



Microsoft CityNext

SINGAPORE: CREATING A SMART CITY/STATE WITH MICROSOFT



On a recent trip to Singapore, I had the pleasure of meeting with Microsoft partners, and business leaders in both the public and private sectors. I am impressed by the country's drive towards becoming the world's first Smart Nation - a bold vision that is being realized by bringing together government, academics, big businesses, and startups, to solve some of the world's toughest societal challenges through new technologies. My visit inspired me to think of the numerous ways technology can have a positive impact on society. One example is traffic management. Vehicles on the road are today built with an increasing number of sensors and road traffic cameras and traffic lights are picking up more data than ever. Having a central hub where these data can be analysed and actionable insights provided at real time could be the key to improving traffic flows in densely populated areas.

This is exactly what the Land Transport Authority of Singapore (LTA) has done. Since 2011, LTA has hosted a rich repository of land transport data on our Azure platform to provide real-time insights to help the public make transportation decisions.

Enabling the local ecosystem is something that the Microsoft team in Singapore is very passionate about. To date, the team has empowered over 50 IT partners, including independent software vendors and application builders in Singapore, to help public and private organizations that will help them reimagine their business in an increasingly connected world. These partners are already working with customers in markets including manufacturing, oil and gas, building management, and healthcare co-develop solutions around asset

management, smart building facilities, remote monitoring, and predictive maintenance to create an ecosystem which integrates devices, connectivity, and analytics through a cloud platform. An example is a pilot to improve chiller efficiencies of 30 buildings in Singapore, whose skyline is dominated by high-rise residential and commercial buildings in the tropics.

As the average age of our global population increases, healthcare is another area that could reap significant benefits from IT. I've been impressed by the leaps and bounds healthcare has taken thanks to the help of technology. I expect to see this continue with data, analytics and intelligence, helping us to better understand complex health problems, and wearables allowing individuals to effectively track their health and well-being beyond their heart rate. Sensors and devices on individuals can also provide up-to-date information on vital signs, and could help healthcare professionals to monitor outpatients remotely. Being able to gather larger data sets could also provide some hints as to the cause of diseases, enabling doctors and scientists to diagnose conditions earlier and, perhaps one day, identify a possible cure.

One of our partners in Singapore has leveraged this power to provide the elderly with remote monitoring system that connects services such as vital signs monitoring and tele-medicine as part of the development of the Smart Home concept.

Singapore is an ideal test-bed that can bring to life Microsoft's CityNext initiative - an ambition to help more cities become smarter with the ultimate aim of improving lives.

