

# HCC Bits & Bytes

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COMMUNICATIONS



## Are you Siri-ous?

Have the barrage of digital assistants infiltrated your life and home yet? With personal data concerns some may have legitimate reservations about using Alexa, Google, Cortana, or Siri. However, if you are using a smartphone you are already sharing personal data with the likes of Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Apple. Smart devices in the home and vehicles are really just extensions of what you are already doing on your smartphone. Each consumer should do their own research and make an educated decision for themselves whether to use digital assistants or not.

However, many consumers are already taking advantage of the convenience of using voice commands to Siri or Google for doing internet searches, making calls, sending texts, checking the weather, making appointments, and much more on their smartphones. Smart speakers ([Amazon Echo](#), [Google Home](#), or [Apple HomePod](#)) bring the handiness inside your home. In fact, to call them smart speakers is an understatement! Many of them are smart hubs that have the ability to control internet ready devices like light bulbs, switches, thermostats, security systems, streaming devices, and so much more.

But don't worry your car hasn't been left out of the smarter revolution. [Android Auto](#) and [Apple CarPlay](#) give you voice control, so you can keep your eyes on the road. Both are available today as interfaces between your phone and your car's original stock Infotainment system or in select

aftermarket car stereos. Not to be left out of the mix, Alexa is also available on car accessories from various manufacturers. If you're running late and driving around lost- being able to use voice commands to setup navigation to a local business using just their name is an amazing feature.

At this point you might be wondering *what will they think of next?* One useful function of a digital assistant is to manage your calendar. In this regard, Google demonstrated an exciting enhancement last week at their technology conference. Powered by Google's Artificial Intelligence technology the Google Assistant was asked, by the demonstrator using voice commands, to make an appointment for a haircut on a specific day and time range. It actually made a voice phone call to an unsuspecting live person and scheduled the appointment. The assistant even used word whiskers like Mm-hmm to fill in gaps in the conversation and successfully answered several questions and hurdles the appointment taker presented. To watch a video of the presentation and learn more about Google Duplex check out this article from [theverge.com](http://theverge.com).

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