

Amazon wants to monitor you in your sleep

July 12 2021, by Todd Shields and Matt Day



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

Amazon.com Inc. has won U.S. permission to use radar to monitor consumers' sleep habits.

The Federal Communications Commission on Friday granted Amazon.com Inc. approval to use a [radar sensor](#) to sense motion and "enable contactless sleep tracing functionalities."

Amazon on June 22 asked the FCC, which regulates airwave uses, for permission to market a device that uses radar. The technology captures movement in three dimensions, enabling a user to control its features through simple gestures and movements, the [company](#) said in a filing.

The capability, according to Amazon, could help people with "with mobility, speech, or tactile impairments," and it could monitor sleep with a high degree of precision.

"The use of Radar Sensors in sleep tracking could improve awareness and management of sleep hygiene, which in turn could produce significant health benefits for many Americans," Amazon said in its filing. "Radar Sensors will allow consumers to recognize potential sleep issues."

Amazon didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The company didn't fully describe the device in its filing, but did say it would not be a mobile device.

The FCC earlier granted similar permission to Google for [radar](#) to enable touchless control of Pixel smartphones, the agency said in its letter approving Amazon's request.

Amazon is pushing into health and wellness with its Halo wristband. The device, which seeks to measure body fat and voice tones, has been criticized by some reviewers as invasive and overly negative.

The company has also long been developing technology designed to let customers control devices by using hand or other gestures. That functionality was a selling point of the ill-fated Fire smartphone, and appears in patents related to Amazon's Echo smart speakers.

©2021 Bloomberg L.P.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Citation: Amazon wants to monitor you in your sleep (2021, July 12) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2021-07-amazon.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.