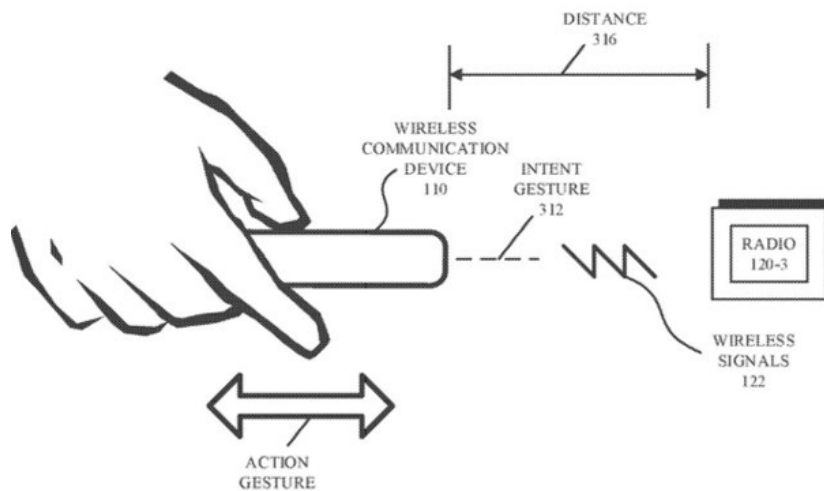


# Apple will turn the iPhone into a universal remote control

Apple is said to be working on a new device, possibly a universal remote control.

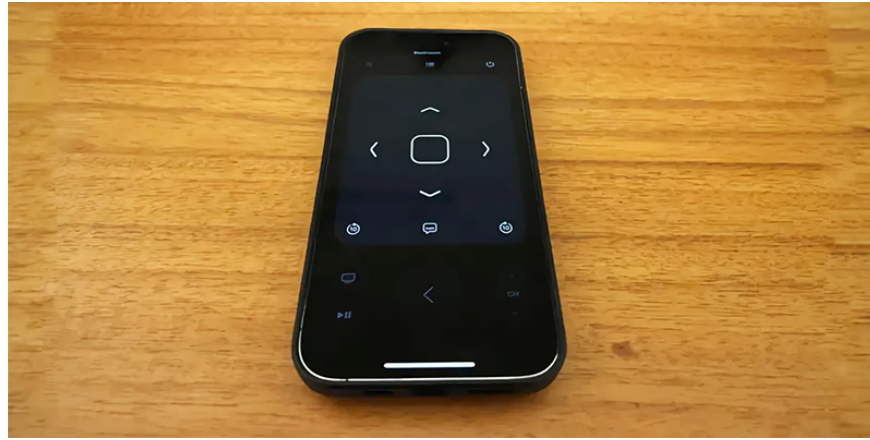
Apple is reportedly working on a new device, possibly a universal remote control, that can manage multiple electronic devices. This could turn the iPhone into a powerful "universal" remote control, allowing seamless control of multiple devices.

A newly granted patent from Apple, titled "Controlling Electronic Devices Based on Wireless Ranging," first reported by Apple Insider, shows the company is developing technology that would allow users to control multiple devices — including TVs, smart home devices, vehicles, and gaming consoles — with a simple tap of their device. The technology could be integrated into an iPhone or iPad.



Controlling devices with an iPhone is nothing new. Apple has built remote control features into its ecosystem, such as the Apple TV Remote app or Apple Car Key for unlocking and starting your car.

However, users still have to manually select the device they want to control, which can lead to a less-than-optimal experience. Apple notes that this method can create 'annoying interactions' and reduce the convenience of the system.



According to the patent, the wireless control system Apple is working on would allow an iPhone or iPad, called a 'wireless communication device,' to automatically recognize a user's intent and connect to the appropriate device. The technology is intended to provide a more intuitive experience: the user simply points their device toward an electronic device, and the wireless controller would recognize and respond to the desired action.

Turn on Wi-Fi to use the remote to control a TV.

Turn On



The patent also describes a system in which an iPhone could automatically determine when a user wants to control a device and identify it accurately. This process would be based on factors such as proximity, device orientation, and possibly gestures. Notably, this technology could eliminate the need to unlock the device with a password or biometric authentication to control it remotely, making it faster and more convenient.

While this technology is still in the patent phase, and Apple often files for patents that don't always materialize, if implemented, it could dramatically improve the user experience. In a smart home ecosystem, the iPhone could become a central control, allowing users to adjust the brightness, color of lights, room temperature, or kitchen appliances with a wave of their hand, creating a more enjoyable, seamless, and intuitive experience than ever before.

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