

Time To Wave Goodbye To Remotes

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People will soon be able to control their TVs simply by waving their hands, researchers have said.



Remote controls - soon to be a thing of the past?

Toshiba Research Europe's Cambridge Research Laboratory has developed a gesture-based interface which could eventually act as an alternative to a remote control.

Users raise their hand to take control of a screen, and then move it around to change the channel or the volume.

Researchers are now working on the system recognising gestures in different lighting conditions and on dealing with multiple users in the same room.

It also needs to be developed so that it recognises real gestures, rather than involuntary movements such as sneezes.

Toshiba is also keen on developing the system to work with PCs

Professor Roberto Cipolla, Managing Director at Toshiba's Cambridge Research Laboratory, said the research was "opening an array of possibilities for consumers, such as new interfaces for TVs and interactive displays in shop windows and information kiosks.

"The gesture interface may not replace a remote controller, but can provide an alternative way to interact with a PC or display.

"Imagine never having to search for the remote controller to turn the TV volume down when receiving a phone call."