

BACKGROUND

Alice brings home a brand new 'home assistant system' - the first of its type launched anywhere in the world. It consists of a series of gadgets that are to be placed in her home.

Once set up, they will let her interact with the house in many novel ways - she can ask for the lights to be dimmed, ensure the front door is locked, kitchen stoves are turned off, ask whether there is anyone in the living room, or to always tell the weather and traffic when she's about to go out.

SCENARIO

Alice has also been reading various news and articles on the internet (served by the home assistant) which warn her about the increasingly personal data being collected by such devices, and the potential risks such devices pose to her. Alice is pragmatic and wants the features and services provided by the device, but also wishes to be wary of the risks it poses to her privacy.

She is not particularly technologically knowledgeable but wants to determine for herself what the risks are and whether her home assistant system already protects her against them.

DISCUSS

- Which information, and in what form, should the manufacturer of the home assistant system have provided to help and assure Alice that she is protected from her privacy risks?
- Since Alice is not technologically knowledgeable, how can such domain-specific and complex information be made more comprehensible for her?
- What options should be available to Alice if she does find some privacy risks?
- What should Alice do if she does not find any particular results for her model of the home assistant system, but there are related articles about the privacy risks of other voice assisted systems like Siri and Alexa?