CES 2017: A global gathering of innovation and connectivity

Once focused exclusively on consumer electronics, CES 2017 put software at the center of everything it showcased this year. From autonomous cars to robotics to the Internet of Things (IoT), the gathering didn’t disappoint.

The 50th anniversary of CES was a record-breaker, welcoming the world’s biggest companies and hosting more than 600 startups. More than 175,000 industry professionals, including 55,000 from outside the U.S., convened in Las Vegas to drive the ever-evolving global technology industry forward. Products were innovative and featured the future of a connected experience for consumers.

This year’s highlights include:

Medical and health technology
Fitness trackers are looking better than ever. The Misfit Vapor, for instance, is the company’s first wearable with a full touchscreen display. And the Motiv Ring packs all the functionality of a wrist-based fitness tracker into a tiny, stylish design you can slip on your finger. You can also track your health by monitoring vital signs from your ear. Bodytrak is a unique wearable and vital signs meter. It measures biometric information from your ear.

How about a microneedle patch combined with a portable device that can analyze your skin, give you solutions and even suggest products to use? Through an LED light, the patch measures your skin’s dryness, hydration and redness and then saves the information on an app so you can track changes.

The home connectivity trend will continue to expand into wearables that enable your house to monitor your activity

Popular options include:
- Biometric feedback designed to improve your health
- Interactive environment sensing that lets your home know whether you’re there and your exact location
- Technology you carry that integrates into a home data set and is responsive to your needs and expectations
IoT, IoT, IoT
2017 may be the year we all start talking to inanimate objects. It seems like manufacturers are looking to connect phones, TVs, cars, refrigerators and every seemingly mundane object to the Internet.

Companies can’t stop talking about product compatibility with voice assistants and IoT platforms. That’s because a flood of products are now offering compatibility with systems like Google Home, Apple HomeKit and Amazon Alexa. Whether it’s lighting, DVRs, refrigerators, robot vacuums, home security systems, phones or cars—to name just a few—the list of items you’ll be able to interact with by saying Alexa’s name is set to explode in the coming months. Even Ford is integrating voice assistants for owners by putting Alexa in cars. If you’re into voice assistants or virtual reality, this is definitely your year, but there is still plenty more to get excited about.

Other smart products include connected coffee makers and connected mirrors that display time, weather, status and companion apps. You can also get smart chargers that remind you to plug in your device. Yes, you need to charge your charger so it can remind you to charge your phone!

Wi-Fi connectivity and app control will be more common in small kitchen-counter appliances, and expect refrigerators, washers and dryers to get smarter, too. The same goes for doorbells, light bulbs, ceiling fans and smoke alarms. Don’t forget your four-legged friends! Automated feeders, self-cleaning litter boxes, cat and dog trackers, and networked pet toys were showcased. Connectivity is available to just about everything you can think of. For instance, the world’s first Bluetooth-connected smart hairbrush was introduced. It featured a microphone and conductivity sensors to identify brushing strength and hair quality.

Smarter cars
There were plenty of self-driving and electric cars displayed in Vegas. Who doesn’t want a sleek, autonomous electric car that doesn’t guzzle fossil fuels and reduces accidents? True to its name, the Faraday Future FF91 is a futuristic-looking Tesla competitor with a cool design, fast speed and the ability to self-park. Chrysler also showed off its Portal concept, a self-driving electric minivan for Millennials. Equally futuristic, Honda’s NeuV is a two-seater meant to act as a ride-sharing vehicle and includes a slew of emotion-sensing features. Nvidia, meanwhile, has partnered with Audi to put AI-powered cars on the road starting in 2020, a tad earlier than the BMW iNext.

Just like your houses, your cars will become increasingly connected to the Internet. Self-driving has gone from a futuristic technology to one that’s real. More and more vehicles are equipped with cellular data connections to send information back to the cloud on things like low tire warnings to upcoming service reminders. Self-driving cars will become even more connected, sharing and receiving data on road conditions or changes to traffic flow and traffic restrictions. There’s a ton more to talk about, but it’s simply impossible to cover it all. We look forward to a future with many of these groundbreaking products!

If you want an Allegion integrator sales rep to assist your client, contact us today online or by calling 888-758-9823.

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