



# Computational Corals: — a story of Sensor Networks, Cloud Computing and the Internet of Things

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# **Corals in Decline**





- ➤ World wide corals are under threat, the 2008 global census shows that worldwide 20% of reefs are already lost, another 15% are under immediate threat.
- ➤ Coral Reefs are particularly sensitive to climate change, long term temperature changes of just 2°C can push corals into decline.
- World wide some 300 million people, mostly in the developing world, depend on coral reefs for their livelihood.

# **Impact of Climate Change**





- Climate change has the potential to increase the decline in coral reefs to the point where current reef systems may not exist past the end of this century
- ➤ Experimental work shows that long term exposure to temperatures just 2°C above 1950's temperatures will make life hard for corals; so far we have observed a 0.4°C rise
- ➤ Increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the air have changed the carbon chemistry of the oceans reducing pH, if pH goes from the original level of 8.3 to below 7.9 corals will not exist

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# Potential Scenarios [corals in good condition]







# Potential Scenarios [bleached corals]







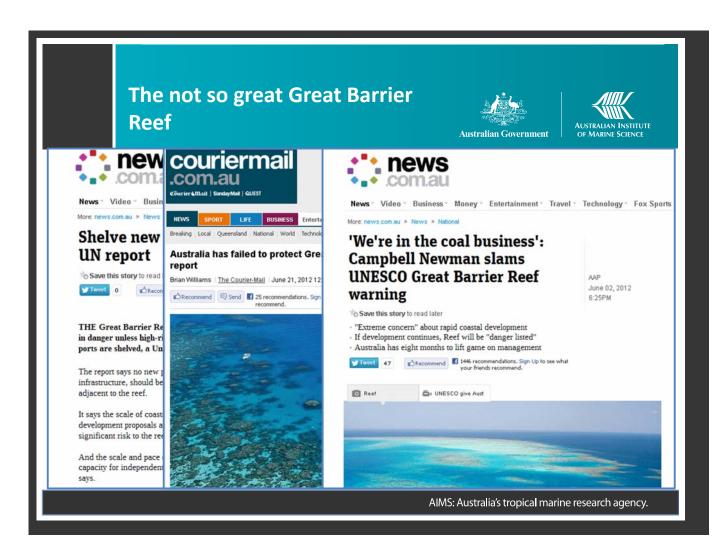
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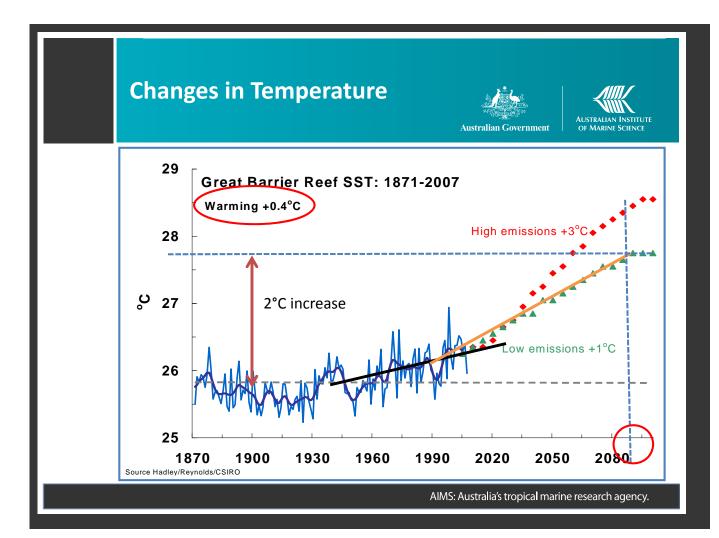
# Potential Scenarios [resulting algal dominated reefs]

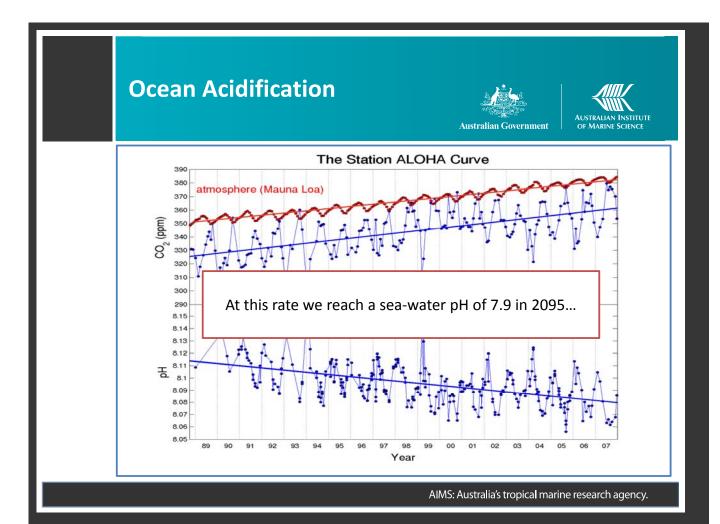


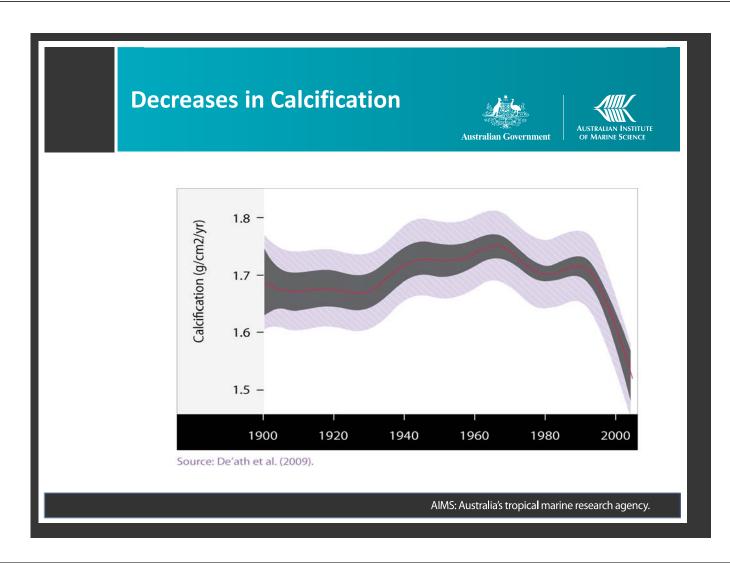












# Observing Systems as one response





# To manage you need to know, to know you need to measure

- Observing technologies have the ability to provide large amounts of environmental data.
- Under the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS)
   a number of coral reef sensor networks have been
   deployed along the Great Barrier Reef.
- These provide real-time data on a range of physical parameters including temperature, salinity, pressure, light, images and video.

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# Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS)



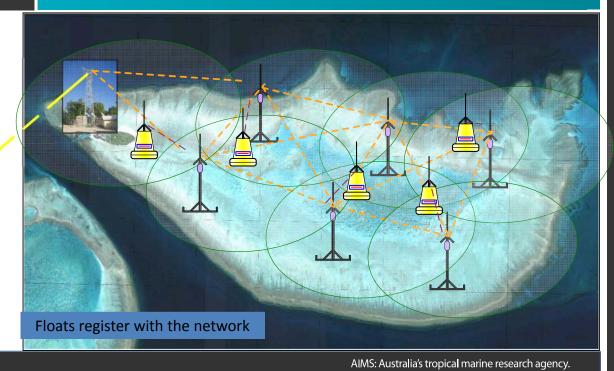




# **Sensor Networks**







# **Sensor Poles**







# **Sensor Floats**







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# **Instruments**







### **Communications Solutions**





- ➤ 802.11n for high speed on-reef comms including to mobile (raft, quad-copter) platforms (1-2Km, 30+ Mb/s)
- > 802.11 TDMA for high definition on-reef video (1-2km, 30+ Mb/s)
- > 900 MHz spread-spectrum for longer cross reef comms (2-5Km, 1200 b/s)
- > nextG for back-haul links (up to 70Km, 0.5-1.5 Mb/s)
- > 5-10GHz surface humidity-ducted Microwave for long-haul comms (50-70km, 10-30 Mb/s)

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802.11 Wireless (2.4 + 5GHz)







# 900 MHz Spread-Spectrum







nextG 3G phone comms







# **Surface ducted Microwave**







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# Satellite (when we have to)







# What ubiquitous communications deliver



- Delivers internet connectivity to the field (reefs);
- Allows for new types of science such as real-time towed sensors (e.g. rafts, quad-copters, mobile platforms), more in-situ instrumentation, etc;
- Cameras and video, ability to have streaming video and other high bandwidth data;
- Remote control experimental work, remote classrooms;
- Convert platforms such as vessels and jetties into data collection platforms;
- ➤ Integration of new devices, such as tablets and smart-phones, as data collection and control devices.

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### What this means...





- Mobile devices will move from network to network
- EduRoam for devices so devices can move from network to network
- > Tight integration between educational networks and public ones
- > Device level security suitable for simple low powered devices

### **Context:- Three truths**





- 1. New understandings will more and more come from multi-parameter, multi-agency, multi-use data.
- 2. As we get better at collecting data we need to also get better at analysing, synthesising and contextualising delivering information (and value!).
- 3. Funding agencies will more and more push towards a model of **open data access and use**.





### ...and Three Outcomes





- 1. Data that is not used **has no value** and so activities that generate such data **will (should) not be funded**.
- Data hording can no longer be seen as a legitimate way to keep or gather power – the power comes from sharing.
- 3. Future success comes from **building architectures** and delivering systems that promote and deliver true **open** data access and integration.



Sensor Networks – revolutionary science!





There is a co-operative group called the Coral Reef Ecological Observatory Network (CREON) that is implementing coral reef sensor networks around the world.



Coral Reef Environmental Observatory Network

### Driven by need...





### **Problem:**

- The need to integrate data from multiple sites run by multiple agencies using differing data architectures and differing custodian arrangements;
- Need to deliver a single portal where all the data can be directly viewed and compared;
- Need to detect events at both the site and network (global) level;

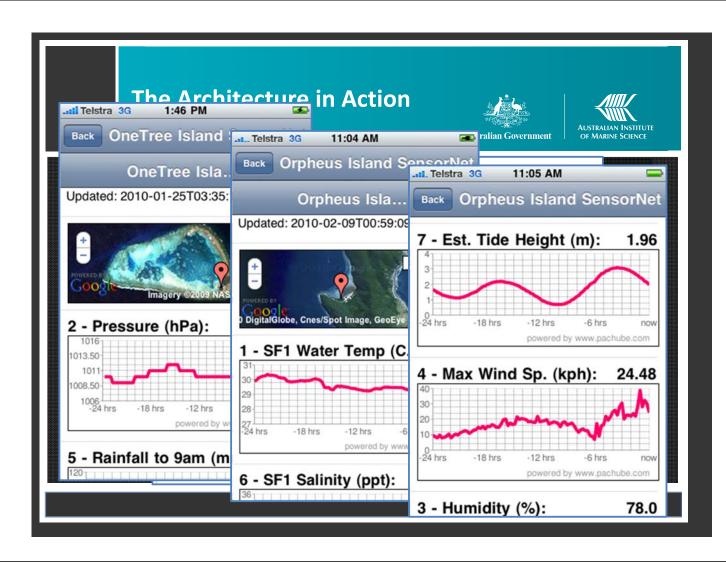
### **Solution:**

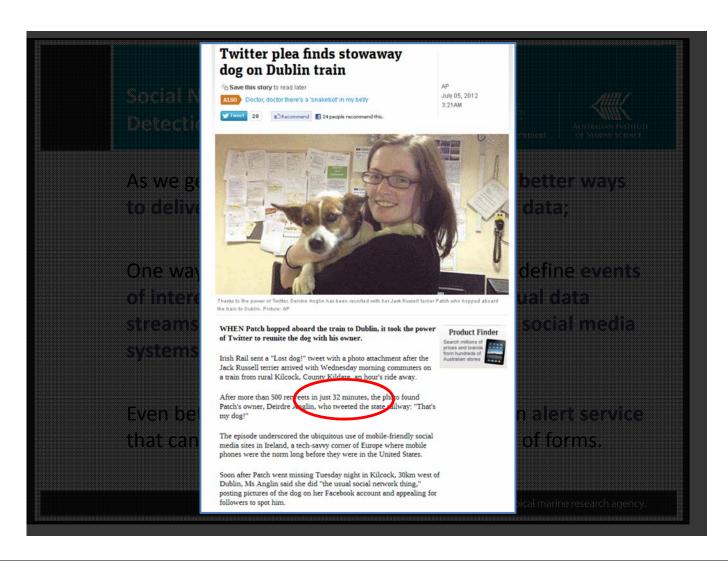
- Write simple connectors to connect the local data systems into a single cloud-based storage system;
- Write other connectors to load in other base data (e.g. met. data);
- All data resides in a single cloud-store with metadata for searching;
- Using existing widgets and systems give access to and display the collected data;
- Using a **simple event detection** engine look for significant user-defined events at both the site and inter-site level.

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# Building an Integration Architecture Australian Government Sensor Data Centre / web Other Services (service chaining) Clients Levent Detection





### What it delivers...





- The architecture delivers true data integration;
- Removes any custodian access issues;
- Brings in **critical mass** of data into a single system;
- Allows for simple data discovery and display including smart clients;
- Makes it easy to run event detection across the data;
- Delivers the **knowledge in the system** (user defined) in a user centric form.

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# What it means...





- We can now start to build critical mass of observed and other data (e.g. social data);
- We can chain data services together to create new products;
- We can build complex smart clients against a single data store / format;
- Users can define what the knowledge in the system means to them and how they wish to be notified of events of interest to them.

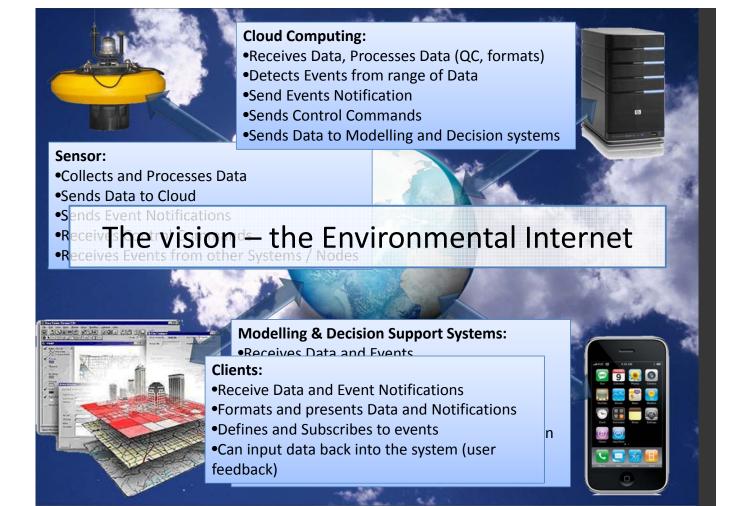
# Where to next... Internet of Things [IoT]





- In the future the internet will not be about humans interacting with data but machines interacting with machines delivering information;
- In this M-2-M world services are king (as are the standards behind them), service wrapping removes any issue about where data is, how it is stored, who collected it and what format it is in, all data becomes fully accessible in an integrated form.

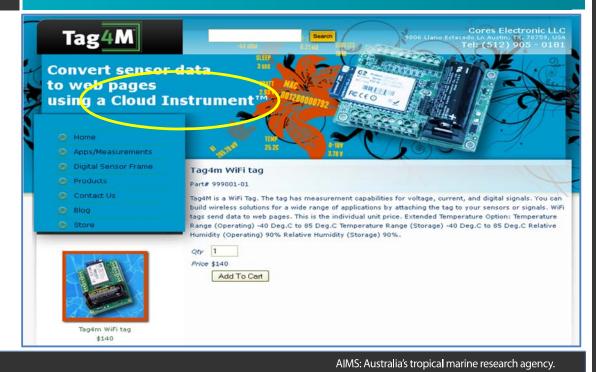
Brave New World of information delivery

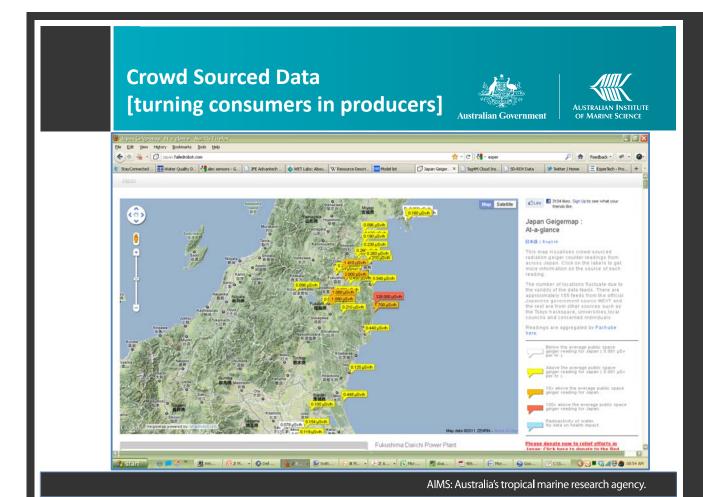


# Wi-Fi tags – Who needs a data centre?









### **Conclusion**





- ➤ The complexity of the issues we are trying to address requires an equally complex approach and solution set;
- ➤ If data wants to be free we need to build open collaborative service based systems that promote integration and sharing;
- ➤ All this requires open, transparent and ubiquitous communications;
- ➤ In the future it will be more and more about devices (EduRoam for devices);

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# Take Home Message...





There is a **chasm** between where we are now and where we need to be – that is to have the right level of information sophistication to deal with a changing world

The chasm is **not technological** but in our model of how we create, use and access data and the infrastructure it flows across.

Strangely, our ability to conserve and protect systems, such as coral reefs, may hinge as much on our ability to be innovative in our thinking than in our technology.

# **Acknowledgements**





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Queensland

**IMOS** Integrated Marine Observing System



**Australian Government**