**Forum on Internet of Things in Smart Sustainable Cities: A New Age of Smarter Living  
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**Keynote speech   
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**Title of presentation:** Privacy, quality of life and smart cities  
**Presentation’s abstract:**

Some cities are already “smarter” than others. Some cities are planning to become smart, others are becoming smart without adequate planning. If the architecture and infrastructure of smart cities do not become the subject of huge expert effort they could easily become urban open-prisons which exacerbate the surveillance effect of other existing consumer technologies. Unless privacy-by-default and privacy-by-design are not an intrinsic part of the process of building and developing smart cities these will unwittingly become places where true autonomy of action and possibly even thought will no longer be possible. Citizens understandably quickly adopt technologies which make life easier – some would say lazier – and convenience lies at the root of the risks to privacy in smart cities. The convenience offered by credit cards, the Internet and mobile devices where technologies have converged, particularly smart phones, have already increased the multiple means of surveilling individuals wherever they may be, whatever they may be doing. Couple those technologies with the Internet of Things, indeed with the internet of Everything where nearly every single device is hooked up to a unique IP address capable of communicating information about local activity registered and possibly stored by the sensor, and we will be unable to move freely throughout the city. Not by our current definition of freedom that is. The amount of information generated in a smart city will perforce mean that it will be processed automatically by computers and the temptation to profile identifiable individuals automatically be will too large. Indeed, economically and physically, it may be the only viable way to handle all this information.

This presentation will make the case for properly resourcing research, planning and design for the normative design guidelines required by smart cities if the recipe for convenience Is not to become one for disastrous oppression if the technologies are abused.