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The Internet of Things
-- Present at Its Creation –

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 As the decade of the 1940s came to a close, it had become apparent that the WWII technology of manually recording incoming radar data on wide area transparent panels preparative to subsequent human interpretation to embody retaliation would be insufficient to defeat the looming threat of a massive Soviet nuclear-armed bomber and missile attack. In 1951, two pioneer MIT computer scientists, George Valley and Jay Forrester proposed inserting the immerging digital computer technology to analyze incoming analog radar data, subsequently transforming the digital decisions back to analog for control of the launch and direction of defensive alternatives. Thus was born the actualization of the “internet of things” and the internet itself, designated as SAGE, more than a decade prior to ARPANET and CERN.
 In 1954, as an 18-year old IBM system maintenance programmer, I was assigned to Lincoln Laboratory as part of the support team for XD-1, the prototype computer for SAGE (which later morphed into the NORAD North American air defense system). I have many tales to tell, e.g., how the continental linkage of the NORAD sites led to interaction of their respective staffs via flexowriter keystations (aka “social networking”?).
 Today’s IoT has begun to stress the limits of Turing-von Neumann architecture/technology. Does “quantum computing” offer a path forward? Let’s discuss in Monterey.