

The Rise of Voice Actuated Digital Assistants in the Home

This presentation is a follow up on the introduction to the Amazon Echo briefly described and demonstrated as part of the talk on "New Tech Gadgets" in October of 2015. Steve Wozniak, of Apple Computer fame, considered the Echo the "next big platform". Alexa, Amazon's artificial intelligence "voice", has grown into new hardware, migrated to other devices, acquired new capabilities, and recently found a new "friend", Google Home. We'll compare Alexa and Google Home as well as Siri, Cortana, and Google Now, which are found on portable devices and computers.

The features of Alexa and Google Now are expected to grow with time as they are easily updated. We'll report on the latest rumors and predictions about where voice activated digital assistants are going. It's been stated that this technology is in the grip of an "artificial intelligence spring". Finally, demonstrations will include new features as well as control of devices around your home.