**Voice assistants**

Have you ever got tired of typing and looking at the screen while searching for information? That's the main reason why voice-activated apps have become more and more common in our daily lives. But how does the app understand the human voice?

In 2011, Siri, the first mobile voice assistant was introduced, giving users the possibility to give their devices commands or ask them questions. Voice assistants use artificial intelligence in their software so that they can recognize a person's voice and do the requested task.

For activating them, it's necessary to say the activation word (like 'Ok, Google'). First, automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) enables the device to recognize and translate speech to text. Thanks to the Natural Language Processing (NLP) the machine identifies the intent behind the speech. Then, the machine searches for a valid answer. Finally, the response is converted from written to spoken by using text-to-speech (TTS) technology.

The greatest advantage of these assistants is that they can make things easier for the visually impaired, elderly, and dependant persons. Furthermore, they can be helpful to carry out some tasks and control other electronic devices.

Discomfort can be caused by the fact that if you're using voice assistants, you'll have less privacy, they'll have the access to your data, meaning they'll be familiar with your habits.

There's no doubt that voice assistants are here to stay. The general expectation for the future is that they'll become much better at recognizing words, voices, meanings, and context behind commands. They'll be able to hold a human-like, perfectly natural conversation, something Google's already trying to figure out.