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Session: Robots and the Internet of Everything

### **Vacuum Cleaners Bringing Disney Channel Original Movies to Life**

#### **Abstract:**

The super geek that presented this session warned the audience that this was his first crack at presenting to a group of commoners; his normal gig normally took place in a C-Level suite at a hotshot investment firm. This makes sense, considering his presentation was no doubt a sales pitch, but a very intriguing sales pitch at that! Colin Angle, the CEO of iRobot, explains that a fully functioning smart home is just around the corner, and how all of the technology necessary to make it happen is already at our fingertips.

#### **Session:**

The Smart Home is not a “some day” kind of concept anymore. It’s not the concept behind the borderline sci-fi movie “Smart House” that left 90’s kids watching Disney Channel in awe and disbelief. All of the technology that’s needed to create a fully functioning smart house is here, and priced at about \$1000, the future of in home technology won’t just be accessible to the most technologically advanced and filthy rich. Jeeve’s is iRobot’s newest and most innovative project whose aim is to seamlessly implement itself into homes. Imagine a piece of technology that wakes you up in the morning with your favorite music and automatically turning on the shower to your preferred temperature, all while helping lil’ Susie find everything she needs for school. Then, when the household leaves for the day, the entire home would be cleaned and

vacuumed, the lawn would be mowed and the exterior of the home would be monitored securely. To welcome you home, lights would turn on as you approached the drive way, the oven starts preheating and daily images would be ready to review showing you the activity that went on outside your home that day. Sounds dreamy, right? This is the exactly what Jeeve's will do, and Angle believes this in house robot will be on the market within the next five years and the market for robots like this will break \$200 billion by 2025.

How is all of this going to be possible, you ask? Angle explained that all of the technology has essentially been created, but all of the devices aren't connected in an efficient manner. He compared it to a body with a bunch of arms, but no head. We've taken the leap from first generation to second generation automatic home technology, by going from individually connected devices to manually programmed device hubs, but what we have now isn't going to change the way our homes operate all that much. Think about it: is there *really* that much of a difference between flipping on a light switch or pressing a button on an app on your phone. No, not really. We've just been trained to believe that everything needs an app, and if there's an app, it automatically makes something better. The world is ready to step into the third generation of smart home technology that's simple, automated and personal. In order to make this possible, Angle and his team at iRobot have been working relentlessly on perfecting the mapping function on their Roomba 980, a function that leads these robotic vacuums around a household and allows it to track the path they take to create a blue print of the home. This kind of mapping technology will play a crucial role in connecting all of the devices within the home. If Jeeve's is able to lay the land, users will be able to use *one* app

on their smartphone (instead of a couple dozen) to control and speak to the robot. Angle laid this out in a simple formula: Right Hardware for the Home + Phone + Robot= BOOM! Smart House!

It will be incredible to see the impact of a robot like Jeeve's. The environmental implications alone are enough to sell me on the product. Jeeve's will be able to connect to weather services app, and based on the information it gather, Jeeve's can adjust the temperature in the home so there's no wasted heat or A/C. Additionally, if Jeeve's can automatically clean your home, help your child get ready for school and get dinner prep started before you even walk through the door, users will inevitably become more productive if they don't have to worry about those tedious, but necessary, tasks.

**Conclusion:**

I'll be curious to see this product hit the market within the next few years. Will it really be priced at \$1000? Is it going to look like a thermostat, or will it be more of a microchip implanted into the walls? Regardless of what the hardware looks like, it'll be nice to have something like this in the fist home I own. Maybe then I'll know what it's like to have a clean room...