

# Smart Home Ambient Intelligence: a new limit for our freedom?

ethical concerns about voice assistants

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# Presentation Outline

Smart Home Ambient Intelligence: a new limit for our freedom?  
ethical concerns about voice assistants

## Introduction

Technological Mediation  
Definitions

## Case Study: Google Home - Google Assistant Actions

Applied mediations limiting our freedom  
Ethical issues arising from loss of freedom

## Possible Remedies

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# Introduction

# Technological Mediation

*While fulfilling their function, technologies do much more: they **give shape to what we do** and how we experience the world. And in doing so they **contribute actively** to the ways we live our lives (Verbeek 2011)*

- ▶ Technologies are not **neutral intermediaries**
- ▶ Technologies play an **actively mediating role**
- ▶ Artifacts are **bearers of morality** (Latour 1992)
- ▶ Morality is a matter of **human-technology associations**
- ▶ Two perspectives of mediation:
  - ▶ Perception
  - ▶ **Action**: I will focus on **human freedom**

# Definitions

## Ambient Intelligence

***Ambient Intelligence** is an approach that combines two major technologies: Ubiquitous Computing and Intelligent User Interfaces (Brey 2005)*

## Voice Assistant

*A **voice assistant** is a digital assistant that uses voice recognition, natural language processing and speech synthesis to provide aid to users through phones and voice recognition applications (whatis.techtarget.com 2017)*

## Freedom

***Ambient Intelligence** is an approach that combines two major technologies: Ubiquitous Computing and Intelligent User Interfaces.*

## Case Study: Google Home - Google Assistant Actions

# Google Assistant Actions

# Script



## Invitation/Inhibition structure

# Behaviour Steering

## Possible Remedies

## Possible Remedies

## Conclusions

# Conclusions

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