

# ILLUMINATIONS

TOPICAL COMMENTARIES FROM NATIONAL ANALYSTS WORLDWIDE

## The Future of UI: When Devices Finally Speak Our Language, Will the Dialogue be Fruitful?

By Ken Athaide

*Computing power already exceeds most users' applications needs and will continue to expand for at least a decade, creating a growing surplus for new functions and features. To harness that surplus, future developments in the device arena will support innovative hardware and software that create the architecture for a new user interface environment, including inputs based on movement, gestures and voice, and virtual outputs that create a more seamless relationship between users, device, and physical environment. To drive this innovation forward in a way that accelerates adoption, facilitates cultural change, and increases business ROI, companies need to be attentive to the rules of the road on the journey toward a radically new UI. This commentary maps the technological horizons and provides a set of strategic guidelines for companies focused on successful and profitable innovation.*

### **Who Needs More Processing Power?**

As advancements in microprocessor architecture have continued, device manufacturers and applications developers have used that new processing power to add features and functions, many of them esoteric, and most of them relevant to only a few "power users." While statistics vary, a study of major office automation applications found that five basic functions accounted for 32% of all user commands. (Go home tonight and take a look at the remote control for your TV. Count all the buttons and then count the ones you use regularly.)

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