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August 27, 2014

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After a strong earthquake rattled Napa Valley early Sunday, California device maker Jawbone found out how many of its UP wristband users were shaken from their sleep and stayed up.

New York Times
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About 93 percent of its customers within 15 miles of Napa, Calif., didn't go back to sleep after the 6.0 quake struck at 3:20 a.m., said Andrew Rosenthal, senior product engineer for wellness at Jawbone.

But what use could come from that information?

Washington Post
[Netflix just as helpless as old-school rivals against online theft of shows](#)

"Why not tell people to go to work at 11 a.m. on Monday," he said.

The anecdote represents just one example of information being generated by what technologists call "The Internet of Things," a topic Rosenthal and other panelists discussed Tuesday at the Colorado Innovation Network Summit in Denver. The summit continues Wednesday at the Denver Performing Arts Complex.

Associated Press
[Women talk about sports on CBS Sports Network](#)

As recently as 2005, most households had "The Internet of Thing" — a desktop or laptop computer connected to the Internet, said Eric Schaefer, general manager of communications, data and mobility for Comcast Communications.

New York Times
[Speed and Spectators Led to Twitch, a Gaming Nexus](#)

By 2010, "The Internet of Wireless Things" started to appear with the rising popularity of smartphones and tablets. The next phase is what Schaefer called "The Internet of Disjointed Things."

Schaefer described one co-worker who has 25 applications to run items in his home, many on different platforms. He predicts that those systems, by 2020, will communicate and operate with one another and be everywhere, a trend that ever-increasing broadband capacity will allow.

Take the Jawbone UP example. If a fitness band realized a wearer wasn't getting a restful night's sleep because it was too hot, it could instruct the furnace to drop the temperature a few degrees, Rosenthal said.

Reuters
AT&T merges
wireless and
business units
led by de la
Vega

Better known in the manufacturing world as the "Industrial Internet," the placement of sensors into objects and linking them to a network is one of the most important developments now underway, along with increased natural gas production and advances in material design, said Jeff Immelt, CEO and chairman of General Electric Co.

Sensors in modern gas-turbine engines can generate 500 gigabytes of data a day, helping them make incremental changes to improve performance and setting the stage for future upgrades, which GE is spinning out on a faster basis.

Even a 1 percent improvement in efficiency in jet engines would bring \$3 billion of profits for airlines, Immelt told the Denver audience.

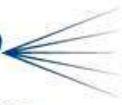
That isn't to say the Internet of Things doesn't come with a darker side. Bad actors can create more havoc in a more interconnected world, warned Mark Gazit, CEO of ThetaRay, an Israeli data company.

A prankster could turn off a neighbor's furnace on the coldest night of the year, or a terrorist could hack into the system and bring down the power grid or open the floodgates to a dam.

As more objects and systems become connected, the damage from a breach will carry larger implications.

One of the big fights shaping up is who controls the data households generate and how it is used, Schaefer said. Many technology companies have built business models that keep consumers in the dark and information firmly in their control.

"We need to have a complicated conversation," said Chris Rezendes, president of Inex Advisors, a New England technology consulting firm specializing in the trend. – *Denver Post*

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