SPECTRUM

### RADIO SERVICES COLOR LEGEND

- AERONAUTICAL MOBILE
- INTER-SATELLITE
- RADIO ASTRONOMY
- AERONAUTICAL MOBILE SATELLITE
- LAND MOBILE
- RADIO TERRESTRIAL SATELLITE
- AERONAUTICAL RADIO NAVIGATION
- LAND MOBILE SATELLITE
- RADIOLOCATION
- AMATEUR
- RADIOLOCATION SATELLITE
- AMATEUR SATELLITE
- MARITIME MOBILE
- MARITIME MOBILE SATELLITE
- RADIONAVIGATION
- BROADCASTING
- MARITIME RADIO NAVIGATION
- RADIONAVIGATION SATELLITE
- BROADCASTING SATELLITE
- METEOROLOGICAL
- SPACE OPERATION
- EARTH EXPLORATION SATELLITE
- METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE
- SPACE RESEARCH
- FIXED
- MOBILE
- STANDARD FREQUENCY
- FIXED SATELLITE
- MOBILE SATELLITE
- STANDARD FREQUENCY AND TIME SIGNAL SATELLITE

- ### ACTIVITY CODE
- FEDERAL EXCLUSIVE
  - FEDERAL/NON-FEDERAL SHARED
  - NON-FEDERAL EXCLUSIVE

### ALLOCATION USAGE DESIGNATION

SERVICE	EXAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
Primary	FIXED	Capital Letters
Secondary	MOBILE	1st Capital and 1st-3rd Lower Letters

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
Office of Spectrum Management  
JANUARY 2016

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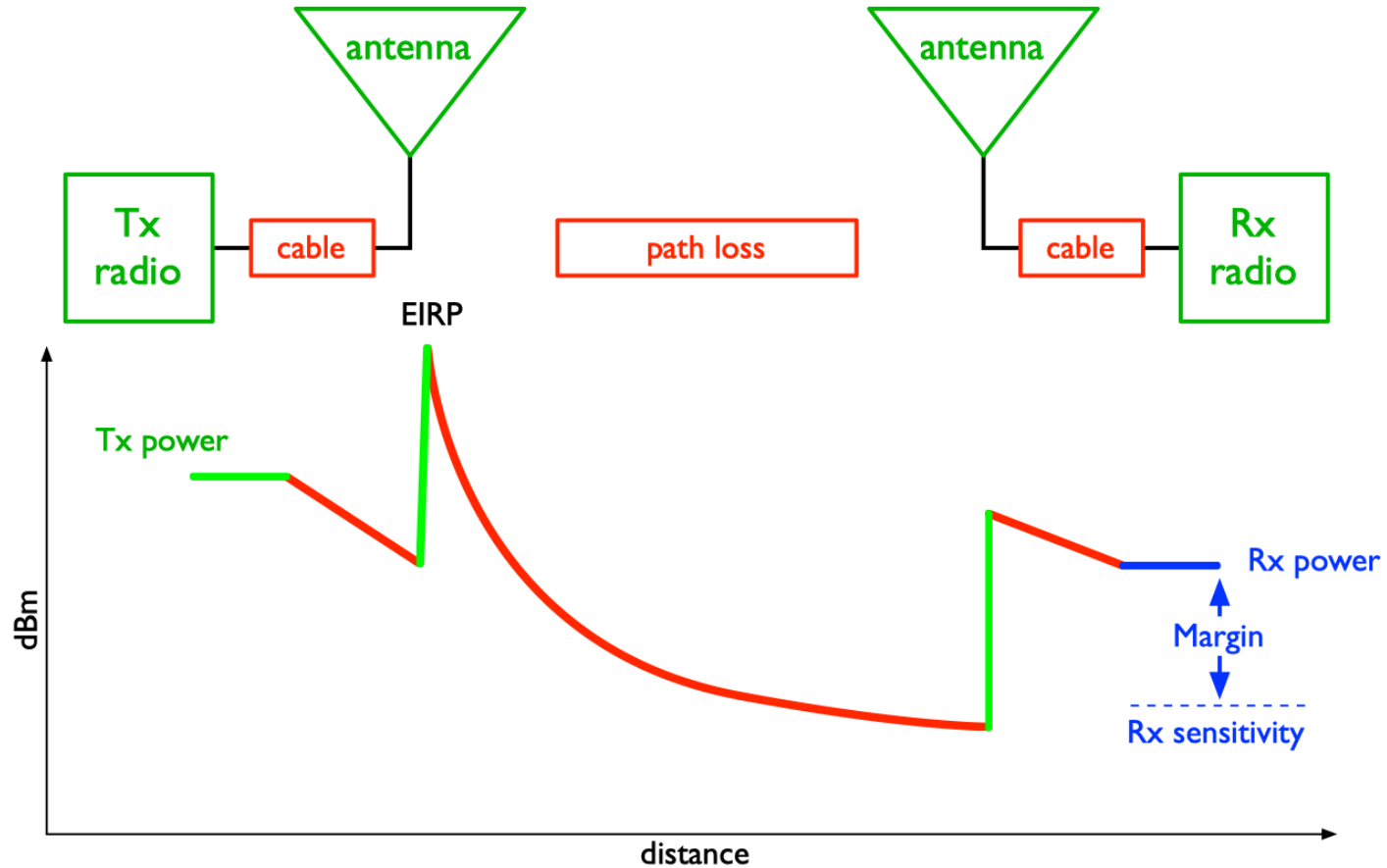
# ISM bands

## Industrial, **S**cientific and **M**edical Radio Bands

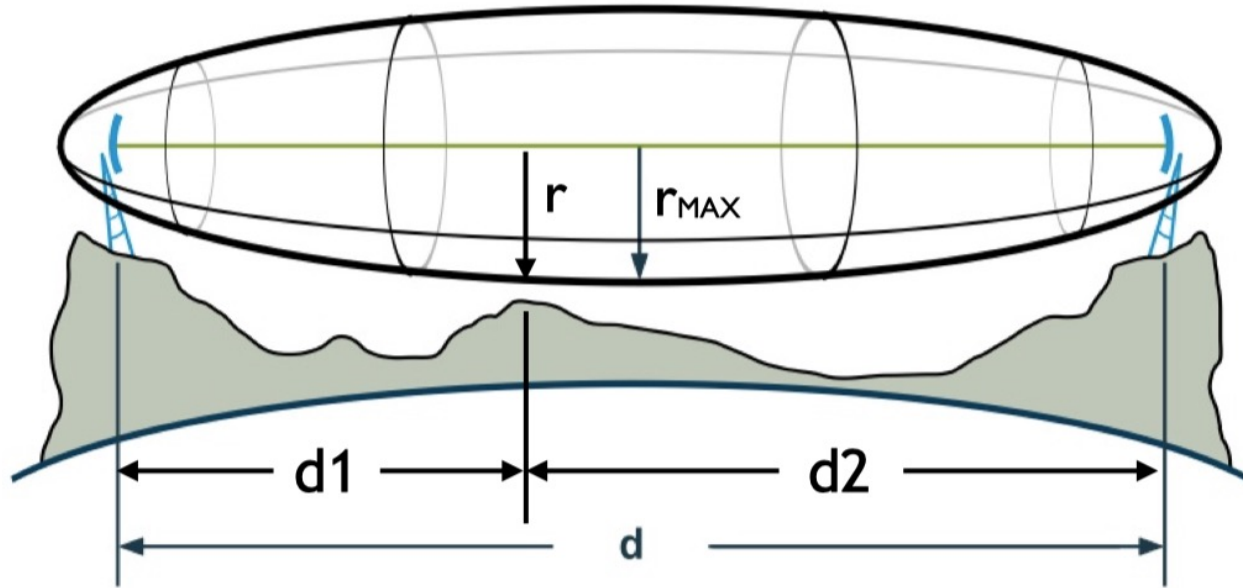
ISM Band Frequencies
6.765 - 6.795 MHz
13.553 - 13.567 MHz
26.957 - 27.283 MHz
40.66 - 40.70 MHz
83.996 - 84.004 MHz
167.992 - 168.008 MHz
→ 433.05 - 434.79 MHz
→ 886 - 906 MHz
→ 2.400 - 2.500 MHz
5.725 - 5.875 MHz
24.0 - 24.25 GHz
61.0 - 61.5 GHz
122 - 123 GHz
244 - 246 GHz

$f(\text{space, time})$

# Power in a wireless system



# Line of Sight and Fresnel Zones



$$r = \sqrt{d_1 * d_2 * \lambda / d}$$

# Options

We will consider the following options for IoT communications:

Bluetooth and BLE

WiFi

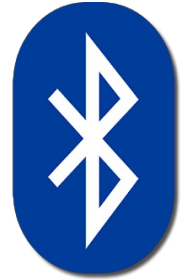
Cellular based

Satellite

LPWAN



# Bluetooth



79 channels 1 MHz wide and **frequency hopping** to combat interference in the crowded 2.4 GHz band.

Used mainly for speakers, health monitors and other short-range applications.

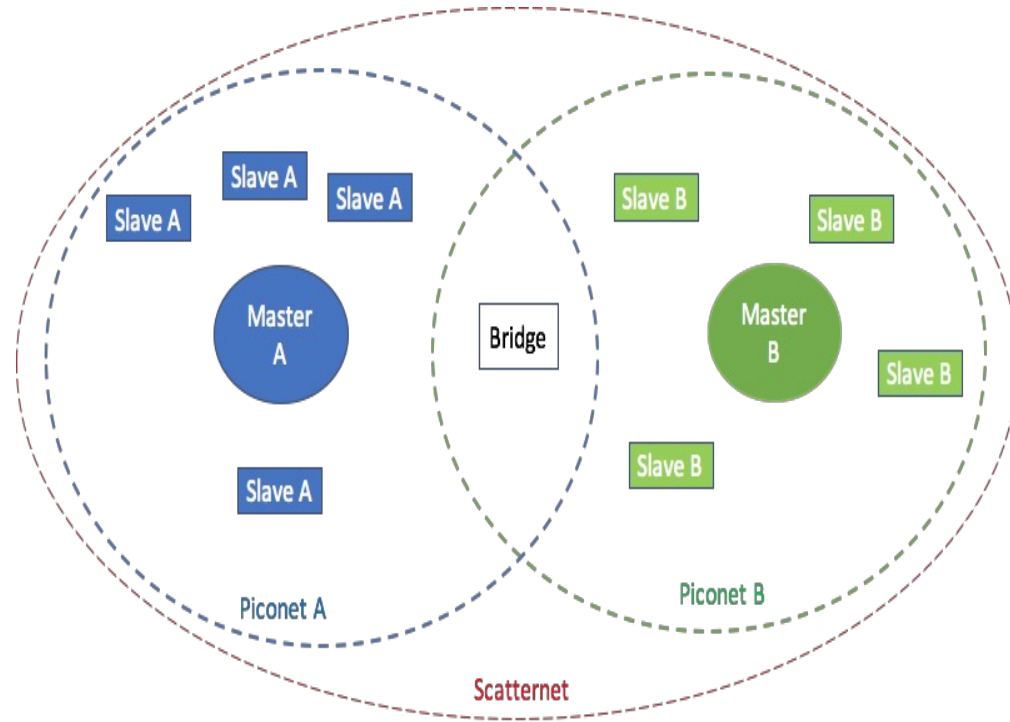
# Bluetooth architecture

Master node controls up to 7 active slave nodes and up to 255 inactive nodes, forming a **piconet**.

Several piconets can form a **scatternet** by leveraging bridging nodes associated to more than one master.

**Slaves must communicate through the master node.**

# Bluetooth architecture



# Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE)

Subset of Bluetooth 4.0, but stemming from an independent Nokia solution.

Smart Mesh.

40 channels 2 MHz wide and frequency hopping to combat interference.

Used in smartphones, tablets, smart watches, health and fitness monitoring devices.

# RuuviTag



## Wireless Temperature, Humidity, Air Pressure and Motion Sensor

*RuuviTag Bluetooth Sensor*

**32,18€ / pc**

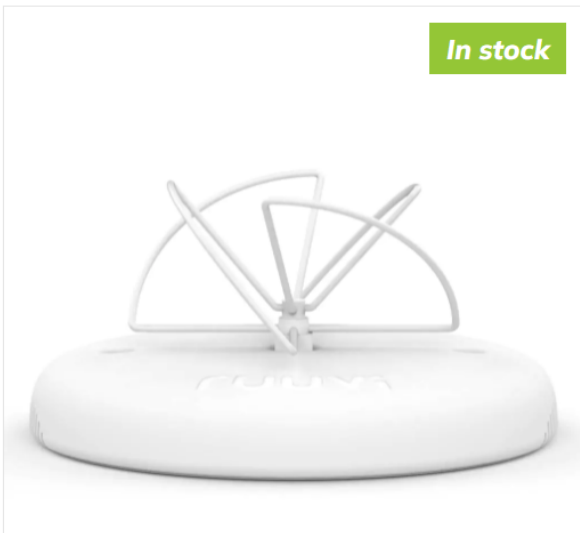
Tax excl. 

*Shipping*



# Ruuvi Gateway

In stock



## Ruuvi Gateway - Remote Monitoring for Sensors

*Includes a 6-month Ruuvi Cloud Pro subscription plan activation code.*

**160,48€** / pc

Tax excl. 

Shipping



# BLE beacons

Battery Powered

32 Bytes packet broadcasted

Up to 2 years

No formatting in standard

5.0 255 bytes packet

iBeacon (Apple) (proprietary)

Eddystone (Google) (open source)

Facebook Bluetooth Beacon (pushing advertisement)



# Bluetooth – characteristics

Range	10m
Multihop capabilities	no/yes
Battery consumption	low
Security	yes
Cost (device)	low
Cost (service)	free
Availability	good
Regulation	good



# GSM

## The Mobile Economy

### Unique mobile subscribers



### Mobile internet subscribers



### SIM connections

Excluding licensed cellular IoT



### 4G

Percentage of connections  
(excluding licensed cellular IoT)



### 5G

Percentage of connections  
(excluding licensed cellular IoT)

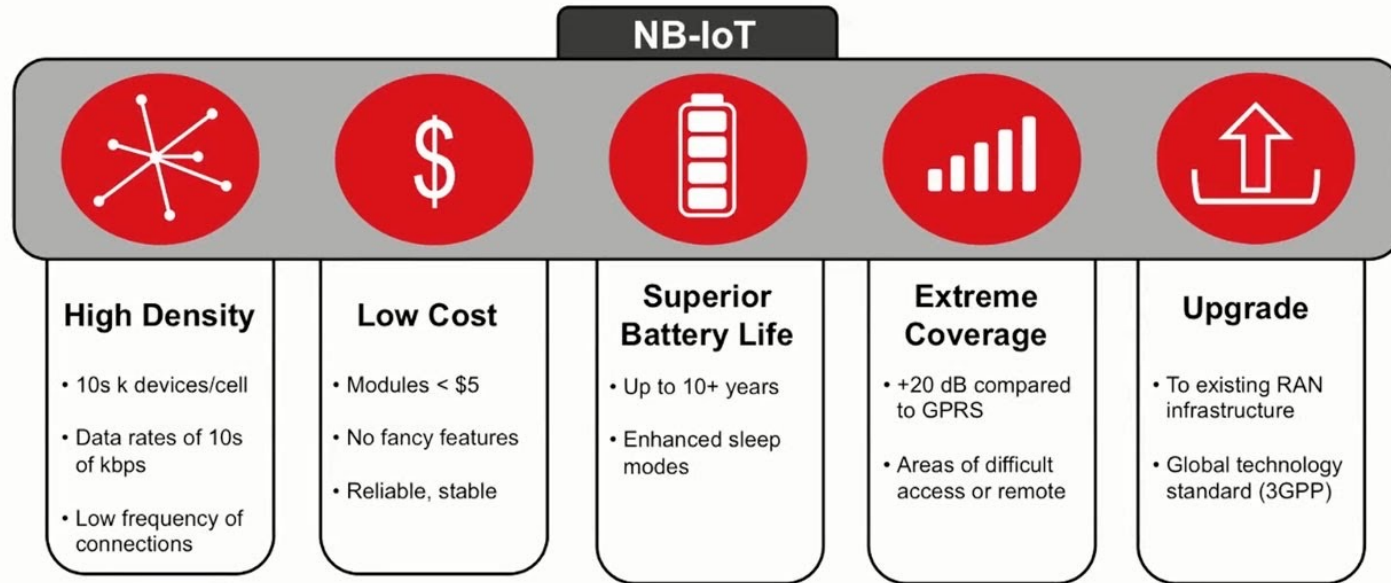


# 3GPP

	LTE cat 0	LTE cat M1 (eMTC)	LTE cat NB1 (NB IoT)	EC-GPRS	LTE cat 1	GSM 900
DL BW	20 MHz	1.4 MHz	180 kHz	200 kHz	20 MHz	200 kHz
UL BW	20 MHz	1.4 MHz	180 kHz	200 kHz	20 MHz	200 kHz
DL Peak rate	1 Mb/s	1 Mb/s	250 kb/s	10 kb/s	10 Mb/s	22.8 kb/s
UL Peak rate	1 Mb/s	1 Mb/s	250 kb/s (Multitone) ) 20 kb/s (Single tone)	10 kb/s	5 Mb/s	22.8 kb/s
Duplex	half or full	half or full	half	half	full	full

# 3GPP

## 3GPP Release 13 Narrowband IoT



# Telia first in Sweden with nationwide narrowband IoT

2018-05-24

Telia Company is the first operator in Sweden to bring the Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT) technology to its entire network. The new technology, designed for the Internet of Things, makes it possible to easily connect a huge number of sensors directly to the mobile network.

Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT) is a new communication technology that enables excellent coverage indoors, outdoors and in the ground. It is ideal for things that run on battery or only send data irregularly. NB-IoT allows for devices to be installed and connected in places that previously lacked coverage or were difficult to maintain regularly, such as far below ground or in the mountains, which opens up for completely new solutions and features.



# GSM – characteristics

Range	infinite
Multihop capabilities	no
Battery consumption	medium
Security	yes
Cost (device)	medium
Cost (service)	high
Availability	good
Regulation	good

# WiFi

**Austin, TX – January 20, 2022** – Wi-Fi® users demand more efficient, reliable, and secure connectivity in 2022. 6 GHz regulatory approvals, remote-hybrid work scenarios, and complex connectivity systems in home, enterprise, and Internet of Things (IoT) environments will only continue to drive demand for high capacity, low latency Wi-Fi. In 2022, nearly 18 billion Wi-Fi devices will be in use, and more than 4.4 billion devices will ship this year.<sup>1</sup>

As Wi-Fi momentum mounts, Wi-Fi Alliance® looks ahead at four Wi-Fi trends expected in 2022.



Credit: WiFi Alliance



# IEEE 802.11 Amendments

Standard	a	b	g	n	ac	ad	af	ah
Year approved	1999	1999	2003	2009	2012	2014	2014	2016
Max data	54 Mb/s	11 Mb/s	54 Mb/s	600 Mb/s	3.2 Gb/s	6.76 Gb/s	426 Mb/s	from 150 kb/s to 347 Mb/s
Frequency band	5 GHz	2.4 GHz	2.4 GHz	2.4/ 5 GHz	5 GHz	60 GHz	54 to 790 MHz	below 1 GHz
Channel width	20 MHz	20 MHz	20 MHz	20/40 MHz	20 to 160 MHz	2160 MHz	6 - 8 MHz	1-2 MHz
RF chains	1X1 SISO	1X1 SISO	1X1 SISO	up to 4X4 MIMO	Up to 8X8 MIMO, MU	1X1 SISO	up to 4X4 MIMO	1X1 SISO

# 802.11ah (WiFi HaLow)

Sub 1 GHz, most commonly 900 MHz

Low power, long range WiFi, less attenuated by walls and vegetation.

Up to 1 km range.

Lower power consumption thanks to sleep mode capabilities.

1, 2, 4, 8 and 16 MHz channels.

Competes with Bluetooth, speed from 100 kb/s to 40 Mb/s.

Support of Relay AP to further extend coverage.



# IEEE 802.11 Amendments

## First Commercial 802.11ah (HaLow) Wireless Access Point

A benefit of 802.11ah is extended range, making it useful for rural communications and offloading cell phone tower traffic. Among other benefits, AP-100AH is a revolutionary access point combining performance with unequivocal scalability and range (675 simultaneous connections and up to 3 km range).



<https://www.silextechnology.com/connectivity-solutions/wifi-access-point/ap-100ah>



# WiFi – characteristics

Range	1km
Multihop capabilities	no
Battery consumption	mid
Security	yes
Cost (device)	low
Cost (service)	free
Availability	good
Regulation	good

# Satellite



## Iridium 9603

### Power


- Supply input voltage range: 5.0V +/- .5V DC
- Supply input voltage ripple: <40mV pp
- Idle Current (peak): 156mA
- Idle Current (average): 34mA
- Transmit Current (peak): 1.3A
- Transmit Current (average): 145mA
- Receive Current (peak): 156mA
- Receive Current (average): 39mA
- SBD message transfer – average current: 158mA
- SBD message transfer – average power:  $\leq 0.8$  W

# Satellite

Bundle	per Credit	Bundle Price
100 Credits	£0.11	£11.00
200 Credits	£0.10	£20.00
500 Credits	£0.09	£45.00
1000 Credits	£0.08	£80.00



# Satellite



The image displays two satellite communication products against a black background. On the left is the SWARM M138 Modem, a small rectangular device with a white label. The label includes the SWARM logo, regulatory marks (FC, CE), and technical specifications: Model M138, Rating J 310C, 1A, FCC ID: 2AUE9-M138, IC: 26817-M138, website www.swarm.space, address 235 W. Whisman Rd, Ste 100, Mountain View, CA USA, and a QR code. A vertical dimension line indicates its height is 1.2 in (30mm). On the right is the SWARM Eval Kit, which consists of a solar panel mounted on a tripod. The solar panel is tilted upwards. A vertical dimension line indicates the total height of the kit is 11 in (280 mm), and another vertical dimension line indicates the height of the solar panel is 8 in (200 mm).

**SWARM M138 MODEM**

~~\$119.00~~ \$89.00 until June 30, 2022

Designed to be embedded into any IoT device.

[ORDER NOW](#) [LEARN MORE >](#)

**SWARM EVAL KIT**

~~\$499.00~~ \$449.00 until June 30, 2022

Out-of-the-box kit for messaging and IoT product development.

[ORDER NOW](#) [LEARN MORE >](#)



# Satellite

## SWARM DATA PLAN

USD \$5/MO PER DEVICE

Provides 750 data packets per device per month (up to 192 Bytes per packet), including up to 60 downlink (2-way) data packets

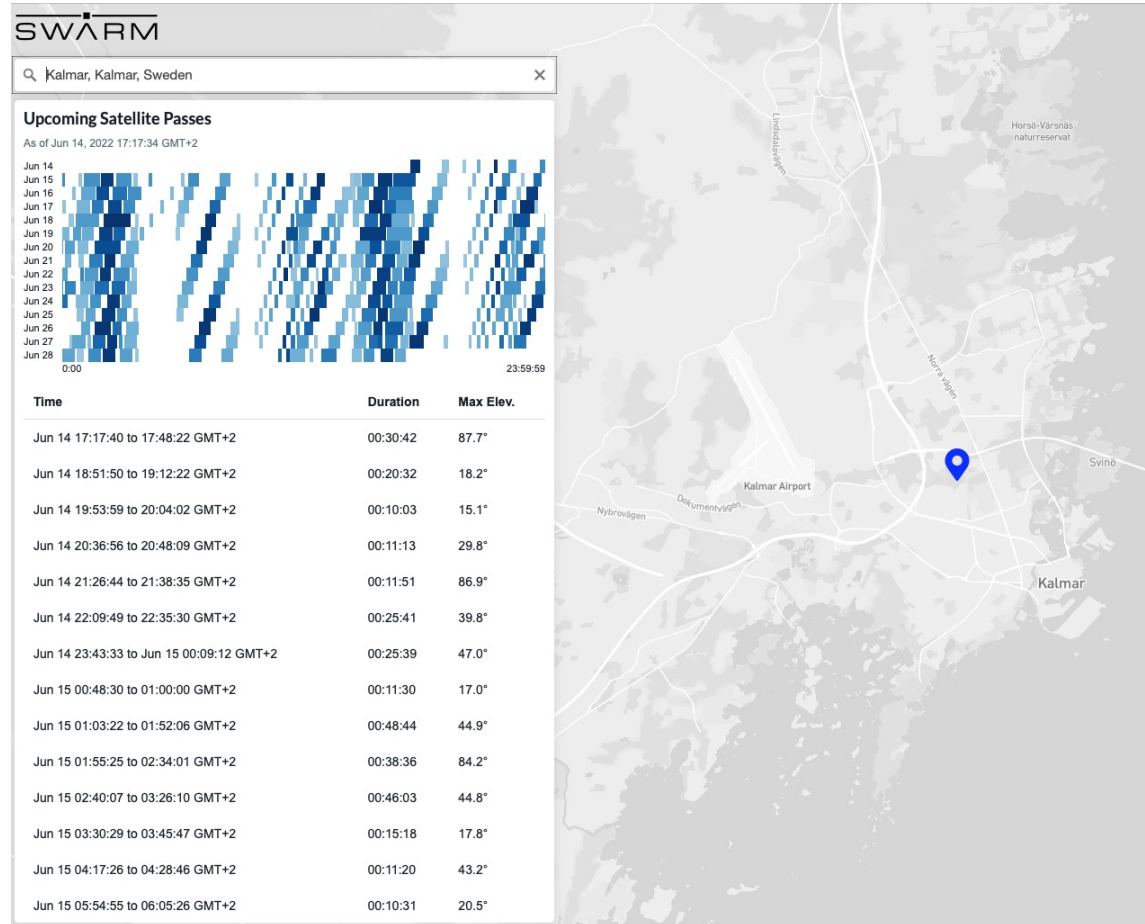
AES256-GCM encryption for secure transmission.

Annual contract with no setup or hidden fees.

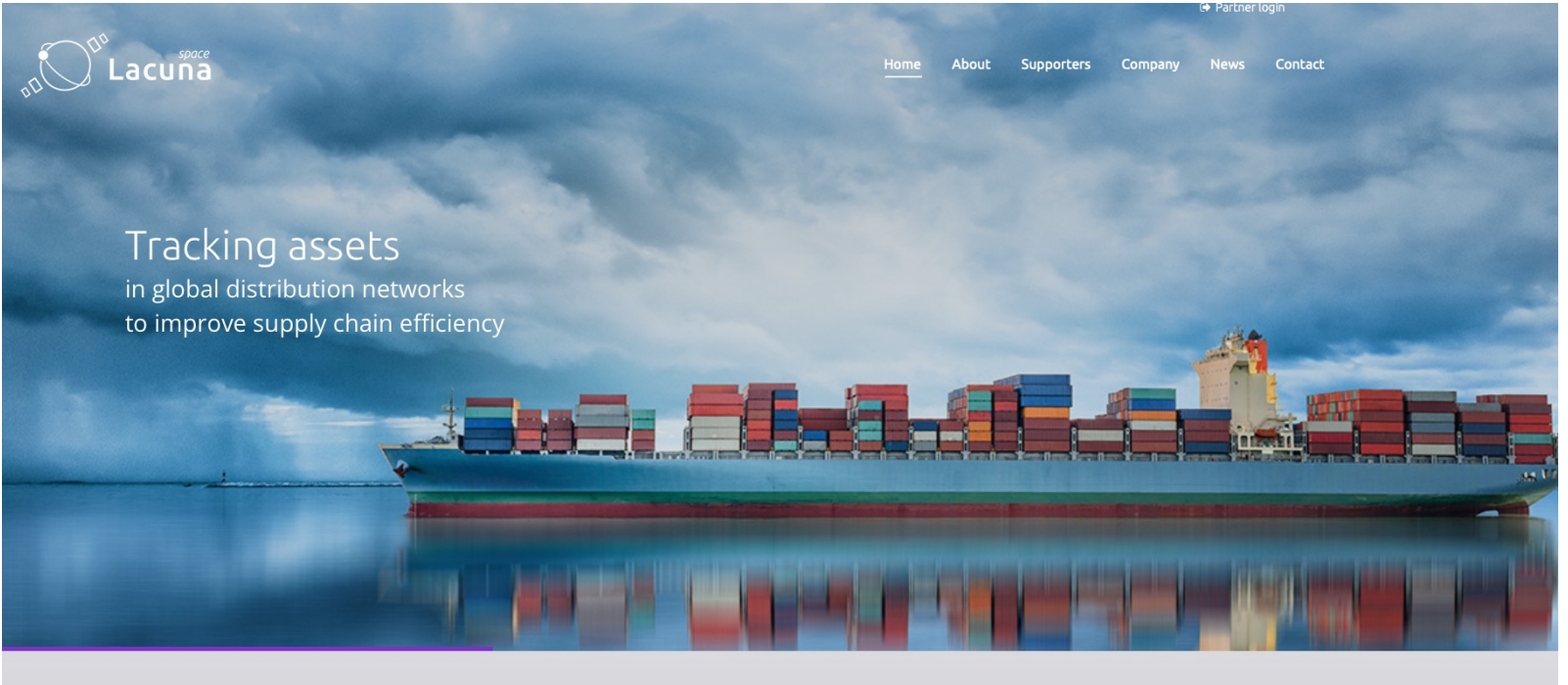
Data delivered via a REST API or Webhook to any cloud service.



# Satellite



# Satellite





# Satellite

## Lacuna and Semtech Expand LoRaWAN® Coverage through IoT to Satellite Connectivity



***Companies to collaborate to accelerate Internet of Things (IoT) adoption with affordable and simplified connectivity***

CAMARILLO, Calif., Jan. 11, 2022 – [Semtech Corporation](#) (Nasdaq: [SMTC](#)), a leading global supplier of high performance analog and mixed-signal semiconductors and advanced algorithms, today announced a joint initiative with Lacuna Space to further increase coverage and resilience of LoRaWAN® connectivity.



# Satellite – characteristics

Range	infinite
Multihop capabilities	no
Battery consumption	high
Security	no
Cost (device)	medium
Cost (service)	medium
Availability	low
Regulation	poor

LPWAN

# LPWAN

## **Low Power, Wide Area Networks**

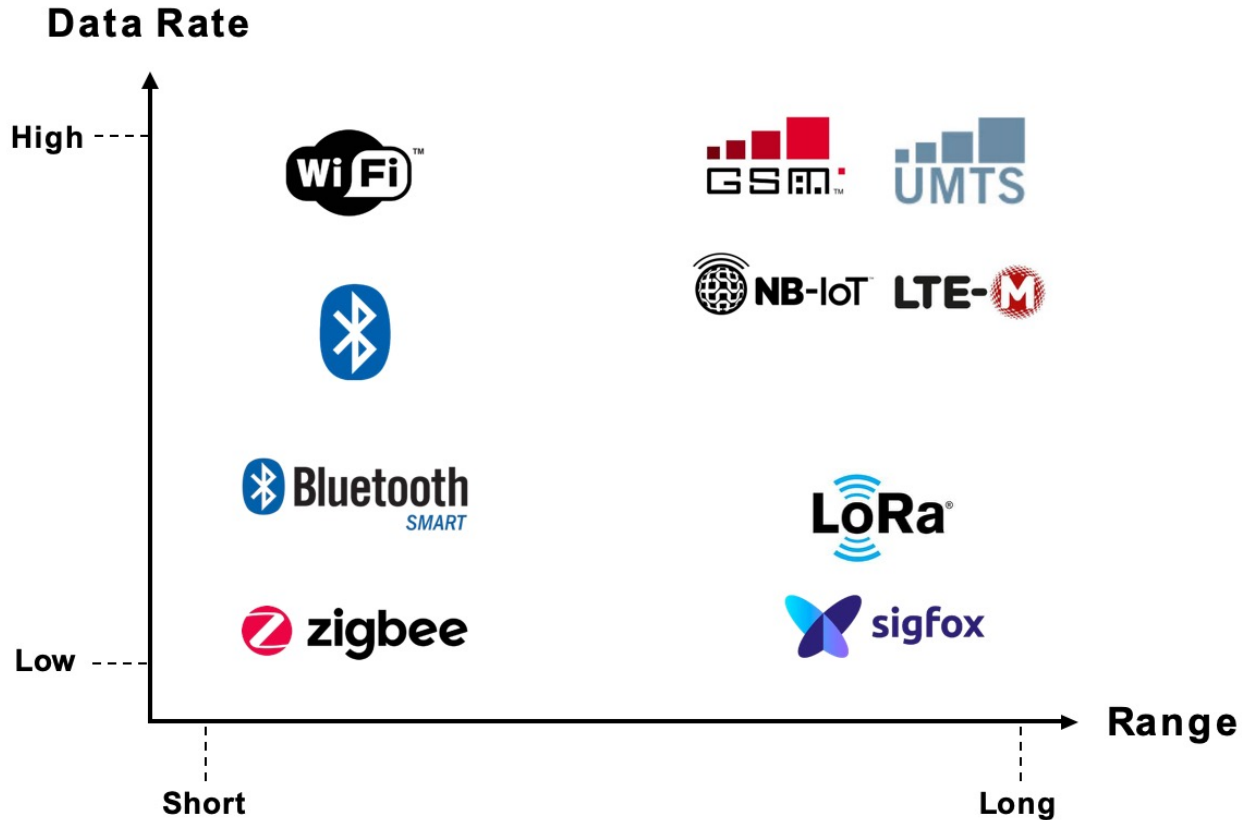
Connectivity designed specifically for IoT

Low data throughput = High sensitivity = Long range

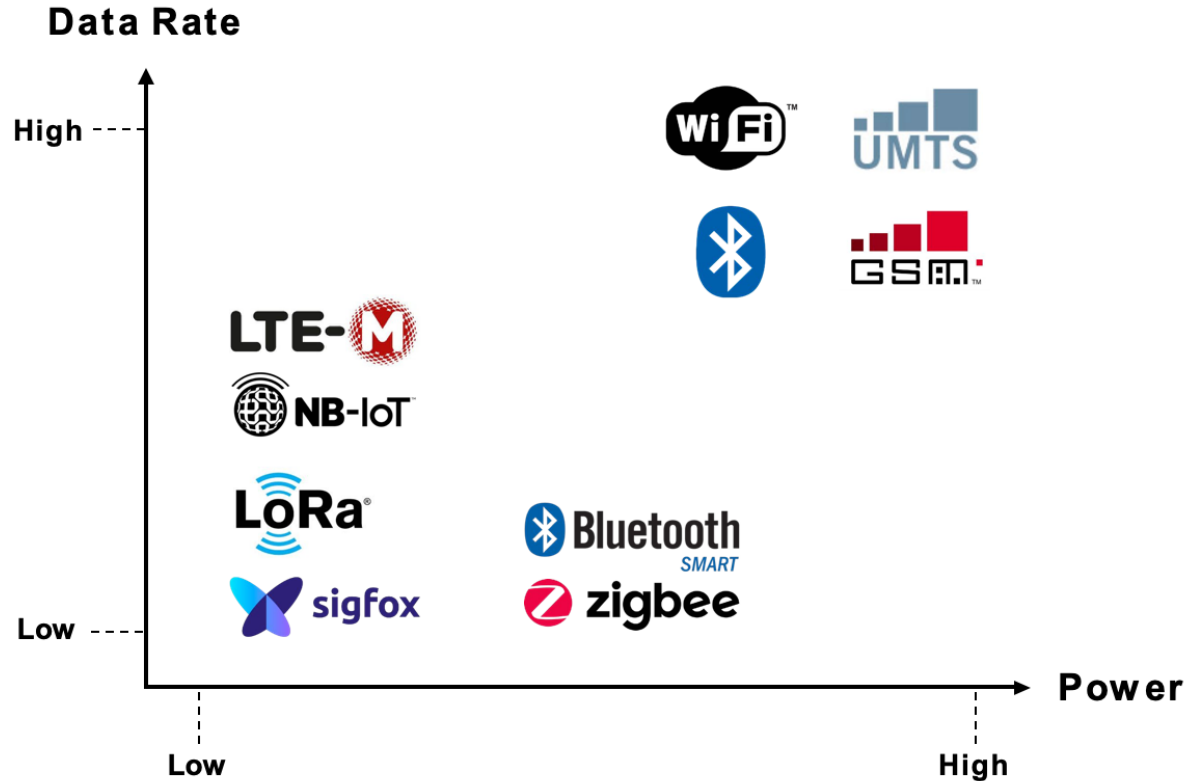
(Relatively) low cost

Using licensed or unlicensed spectrum

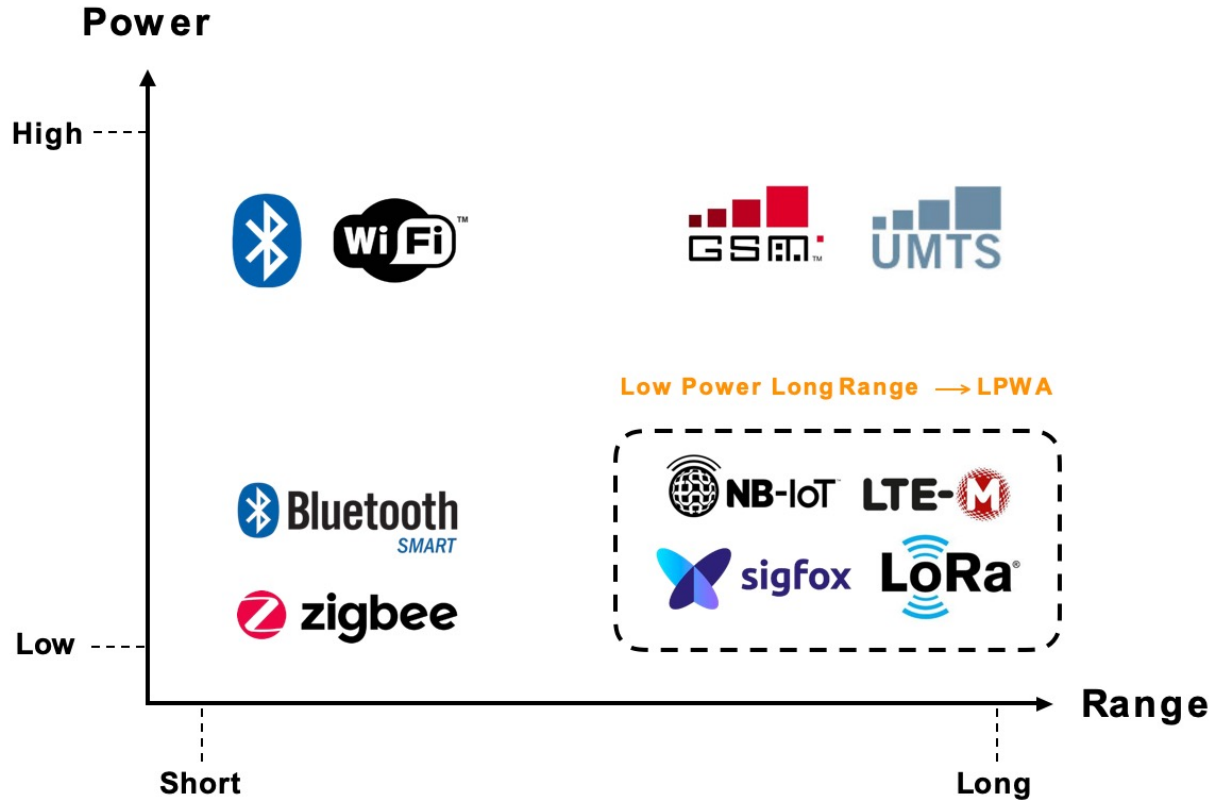
# LPWAN



# LPWAN



# LPWAN



# Sigfox

Ultra narrowband technology designed for low throughput and few messages/day. Low consumption, low cost

High receiver sensitivity: -134 dBm at 600 b/s or - 142 dBm at 100 b/s on a 100 Hz channel, allows 146 to 162 dB of link budget.

Each message transmitted 3 times in 3 different frequencies offering resilience to interference.





# Sigfox

Unlicensed frequencies: 868 MHz in Europe, 915 MHz in US.

Maximum of **140 uplink messages/day with 12 octets payload, 26 octets total with overhead.**

Maximum of 4 downlink messages/day with 8 octets payload.

Mobility restricted to 6 km/h.



# Sigfox



Partnerships with cellular providers with an aim to worldwide penetration.

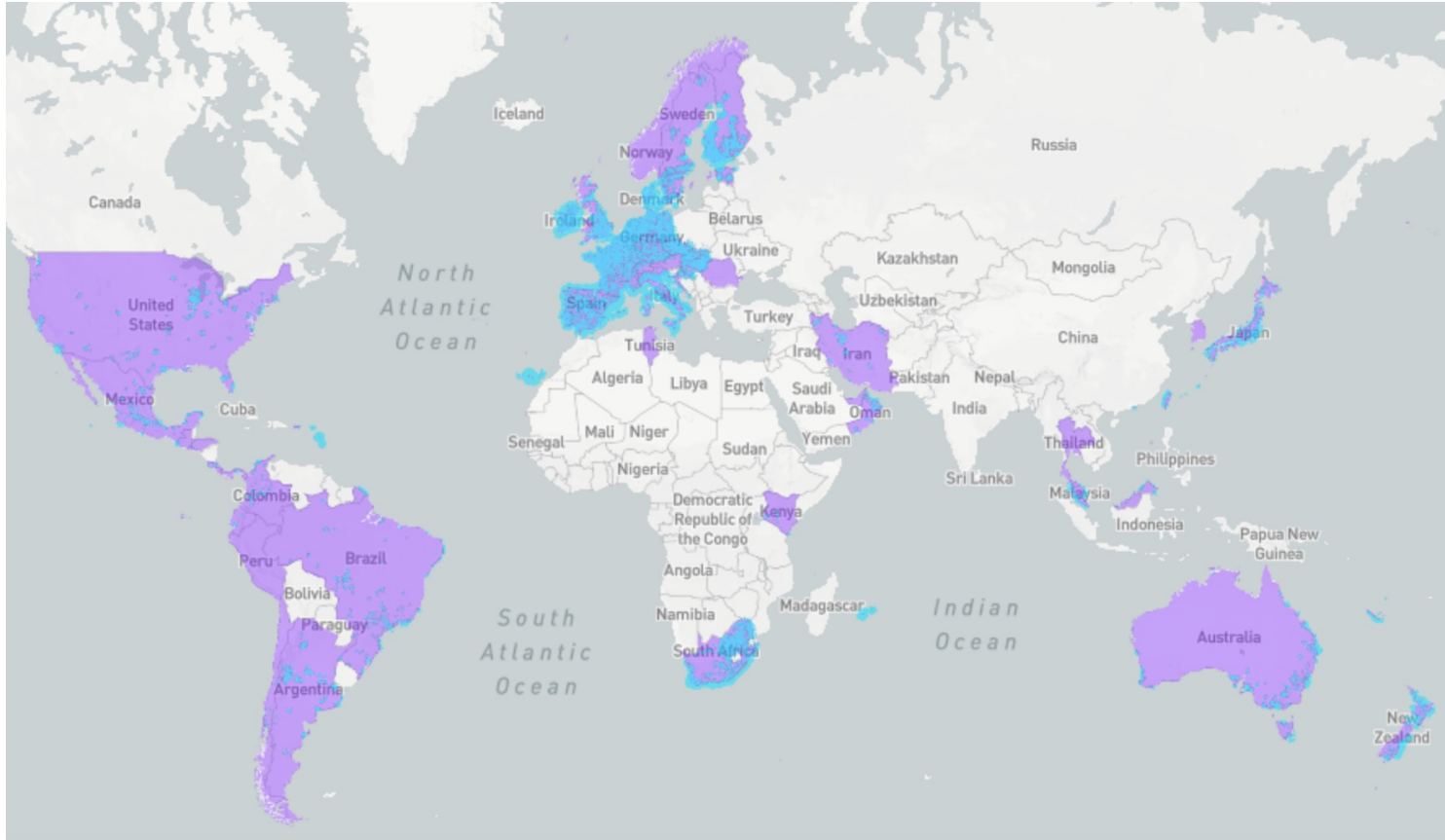
Many **network operators** worldwide offer Sigfox services on a subscription basis.

Coarse geolocation capability without GPS.

Roaming capability.



# Sigfox coverage



# What is LoRa



Wireless modulation technology, based on Semtech's proprietary Chirp Spread Spectrum (CSS)

Physical (PHY) layer for long range wireless communications  
Operates in the license-free Industrial Scientific Medical (ISM) bands all around the world

**Based on spread spectrum, trading bandwidth for S/N.**



# What is LoRa

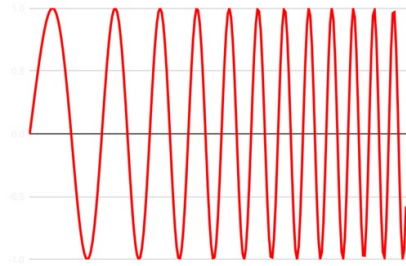
Sub-GHz frequency, e.g: 433, 868, 915 MHz, depends on the country's regulation

Regulated power, duty-cycle, and bandwidth.

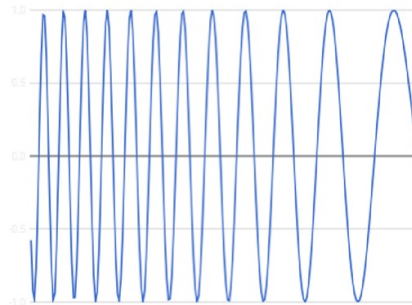
E.g: in EU, **1%** per sub-band duty-cycle limitation (per hour, meaning transmission is allowed for 36 sec in each 1 hour)

# LoRa modulation

Uses linearly varying frequency pulses called “**chirps**” inspired in radar signals.

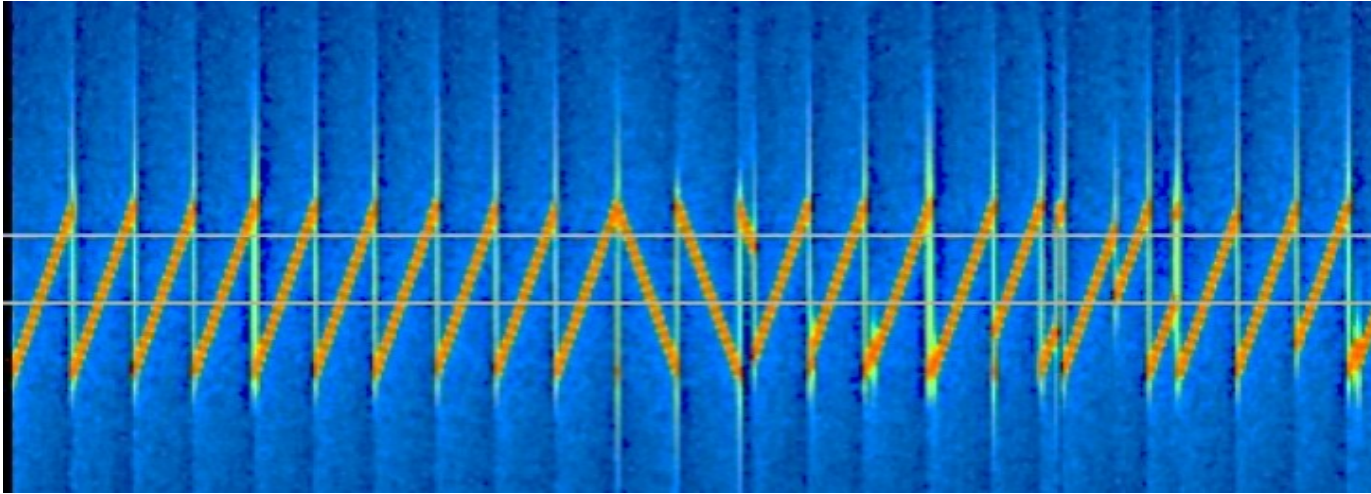


**Up-chirp:**  
sinusoidal signal of  
linearly  
increasing frequency



**Down-chirp:**  
sinusoidal of linearly  
decreasing frequency

# LoRa Physical Layer



Preamble: at least 10 up-chirps followed by 2.25 down-chirps

Data: information transmitted by the instantaneous frequency transitions

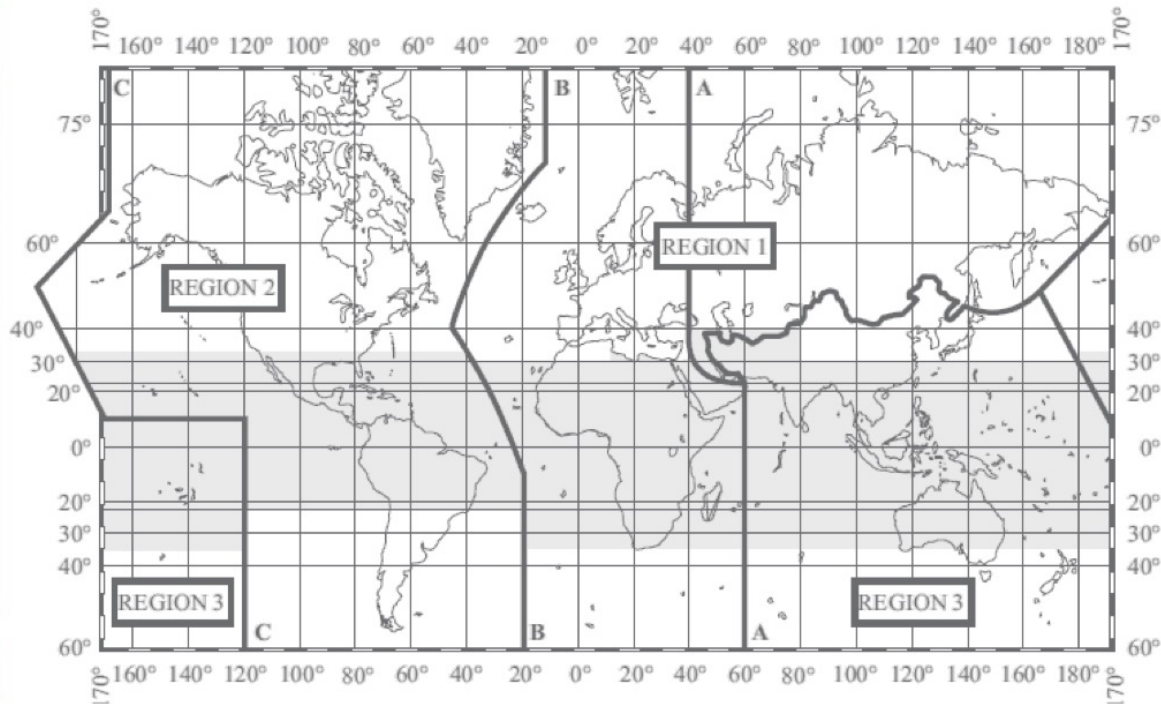
## LoRa physical layer consists of many parameters which can be configured into 6720 different settings!

Parameter	Values	Definition	Effects
Bandwidth	125, ..., 500 kHz	Width of spectrum occupied by chirp	A higher bandwidth is required for transmitting data at high rates (1 kHz = 1kcsps). However, increasing this parameter decreases the communication range and sensitivity.
Spreading Factor	$2^6, \dots, 2^{12}$ chips/symbol	Number of bits encoded per symbol. Symbol is RF state representing some quantity of information. SF12 means $2^{12}$ chips/symbol, 12bits of data	A higher spreading factor ( <i>SF</i> ) increases the communication range, radio sensitivity, and the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR). However, energy consumption consequently increases.
Coding Rate	1, ..., 4 or 4/5, ..., 4/8	Proportion of transmitted bits that carries actual data, as opposed to error correction bits. $CR = \frac{4}{4+1} = \frac{4}{5}$	Bigger coding rates increase the protection against decoding errors and interference bursts at the expense of longer packets, longer air time, and higher power consumption.
Transmission Power	-4, ..., 20 dBm	Transmission power can be adjusted from -4 to 20 dBm, in 1dB steps. Because of hardware implementation limits, the range is often limited to 2 to 20 dBm.	The signal-to-noise ratio is increased by increasing the transmission power at the cost of energy expenditure.
Carrier Frequency	137, ..., 1020 MHz	CF represents the central transmission frequency used in a band, can be programmed between 137 MHz to 1020 MHz, in steps of 61 Hz.	Lower frequency enables to achieve higher communication ranges for the same transmission power. However, selected CF needs to comply with country's regulation.



# LoRa frequency bands

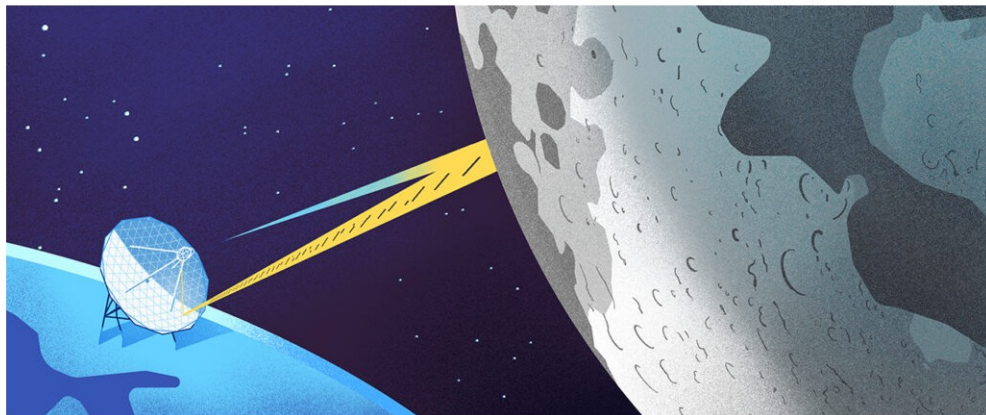
Countries	Frequency band review	Max. output power
<b>EU</b>	868 MHz	14 dBm
<b>USA</b>	915 MHz	20 dBm
<b>Korea</b>	900 MHz	14 dBm
<b>Japan</b>	920 MHz	
<b>Malaysia</b>	862 to 875 MHz	20 dBm
<b>Philippines</b>	868 MHz	
<b>Vietnam</b>	920 to 925 MHz	
<b>India</b>	865 to 867 MHz	
<b>Singapore</b>	922 MHz	
<b>Thailand</b>	920 to 925 MHz	
<b>Indonesia</b>		
<b>ANZ</b>	915 to 928 MHz	
<b>Taiwan</b>	920 to 925 MHz	
<b>China</b>	470 to 510 MHz	17 dBm



# LoRa capabilities

## First LoRa<sup>®</sup> message bounced off the moon

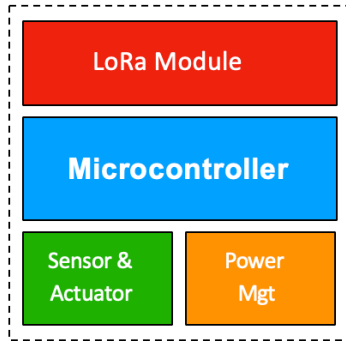
24 November 2021



For the first time ever we bounced a LoRa<sup>®</sup> message off the moon on October 5th 2021, using the Dwingeloo radio telescope. This first was achieved by a team consisting of Jan van Muijlwijk (CAMRAS, PA3FXB), Tammo Jan Dijkema (CAMRAS), Frank Zeppenfeldt (ESA, PD0AP) and Thomas Telkamp (Lacuna Space, PA8Z). The signal traveled an amazing distance of 730,360 km, which to our knowledge is the furthest distance a LoRa<sup>®</sup> modulated message has ever traveled.

For a short moment the entire message was in space, in between the Earth and the Moon. We transmitted the signal with a Semtech LR1110 RF transceiver chip (in the 430-440 Mhz amateur band), amplified to 350 Watt, using the 25 meter dish of the telescope. Then, 2.44 seconds later, it was received by the same chip. One of the messages even contained a full LoRaWAN<sup>®</sup> frame.

# LoRa nodes

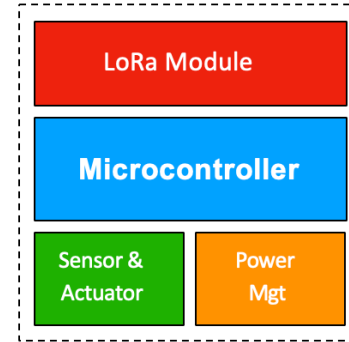


LoRa Node #1

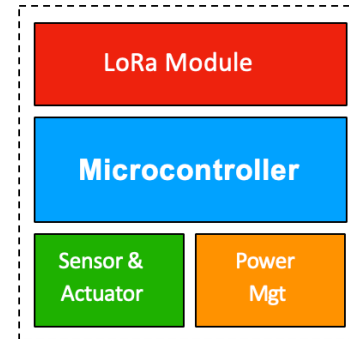


Packet Header

to	2
from	1
id	1
lags	



LoRa Node #2



LoRa Node #3

# What is LoRaWAN

Communications protocol and architecture utilizing the LoRa physical layer

Open Source and freely available, specified by LoRa Alliance

Star of Starts Topology.

**Nodes connect to multiple gateways**



# What is LoRaWAN

Adaptive Data Rate (ADR) to improve performance

Built-in multiple levels of security: network or application level encryption, frame counter, etc



# LoRaWAN end device/mote

**Communicates with LoRaWAN gateways, never directly with other motes.**

Has 64 bit globally unique identifier: **DevEUI**.

When joining a network, it receives a 32 bit unique identifier: DevAddr.

Defined 3 device classes: A, B, and C



# LoRaWAN device classes

## Class A

Device-initiated communication;  
lowest power

Devices are typically in deep  
sleep and send messages on  
intervals and/or events

After uplink transmission, device  
opens two receive windows at  
specified times for downlink  
messages

Best fit for most battery-  
powered sensor applications

## Class B

Time-synchronized  
communication, deterministic  
downlink

Extend Class A by adding  
scheduled receive windows for  
downlink messages from backend

Using time-synchronized beacons  
transmitted by the gateway, the  
devices periodically open receive  
windows

Best for most downlink intensive  
applications

## Class C

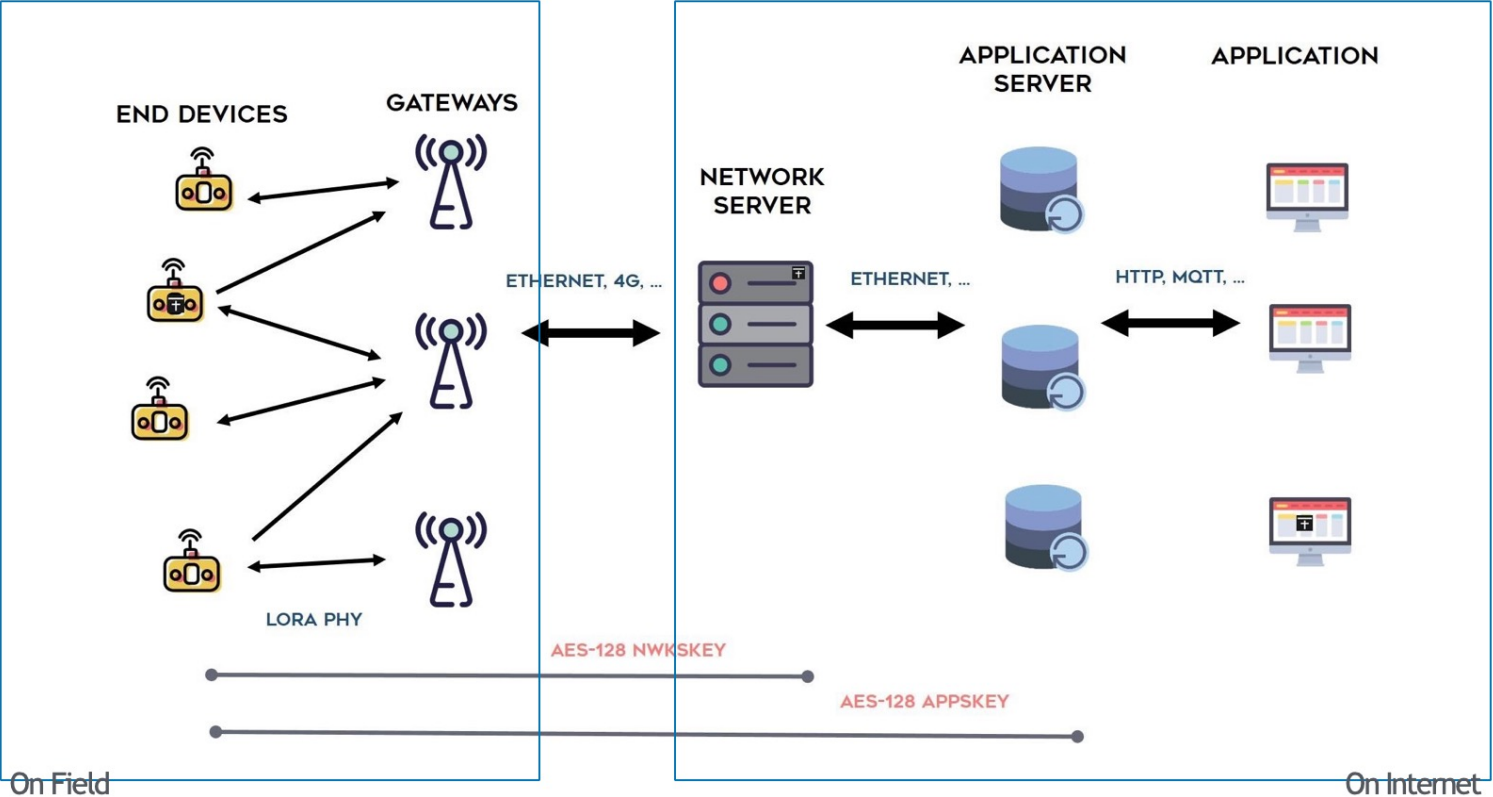
Network-initiated  
communication; lowest latency

Extend Class A by keeping the  
receive windows open unless  
uplink-transmitting

The backend can send downlink  
message at any given time

Best for downlink intensive  
applications that require low  
latencies, non battery-powered

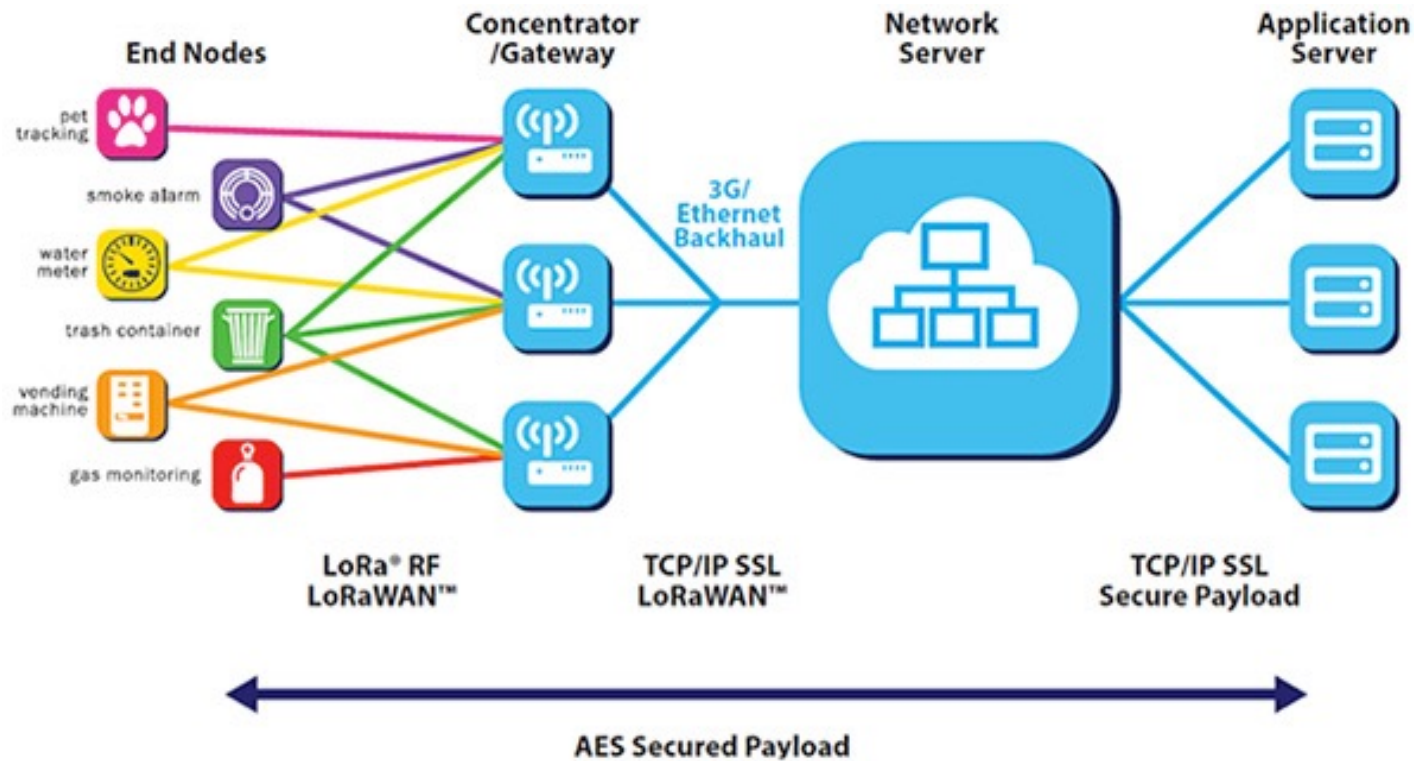
# LoRaWAN architecture

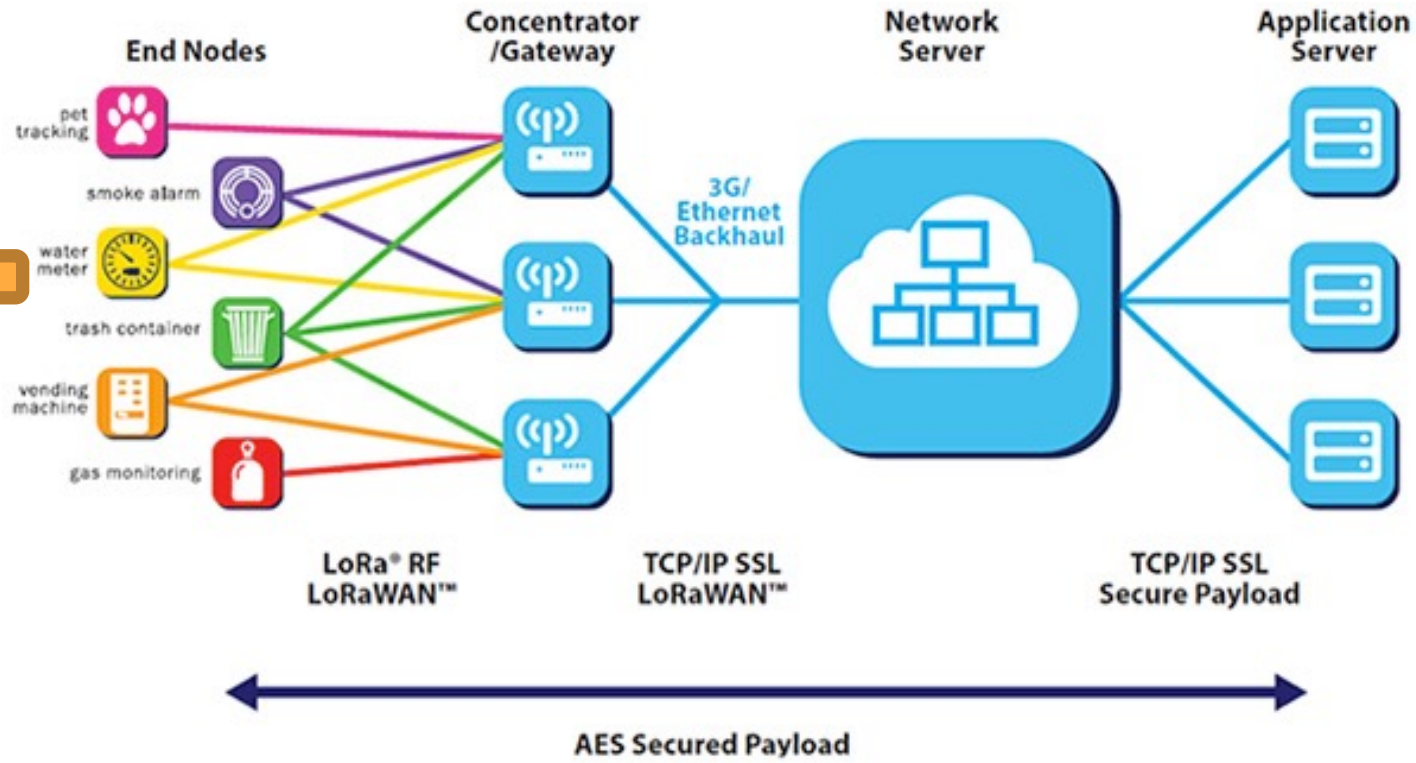


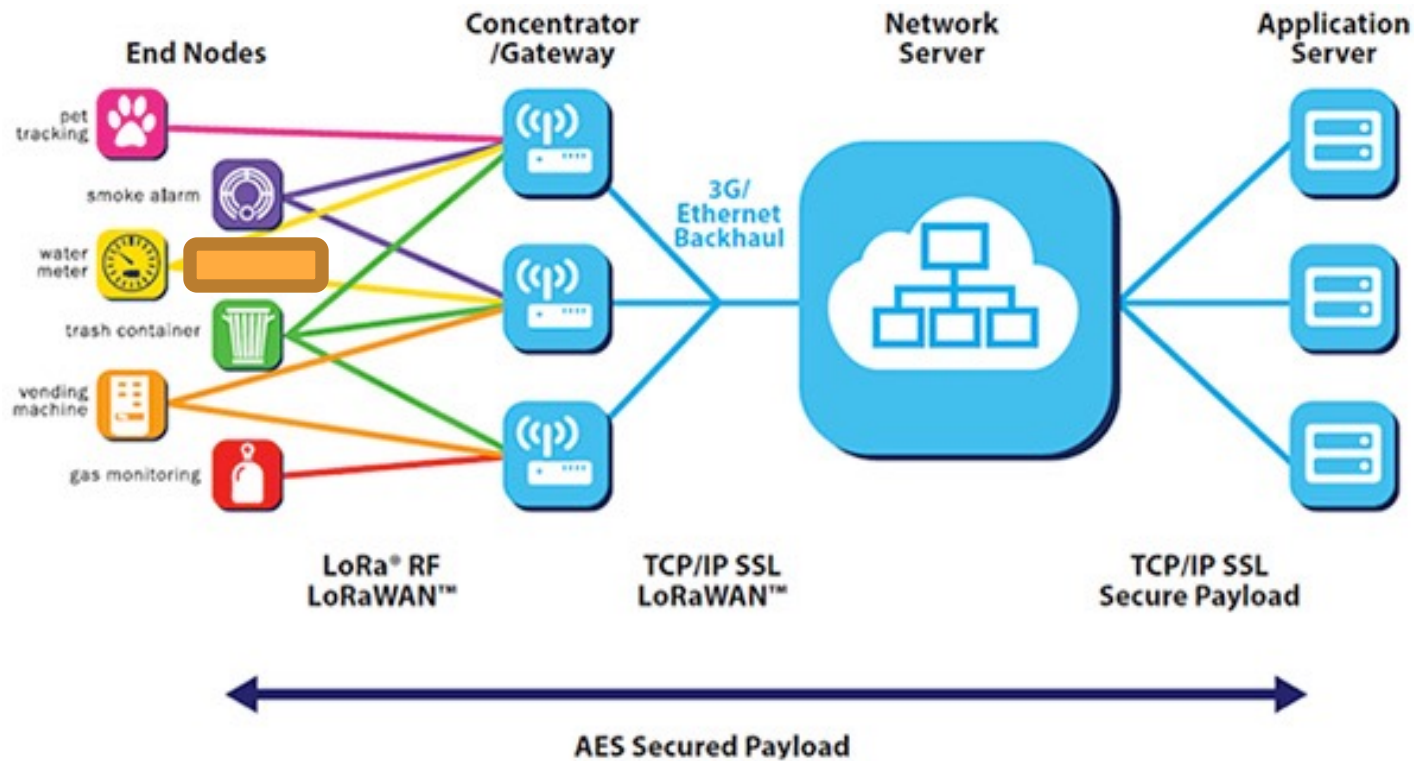
Source: <http://www.frugalprototype.com/technologie-lora-reseau-lorawan/>

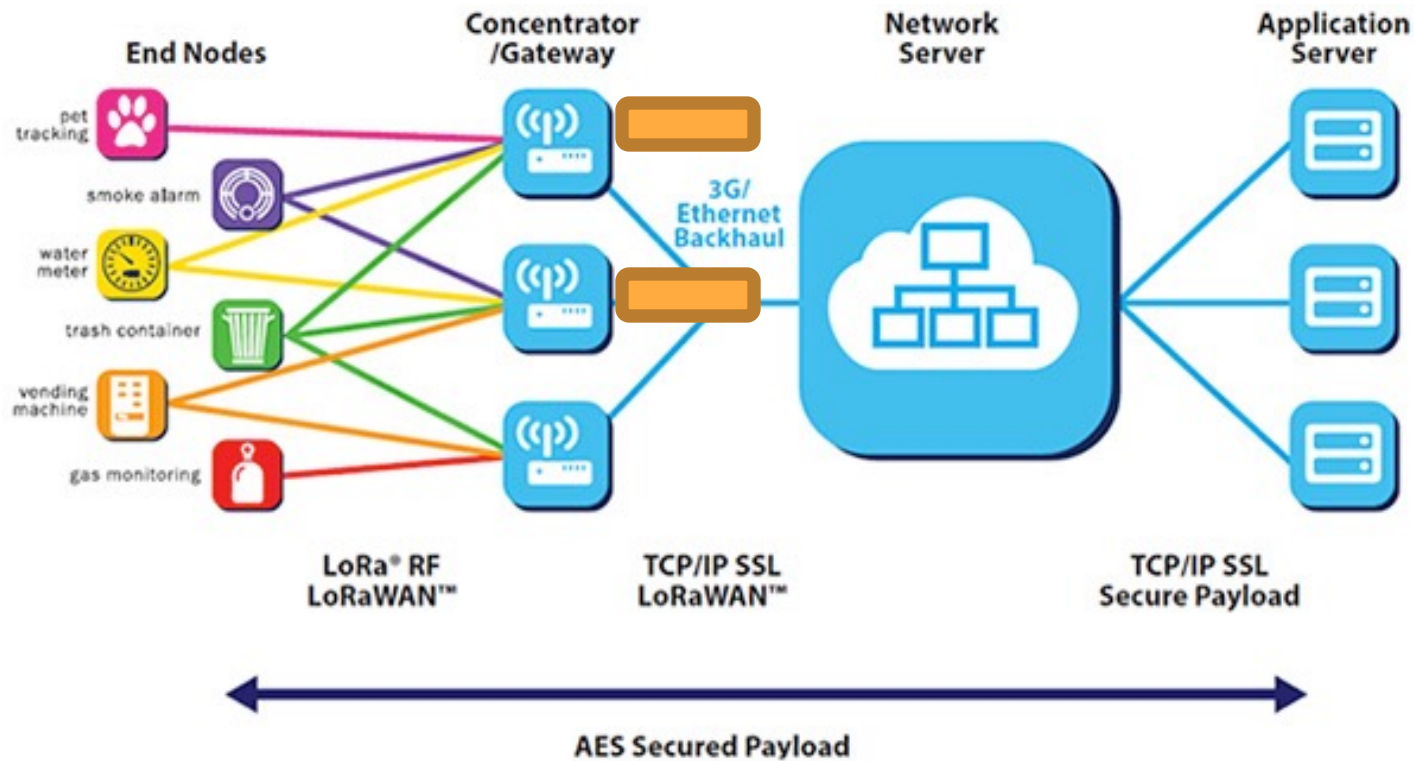


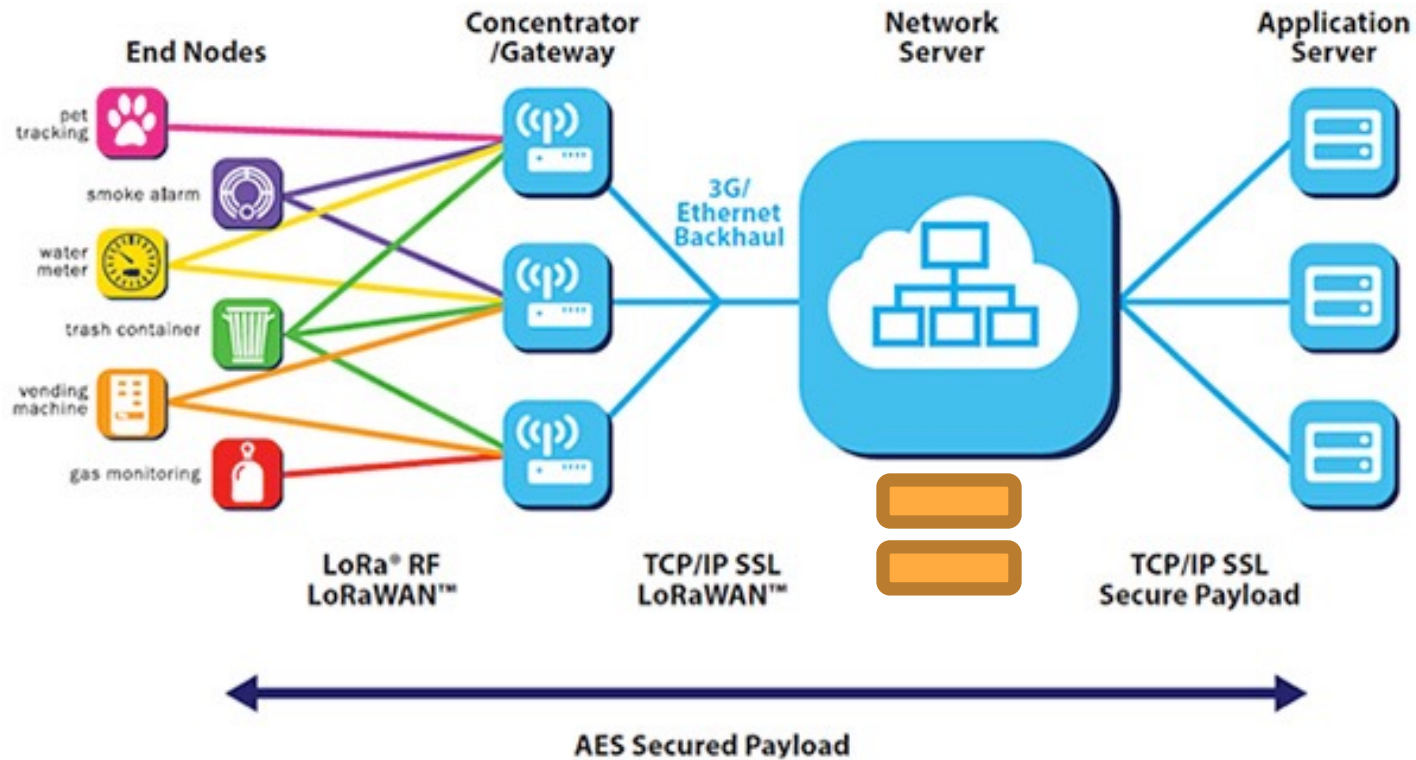


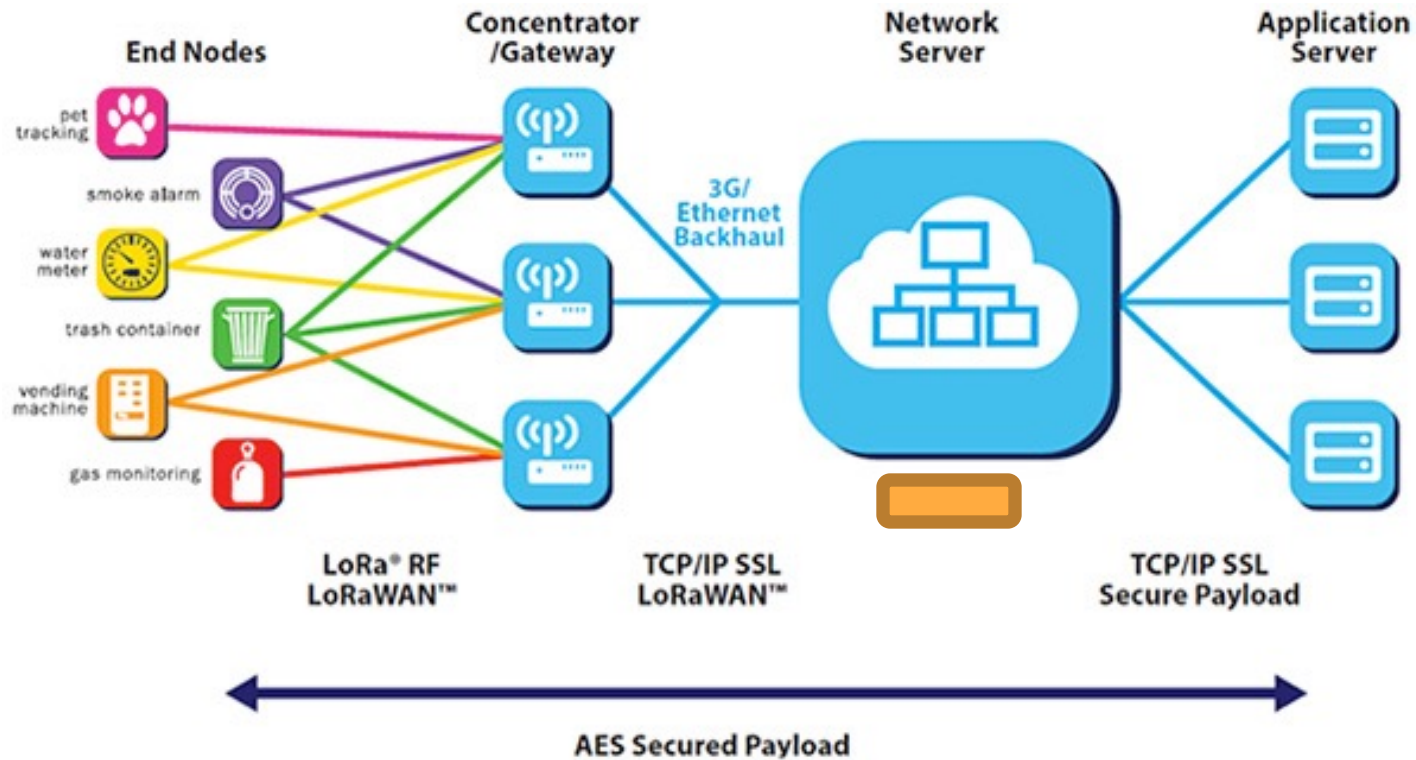




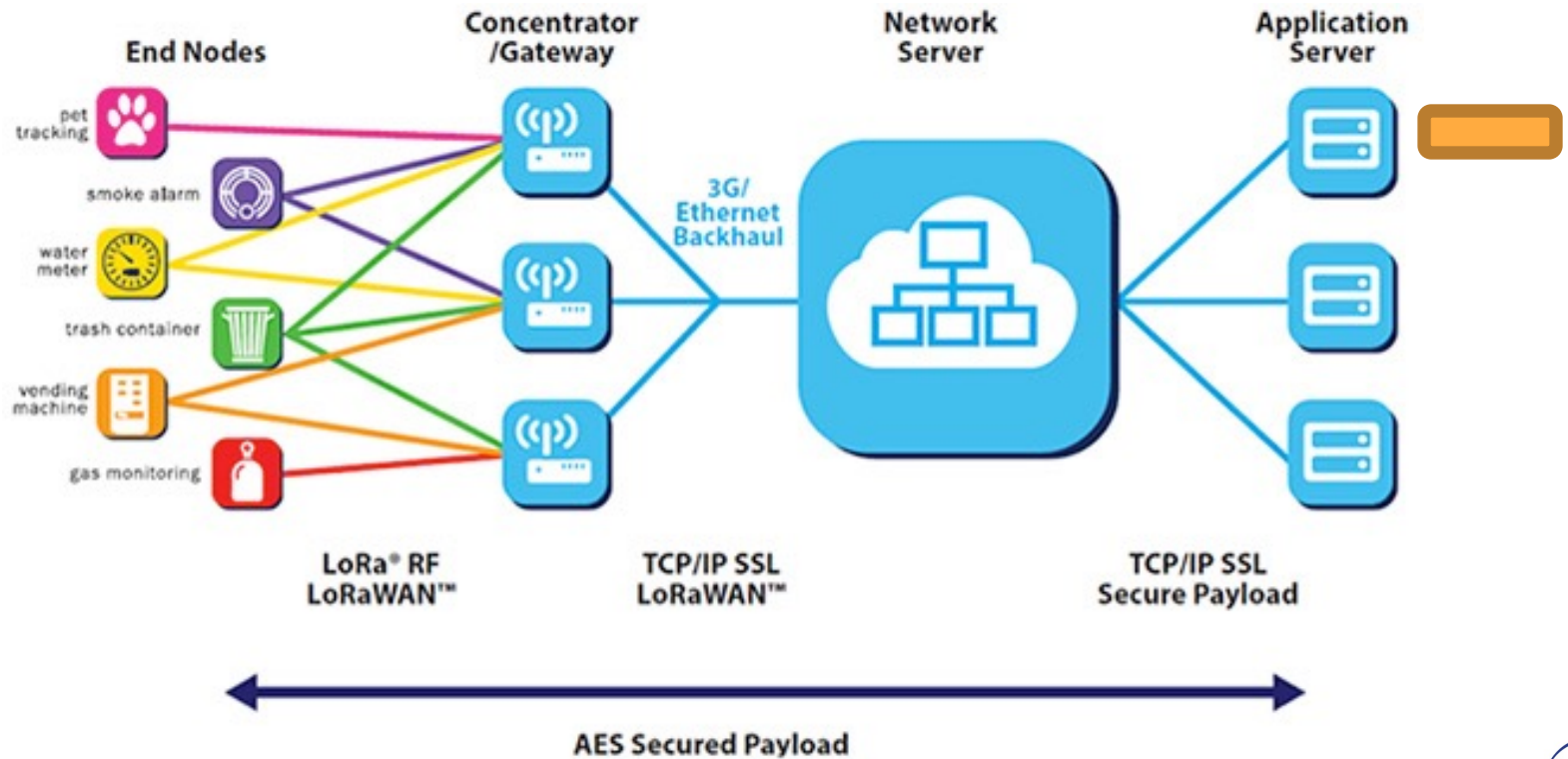


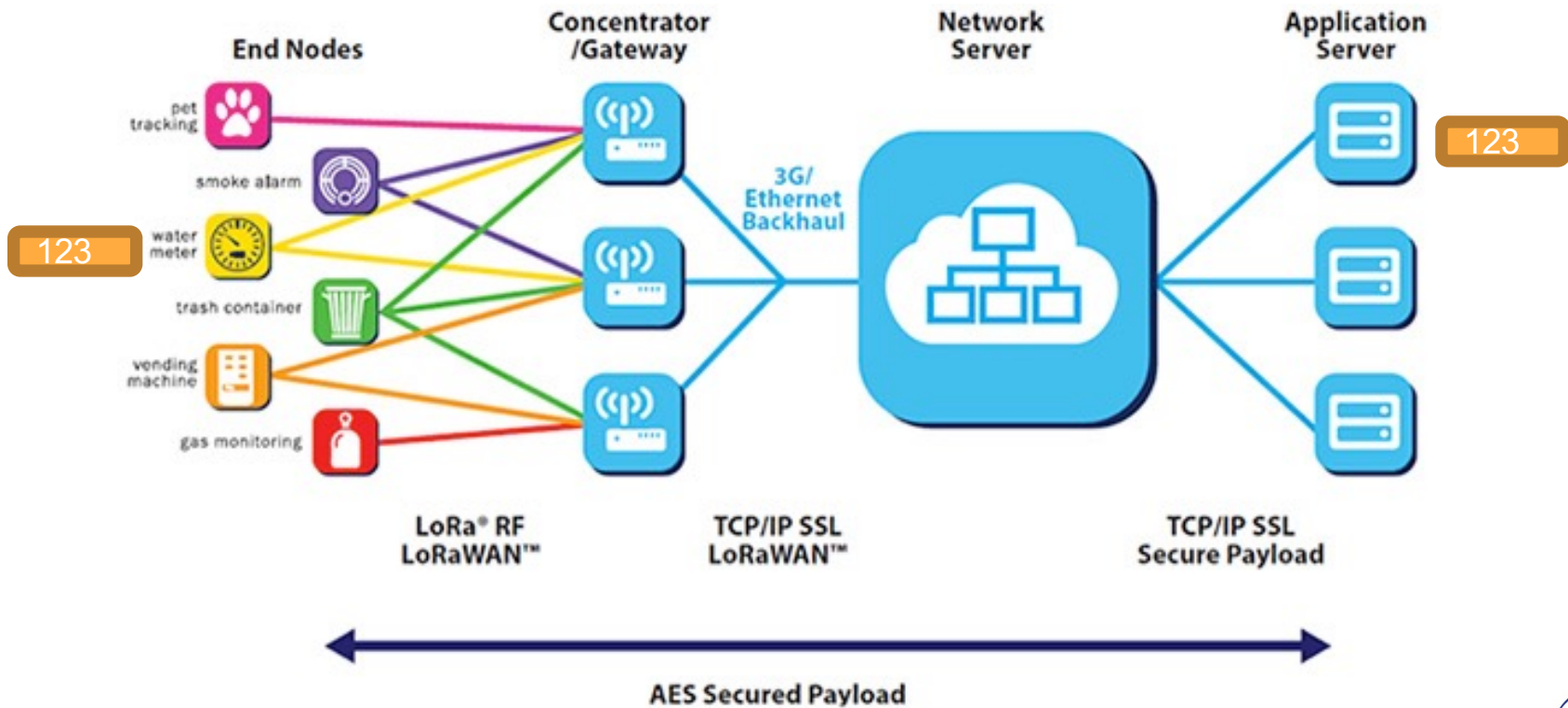










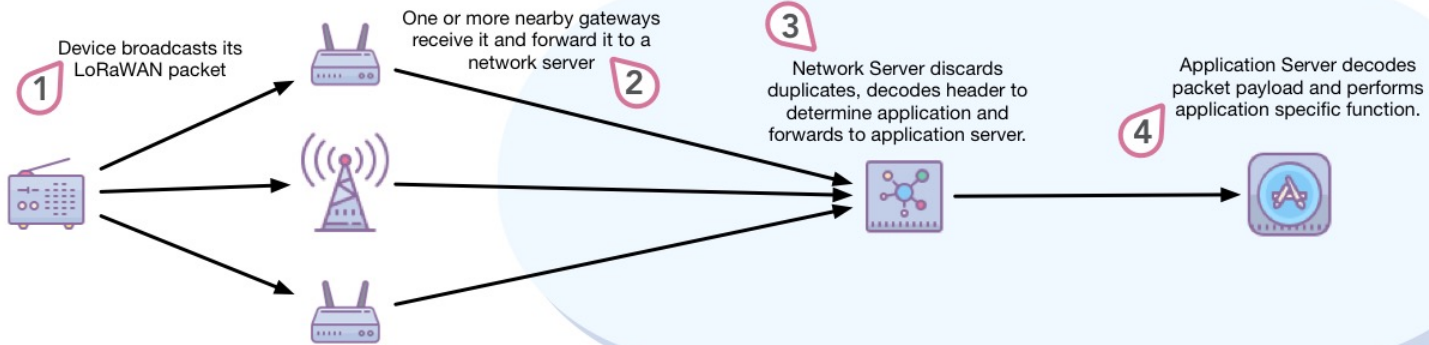




# LoRaWAN architecture

**Device (aka End Node)**      **Gateway (aka Concentrator or Packet Forwarder)**      **Network Server**      **Application Server**

Sub-GHz Radio (LoRa)      Backhaul to Internet (Cellular, wired or satellite)      Internet Communications (servers may be co-located)



Metadata encrypted by Network Session Key (NetSKey)

Payload encrypted by Application Session Key (AppSKey)

# LoRaWAN architecture

## ABP: Activation By Personalisation

1

Device is pre-programmed with a **DevAddr**, an **AppSKey** and a **NwkSKey**. No join procedure is necessary.



The Network Server is also pre-configured with the device's **DevAddr**, **AppSKey** and **NwkSKey** so it recognises its transmissions.

2



## The Things Network Manifesto

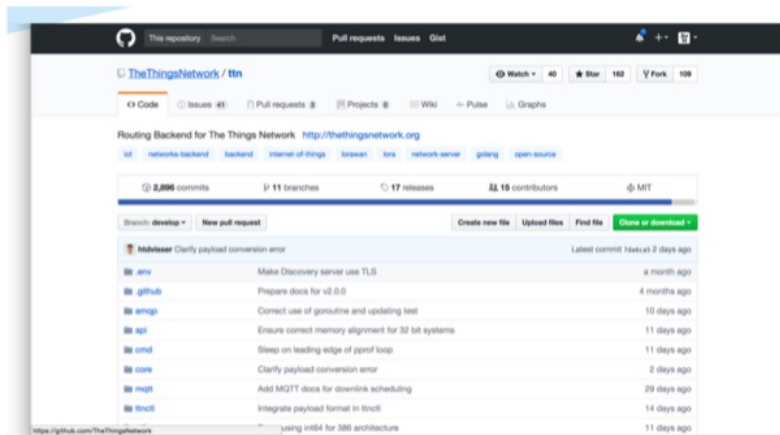
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Everything that carries power will be connected to Internet eventually.

Controlling the network that makes this possible means controlling the world. *We believe that this power should not be restricted to a few people, companies or nations. Instead this should be distributed over as many people as possible without the possibility to be taken away by anyone.* We therefore founded "The Things Network".



# TTN



## OPEN SOURCE BACKEND



**We are a global collaborative  
Internet of Things ecosystem  
that creates networks, devices  
and solutions using LoRaWAN®.**

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**50M**  
Messages today

**151**  
Countries

**1.1K**  
Certified developers

**172.3K**  
Members

**20.3K**  
Gateways

**1.6M**  
YouTube views

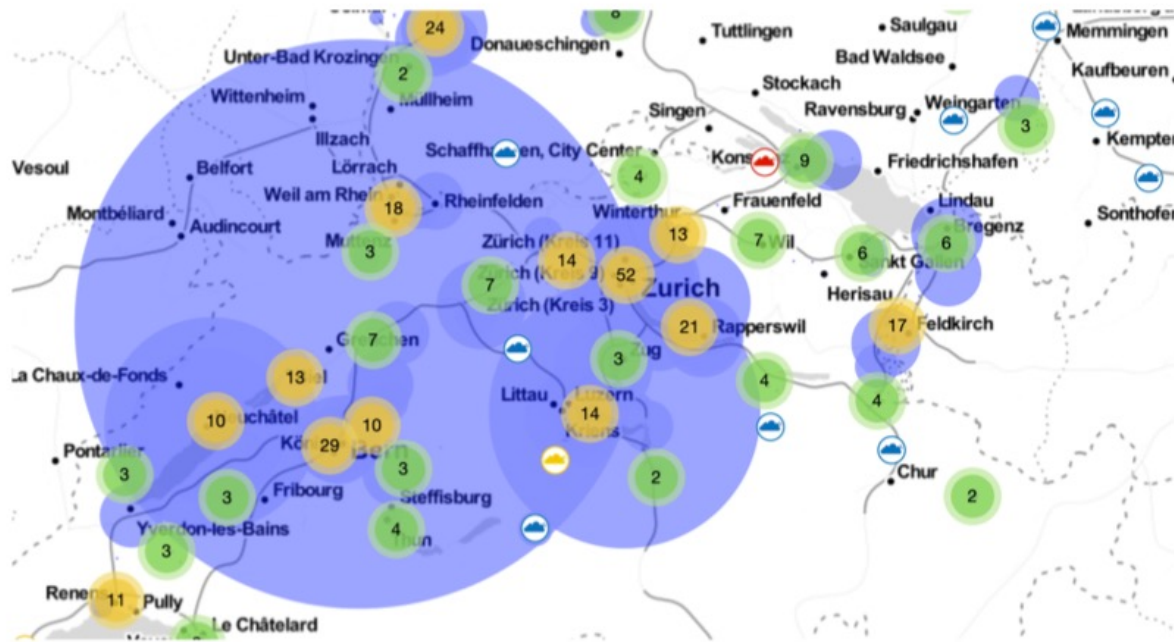
**15K**  
YouTube subscribers

**711**  
GitHub stars

**13.**  
GitHub c



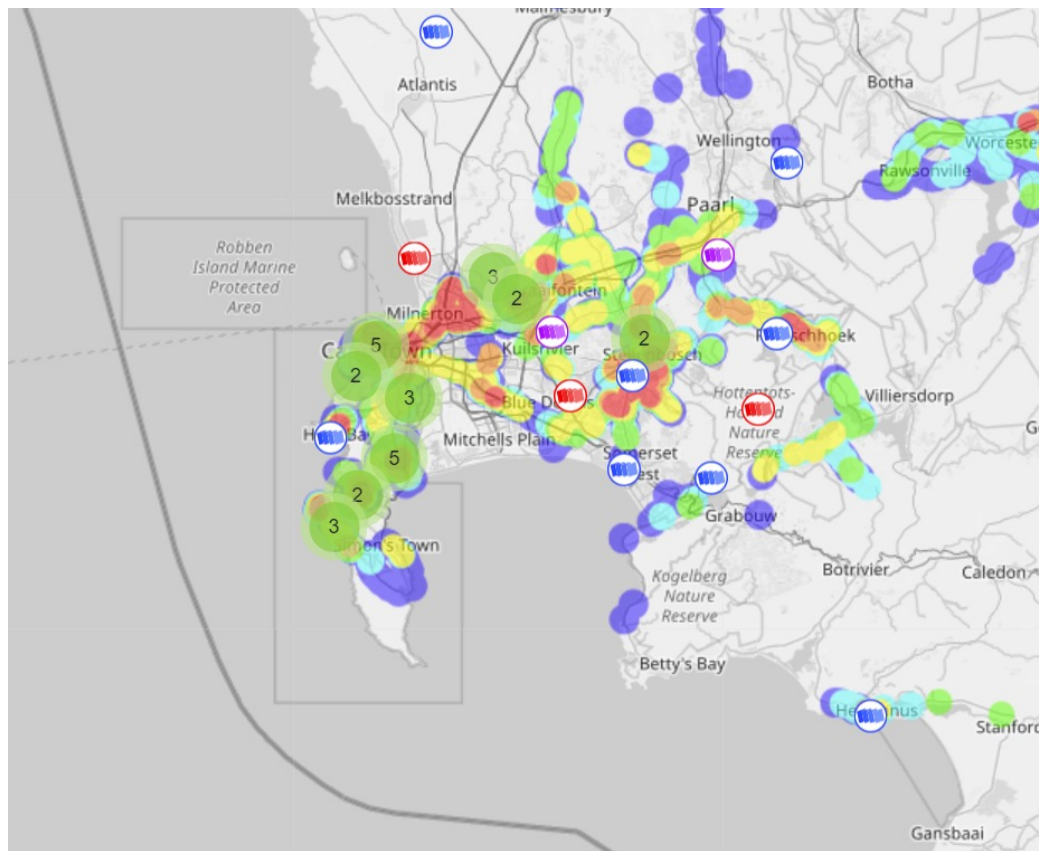
# TTN



<https://ttnmapper.org>



# TTN

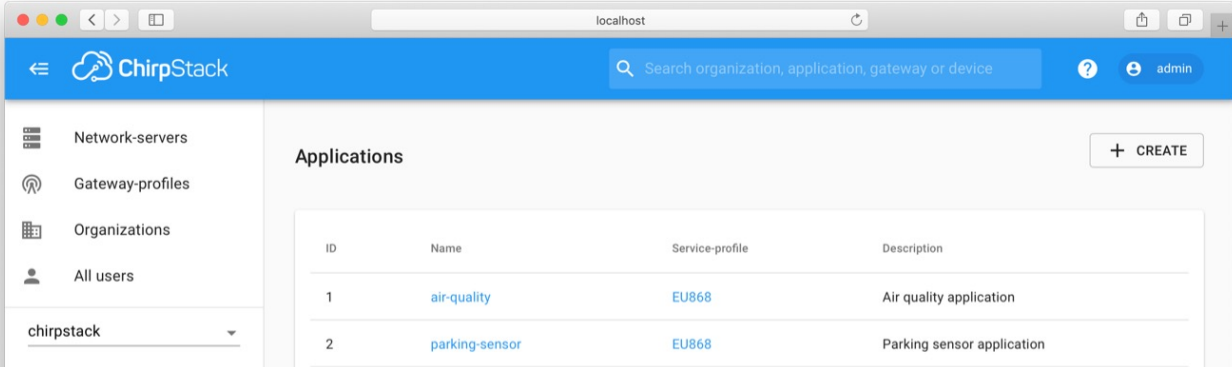


# Chirpstack

## ChirpStack, open-source LoRaWAN<sup>®</sup> Network Server stack

The ChirpStack open-source LoRaWAN Network Server stack provides open-source components for LoRaWAN networks. Together they form a ready-to-use solution including an user-friendly web-interface for device management and APIs for integration. The modular architecture makes it possible to integrate within existing infrastructures. All components are licensed under the MIT license and can be used for commercial purposes.

[Get started](#)




The screenshot displays the ChirpStack web interface in a browser window. The address bar shows 'localhost'. The interface has a blue header with the ChirpStack logo and a search bar containing the text 'Search organization, application, gateway or device'. On the right of the header, there are icons for help, a user profile labeled 'admin', and a plus sign. A left sidebar contains navigation links: 'Network-servers', 'Gateway-profiles', 'Organizations', and 'All users', with a 'chirpstack' dropdown menu at the bottom. The main content area is titled 'Applications' and features a '+ CREATE' button. Below the title is a table with the following data:

ID	Name	Service-profile	Description
1	<a href="#">air-quality</a>	EU868	Air quality application
2	<a href="#">parking-sensor</a>	EU868	Parking sensor application





# Helium

Cellular Summer is here! Get your 5G Hotspots 

# People-Powered Networks.

Start a Wireless Revolution

Powered by the Helium Blockchain, The People's Network represents a paradigm shift for decentralized wireless infrastructure.

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# LoRaWAN products

## LoRaWAN Certified<sup>CM</sup> Products

A huge array of certified products available now to fulfill the wide-ranging spectrum of IoT use cases served by LoRaWAN<sup>TM</sup>.

Soon this will be extended to include LoRa Alliance<sup>TM</sup> member services, software and full solutions in addition to these certified devices. This will be a comprehensive directory of all our Members' products and services with tools to find the right solution for every LPWAN requirement.



### ED1608

1M2M

1M2M's ED1608 is an out of the box, ready to use universal Low Power WAN Smart Sensor/GPS Tracker. It has on board 3D accelerometer,



### ED1608 Rail Temperature Sensor

1M2M

The ED1608RTS is a rail temperature sensor that can be used to measure the temperature

# Feedback?

Email me [mzennaro@ictp.it](mailto:mzennaro@ictp.it)

