# IoT Accelerator Cloud Connect

Introduction

connect

### Cloud Connect

Solving a Hyperscale Cloud Provider business challenge



### Connecting low powered cellular devices to their data platforms

# What's special about low-powered IoT devices?

### Limited battery

- Meant to last on the field for years
- CPU usage is critical
- Must talk as little as possible
- Must communicate very efficiently



#### Limited capability

- Smaller processors and memory
- Designed for low powered UDP networks
- Optimized for small firmware protocol stacks

# Traditional setup for low-powered devices

Unencrypted routing over private APNs and VPNs into private data centers. No extra security needed.



# Hyperscale Cloud Providers (HCP)

- Microsoft and Amazon dominate the data analytics and management market
- The "go-to" endpoints for connecting devices are
  - Azure IoT Hub
  - Azure IoT Central



# Hyperscale Cloud Providers (HCP)



- HCPs need to trust IoT devices
- HCPs require end-to-end encryption with a limited range of TCP protocols
- While this is OK for sophisticated IoT devices (e.g., vehicles and gateways) it is not workable for low powered devices
- Especially, this is problematic for devices who only use UDP based protocols

### Connecting to HCP $\rightarrow$ The challenge

## HCP requires e2e encryption and the use of TCP protocols



# Connecting to HCP $\rightarrow$ The challenge



- More configuration setup for each device
- The device now talks a lot more! Example: from 50 bytes to 10 Kbytes
- Consumption is much higher  $\rightarrow$  Battery suffers greatly  $\rightarrow$  Autonomy
- Some devices cannot even talk TCP protocols!

### **Cloud Connect solution**

Shifting compliance from "end-to-end" to "edge-to-end"



### **Cloud Connect solution**



# Before and after Cloud Connect



# Connection steps – Comparison

### Without Cloud Connect

- × Only TCP ready devices× Enough battery and CPU to run TLS e2e
- 1. Each device must have the SDK for Azure
- 2. CA certificate is needed on each device
- 3. Configuration is not trivial
- 4. A person must build a spreadsheet or database to document which device has which name and which certificate
- 5. Upload spreadsheet or database info into HCP
- 6. Turn device on  $\rightarrow$  Connected to HCP

### With Cloud Connect

- UDP/TCP ready devicesLow-powered devices friendly
- 1. Set APN and Cloud Connect endpoint name
- 2. Grant permissions to Cloud Connect to provision all devices in the HCP (by running a simple script)
- 3. Turn device on  $\rightarrow$  Connected to HCP

# "edge-to-end" encryption benefits

### Simplicity

- Security and complexity moved from device network's edge
- No encryption or certificate management on the device

### Interoperability

- Low-power cellular devices can now talk securely via simple UDP protocols with public cloud IoT endpoints
- This is done without added complexity, no middleware platform required

### Better customer experience

- Seamless automated provisioning
- Faster setup
- Not limited to TCP protocols

### **Better performance**

- Up to 50% less power consumption
- Up to 95% less data consumption
- Lower device memory and CPU reqs
- Lower battery requirements



### Microsoft Azure Integration Use Cases



Customer Value:

 Connect devices without TLS or certificate management into Azure IoT Hub and IoT Central

#### **Customer Value:**

 Support devices that are not compatible with Azure IoT Hub and IoT Central by simply plugging in a SIM

#### **Customer Value:**

 Dramatically simplify the rollout of highvolume devices that will directly connect with IoT Hub by letting IoTA manage certificate deployment and provisioning to the SIM secure store

### Target Segments and Technologies



- Edge to End encryption
  - CAT M1/NBIoT devices where TLS /DTLS from device is problematic
- IoT SAFE encryption
  - Any device requiring X.509 root of trust certificate on the device

#### 

- Edge to End encryption:
  - Asset tracking and monitoring
  - Environmental monitoring
  - Gas and water metering
- IoT SAFE encryption
  - Industrial IoT
  - Micro-mobility and EV Charging
  - Security
  - Real estate and Smart Cities

### Azure Architecture



### Azure Architecture cont.



# Availability

- Three nodes covering three main regions
- Any node can connect to any availability zone on any cloud IoT endpoint

Azure

Azure

Azure



https://www.ericsson.com/en/portfolio/iot-and-new-business/iot-solutions/iot-accelerator/cloudconnect