



Photo by [Braydon Anderson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# GETTING STARTED WITH TINYML

LESSONS LEARNED FROM  
BUILDING AN ARTIFICIAL NOSE

Benjamin Cabé  
@kartben

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

What is TinyML anyway?

Sensor data + AI = 

TinyML + IoT = 



# BENJAMIN CABÉ



Principal Program Manager  
Azure IoT – Microsoft



Open Source &  
Community Advocate



Amateur Potter

**@kartben**

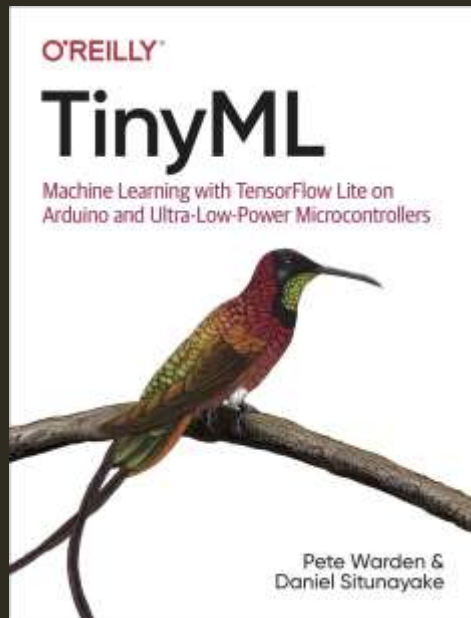


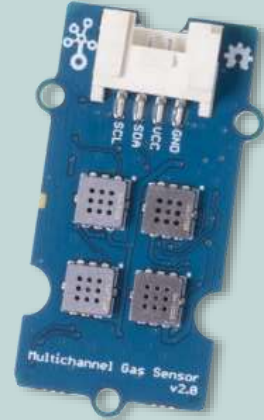


# TINYML?

“

The ability to run a neural network model at an energy cost of below 1 mW.





# WIO TERMINAL + GAS SENSOR

Carbon monoxide (CO) Ethyl alcohol(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH)  
Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) Volatile Organic  
Compounds (VOC)

# COST CONSIDERATIONS



**Wio Terminal**

~\$38

Arm Cortex-M4

512K of Flash

192K of RAM



**ATSAMD51P19A**

~\$5 (when ordering 3000+ units)

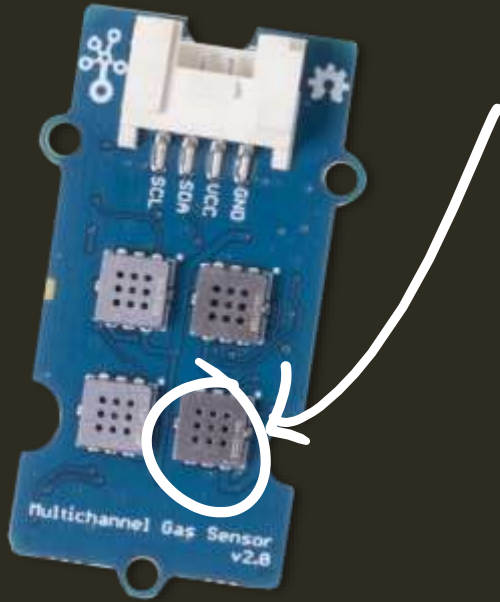
Arm Cortex-M4F

512K of Flash

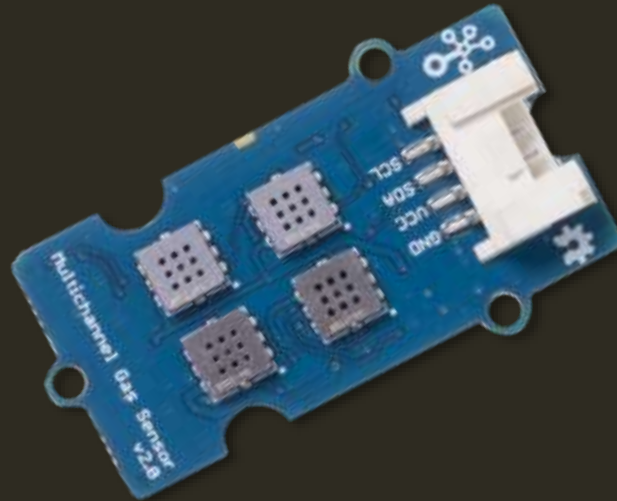
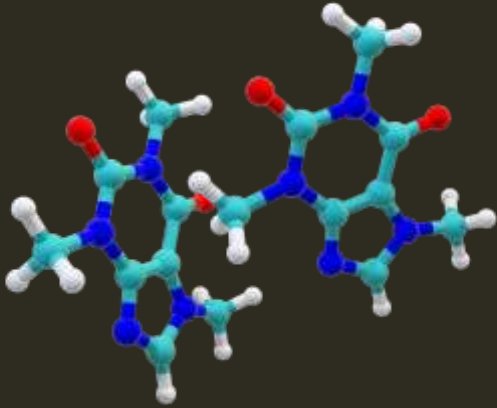
192K of RAM



# BUT HOW CAN A MACHINE SMELL ANYWAYS?

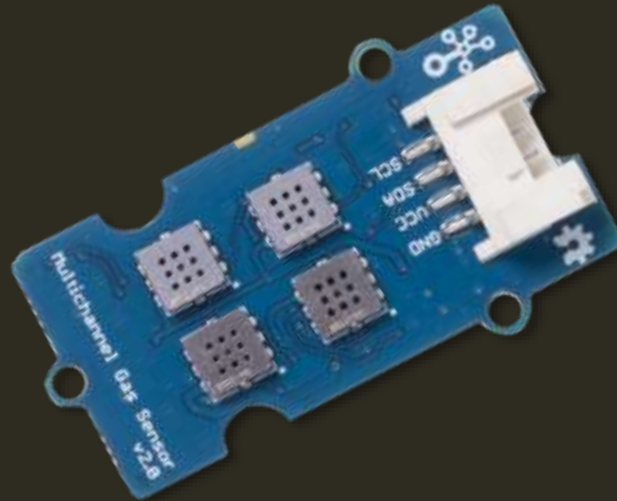
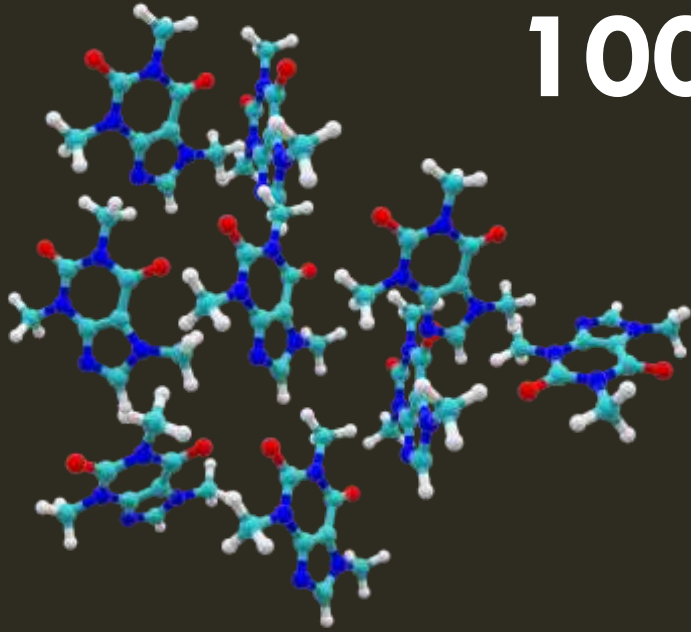


**10 ppm**



**VOC?**  
**100  $\Omega$ !**

**1 000 ppm**



**VOC?**  
**200  $\Omega$ !**

# AI MODEL FOR SMELLS?



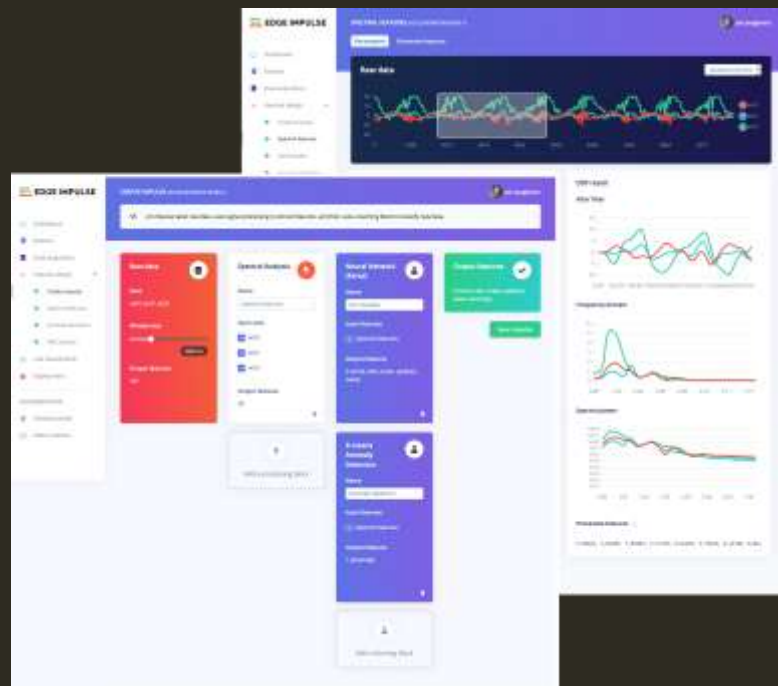
Super simple **data acquisition** and **labelling** workflow

**Pre-defined** common NN layers, DSP, and anomaly detection “blocks”

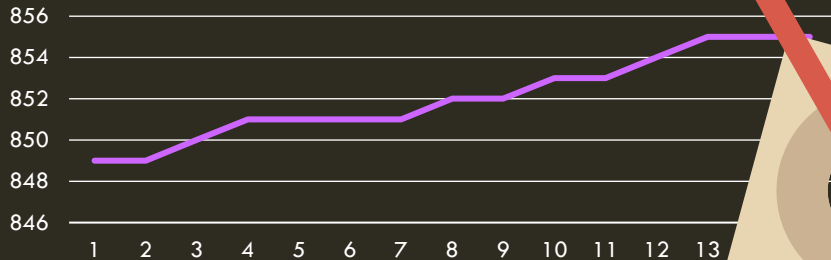
Model **training in the cloud**

Runtime based on **TensorFlow Lite**

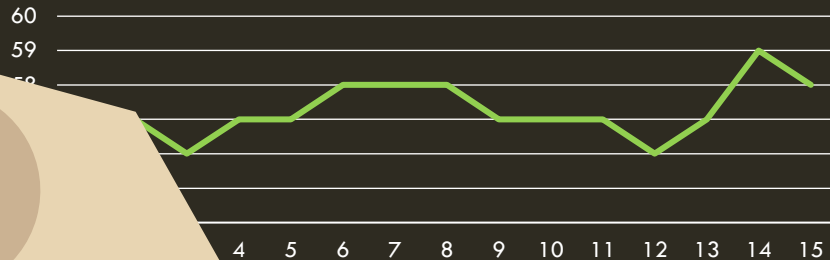
[edgeimpulse.com](https://edgeimpulse.com)



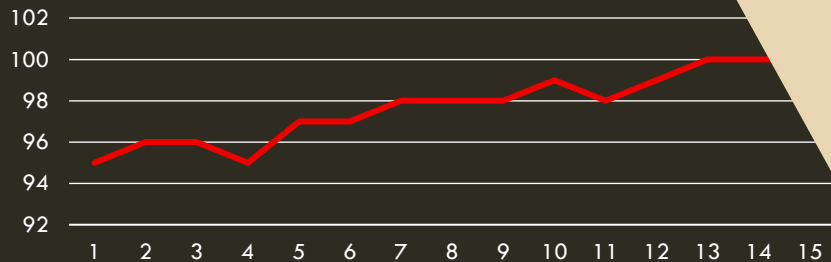
### Nitrogen dioxide



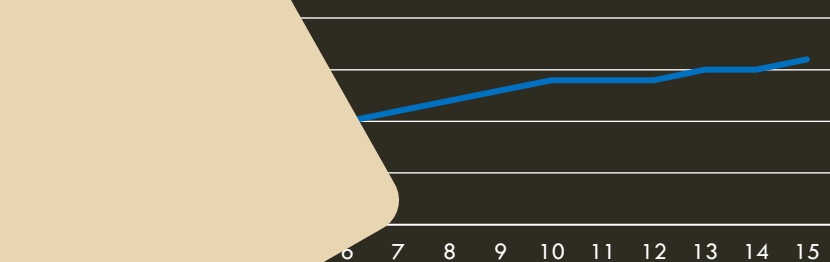
### Carbon monoxide



### Ethyl alcohol



### Volatile organic compounds



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Nitrogen dioxide	849	849	850	851	851	851	851	852	852	853	853	854	855	855	855
Carbon monoxide	57	57	56	57	57	58	58	58	57	57	57	56	57	59	58
Ethyl alcohol	95	96	96	95	97	97	98	98	98	99	98	99	100	100	100
Volatile organic compounds	182	183	184	184	185	185	186	187	188	189	189	189	190	190	191

# BUT HOW CAN A MACHINE SMELL ANYWAYS?

Raw features (whiskey) – 1.5 s of sensor data, 10 Hz

```
[ 849, 57, 95, 182, 849, 57, 96, 183, 850,  
56, 96, 184, 851, 57, 95, 184, 851, 57, 97,  
185, 851, 58, 97, 185, 851, 58, 98, 186,  
852, 58, 98, 187, 852, 57, 98, 188, 853, 57,  
99, 189, 853, 57, 98, 189, 854, 56, 99, 189,  
855, 57, 100, 190, 855, 59, 100, 190, 855,  
58, 100, 191 ]
```

# BUT HOW CAN A MACHINE <sup>really</sup> SMELL ANYWAYS?

Flattened features (whiskey) – step 1:

```
[  
  [ 849, 57, 95, 182 ],  
  [ 849, 57, 96, 183 ],  
  ...  
  [ 855, 58, 100, 191 ]  
]
```



# BUT HOW CAN A MACHINE <sup>really</sup> SMELL ANYWAYS?

Flattened features (whiskey) – step 2 (scale axes):

```
[  
  [ 0.849, 0.057, 0.095, 0.182 ],  
  [ 0.849, 0.057, 0.096, 0.183 ],  
  ...  
  [ 0.855, 0.058, 0.100, 0.191 ]  
]
```

# BUT HOW CAN A MACHINE <sup>really</sup> SMELL ANYWAYS?

Flattened features (whiskey) – step 3 (DSP):

[	0.8520,	0.849,	0.855,	0.8250,	0.0019,	$\text{NO}_2$
	0.0572,	0.056,	0.059,	0.0554,	0.0007,	$\text{CO}$
	0.0977,	0.095,	0.100,	0.0946,	0.0016,	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$
	0.1868,	0.182,	0.191,	0.1808,	0.0027 ]	VOC

average

min

max

root-mean  
square

standard  
deviation

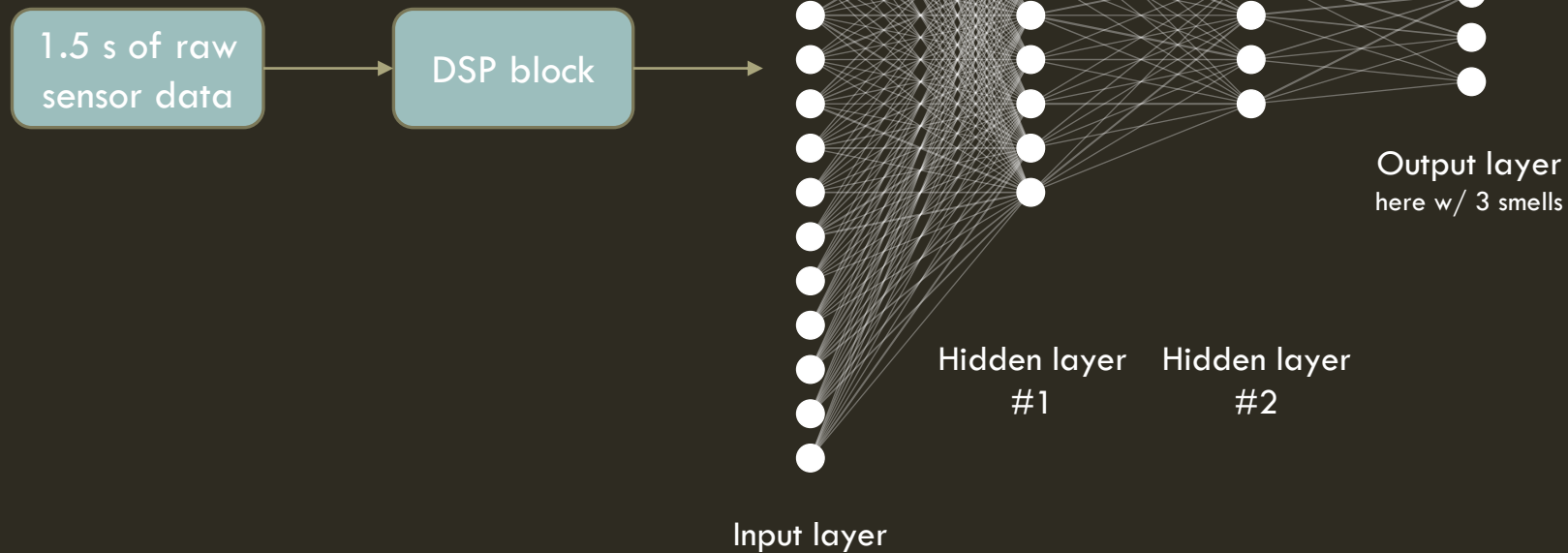
# AI MODEL FOR SMELLS?



# AI MODEL FOR SMELLS?



# AI MODEL FOR SMELLS?



# TENSORFLOW LITE FOR MICROCONTROLLERS

## Optimized for on-device machine learning

- **latency** – there's no round-trip to a server
- **privacy** – no personal data leaves the device
- **connectivity** – Internet connectivity is not required
- **size** – reduced model and binary size
- **power consumption** – efficient inference & a lack of network connections

**High performance** (hardware acceleration and model optimization)

Available as **Arduino library**



# RE: PERFORMANCE AND CODE SIZE

## Classifying 3-5 smells:

- ~4KB of RAM, ~27KB of ROM (the actual TFLite model is ~3KB)
- Inference is ~1ms on an 80MHz 32-bit MCU

# IMPROVING ACCURACY?

**Better model** (ex. RNN)

**Better gas sensors**

**More gas sensors**

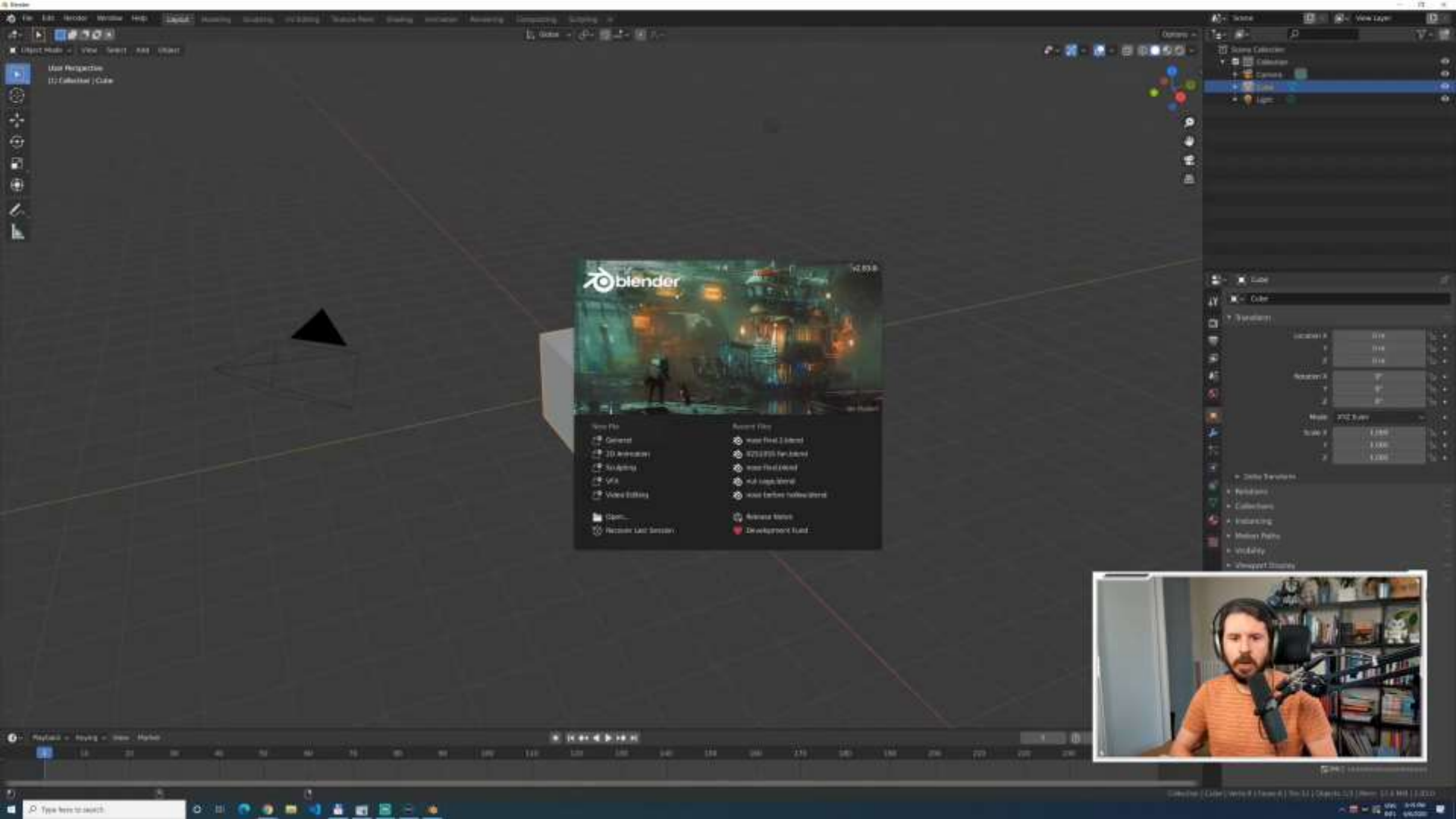
**Sensor fusion**

- Humidity
- Temperature
- Color
- ...



A workshop scene with various tools including a level, a tape measure, and a power drill. The background is a blurred workshop floor with tools scattered around. A blue and yellow level is at the top, a yellow tape measure is in the middle, and a power drill is at the bottom right. The text is overlaid in the center.

“GREAT... SO...  
YOU’VE BEEN  
TINKERING, EH?”



blender 2.83.0

File

- General
- 3D Animations
- Sculpting
- UVs
- Video Editing
- Open...
- Recent Last Session

Recent Files

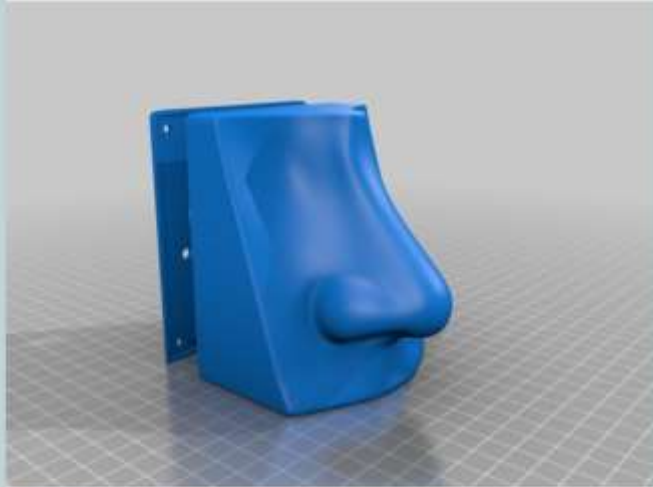
- untitled.blend
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### Artificial Nose Enclosure

by Karben June 23, 2020



[THINGIVERSE.COM/THING:4493907](https://thingiverse.com/thing/4493907)





**Benjamin Cabé** @kartben · Feb 12



I realized I **never quite published** the instructions to replicate my #TinyML and #IoT artificial **nose** project, powered by awesome tech from @EdgeImpulse and hardware from @seedstudio. Working on getting this fixed asap while sipping my espresso! 🚨☕



8




22



97



PREMIUM



**Pascal BORNET**  
Intelligent Automation Global Expert | Chief Data Officer | Author | Forbes Tech Council | Ex-McKinsey | Top Voice in Tech | 300K+ followers

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Intelligent Automation Global Expert | Chief Data Officer | Aut...  
2mo •

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Identifying smells with machine learning!

Built by [Benjamin Cabé](#), this artificial nose has been trained to recognize accurately hundreds of smells. Read more here: <https://lnkd.in/gdPKx9Z>

This could power so many wonderful use cases: cooking assistant, alerts in case of dangerous gases, perfumes design, support to people who can't smell well... What else would you think of?

Code available here: <https://lnkd.in/gSXdiaH>

If you like my posts, you will enjoy my new book: <https://lnkd.in/g4uCcG4>

Click "Follow" for more #technology insights <https://lnkd.in/gFhhNg9> and <https://lnkd.in/fjddMYP>

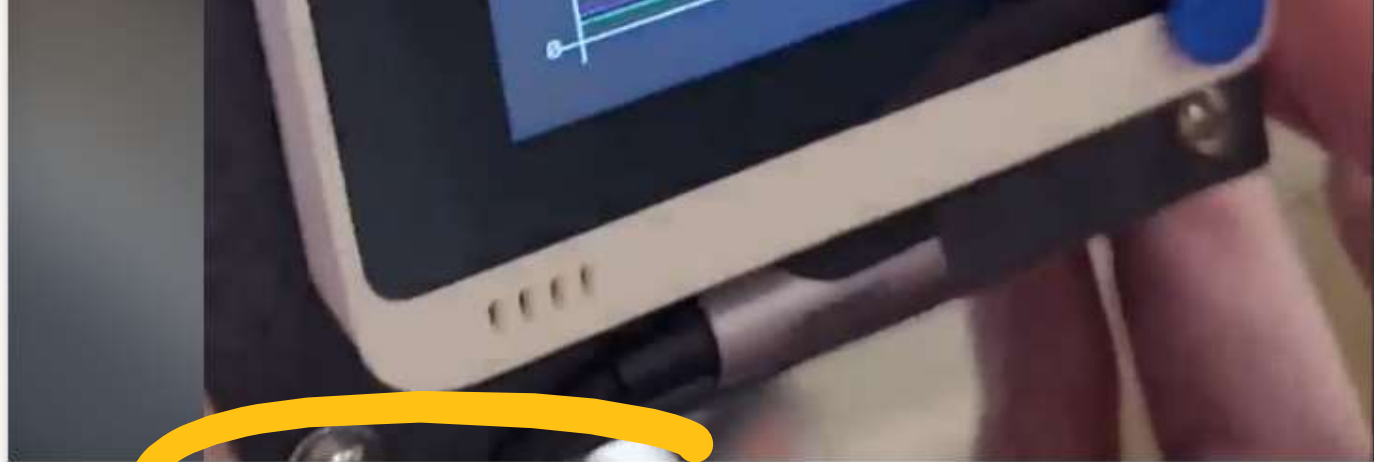


3,935 • 255 comments • 225,379 Views

Reactions



Like Comment Share Send



   3,935 • 255 comments • 225,379 Views

### Reactions



 Like  Comment  Share  Send



# Make:



MOTORIZED  
SELF  
SOLVING  
RUBIK'S  
CUBE

## MACHINE LEARNING

Swear Bear... Trash Sorter... Easy AI Trainers  
Teach your project to think for itself

**BENJAMIN CABÉ'S "NOSE" KNOWS!**  
Build this smell-identifying AI sniffer

### 23 PROJECTS!

- Raspberry Pi Meteor Camera
- Digital String Art Portraits
- Animated LED Skirt
- Arduino Borealis Lights

### SKILL BUILDERS

- Digital Mobile Radio
- Hack a Knitting Machine

makezine.com | makercampus.com | makerfaire.com

VOLUME 77



DEEPER LEARNING: Artificial Nose

# SECOND SENSE

Written and photographed by Benjamin Cabé

MAKE A SMART SNIFFER THAT CAN SORT COFFEE FROM TEA, CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE BOOZE, OR WHATEVER ELSE YOU TRAIN IT TO SMELL!



makerbot.com

I was a long weekend of May 2020. Like many of my human siblings stuck at home with time on their hands due to an ongoing pandemic, I was busy trying to perfect my bread recipe. In fact, just a few days before, I had ordered a gas sensor (Figure 1) that I thought would be ideal to help me monitor my sourdough starter and bake my bread at just the right moment.

And then I thought about it some more. "Sure, this is the perfect excuse for me to finally start learning this machine learning thing that everyone's talking about. But... do I really want to bake dozens of baguettes before I have a training set large enough to teach an AI the relationship between the aromatic fingerprint of the sourdough starter and the pungency of the final loaf? Plus, flour is pretty scarce these days!"

That's how, over the course of the next few days, I ended up building a DIY, general-purpose, artificial nose — one that can smell virtually anything you teach it to recognize! The artificial nose is powered by artificial intelligence — a TensorFlow neural network that I trained using the free online tool Edge Impulse and then uploaded onto an Arduino-compatible microcontroller.

I learned a lot along the way, and not just about machine learning. From designing my first 3D enclosure to understanding fluid dynamics (the airflow within the nose is not exactly optimal), it was the trial (and I love my own "thing" from scratch), so I've excited to share it with the Maker community. Here are the steps for replicating the build for yourself.

## BUILD YOUR ARTIFICIAL NOSE

### 1. GET YOUR PARTS READY

You can 3D print the nose enclosure from <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing/4439307> (Figure 2). Alternatively, grab your Miniaturizer 3000™, fly to Easter Island, and capture your own 1:100 copy of a nose!

Note that you don't need the hardware enclosure to build the artificial nose, but you certainly need all the electronic components (Figure 3) on the following page. They're easy to put together; there's no soldering involved at all, just plugging in some jumper wires and connectors.

### TIME REQUIRED:

A Few Hours

### DIFFICULTY:

Intermediate

### COST:

\$300-\$100

### MATERIALS

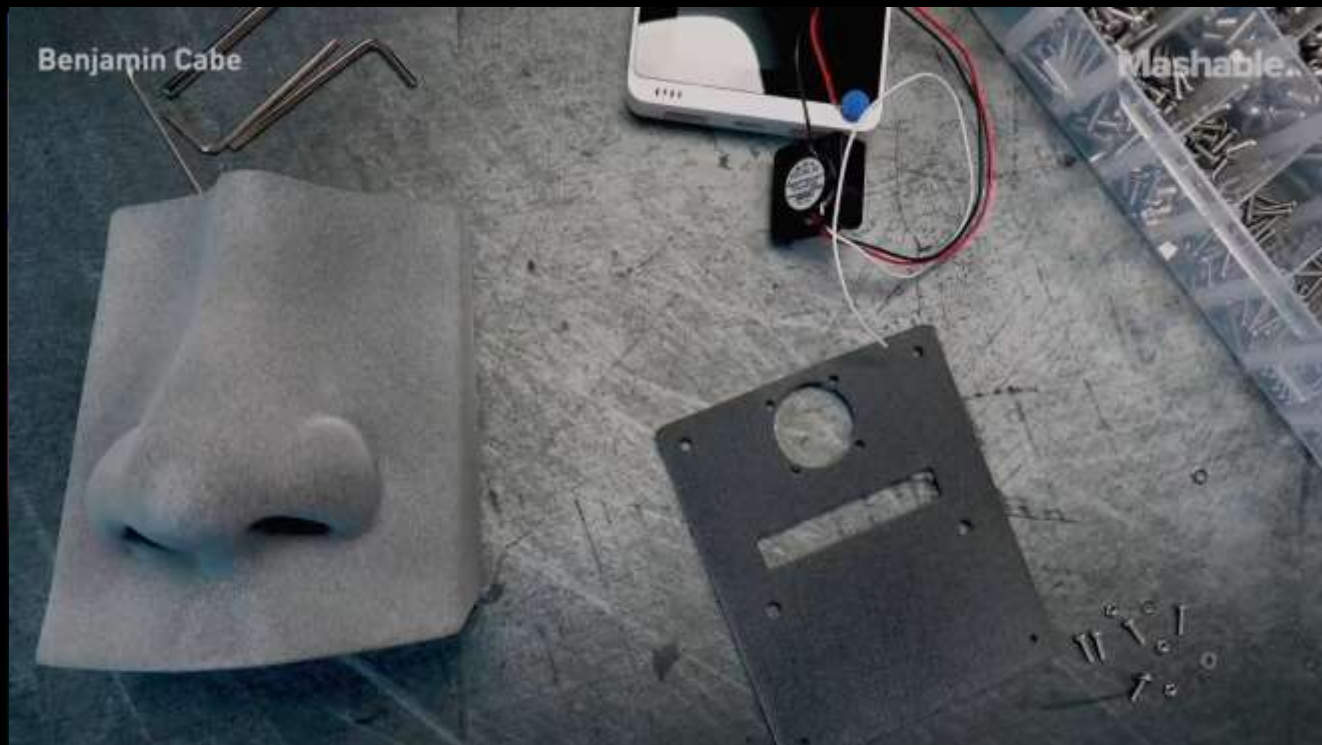
- 100 Terminal mini-controller board with LED display (Amazon Link) <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B083222222>
- Grove-MQ135 gas sensor (Amazon Link) <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B073333333>
- 3D printed nose enclosure (download the 3D file to the file at <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing/4439307>)
- Grove-MQ135RT board (Amazon Link) <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B073333333>
- Cable, 4-pin Grove connector to male jumper wires (Amazon Link) <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B073333333>
- Fan, 5V DC, 20x20x10mm (such as from <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B073333333>)
- Fan filter (such as 20x20x10mm) (Amazon Link) <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B073333333>
- USB-C sign-slash cable (optional)
- 100 terminal breakout boards (optional)
- M2 and M3 screws, nuts, and washers
- Breadboard jumper wires, 100cm (17')



makerbot.com 13



Benjamin Cabe



Umm, this AI tool can...smell for you — Future Blink

Share on Facebook

Share on Twitter

LinkedIn

StumbleUpon

Pinterest

## Next Up



Simone Gieritz used to make useless inventions, then she beat Tesla to the Cytomuck



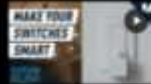
Cookoo wants to be your second pair of eyes in the kitchen — Future Blink



You don't have to water your houseplants individually anymore — Future Blink



'The Underground Railroad' takes an honest look at a critical part of American history



Surprise, you can actually turn anything into a smart device — Future Blink



DryCycle looks like a mini electric car, but it's made for bike paths — Future Blink

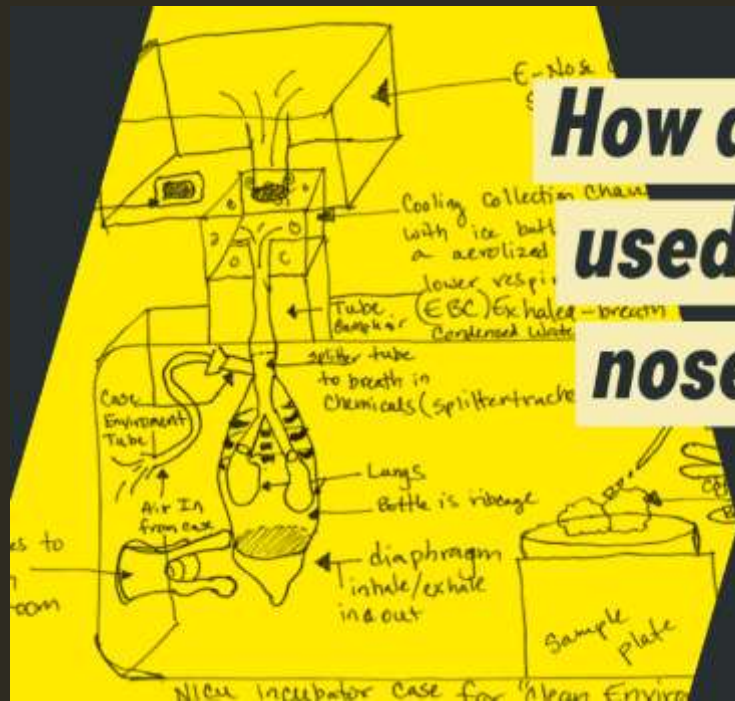


Stay cool this summer with...a wearable AI neck fan? — Future Blink



Researchers made a robot that mimics a real, backflipping spider — Strictly Robots

# How a 13-year-old used my artificial nose to diagnose pneumonia



news.ycombinator.com

**Y** Hacker News new | threads | past | comments | ask | show | jobs | submit

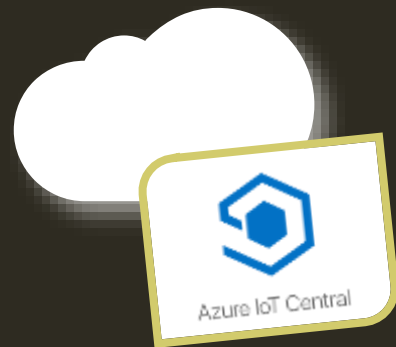
1. A 13-year-old used my artificial nose to diagnose pneumonia (benjamin-cabe.com)  
229 points by kartben\_ 5 hours ago | hide | 128 comments
2. ▲ My smart home 2021: A Home Assistant love story (jorisroovers.com)  
151 points by jroovers 4 hours ago | hide | 71 comments







“INTELLIGENCE AT THE EDGE” + INTERNET =  \*



\* a.k.a. AIoT

FROM AN “ARTIFICIAL NOSE” ...  
TO A “CONNECTED ARTIFICIAL NOSE”





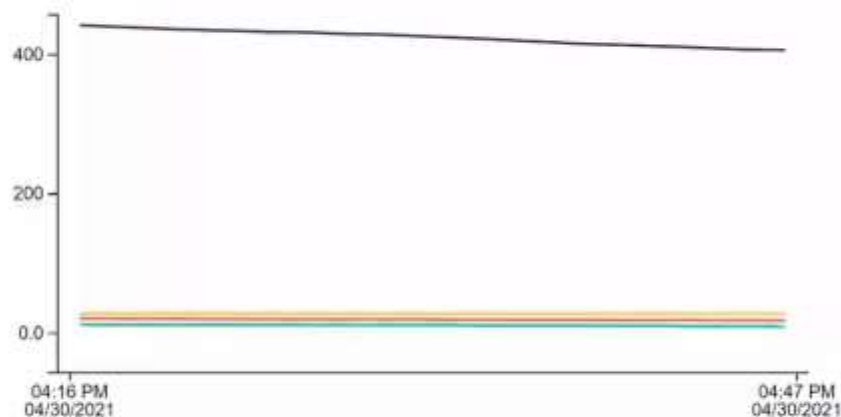
Devices &gt; Artificial Nose &gt; nose001

[Connect](#) [Block](#) [Attach to gate...](#) [Rename](#) [Edit template](#) [Delete](#)

## nose001

[About](#) [Overview](#) [Settings](#) [Raw data](#)

Last data received: 4/30/2021, 4:45:56 PM | Status: Provisioned

VOC (ppm), NO<sub>2</sub> (ppm), C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH (ppm), CO (ppm)● VOC (ppm) ● NO<sub>2</sub> (ppm) ● C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH (ppm) ● CO (ppm)

VOC (ppm)



12.35

Average, Past 12 hours

NO<sub>2</sub> (ppm)

442.91

Average, Past 12 hours

C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH (ppm)

20.08

Average, Past 12 hours

CO (ppm)



27.01

Average, Past 12 hours

# “CONNECTING” AN IOT DEVICE IS ONLY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> STEP

**Visualize** data in real time

**Store** telemetry history

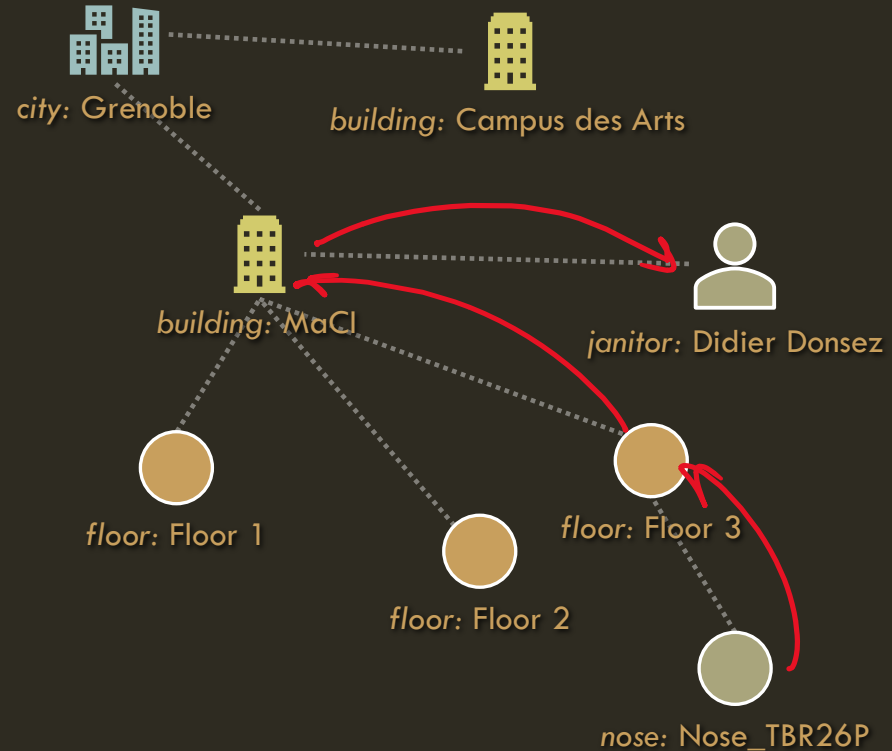
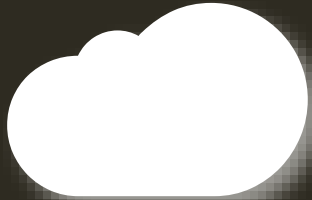
Implement **rules**

Integrate with **enterprise systems**



# FROM CONNECTED THINGS TO CONNECTED ENVIRONMENTS\*

Nose\_TBR26P:  
"foul air!"



\* a.k.a. Digital Twins

# IN A NUTSHELL

**TinyML** enables an **Internet of Signals**

**(Tiny) Edge & Cloud** each have their strengths



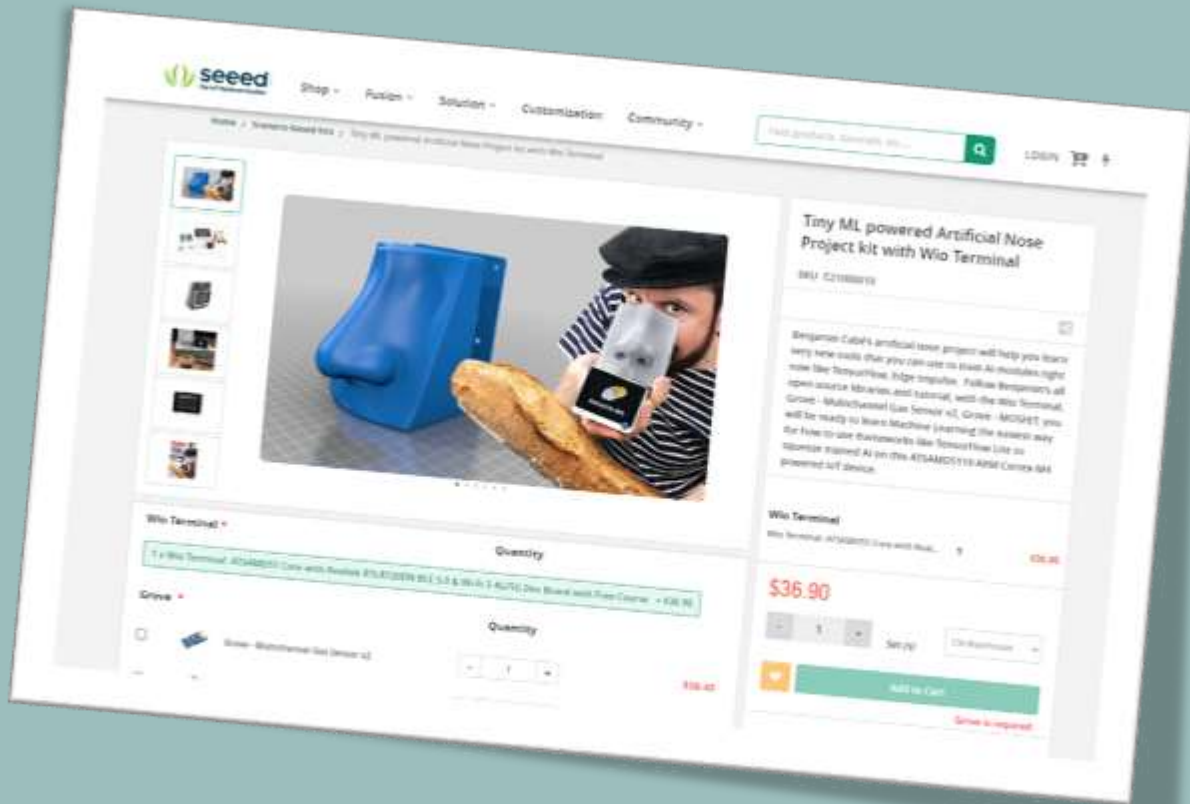
# TinyML-powered artificial nose



[kartben/artificial-nose](https://github.com/kartben/artificial-nose)

[GITHUB.COM/KARTBEN/ARTIFICIAL-NOSE](https://github.com/kartben/artificial-nose)

Bill of materials, source code, schematics, ...



AKA.MS/SEEED-TINYML-NOSE-KIT

Wio Terminal + Gas  
sensors + Fan controller



[AKA.MS/AINOSE](https://aka.ms/ainose)

Interactive demo,  
learning resources, ...

 @kartben

 benjamin.cabe@microsoft.com

 <https://blog.benjamin-cabe.com>

THANKS!

