

and analysis makes it one of those digital assistants to take note of. What can Cortana do for you? It can take notes for you, draft e-mail if you dictate and manage your phone calls. Interestingly, it can also proactively give suggestions on what to eat, provide reminders for your meetings and prompt you to make credit card payments or utility bills on time. Limitless possibilities. Sounds interesting...

How does Cortana manage all these?

Microsoft has given us a tool which has huge potential. Cortana is working on the new craze of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Whatever you ask Cortana to do, it sends those data to Microsoft data centres along with thousands of data collected similarly from other devices across the world.

These data are analyzed and appropriate decisions made for Cortana by the AI modules. The AI data centres are constantly updated with new features and capabilities, and in fact, this same AI processing is used by various other Microsoft flagship projects. Microsoft has the world's most powerful, intelligent and flexible cloud, and Cortana is tapping into that intelligence to bring the best for us.

But we should not ignore the issue of privacy. Once we start using Cortana and be dependent on her, are we not going to lose our decision making power? Since Cortana is passing our data to Microsoft data centres, are we not losing our privacy? In the end, will our activities be controlled by some data crunching machines rather than our picturesque imaginations? Those are questions to be pondered and to be dealt with not because of Cortana, but the intelligence powering it, "Artificial Intelligence" which is going to take the world over soon in various forms.

Cortana Interaction Samples

To take notes

Say "Hey Cortana" followed by "new note."
Cortana responds with "What's your note?"
Dictate the content.
Your note will be automatically saved to your OneNote account.

To send e-mail

Say "Hey Cortana" followed by "send an email."
Cortana will open the quick-message window and ask whom the message is going to.
Say the name of the

To set reminders

Say "Hey Cortana," and tell it what you want to remember in natural speech.
When the relevant circumstances are met, you'll get an alert on your PC or Windows Phone.
For example, a person-based reminder will pop up next time you receive an email, phone call, or text from that person.