

AI and The Doorway

By Merilee A. Kern, MBA



Merilee Kern

Forbes Business Council Newsweek Expert Forum and Rolling Stone Culture Council Member Merilee Kern, MBA is an internationally regarded brand strategist and analyst who reports on cultural shifts and trends as well as noteworthy industry changemakers, movers, shakers and innovators across all categories, both B2C and B2B. She is founder, executive editor and producer of "The Luxe List" as well as host of the "Savvy Living" lifestyle TV show and the "Savvy Ventures" business TV show that airs nationally on Fox Business TV and Bloomberg TV.

It's projected that by 2025, there will be a total of 291.2 million digital buyers in the United States, Statista notes. The organization also reports that by the same year, more than 10% of all retail sales in America are expected to be generated via mobile commerce.

With this exponential digital retail growth comes a litany of problems. Of course, there are pitfalls a plenty on the infrastructure and supply chain side, but it is delivery security that has one inventor frothed up. Ron Carter, a tech savant who holds the patent for the Ring smart video doorbell technology (and that for many other video doorbell companies), has again created and patented entry management technology intended to safeguard the burgeoning e-commerce economy.

The timing could not be better or the need more clear. The significance of new developments in the home delivery package protection space cannot be overstated, especially as one considers study findings published by Safewise in December 2021. The results revealed that around 210 million packages disappeared from porches across America over the prior 12-month period. Disconcertingly, the study also exposed that "package theft happens even when you have security measures in place," citing that "58% of recent package theft victims reported using a security camera or video doorbell camera."

It's clear that "porch pirating" is escalating to a level that's become a bona fide challenge for e-commerce sales. Carter and his 100% minority-owned company 1Ahead Technologies looks to rectify this circumstance with Glo, a first-generation Artificial Intelligence (AI) entry management technology introduced at the 2022 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas.

Knowing Carter is responsible for much of the current video surveillance doorbell industry — with some of his previous patents licensed by household-name companies beyond Ring, like CPI Securities,



Deliveries can be left inside the home.

Alarm Force, HeathCo/Zenith, Chamberlain, Live Watch Security and Zmodo — I caught up with him for some fresh insight.

Merilee Kern: How would you describe Glo and its usefulness?

Ron Carter: In addition to capturing video, the Glo AI device creates a new category referred to as "entry management," as opposed to security. The system utilizes a sophisticated AI-driven device that may be integrated with smart mailboxes, smart locks, e-commerce logistics and endless other smart devices.

Overall, Glo AI can recognize delivery personnel, record their actions, allow them to leave packages in a smart box or monitored area, open the door and enable access via a smart lock, record messages, provide logistics to the delivery person, read images that act as keys, aggregate data and more.

MK: The Glo AI entry management device is supported by “VALT” technology. Can you elaborate on that?

RC: Yes, VALT is an acronym for “Virtual Access and Logistics Technology” and is our patented platform that enables Glo to offer such unparalleled capabilities. It’s a first-generation AI technology designed to provide e-commerce security, access control and management, e-commerce logistics support and a security response that surpasses the current marketplace offerings of ineffective video notifications and alarms.

VALT represents a very secure and effective way to address access and logistics at the fraction of the cost of personnel, physical keys and related expenses. Mobile devices are inherently secure because of the associated IP address and biometric access feature on locked devices.

The core features of VALT make everyday transactions more manageable in support of streamlined communications and access options for merchants, customers and property owners.

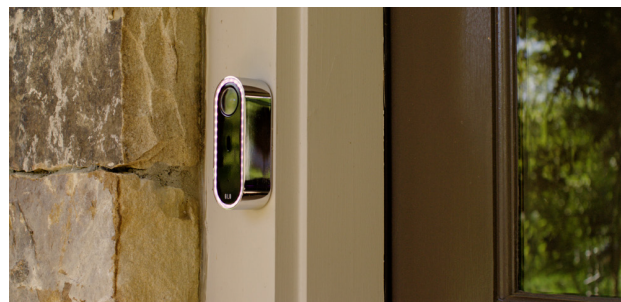
This technology offers commanding potential to solve logistics-related issues in the e-commerce industry and beyond. In fact, VALT technology impacts other vertical markets beyond residential/consumer benefits such as corporate/commercial facility access, real estate, property management and property exchanges like Airbnb. We’ve filed continuation applications to further expand VALT’s capabilities across industries and sectors.

MK: Is it a subscription-based platform?

RC: Yes, the VALT application is membership-based and functional within a network of individual and business subscribers, facilitating two-way communication and oversight for end users experiencing transactions. Glo technology will likely retire many current video doorbells, although the solution will be priced comparably to current video doorbell devices.

MK: In your estimation, how pervasive is the porch pirating problem?

RC: At best, it’s frustrating for consumers and costly for merchants. We stand today at a critical moment for online commerce, where innovative solutions are urgently needed more than ever to provide security, logistics support and access in assisting merchants and end-users to mitigate loss. Glo offers an effective response.



AI expands the video doorbell’s utility.

MK: What’s the origin story for your new company? What in your career led you here?

RC: I am the inventor of patent #7,193,644, which involves wireless video doorbell surveillance tech. After assigning the patents to the prior company, I lost control of the company in 2017. The original patent was conceived to offer convenience to homeowners, providing the ability of seeing someone at a door via mobile device. The patent offered some security benefits. However, the technology was initially primarily designed to offer convenience. Today, the video doorbell industry markets video doorbells for security purposes primarily but, as a security product, video doorbells offer very little in the way of threat mitigation.

Additionally, I saw an opportunity to shift the notion of “security” to one of “entry management.” I was able to add a robust upgrade through the addition of Artificial Intelligence, which offers unlimited capabilities. Our technology employs computer learning and logic, which enables the ability to provide event-specific logistics: networkable keys, utilizing images and photos that can be transmitted via mobile devices — all of which is encrypted so that they cannot be duplicated or forwarded. Our company was also recently awarded additional patents with more advanced features that we look forward to announcing in the near future. This elevated iteration of our Glo product featuring VALT technology will offer consumers an even better response and enhanced capabilities. Our solutions will supersede static video doorbells with a far more advanced and responsive technology to address today’s breed of challenges and those ever evolving.

A critical moment in time for online commerce is upon us, and innovative machine learning driven solutions can resolve the urgent need to maximize security, logistics support and access capabilities for end users amid the modern in-demand marketplace. For the e-comm industry and end consumers alike, it seems Carter’s industry disruptor Glo just might just be the ingenious AI way to go.

Product photos courtesy of Ron Carter

Daewoo Offers First Metaverse Application in Korea Property Market

Introducing the first metaverse application for the South Korea property market, Ubitus K.K., a Japan-based graphics processing unit (GPU) virtualization technology and cloud streaming platform, has worked with telecommunications company KT Corp. and Daewoo E&C, a Korean real estate developer, to launch Daewoo Prugio Metagallery, an interactive online house tour service.

The ability to reach potential customers with just one browser link without them visiting the showroom should generate more interest and buying opportunities and realize more sales quickly. Daewoo Prugio Metagallery allows potential customers to browse each property, virtually walking through the property to understand the layout, views and flows, without physically visiting the showroom. While the physical showroom usually showcases just one property layout of the entire project, Daewoo Prugio Metagallery can demonstrate every single property layout on offer, allowing customers to experience the layout and attributes of their most interests. With the option of projecting furniture and appliances in Daewoo Prugio Metagallery, customers can feel confident that what they see is what they get, the companies said.



Photo courtesy of PRNewswire

After Daewoo set up the apartment 3D model in game engine with the HDRP (high-definition render pipeline) feature, Ubitus used patented Gamecloud technology to cloudify and stream the model that enable visitors to visit Daewoo Prugio Metagallery in a 360-degree view across devices from laptop, mobile to tablet. The finished Daewoo Prugio Metagallery was ready to run on KT's existing cloud gaming infrastructure. More metaverse applications in different industry domains, following similar development and deployment cycles, should be expected.

"As an innovator in the market, Daewoo has been dedicated in smart home for years by

utilizing technology and their knowledge in construction. It is our pleasure to work with KT and support Daewoo Prugio Metagallery. We believe this cutting-edge project will greatly assist property touring and simulate interests in the long run," said Wesley Kuo, Ubitus CEO.

Founded in 1973, Daewoo E&C has been dominant in the construction industry in South Korea, including the development of its Prugio premium apartment complex brand, the first in the country to introduce sustainability to apartment complexes. Its urban redevelopment projects Prugio Summit projects can be found in major areas including Seocho, Banpo and Yongsan in Seoul.