

JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LOGISTICS

CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL TOPICS FORUM

The Physical Internet and the Internet of Things as a Paradigm Shift: Drivers and Enablers of a New Way of Doing Logistics

Recently, the term 'Physical Internet (PI, π)' has generated a lot of attention among practitioners and academics alike. Ballot, Montreuil and Meller (2014) defined PI as a global logistics system based on the interconnection of logistics networks by a standardized set of collaboration protocols, modular containers and smart interfaces for increased efficiency and sustainability. The introduction of PI has opened a paradigm-breaking field encompassing the interconnectivity and interoperability of smart logistics networks, transportation systems, manufacturing systems and supply chains, enabling seamless open asset sharing and flow consolidation on a massive scale. It aims to transform the way physical objects are moved, deployed, realized, supplied, designed and used all around the world so as to improve by an order-of-magnitude the overall induced performance in terms of economic, environmental and societal efficiency and sustainability.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a novel paradigm that can also affect logistics and supply chain management based on the idea of connecting inanimate objects. By providing objects with embedded communication capabilities and a common addressing scheme, a highly distributed and ubiquitous network of seamlessly connected heterogeneous devices is formed, which can be fully integrated into the current Internet and mobile networks, thus allowing for the development of new intelligent services available anytime, anywhere, by anyone and anything.

However, much of the PI and IoT literature has been largely disjointed without much emphasis on theory or practical applicability and there have been very few high quality journal publications. This Special Topics Forum addresses this void by specifically encouraging research that provides insight into either PI or IoT. We welcome a wide variety of topics spanning multiple industries that address issues related to PI or IoT. We are looking for papers that will not only address contemporary PI or IoT challenges in novel ways, but will serve as exemplars for conducting research. We hope that these research papers will showcase the best of what PI research or IoT research can bring and pave the way for future research efforts. Key criteria for any accepted papers will be both theoretical development and managerial relevance. Authors are expected to address PI or IoT in a rigorous manner in terms of utilizing theory found in the relevant disciplines and provide guidance to practitioners.

All topically appropriate papers submitted will be subjected to the typical double blind JBL review process. Submission date for full consideration will be July 1, 2018. Interested authors can learn more, or submit a paper, by e-mailing the guest editors directly at either benoit.montreuil@isye.gatech.edu, eric.ballot@mines-paristech.fr, zgz208@lehigh.edu, horst.treiblmaier@modul.ac.at.

Ballot, E., Montreuil, B., and Meller, R. D. 2014. The Physical Internet, La Documentation Française, Paris, 216p. ISBN, 978-2-11-009865-8.

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