Rep. Schakowsky
Opening Statement – CMT Hearing
Internet of Things
March 24th, 2015

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today's showcase and hearing on the Internet of Things. I am eager to learn more from our distinguished panel about this technology's promise as well as the new challenges it presents.

I'd like to take a moment to introduce one of our witnesses – Brad Morehouse, CEO of LiveWatch Security. LiveWatch is an innovative company from my hometown of Evanston, Illinois using Internet of Things technology to better-protect, inform, and connect its customers. LiveWatch has been honored with the 2014 Gold Stevie Award for Customer Service, the 2013 Silver Stevie Award for eCommerce Customer Service, and was recognized as an enterprise leader by The Economist. Mr. Morehead also participated in our showcase this morning. I welcome him and I thank him for his time today.

The Internet of Things is one of the fastest-growing technologies today. An estimated 25 billion products are now connected to the Internet, and that number is expected to double by 2020.

Internet of Things technology brings very clear benefits to consumers. Vehicles that can tell a driver if a part is in need of replacement. Refrigerators that can tell a parent if they need an extra gallon of milk at the grocery store. Health gadgets that monitor a person's heart rate, running or walking speed, and distance covered. All of those products – and more – are made possible through the Internet of Things.

But this technology also presents some new challenges. How do we ensure that these technologies are secure? That sensitive information doesn't get out to

unintended audiences? Or that products connected to the Internet aren't remotely deactivated by an unauthorized user? We must ensure that as this technology continues to grow, we take common-sense steps to ensure that it is safe and secure. These are issues worthy of this Subcommittee's time and consideration.

Again, I look forward to hearing from our distinguished panel about how they are creatively harnessing the Internet of Things. I yield back.