

So, where's the smart home?

Read the text below and decide if the statements 1-7 are TRUE or FALSE.

Let's be frank—it's the year 2020, and my house is as dumb as ever. To turn the lights on, I have to flip a switch. To see if my family is running low on food, I have to open the refrigerator door. And to quiet my concern over whether I remembered to lock the front door after leaving my home, I have to climb back up three flights of stairs.

With all the technological advancements that have taken place over the last decade, you'd think our homes would be a lot 'smarter' by now. Many brave predictions have been made about how our refrigerator will order food, our lights will turn on and off automatically, one hub will control all of our smart devices, and voice will become the predominant user experience. All of this techno-optimism makes it seem like we should be living in much more high-tech dwellings by now. In reality, the last wave of technological advancement for most homes was way back in the 50's and 60's when electrical appliances became available en mass.

So, what's holding the smart home sector back, and what are the opportunities for innovation to tap into the massive value they represent?

A big part of the answer to these questions has to do with timing. Every so often, a new technology comes of age that becomes stable enough to be used as an enabler of mass-consumed products. If we try to leverage a new technology too early, it doesn't work well enough. Too many tweaks, too many updates, too many bugs. A Disneyland for early adopters and hell for my mom. But, if we wait *too long*, we miss the opportunity to create a differentiating product.

Take autonomous cars, for example. Based on past predictions, we should all be driven around in driverless taxis by now. However, the challenge has proven to be more complex than initially anticipated. The promise is still high, but the technology is not ripe enough for mass adoption.

The real value of the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence is in their ability to take processes which are not smart or intelligent and make them so. Just connecting is not enough. Performing operations that free up time is what creates value. In 2010, statistician Hans Rosling shared the story of the time his family got their first washing machine. His grandmother, who'd spent hundreds of hours of her life washing clothes for seven children, looked at the washing machine in utter amazement. Imagine all the things she would now have time to do. Read a book, rest, speak with her neighbor...*this* is value.

(adapted from https://www.forbes.com/)

	TRUE	FALSE
1. The writer can check remotely if he has locked the door after leaving.		
2. The writer thinks that the technological development of recent years has not been enough.		
3. The impact of technological appliances on our homes was higher in the 50s and 60s than nowadays.		
4. It is difficult to find the right time to introduce a new product into the market.		
5. The writer thinks autonomous cars will be a failure.		
6. For the writer, connectivity is the greatest promise of smart home technologies.		
7. What makes smart technology smart is saving people time to do other things.		