Now we' re talking

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Voice technology[1] is making computers less daunting and more accessible. Using voice computing[2] is just like casting a spell(see Fig.1): say a few words into the air, and a nearby device can grant your wish. And more companies think dictating e-mails and text message now works reliable enough. This is a huge shift. Simple thought it may seem, voice has the power to transform computing, by providing a natural means of interaction. But Voice will not wholly replace other forms of input and output.

Figure 1: Voice interaction

However, to reach its full potential, the technology requires further breakthroughs-and a resolution of the tricky questions it raises around the trade-off between convenience and privacy. Many voice-driven devices[3] are always listening, waiting to be activated. Some people are already concerned about the implications of internet-connected microphones listening in every room and from every smartphone. Even if such issues remain unresolved, consumers will adopt voice computing as always.

References

[1] S. Wikipedia, *Voice technology.* Books LLC, Reference Series, 2011.

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[3] K. Schimmer, P. Plankensteiner, and S. Harbeck, "Voice-driven device control with an optimisation for a user," 2002.