*** 北米連携センター定期報告***

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●「インターネット・オブ・シングス（IoT)」標準策定競うインテル、クアルコム

【New York Times, 2014/07/08】

今後、様々な業界を巻き込んでさらに大きな関心事になっていくであろう「インターネット・オブ・シングス（IoT)」では、複数の団体が標準策定を競っている。

8 日には、インテル主導の「Open Interconnect Consortium」が結成を発表。同団体には、アトメル、ブロードコム、サムスン、ウィンドリバーが参加している。

これに先立ち昨年 12 月には、クアルコム主導で「AllSeen Alliance」が立ち上げられているが、こちらはマイクロソフト、シスコ等 50 社以上が参加。これら以外にも、グーグルやアップルがそれぞれ IoT の標準策定に乗り出す様子を見せている。

IoT の標準を策定すれば、自動車や家電、工業製品など多種多様な機器が相互に通信したり、インターネットに接続することが容易になるだけでなく、これらの機器や利用者の行動データを収集する手段にも大きな影響を与えることになる。

そうであれば標準策定の動きを一本化した方が良さそうなものだが、初期に結成され、機器メーカーも加わる AllSeen にインテル等が反旗を翻したのは、同団体がライバル、クアルコムの主導で立ち上げられたのが理由ではなく、「これまでのやり方は（IoT の）広範な普及を促すものではない」と判断したからだとインテルのオープンソース・テクノロジー・センターでゼネラルマネジャーを務めるイマッド・ソウソウ氏は語る。

また、「Open Interconnect Consortium」に参加するメンバーによると、チップメーカーの多くはクアルコムが知的財産を完全にオープンソース化するとは信じていないとのこと。AllSeen にはクアルコムの子会社、クアルコム・コネクテッド・エクペリエンセズも参加しており、同社が標準の基盤となる「AllJoyn」というソフトウェア・キットを AllSeen に寄付したが、これについても他のチップメーカーは不信感を持っているという。

（参考）本件報道記事

Intel, Qualcomm and Others Compete for 'Internet of Things' Standard

By QUENTIN HARDY

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NYT

If the stakes are big enough, companies will compete even for something that is

supposed to be free to all comers. And over the next few years, very little stands to be bigger than the Internet of Things, or IoT.

A group of technology companies led by Intel announced on Tuesday the formation of the Open Interconnect Consortium. The group, which also includes Atmel, Broadcom, Dell, Samsung and Wind River, will focus on creating an open-source standard for wirelessly connecting devices to one another and to the Internet. Like other open-source projects, the member companies pledge to donate intellectual property, or IP, that all members and others can work on and use.

"We'd like to quickly get the key industry players to structure the standards properly" for devices to interoperate, said Imad N. Sousou, general manager of Intel's open-source technology center. Products using the Open Interconnect standard will most likely come out in 2015, he said.

It follows the creation last December of another open-source IoT group, called the AllSeen Alliance, which is led by Qualcomm and has over 50 companies, including Microsoft and Cisco. It appears that both Google and Apple, and possibly other companies, are out to create their own standards for the IoT as well.

The reason for all this activity is sheer numbers, and potentially a lot of market power. The IoT is expected to eventually touch some 200 billion cars, appliances, machinery and devices globally, handling things like remote operation, monitoring and interaction among Internet-connected products.

So far, such connections are at best uneven, but workable uniform standards could help that get better.

It's likely that the communications standards governing these things will also affect the means for collecting data about the behavior of both devices and the people that use them. That makes it a very important future subset of the Internet, since data like that will inform things like future product development and what ads individual consumers are shown.

Why didn't the Interconnect group just go with AllSeen, which started earlier

and is signing up product companies — even if the project was initiated by the Intel rival Qualcomm? “Intel and its partners evaluated all of the existing work,” Mr. Sousou said. “It’s not being done in a way that will drive widespread adoption.”

According to people in the consortium, who asked not to be named in order to sustain relations with AllSeen members, many of the other chip companies did not trust Qualcomm to fully part with its intellectual property.

A Qualcomm subsidiary, called Qualcomm Connected Experiences, is the actual member of AllSeen, and a few months back donated to the group what will be the likely basis of its standard, a software kit for connecting devices called AllJoyn. People at the other chip companies said they weren’t comfortable with that arrangement.

Nonsense, said Rob Chandhok, senior vice president of Qualcomm, and one of the three creators of AllJoyn. “We had a public post saying we wouldn’t make a profit from AllJoyn,” he said. “Part of my puzzlement here is that if they’ve got a problem, they should come to the party and fix it.”

Intel and others may be wary of Qualcomm, even if its technology is fully open-sourced. Simply being involved in the creation of the main part of an open-source project can lead to technical insights that are beneficial down the road.

Google, after all, does not directly make money from its Android operating system, but does control much of what can go into it. At its developer conference last month, Google indicated it would extend Android for use on other devices, taking it further into the IoT. Apple’s Airplay is potentially an IoT standard for Apple devices.

There are no guarantees, however. Both Nest and Dropcam, among the most popular connected consumer devices, have been purchased by Google. Neither runs on Android. Moreover, both companies run in conjunction with the cloud computing of Amazon Web Services, and not Google’s cloud.

It may not just be an Internet of Things. It may also still have lots of different

parts.

Source: New York Times, 2014/07/08

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