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Voice controlled digital gadgets: The fly on the wall that tells?

by Nancy Beckley

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Have you ever asked your personal digital assistant on your smartphone to look up something for you? Certain commands and words trigger a sequence. On an iPhone you can click and start your question by asking, for example, “Siri, can you find the nearest Oktoberfest?” In the past few years, we have experienced a boom of virtual devices that do everything: monitor household security, control televisions, manage the heating and cooling in your house, and create playlists. In fact, on a recent visit to my local Apple store, I created a playlist by instructing HomePod: “Siri, create a play list of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.” Siri confirmed, and within minutes, everyone at my table was rocking out to “Big Girls Don’t Cry.” I overstayed my visit at the Apple store so I could listen to all the songs!

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