

All in one

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A Big European consortium for research announced on Friday, September 4, 2015, the birth of a new type of “Jeeves”.

For years, “Jeeves” has symbolized a traditional, at-your-service butler, who makes people feel comfortable at home. In general, a butler should be able to answer any types of questions or help you in any types of tasks. Today, a new kind of “Jeeves”, JeevesII, is born thanks to the hard collaborative work between some European research institutes and industries.

JeevesII is a new generation robot composed of state-of-the-art technologies. He can learn from his own experience, analyse sounds, visualise his surrounding, record everything he listens to or sees. And what’s more, he is able to retrieve recorded information and show you the results on a big screen placed on his chest. Without doubt, JeevesII will soon be our inseparable robotic companion.

Built with the latest hardware, JeevesII has the high capacity to stock, to manage, to transfer data where and how you want. You can communicate with him or manage him through the net. But, he can also manage a set of tasks entirely autonomously, like returning to the base for charging.

Cameras are embedded not only in his eyes but some can be found in other strategic places on his body. These cameras allow him to move freely, search efficiently while avoiding obstacles. The cameras help him to sweep, vacuum and polish your home. No need anymore for your cleaning lady. Powerful video content analysis and image processing softwares would also increase the security level of your home. For instance, once an unusual event is detected, JeevesII can send out alerts through all possible communication means. You might also want to consider laying off your security guard!

As well as cameras, microphones are embedded in his entire body. As a result of such system, JeevesII can not only understand your instructions (biometry), but also easily detect and localize sounds. Everything is recorded. Consequently, it is possible to retrieve the conversations of your last family event or the last time you ask your robot to mow the grass. Some additional features can help handicapped people control the JeevesII’ behaviour by “thinking”. Electrodes, placed on the patient’s head, can analyse the brain activity. Then, this activity can be translated in simple commands and transferred to the robot.

This article is clearly too short to enumerate the myriad of functions available. In short, JeevesII can replace all your domestic employees: your nanny, gardener, caretaker, and the rest. According to the consortium, new modules will soon be developed to improve or increase the competences and the functionalities of the robot. However, it can be feared that the JeevesII could be used for entirely different purposes than taking care of your home. Military departments are already willing to modify JeevesII into a war machine. It is difficult to foresee where science is able to go. Ten years were enough to create JeevesII. What if in ten years, robots would replace soldiers, bricklayers, taxi drivers and teachers? Social and economic impact of these new “Jeeves” must be thoroughly considered.

What ever the circumstances, the human being must remain the Master in the new relationship, which has been outlined, between the man and the machine.