

Smart Home Automation

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Imagine having a system that not only wakes you in the morning with an alarm of your choice but also adjusts the lighting to gradually get brighter as time goes on. It starts brewing coffee, plays your favorite getting-ready-to-face-the-day playlist, and warns you of traffic collisions and alternate routes to avoid being late. This scenario is neither impossible, limited to commercial buildings, nor reserved for the wealthy. On the contrary, the ability to control the settings in your home by way of an app or remote, part of smart home automation, is very much real and very much here. Based on research and sales, not only is this a burgeoning field, but it's also a field that is likely to be around for a (long) while.

What is smart home automation?

By definition, smart home automation is a system that allows a user to program and schedule different aspects of the home that are connected to wifi or an internet service via another device that is also online, such as a smartphone. This provides intelligent information to the technology. Essentially, there are many products and devices that are under the control of one system to better serve the consumer. These devices can include everything from the lighting to thermostats, sprinklers, and even security monitors. What makes this system of communication between devices most effective is usage. Usage provides data that enables the smart device to predict behavior and suggest solutions. It also gives feedback to the provider or maker of the product so that their services can be improved. Perhaps the most interesting aspect, though, is analyzing how the products get smarter over time through continuous usage. Smart home automation is only one component of a bigger booming industry, the Internet of Things (IoT). The Internet of Things is connecting objects with on and off capabilities to the internet in order to facilitate communication between devices. Smart home automation is one of the largest elements of IoT.

Smart Home Automation Examples

Smart home automation is meant to be used for convenience, savings, and safety. Some examples of smart home automation include setting up a system that opens the shades once you've had a certain number of hours of sleep. It can learn to turn electronics on and off as needed, such as a light dimming when it's time to get ready for sleep or having Spotify play at a certain time every other day to get pumped and ready for a jog. Or, perhaps you can't remember if you've left the iron or oven on. With smart home automation and the Internet of Things, you can turn off specific outlets so in a matter of seconds, allowing you to go about the rest of your day without constant worry. You can control the front door and monitor security around your home, which is convenient if you've got a pet or babysitter that needs access

at specific times. Also, regarding pets, there are devices that will automatically feed them while you're away. You can automate your home to turn on the heat once you reach a certain distance from your front door. What's even more convenient is your refrigerator may be capable of keeping track of the inventory of food contained inside and can even suggest cooking ideas and order food that is low in stock! The possibilities are vast. The purpose of automation is to use it to best fit your needs, giving the system a pattern to work with. Here is our list of recommended **devices** that can help get you started.

Smart Homes Technology

Smart home automation consists of having devices under control so that they learn and eventually work with as little human interaction as possible. Much of this technology is accessible through smartphones, tablets, and even laptops, which are major components of everyone's day to day life. Additionally, advances in the cloud, in wifi, and the internet being more obtainable have opened up innovation and channels of communication between devices.

An example of this technology in action is a deck full of solar-powered sensors that light up when someone gets within so many feet of the yard. There could be a security monitor attached to the sensor of this deck that alerts consumers when the deck light has turned on. Consumers can then use an app or get online from anywhere in the world to see what has triggered the alert and determine what further action is needed.

What is a home automation hub?

With all of the convenience and accessibility of so many objects, it may get confusing, frustrating, and annoying to switch back and forth between different apps and devices—which is neither simple nor convenient. Thankfully, there are home automation hubs that help with that very issue. These hubs enable consumers to work from one app that unifies the rest of the devices. However, before purchasing a hub,

it's important to know which products best connect to what hub. As with any product, research and reviews can go a long way in determining what best suits your needs. It's also important to make sure that the app the hub uses is something that you'll enjoy using. Good design that is aesthetically pleasing goes a long way. Some of the top-ranked hubs include the Samsung SmartThings hub and the Wink Hub 2. It's also worth noting that some devices, such as the Amazon Echo, are capable of serving as a hub. It is likely that other major companies will follow suit with their own products.

Conclusion

The research contributes to the capabilities and demands of the market that continue to push this industry further into innovation and profit. Competition between companies benefits consumers especially as many products in smart home automation are meant to be convenient, usable, and affordable. The best way to begin smart home automation is by thinking of what products would be most helpful and further exploring whether or not there is a smart alternative. Many products are becoming all-encompassing, such as Amazon's Alexa. The competition between startups and major companies will likely yield exciting results for consumers as the technology and market develop. Smart home automation and the Internet of Things are convenient and money-saving and offer a plethora of possibilities. This emerging field is here to stay.