

## Personal Digital Butler: Q&A with Amir

### How did you find out about the Cisco Connected Life contest?

I was browsing on Cisco's Web site and saw some content promoting the competition. I've had an interest in this subject for many years, as I've worked in the IT industry for a long time - for as long as I can remember I've been thinking about how to connect all these different things we use daily, to make them safer, more enjoyable, and better for the environment.

I've always felt there should be ways to build intelligence into houses, cars and appliances so they can communicate with each other, and also learn from our use patterns.

### Which technologies do you use today?

I have my Blackberry, a VoIP phone system, digital cable with HD, my car has Bluetooth, GPS and XM satellite radio, our house has several laptops, digital cameras, video cameras ... but I'm not the ultimate gadget guy, because I still don't have an iPhone! I use my Blackberry in place of an iPhone, and I can't bring myself to carry two devices.

### Which technologies do you think we'll use in the future?

I think in the 15-20 year horizon we're going to see a proliferation of robotics in the home. As cost comes down, and the technology behind robotics gets better, more and more people will start looking to them to make life better. After all, the population is ageing, and wouldn't it be great if older people could continue to be self-sufficient with the assistance of robotic technology?

The other big area I think we're going to see is connectivity giving us the ability to communicate with everything from the heater to the air conditioning unit. Imagine the heater, fan and air conditioning unit communicating to heat or cool your house an hour before you were scheduled to get home - both saving power as well as enhancing your quality of life.

There are very real safety applications too. Imagine connectivity in your car that lets it car schedule for itself when it needs a service, or letting you know via text message to your mobile phone when the tire pressure needs addressing. Or a stove that alerts you if an element has been left on ...

I also imagine a future in which mobile phones have evolved to be the ultimate single Smartphone device that stores all the important information in your life - medical records, credit card details, all your loyalty shopping program information. Via retina scan you could authenticate yourself to your mobile phone, and use it to make purchases or interact with service providers in a vastly more secure way. It could also aid other areas of your life - having uploaded your medical records from your doctor, it could prepare you an appropriate shopping list based on your cholesterol requirements.

As I said in my competition entry, the possibilities in this new connected world are truly endless ...

### What will you do with your prize?

My wife tells me I should do something I have always really wanted to do but never got the chance ... and a really wonderful family vacation came to mind. I haven't quite decided yet!



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