

## News from CES, Las Vegas: **Supercomputer “Watson” feeding recipes to Miele’s range**

IBM’s learning Watson Supercomputer has a new job: it is developing recipes and passing along the associated automatic programs for their preparation to Miele’s 48” Dual Fuel Range (HR 1956). This new innovation is showcased at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) that started on January 6th.

The demonstration at the IBM booth in Las Vegas is still a case study. However, many experts view this as the future of cooking. And it’s easier than first imagined: consumers simply use their smart phone to communicate with Watson. A supercomputer that is no longer tied to one location, but is in the cloud – working over a network. The consumer indicates what he’d like today, or simply gives a list of available groceries. Watson then proposes up to 100 recipes. These range broadly – for instance, based on good reviews by other users (“Classic”) to dishes with a great potential for surprise (“Surprise Me”). Restrictions, such as “gluten free” are also being considered. Watson then transmits the selected recipe and the preparation steps to the consumer’s smart phone or tablet – including the tip to prepare the meal in a Miele oven. Depending on the groceries and the appliances available in the kitchen, the recommendation can be to “prepare the meal in a steam oven”. The rest is almost a formality: the computer sends the suitable automatic program to the oven.

“Ultimately, this is a paradigm shift in cooking culture” says Andreas Enslin, head of the Miele Design Center and initiator of the case study with IBM. “I am convinced that assistance systems such as the ones made possible with Watson will make cooking more creative, more comfortable, and – regarding the results – more reliable”, according to Enslin. Watson’s knowledge is based on more than 9,000 recipes from *Bon Appetite*. In addition, food experts from the New York Institute for Culinary Education have evaluated thousands of ingredients according to their aromas and properties, and supplied them as data. Using ‘tastings’ where consumers evaluate the recipes developed by Watson, the supercomputer learns what goes well together. This way, Watson is becoming a better cook with every contact.

The IBM experts are talking about ‘cognitive cooking’ similar to ‘cognitive computing’. Human knowledge and experience are combined with the power of a computer. To ensure proper alignment with the range, Miele has provided the operating modes, times and temperatures of several hundred automatic programs to the IBM computer.

At CES, Miele showcases their 48” Dual Fuel Range HR 1956 – a centerpiece to their newly developed Range Series. The HR 1956 offers a unique 3-door concept with groundbreaking features – including two ovens, six gas burners, a griddle or grill plate option and a warming drawer. The HR 1956 masters climate cooking - delivering better roasting and baking results through moisture support. The most important condition for the project with IBM, however, is networking capability and high-quality electronic appliance control. They provide the basis for the transmission of recipes and the automatic programs via the Internet.

Watson is one of the new types of computers that can independently derive information from data, and can reason with the information. In this way, the computer system approaches the cognitive capabilities of humans, and holds enormous potential for future applications in business and society. The amount of data is growing extremely quickly, and is expected to increase by 800 percent over the next five years. Watson became well-known in the US when it clearly won against the two best candidates in the popular “Jeopardy” quiz game show. Currently, Watson is being used in the treatment of cancer patients. For this, it can draw upon huge amounts of data from studies, research results and technical literature - analyzing the data, developing hypotheses and then proposing treatments.

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**There is one photo with the text**

**Caption:** The Miele Range Cooker HR 1956, an oven developed specifically for the North American market, communicates in a study presented at the CES with IBM’s supercomputer Watson. (Photo: Miele)