

Always connected

Although many people aren't familiar with the techie term internet of things, they are using IoT devices every day—or will be soon. Mobile apps, sensors and other connected gadgets let users collect information and control things around them.

Adjust the thermostat

Thermostats can now be controlled with your phone and an app, making micro-adjustments possible anytime, anywhere.

Lock doors and alarm house

With connected locks, you don't need a key when you get home. Plus, apps let you decide whether to let someone else in and let you turn off the alarm.



Home

Time your brushing

Connected toothbrushes can report how long you're brushing and even how well you're doing it by tracking your movements and detecting missed teeth.

Mood lighting

Turn on or off or even dim lights through connected fixtures or bulbs, including some that can be voice-controlled through devices like the Amazon Echo.

Need an umbrella?

There's no need to wait for the weather segment on the TV news when you can ask Google Home for the forecast before you decide what to wear.

Warm the car

Apps let you pre-set temperature controls in your car and start it from inside the house, a blessing on cold mornings.

Coffee Shop



Shop restocks automatically

Sensors track inventory and place orders for supplies automatically.

Monitor employees

New platforms let managers assess workers' productivity.



No more fights over the thermostat

Offices are experimenting with technologies that let workers adjust their own spaces—their lighting, air temps, music and more.

Building access

Those pesky access cards may be a thing of the past. Mobile apps can now let workers into secure buildings and automatically clock them in.

Order and pay ahead

Fast-food restaurant apps let customers place their order in advance and pre-pay.

Work



Give a smart presentation

Connected whiteboards allow you to display your presentation, let colleagues mark it up from their tablets, and then save the results.

Tracking employees

New technologies allow bosses to track employees in the building and find them when they're trying to skip out on a meeting.



Driving to Work

Reserve parking

Some garages and lots now let you reserve a parking space before you arrive and then direct you right to the spot.

Track your heart rate

Smart watches can track your workout and heart rate, alerting you if you're going at it too hard.

How did I do?

Connected treadmills and other equipment can send reports to your phone with info about how many calories you burned.

Machines need attention, too

Connected equipment can let gym owners know that something is about to break down.

Avoiding the traffic tie-up

Trackers some cities have placed along highways alert drivers automatically about delays—and apps can tell you how to avoid the problem.

Do we need milk?

Smart fridges can now display their contents on your mobile phone, giving you a head start on the grocery list.

Grocery



Save some cash

Point-of-sale sensors can send coupons to your phone automatically if you pause too long in front of that mac-and-cheese.

Automated bagging

Robots can now collect your groceries in the storeroom and have them waiting for you when you arrive.

Designing the store

Connected shopping carts can help stores see traffic patterns and adjust how merchandise is displayed.