

## **IBM Named an Internet of Things Software Platform Leader, Launches Global Watson IoT Consulting Solutions**

**IBM now provides end to end business solutions that seamlessly integrate Watson IoT platform with implementation, support and transformation services to deliver new business models "as a service," working with clients including Ricoh**

**Offers free access to IBM Watson IoT Platform for global clients, developers and startups to explore new IoT innovations**

PR Newswire  
ARMONK, N.Y.

ARMONK, N.Y., Nov. 21, 2016 [/PRNewswire/](#) -- IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) today announced an array of new services, industry offerings and capabilities to help enterprise clients, startups and developers drive digital transformation with the Internet of Things (IoT). With the number of connected devices skyrocketing, IBM is making IoT accessible to millions around the world. IBM is dedicating more than 1,500 industry experts with its new Watson IoT Consulting Solutions, as well as giving open and free access to its [Watson IoT Platform](#).

<http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnvar/20090416/IBMLOGO>

Today's announcement follows Forrester Research naming IBM a leader in its Wave(TM) report(1) on IoT software platforms. In '[The Forrester Wave\(TM\): IoT Software Platforms, Q4 2016](#),' Forrester analyzed and scored 11 IoT software platform vendors, identifying IBM as a leader, citing "The Watson IoT Platform can serve a broad range of advanced IoT use cases." The report also notes "IBM has added significant capabilities to the platform, including augmented reality, cognitive capabilities, blockchain, edge analytics, analytics tooling, and natural language processing, to name a few. With a strong commitment to open source standards and a robust global partner ecosystem, IBM is well positioned for market leadership."

"The Internet of Things is making an enormous impact on our lives and helping to spur even deeper levels of innovation for those developing the connected devices and products of our future," said Harriet Green, General Manager, IBM Watson IoT, Commerce and Education. "IBM is helping knock down the barriers to getting started with IoT, making it accessible for clients as they begin their digital transformation."

To help clients across industries capture the massive business opportunity of the digitization of the physical world, IBM today is launching the industry's first global IBM Watson IoT Consulting Solutions practice. The practice will feature 1,500 experts across IBM Watson IoT headquarters in Munich, Germany and in eight other IBM IoT centers across Asia, Europe and the Americas. By integrating IBM Watson IoT Platform APIs and technologies, including cognitive, analytics, mobile, security and cloud capabilities, together with development and implementation consulting and ongoing support, clients can fully use the IoT without the risk and complexity of dealing with multiple vendors.

"Clients can now easily introduce IoT innovation into their business by leveraging IBM's industry and technical expertise to deliver lower risk, as-a-service commercial models. We are very proud our integrated IoT solutions deliver innovation in an easy to consume model for business leaders," said Jesus Mantas, General Manager, Business Consulting, IBM. "We are helping clients accelerate the digitization of their business processes by

making it easy to deploy IoT solutions globally into their business."

According to IDC analysis and buyer perception, IBM is a leader in the IDC MarketScape for IoT consulting and systems integration services worldwide(2).

The IBM Watson IoT Consulting Solutions practice will employ a global network of skilled consultants, data scientists and design and security experts with deep domain and industry expertise, all dedicated to providing clients with guidance on tackling industry specific IoT adoption challenges. The first priority industries include automotive, electronics, industrial products, insurance, retail, telecommunications, transportation and buildings. Clients can apply Watson cognitive computing capabilities, including machine learning and natural language to tap into massive amounts of unstructured data -- such as videos and sounds -- to gain insights and augment decision making.

Ricoh, a global technology company that has been transforming the way people work for more than 80 years, is one of the first global organizations to work with the new IBM IoT consultants to redesign their engagement model and help its clients embrace intelligent workplace solutions designed to improve office collaboration and innovation.

"Ricoh is helping customers meet the needs of constantly changing workstyles in the 'new world of work,' where information is at the heart of every successful business decision," said Mona Abutaleb, SVP, Services, Ricoh Americas and President & CEO, mindSHIFT Technologies, Inc., a Ricoh company. "We are teaming with IBM and combining our knowledge and expertise to deliver Ricoh's 'Workstyle Innovation Technology,' which helps our clients collaborate and share information more easily and efficiently."

In addition to the new Watson IoT Consulting Solutions practice, IBM also is announcing new industry offerings available via its Watson IoT Platform, including IBM Watson IoT for Manufacturing and Asset Health Insight, designed to help clients address industry-specific IoT adoption challenges and opportunities. Manufacturing is one of the largest opportunities in IoT, with McKinsey estimating IoT applications in factory settings to have the potential to create value of \$1.2 trillion to \$3.7 trillion per year in 2025(3).

Now, using IBM Watson IoT for Manufacturing, businesses will be able to better manage factory equipment and assets, improve manufacturing processes and manage production resources more effectively. For example, the new capabilities include intelligent assets and equipment to sense, communicate and self-diagnose issues to improve machinery performance and reduce downtime. Using Asset Health Insights together with IBM Prescriptive Maintenance, organizations can maintain assets based on current asset condition using advanced analytics and data around weather, asset performance and maintenance. Additional industry offerings on the IBM Watson IoT Platform include [IBM Watson IoT for Automotive](#), [IBM Watson IoT for Electronics](#) and [IBM Watson IoT for Insurance](#).

Via a new collaboration with [Aras](#), the two companies are bringing together IBM's leading [Application Lifecycle Management](#) solution with Aras' [Product Lifecycle Management](#) platform to help engineers integrate the complex hardware and software development processes necessary to make the smart, connected products of the future.

*Developers and Start-Ups Tap IBM Watson IoT Platform*

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The IBM Watson IoT Platform, a security-rich, scalable and open platform, let's developers quickly connect, build, launch and manage IoT applications and solutions. To help make creating and developing IoT applications more accessible than ever before, IBM will offer:

- Free access to IBM Watson IoT Platform: For businesses who are just starting out on IoT and developers testing out and exploring new IoT innovations, IBM offers open and free access to the IBM Watson IoT Platform development capabilities. As projects grow, developers can then take their prototypes and scale to full production to meet business needs.
- IoT education courses: To help the new wave of technical innovators learn how to develop IoT applications, IBM continues to offer industry-leading learning classes, via its collaboration with Coursera, and via new, easily consumable IoT learning tutorials on IBM's open Watson IoT Academy. These tutorials, led by IBM subject matter experts, include an introduction to programming a Raspberry Pi; how to use Natural Language Processing; and how to use Node-RED, the open source visual programming tool set that is becoming a standard for building connected IoT programs.

Across the globe, IBM is working with more than 6,000 clients, across industries, to help them truly realize the benefits of IoT. For more information on IBM Watson IoT, please visit [www.ibm.com/iot](http://www.ibm.com/iot) or follow [@IBMIoT](https://twitter.com/IBMIoT) on Twitter.

*Sources:*

(1) Forrester. "The Forrester Wave(TM): IoT Software Platforms, Q4 2016." November 15, 2016.

<http://www.ibm.com/iot/forrester-iot-wave>

(2) IDC, IDC MarketScape: Worldwide Internet of Things Consulting and Systems Integration Services 2016 Vendor Assessment #US41880716, November 2016.

(3) McKinsey&Company. "Unlocking the Potential of the Internet of Things." June 2015.

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