

Amazon Wants Alexa Everywhere-- Even the Microwave!

Written by Frederick Douglas
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A surprise Amazon event has the online book retailer turned cloud and hardware giant present a list of Alexa-powered devices refreshed and new as long as your arm, with the most surprising offering being an Amazon microwave. No, really.



Released under the AmazonBasics brand, the smart microwave offers Alexa controls and a Dash button allowing one to instantly order popcorn. It does not have built-in voice control, but pairing with a nearby Echo device provides such functionality. It offers 700W of power and has a number of built-in quick-cook presets for food preparation made (even) easier.

Another oddball Amazon products is the Wall Clock-- a 10-inch, well, wall clock able to pair with Alexa devices and visualise any alarms or timers through a ring of 60 LEDs. Amazon also offers means to add more voice-controlled smarts to devices with the Echo Smart Plug, which provides voice controls to anything connected to an electrical outlet.

When it comes to actual Echo devices, Amazon has a whole range of refreshes. The Echo Dot gets a new fabric-covered look and a speaker Amazon claims is 75% louder, as does the cylindrical Echo Plus complete with a built-in ZigBee smart home hub with offline command capability, 3-inch neodymium woofer and integrated temperature sensor. The Echo Show also gets a refresh, with a 10-inch display, Skype compatibility, built-in ZigBee smart home hub and neodymium drivers.

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