Abstract

Smart speakers and agents such as Alexa and the Google Assistant are cool consumer-level additions to the computing landscape. Beyond being cool, however, they are a revolutionary change in how we use computers, yet deeply rooted in centuries-old technology - speaking. We will explore why this is the most significant computing technology since the smart phone (and perhaps longer), how Google is betting on this technology, and the role human communities play in its development.

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Biography

Allen Firstenberg is a senior software engineer at Objective Consulting, where he helps clients build technology solutions to improve internal processes and benefit their customers and users. He has been a professional software developer for over 25 years with a focus on privacy and security, computer mediated communication, full-stack development, and ubiquitous personal computing. He is also a Google Developer Expert, recognized by Google for his contributions to the developer community, in the fields of Wearable Technology, the Internet of Things, Identity Management, and the Google Assistant.