voicebot.ai
GIVING VOICE TO A REVOLUTION

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE VOICE REVOLUTION

1961

IBM introduces the IBM Shoebox, the first digital speech recognition tool. It recognized 16 words and digits.

1972

Carnegie Mellon completes Harpy Program. It could understand about 1000 words.

1990

Dragon launches Dragon Dictate, the first speech recognition product for consumers (for only $6,000).

1996

Microsoft introduces Clippy

2001

Microsoft introduces speech recognition feature for Office XP

2011

FEBRUARY 18
IBM's Watson wins Jeopardy!

APRIL 14
Apple introduces Siri

2012

JULY 9
Google launches Google Now

2013

APRIL 2
Microsoft introduces Cortana at annual BUILD developer conference

2014

NOVEMBER
Amazon introduces Alexa & the Amazon Echo, available to Prime members only

2015

JANUARY
Microsoft launches Cortana on Windows 10 desktops and mobile devices.

JUNE 23
Amazon officially launches Amazon Echo in US

JUNE 25
Amazon introduces the Alexa Skills Kit

DECEMBER
Microsoft Cortana added to mobile platforms

2016

MARCH 1
SoundHound launches voice-powered virtual assistant app, HOUND

MARCH
Amazon launches Amazon Echo Dot & Amazon Tap

MAY
Google introduces the Google Assistant as part of messaging app, Allo

AUGUST
Microsoft adds Cortana voice control to Xbox One

SEPTEMBER 28
Amazon launches Echo in UK and Germany

OCTOBER 5
Samsung acquires virtual assistant startup Viv

OCTOBER 20
Amazon launches 2nd generation of Amazon Echo Dot, cuts price to $49

NOVEMBER 4
Google launches Google Home and smart phone Google Pixel

NOVEMBER 28
Chinese manufacturer LingLong launches Echo competitor, DingDong

DECEMBER 8
Actions on Google Platform launches for Google Home

2017

MARCH 20
Samsung introduces Bixby alongside Galaxy S8 device

MARCH 21
Alexa skills surpass 10,000 in US

APRIL 6
Google Home launches in UK

APRIL 21
Google introduces multi-user support for Google Home; can recognize 6 different voices

APRIL 26
Amazon introduces the Echo Look

MAY 4
Baidu unveils its first consumer AI device, Xiaoyu, in China

MAY 8
Harman Kardon reveals new speaker, powered by Microsoft Cortana

MAY 9
Amazon introduces calling / messaging feature for Echo devices

MAY 17
Google announces Home will be available in Germany, France, Japan, Canada & Austraila by summer 2017

JUNE 5
Apple pre-announces HomePod

JUNE 26
Google Home launches in Canada

JUNE 28
Amazon Echo Show launches in US

JULY 17
Alibaba launches Genie X1 Smart Speaker

JULY 19
Samsung Bixby finally launches in US

AUGUST 30
Amazon and Microsoft announce Alexa and Cortana will be able to talk to each other.

SEPTEMBER 18
Voicebot turns one

SEPTEMBER 25
Google Home users able to voice shop from Walmart

SEPTEMBER 27
Amazon introduces 2nd Gen Echo, Echo Plus and Echo Spot

SEPTEMBER 27
Nuance launches Dragon Medical Virtual Assistant for Healthcare Providers

OCTOBER 4
Sonos announces new Alexa-enabled smart speaker, the Sonos One

OCTOBER 4
Google Announces high-end smart speaker, Google Home Max and the lower priced Google Home Mini

OCTOBER 4
Amazon Echo and Alexa now available in India by invitation

OCTOBER 6
Google Home and Google Mini arrive in Japan

OCTOBER 26
Jeff Bezos claims more than 20 million Amazon Alexa-enabled devices sold

NOVEMBER 3
Cisco announces B2B voice assistant, Spark Assistant

NOVEMBER 6
Amazon Echo and Alexa arrive in Japan

NOVEMBER 16
Baidu launches first smart speaker, the Raven H, powered by DuerOS

NOVEMBER 22
Bose launches wireless earbuds with Google Assistant and Siri support

DECEMBER 5
Amazon Echo and Alexa arrive in Canada

DECEMBER 8
Amazon Echo begins shipping to 89 countries

DECEMBER 15
Total Alexa skills pass 25,000 in US

2018

JANUARY 3
Roku announces the Roku Entertainment Assistant

JANUARY 10
LG, JBL and Lenovo introduce smart speaker with displays powered by Google Assistant at CES 2018

JANUARY 25
Amazon Echo and Alexa arrive in Ireland

FEBRUARY 1
Amazon Echo and Alexa arrive in Austrailia and New Zealand

FEBRUARY 9
Apple HomePod begins shipping

FEBRUARY 23
Google announces Google Assistant will know 30 languages by end of 2018

FEBRUARY 27
Samsung confirms plans to launch a Bixby-powered smart speaker of its own

FEBRUARY 27
Strategy Analytics Reports over 30 million smart speakers sold in 2017

FEBRUARY 28
Amazon Echo and Google Home European Smart Speaker Sales Approach 6.5 Million Units in 2017

MARCH 7
Voicebot Smart Speaker Consumer Adoption Report finds nearly 20% of US adults have a smart speaker

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