"Internet of Things” Could Provide Backdoor to Cyberattacks

Stephanie Ortbals-Tibbs, Director, ICI Media Relations: Let’s also talk about the Internet of Things, or the IOT. This is something that a lot of companies are beginning to use. What risks does it bring and how do those risks play out?

Tony Cole, Vice President and Global Government CTO, FireEye: Sure. We’re standing here in London and it’s a great area to talk about it. If you look around here, there are cameras everywhere. Many organizations today have cameras or IP-enabled cameras that actually feed data back, and those can be IOT, or Internet of Things, devices. And if you don’t incorporate them into your infrastructure with cybersecurity in mind, then you have potentially set up a back door into your infrastructure. And that’s just one piece for a system that’s moving into our enterprises. I think 25 billion IOT devices are going to be here by 2020, according to the IDC analyst. They’re being incorporated into houses, businesses, government organizations, and security people are not actually looking at them as they relate to their infrastructure. That’s a major concern because studies show that only about 10 percent of them have security baked into them.