



## Fridges talk to washing machines at high-tech fair 冰箱、洗衣機對談 高科技會展登場

A fridge that talks to your washing machine and a television that instructs your dishwasher. It's all possible at CeBIT, the world's top high-tech fair.

But the question is: what's the point?

"Well, for example, you could be sitting on your sofa in your living room and you want to turn on your washing machine," said Christian Prause, a developer of the yet-to-be finalized Hydra software.

"If your smartphone is equipped with our technology, you can send a message to the washing machine to turn itself on."

"And if for whatever reason it doesn't work, you can ask your fridge to transmit the order to the washing machine," he added.

Prause said **vacationers** too need not **lose any sleep** if they realise they leave home in **haste**.

"Imagine you are 200km away, on holiday, and you realised you have forgotten to close your curtains."

Not to worry. You can send a quick text message to your curtain remote control. If that doesn't work, you can always

get your television or your radio to lend a hand.

The fruit of four years of research by 10 different partners, including the German Fraunhofer Institute, the Hydra project is financially supported by the European Union.

Hydra "saves you time, energy and **hassle**," Prause insisted. With a bit of luck, "such a system could perhaps eventually appear in the shops."

(AFP)

冰箱和洗衣機交談，電視對洗碗機下指令。在CeBIT這個全球頂尖高科技會展上，這些都成了可能。

但問題是：重點是...？

尚未開發完成的Hydra軟體研發人員克里斯丁·普洛斯說：「舉例來說，你人坐在臥室的沙發上想要啟動洗衣機。」

「如果你的智慧手機配備這項科技，你就可以傳訊息到洗衣機，讓它自動啟動」

他還說：「而且，如果它因為什麼原因沒有運作，你還可以叫冰箱傳送命令給洗衣機。」

普洛斯表示，外出度假的人如果發現自己離家時走得太匆忙，也無需太擔心。

「想像你在兩百公里外的地方度假，卻發現出門時忘了拉上窗

簾的情況。」

別擔心。你可以立刻發送簡訊到窗簾的遙控器，如果行不通，還能讓電視或收音機來傳訊。

歐盟贊助的Hydra系統，由包括德國弗勞恩佛荷學會在內的十所不同機構歷經四年研發而成。

普洛斯表示，Hydra系統「省時、節能、免麻煩」。幸運的話，「以後就能在商店裡看到這樣的系統了」。

(法新社／翻譯：林倩如)

From left to right, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Bill McDermott, one of two chairmen of software company SAP and the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony Christian Wulff at the CeBIT 2010 technology show at the Congress Centre in Hanover, Germany, on March 1, 2010. PHOTO: EPA

本月一日，（由左至右）德國總理安琪拉·梅克爾、西班牙總理荷西·路易斯·羅德里奎茲、薩帕特羅、軟體供應商「思愛普」董事長之一比爾·麥克德莫特，及下薩克森州總理克里斯丁·伍爾夫，出席在德國漢諾威會議中心舉行的二〇一〇年CeBIT科技展。

照片：歐新社

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

#### 1. **vacationer** /və'keɪʃənə/ n.

度假者 (du4 jia4 zhe3)

**例：**A Dutch vacationer died after being stung by a jellyfish.  
(一名荷蘭遊客被水母螫咬後喪命。)

#### 2. **haste** /hest/ n.

匆忙 (cong1 mang2)

**例：**In our haste to finish the assignment, we made a lot of mistakes.  
(我們急急忙忙完成作業，結果錯誤百出。)

#### 3. **hassle** /'hæsl/ n.

麻煩 (ma2 fan2)

**例：**Traveling by air may be fast, but I don't think it's worth the hassle.  
(搭飛機或許省時快速，但我認為沒必要這麼麻煩。)

### LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

#### lose sleep over 為某事憂慮失眠

If you **lose sleep over** something, you worry about it a lot. This expression is often used in the negative.

Example: "I **won't lose any sleep over** Ralph's ridiculous accusations."

「lose sleep over something」表示很擔心某事。這個片語常用在否定句中。  
例如：「我才不擔心羅夫可笑的指控呢」。