



Amazon's Dash physical instant purchase buttons in selected markets already allows people to buy household essentials. With a simple press of a branded internet-connected button, people can order goods like nappies, toilet rolls, dishwasher tablets and washing powder.

"In future, we could envisage a world where sensors in a parking garage communicate with your connected car to deduct the parking fee and alert you to free parking spaces. If your smart vehicle breaks down, it can alert roadside assistance and provide diagnostic information without you picking up your phone.

"Your fridge might order milk for you when you're running low and your smart thermostat could adjust heating in your home according to the temperature and your preferences when it detects your presence. And smart pacemakers could monitor a patient's health and alert a doctor if his or her medication should be adjusted. Wearables such as rings, watches, and even clothes may feature sensors, too.

"With all of these devices joining the internet as well as the explosion in video usage, mobile operators will need to keep investing in capacity," says Wittman. "They will need to look at lifting their standards by rolling LTE/4G out more broadly and plan a roadmap to 5G. Not only will the world be full of connected devices – many of these devices will depend on efficient, fast, low-latency connections."

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