



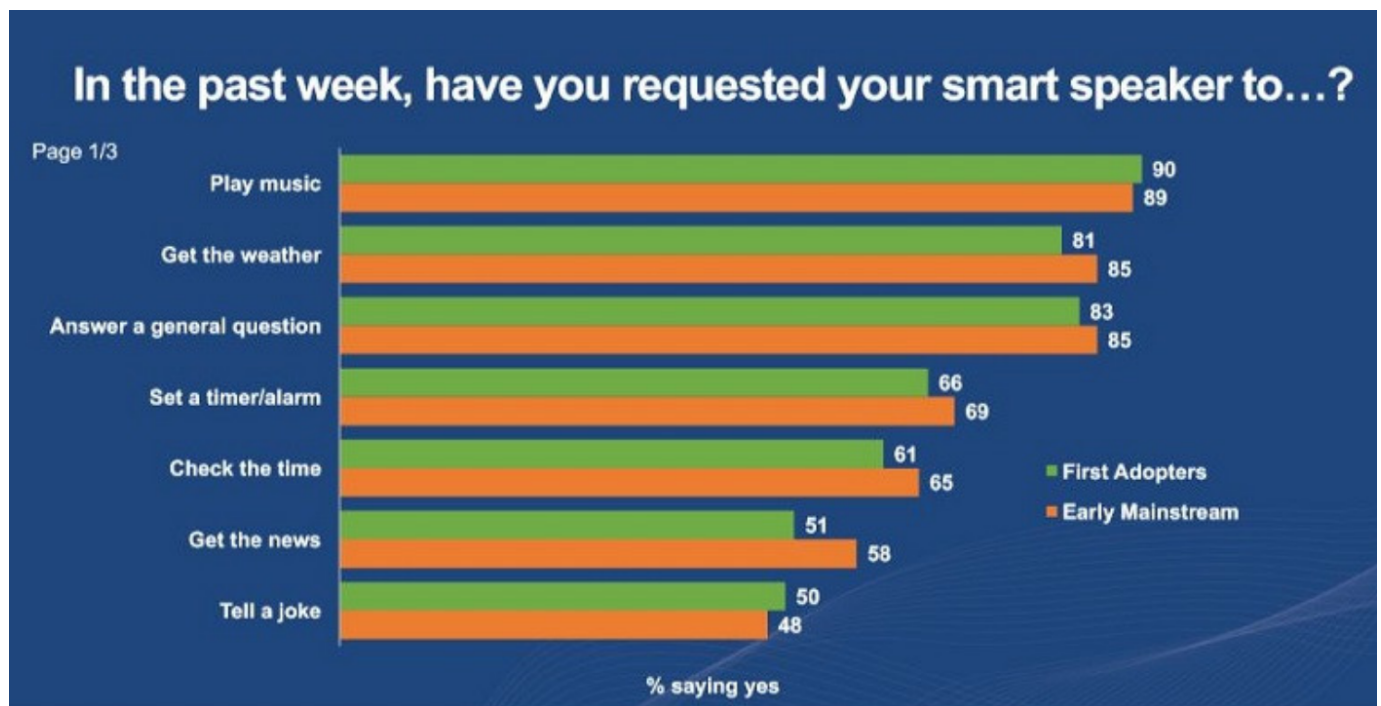
Alexa, what are smart speakers?

All The Ways We're Using Smart Speakers

Source: <https://www.pcmag.com/news/362683/all-the-ways-were-using-smart-speakers>

Why Axis section By [Rob Marvin](#) – July 26, 2018 8:00AM EST

Smart speakers such as the [Amazon Echo](#) and [Google Home](#) are changing how we use technology—and it starts with how the voice command is becoming a part of people's daily routines.



As a refresher, NPR surveyed over 900 [smart-speaker](#) owners divided into two primary groups: first adopters (who've owned a smart speaker for a year or more) and early mainstream users (who've bought a smart speaker in the past year.) The chart above is actually one of three successive ones in the report that break down the most common tasks users have commanded of their speaker-based digital assistants within the week before they were surveyed.

The most popular commands are ones you might expect: playing music, getting the weather, answering questions, checking the time, and setting an alarm.

But the report goes deeper. When you get down into the 20-to-30-percent response rates, the more advanced smart-speaker owners begin to use their devices proactively—to check or add something to their calendars, to-do lists, or shopping lists; look up recipes or find restaurants; and go deeper into [smart home](#) automation by controlling household devices via voice command or connecting with other smart speakers in the home.

Those smart home uses are often the motivating factor for consumers to buy multiple smart speakers. Of the users surveyed who plan to purchase another smart speaker, 65 percent said the reason is to control appliances or lights in more rooms. Other buying factors include trying out the technology of a competitor speaker, using additional speakers for home security, and to use as an intercom throughout the house.

Follow-on story by same author..

How Children Use Smart Speakers In the Home

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Across households, [smart speakers](#) are changing family tech use and how family members interact with one another. NPR surveyed over 900 smart-speaker owners, and of those with respondents with children, the report found that 73 percent let kids use the technology.

The report also found that 41 percent of early mainstream users (those who bought a smart speaker in the past year) with children talk to their smart speaker during meal times, compared to only 17 percent of first adopters (who've owned a smart speaker for a year or more). This speaks to some evolving usage trends as families get used to this new tech interface in the house and embedded in their daily lives.

As for how children are using these voice-activated [digital assistants](#), 55 percent of parents said their kids ask the speaker to play music, 44 percent said kids ask their speaker questions, and 40 percent command their speaker to tell a joke. Some other kid uses include playing a game (28 percent) and helping kids with their homework (25 percent), along with reading short stories and audiobooks and connecting with people both inside and outside the home.

For more on this topic, check out our smart-speaker [demographic breakdown](#) and our look at data on [usage trends](#) from the Smart Audio Report. Check back on Monday as the series concludes with a focus on how smart-speaker use is reducing screen time spent on other devices.

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Check out the whole story and more at: <https://www.pcmag.com/news/362706/how-children-use-smart-speakers-in-the-home>

Presidents Corner

Hello everyone,

Just a quick reminder that the club picnic is on **August 19th, 2018** at:

Lake Manawa State Park
1100 S Shore Dr
Council Bluffs, IA
51501

Shelter #6

Geo Coordinates for
GPS or Google Maps:
41°11'55.1"N
95°51'30.7"W



Google Maps Link: <https://goo.gl/maps/Qv35rPQfN7p>

The next club meeting date is August 21st, 2018 at:
Apple Barrel (at Sapp Bros.)
2608 S. 24th St.
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Minutes of July 17, 2018 Meeting

President David Ladd called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at Apple Barrel Restaurant in Council Bluffs, IA with 10 members present.

First Drawing

Lynn Fehr won the initial drawing for the \$10.00 check.

Minutes and Treasury Report

Mary Alice Fehr read the minutes of the June 19, 2018 meeting as Lynn was still eating. Members approved the minutes as read. Treasurer May Alice Fehr gave the Treasury report. Members approved the Treasury report as read.

Old Business

David Ladd reported that the Christmas Party will be on Saturday December 9, 2018 at New Horizon Presbyterian Church at 1:00 PM. The date is changed as the church is unavailable for use on December 2, 2018. We will be having chicken and ham to eat along with whatever else is brought by the members. A sheet was sent around for people to sign up for what they will be bringing to the Summer Picnic on Sunday August 19, 2018 at Manawa State Park Shelter #6. Also what games they will bring to play. The club will buy Chicken for the Picnic.

Rick Landis reported that he has some friends who are willing to give some presentations to the club.

New Business

An Auction for the club's old laptop computer was sold to Joe Cavallaro II for \$10.50.

The group spent some time discussing old and new computers.

Lynn Fehr read some jokes taken from the American Legion Magazine.

David Ladd reported about a computer project he is working on.

Demo

Jeff Worley presented a program on Emulators. He demonstrated how it will copy another computer's operating system to your computer. He used Oracle Virtual Box and also PCEM.

In August Bruce will show a Flight Simulator and in September Bruce will show *Word* and *Excel* like programs from LibreOffice which is free Software.

Stick-Around Drawing

Stick around drawing was won by David Ladd. He divided \$10.00 with the Club.

Adjourned

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Minutes recorded by Mary Alice Fehr 7/17/2018

M.A.P.C.C.

Established 1982

The Metro Area Personal Computer Club Newsletter is published monthly and posted on the club website: <http://www.mapcc.com>

Meetings:

3rd Tuesday each month 7 p.m.

Apple Barrel (party room)

2608 S. 24th St.

Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Elected Officers:

President: David Ladd

Vice President: Kevin Halloway

Secretary: Lynn Fehr

Treasurer: Mary Alice Fehr

Appointed Officers:

Newsletter Editor: Bruce

Annual Membership Dues:

Individual: \$15.00 Family: \$20.00

Club Motto:

“Pass It On”

Contact: (712) 322-2438