# 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
Technological mediations further limiting our freedom
Ethical concerns arising from loss of freedom

Possible Remedies

Conclusions



#### 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 I

#### 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)

#### Definitions II

#### 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

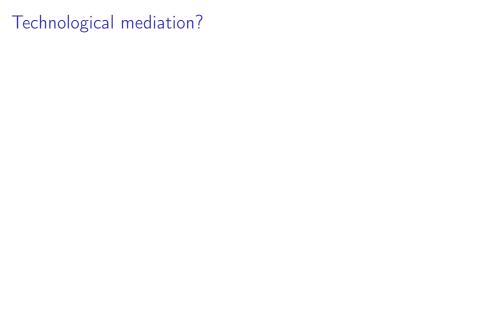
# Script



# Behaviour Steering

# Moral laziness

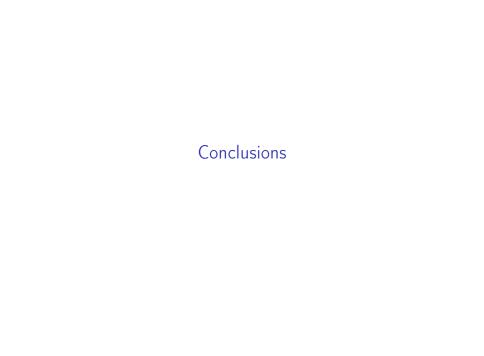
# Technocracy





Possible Remedies

## Possible Remedies



## Conclusions

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