

## Unit 3

### Recent Development in IT

#### The Intelligent fridge

Barcodes in the packaging of groceries will soon be replaced with radio-frequency tags that can be read at a distance and with greater reliability. As well as indicating what the product is, the data in the tags will include additional information such as 'best before' date and even nutritional data. Now, imagine that a fridge could read these tags and keep track of the items placed there.

If an item is about to exceed its 'use by' date, the fridge tells you, and you can either use it or throw it out. Fancy something different for dinner? No problem, ask the fridge to suggest some menus based on the ingredients it knows you have in stock. Or tell the fridge the menu you require and it will provide you with a shopping list of the items you don't have or you can order the items via email. This is the Screen fridge from Electrolux.

But why 'Screen fridge'? On the door, there is a touch-sensitive panel or screen that provides a means of communicating with the users. For many households, life revolves around the kitchen. This is the assumption Electrolux Company made in designing the Screen fridge. The same screen is a messaging center. Since the fridge is equipped with a microphone, speaker and video-camera, you are not limited to textual information. The fridge is connected to the Internet, so it can be used to send and receive email or you could surf the Web to find a new recipe.

Many people have a TV in the kitchen, but if you already have a screen on the fridge, why clutter up the work surface with a TV? Call the Screen fridge's TV mode and watch your favorite program on the fridge. The Screen fridge can be interfaced to a surveillance camera to check out visitors or to keep an eye on the children. This highly advanced fridge is expected to perform some of household management tasks normally associated with a Pc.