voicebot.ai

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 1500 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 16
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 8
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

DECEMBER 8
Actions on Google Platform launches for Google Home

2017

MARCH 20
Samsung introduces Bixby alongside Galaxy S8 device

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

MAY 9
Amazon introduces calling / messaging feature for Echo devices

JUNE 26
Google Home launches in Canada, its first time beating Amazon to a new smart speaker market

JUNE 28
Amazon Echo Show launches in US

JULY 17
Alibaba launches Genie X1 Smart Speaker

JULY 19
Samsung Bixby finally launches in US

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 10
Yandex launches Russian-speaking voice assistant Alice

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

DECEMBER 8
Amazon Echo begins shipping to 89 countries

2018

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

FEBRUARY 9
Apple HomePod begins shipping

MARCH 5
Google Assistant apps now support digital purchases, notifications and media playback

MARCH 19
Google launches Shopping Actions to compete with Amazon

MAY 1
Yandex launches Yandex.Dialogs, an open platform for third-party app development for voice assistant Alice

MAY 3
SoundHound closes $100 million funding round

MAY 8
Google announces Google Duplex for Google Assistant

JUNE 26
All Google Assistant enabled devices now speak Spanish

AUGUST 9
Samsung debuts Galaxy Home, a Bixby-powered smart speaker and Bixby 2.0

AUGUST 9
Amazon releases Alexa Auto SDK

SEPTEMBER 2
Google Home bilingual support now available

SEPTEMBER 20
Amazon launches 12 new Alexa devices, including an Alexa-powered microwave

OCTOBER 22
Google Home Hub begins shipping

NOVEMBER 12
Facebook's smart display, Portal, begins shipping

NOVEMBER 28
Voicebot reaches 2 million page views

DECEMBER 13
Orange announces the launch of Djingo smart speaker

DECEMBER 31
Amazon says Alexa voice shopping tripled during 2018 holiday season

2019

JANUARY 4
Amazon reveals that over 100 million Alexa-enabled devices have been purchased

JANUARY 5
Google Assistant is available on over 1 Billion devices, Amazon Alexa on 100 Million Devices

FEBRUARY 8
Interpreter Mode rolls out to Google Home and smart display devices

FEBRUARY 25
Google Assistant Actions now support more than 19 languages across 28 locales, bilingual support for 9

MARCH 7
Voicebot report finds 26.2% of US adults have access to a smart speaker

MARCH 7
Google Duplex now in 42 states, coming to iOS and other Android smartphones

MARCH 20
Apple launches new AirPods with voice activated Siri and wireless charging

MARCH 21
Bank of America announces 6 million Erica users and 35 million requests

APRIL 4
Amazon rolls out HIPAA compliant Alexa service with six new healthcare skills

APRIL 24
Bixby control support now available on Samsung Galaxy Buds

MAY 7
Amazon says 60,000 devices are now Alexa compatible, Google Assistant is at 30,000

MAY 2
Google Nest Hub Max announced, Home Hub rebranded and coming to 12 new countries

MAY 14
Google Assistant officially arrives in Sonos One and Beam in US

MAY 21
Bose adds Google Assistant to line of smart speakers

MAY 28
Google Assistant launches in Belgium, now supports 29 Countries, dozens of local dialects

JUNE 4
Amazon brings skill monetization to the UK and Germany, just days behind launching in Japan

JUNE 5
Amazon introduces Alexa Conversations and Cross Skill Goal Completion

JUNE 10
Apple announces Siri will soon work with Spotify and other media streaming apps

JUNE 16
Alibaba extends Tmall Genie with a new in-car smart speaker partnership with automakers Audi, Honda, and Renault

JUNE 22
Samsung launches Bixby Marketplace with participation by Spotify, NPR, and Google Maps

JULY 3
Baidu announces DuerOS assistant availability on over 400 million devices

JULY 3
US Amazon Alexa Skill count grows to over 60,00 - Amazon claims over 90,000 unique skills worldwide

SEPTEMBER 9
Deutsche Telekom Introduces Magenta

SEPTEMBER 24
Voice Interoperability Initiative

SEPTEMBER 26
Amazon Looks to Make Alexa Mobile with New Devices

OCTOBER 2
Cerence Spins out of Nuance

NOVEMBER 1
Google Acquires Fitbit

2020

JANUARY 7
Google Assistant Surpasses 500 million MAUs

MARCH
Amazon and Google remove COVID-19 Info from Skills and Actions, then bring back only official information

MARCH
COVID-19 Voice Tests from Voca, Vocalia

MARCH
Chatbots Rebound With Healthcare Usage

MARCH 26
Huawei Launches Celia Assistant in Response to U.S. sanctions

JUNE 2
BBC Launches Beeb Custom Assistant in Beta

JUNE 23
Rasa Closes $26 million funding round

JULY 9
Microsoft Relaunches Cortana Within Teams

July 24
Alexa Conversations Rolled Out in U.S.

AUGUST 3
ADT Makes $450M Deal with Google for Smart Home Security

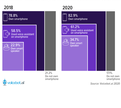
SEPTEMBER 22
Microsoft Secures Exclusive License to GPT-3

SEPTEMBER 29
Baidu DuerOS Valued at $2.9B

OCTOBER 9
Google Assistant App Actions General Availability

OCTOBER 13
Apple Debuts HomePod Mini

November 5
Smartphone Ownership and Voice Assistant Use Rises



NOVEMBER 30
Russian Finance Giant Sberbank Pivots to Tech with a Smart Display and Voice

DECEMBER 1
Alexa App Adds Chat Interface

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