

Smarter Homes

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Purpose

- The purpose of this presentation is to provide some information about making home or condo life somewhat more convenient and easier given busy schedules, ageing in place, just for the fun of it, health concerns, or any other reason as well.

Contents

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- What?
- Why?
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Prerequisite

Internet access is a requirement for today's smart home or condo



What is a Smart or Smarter Home or Condo?

Home Automation

For now, a home or condo with devices that can be controlled by one's voice or smart phone or smart watch touch.

What are Some Devices?

- Blinds or shades
- Door locks
- Lighting
- Hubs
- Music
- Telephone
- TV
- Miscellaneous



What Can These Devices Do?

- Blinds / Shades
 - Open / close on a schedule, open / close on voice or touch command
- Door Locks
 - Open on voice or touch command, open with a physical key, open using a key pad, close (lock) automatically after a few seconds
- Lighting
 - Turn on / off on a schedule, turn on / off by voice or touch command

What Can These Devices Do (cont)?

- Hubs (such as the Amazon Echo, the Apple Homepod, and the Google Assistant)
 - Play music on voice or touch command and with a subscription service have access to millions of songs (for example, classical, country, soft rock, jazz, opera, 60s music,selections or channels)
 - Listen to the news or ebooks
 - Ask questions such as, what is the weather forecast?, Literally thousands of questions.
 - Create and manage your calendar.
- Telephone (Smart Phone)
 - Place calls by voice or touch command. For example, ask your iPhone to call Suzie. Or call Dr. Smith.

What Else?

- Video conferencing with family and friends
- Distance education (for fun and a degree)
- Miscellaneous (eBook Readers)
 - Book Readers are useful for reading books as an eBook reader is typically lighter than a physical book. And some customizations include:
 - The font size of the text can be increased for improved readability.
 - The font type, such as Times New Roman, can be changed to one of several other options.
 - The background color can be changed to black, white, sepia or ???
 - Subscription services are available for reading newspapers such as the New York Times and the Washington Post; magazines; and journals on your eBook reader or in a browser.
 - For example, Apple News (News +) includes over 100 different magazines.

Why Buy These Devices?

- Convenience and ease of use.
- Voice or smart phone or smart watch touch control make it easier to operate these devices.
 - For example voice or touch command is easier than raising or lowering blinds.
 - Asking Alexa or Siri to play music is easier than finding a record or CD.
- For those with limited vision, voice control definitely makes it easy.
- For those with limited mobility, voice control or touch definitely makes it easy.
- Some devices, such as shades / blinds or lighting can be scheduled to turn on / off or open / close at specified times.
- Stay in touch with friends and family, make new friends, play games, learn new things, have fun with hobbies

Who Could Use a Smarter Home or Condo?

- Anyone looking for convenience, ease of use, with limited vision or other limitations, for someone who travels frequently, for those who are seriously busy, those who like technology, those with health concerns, and so on.

How Much to Smarten up my Home or Condo?

- Some cost examples
 - A smart door lock that opens via voice, smart phone or smart watch touch, keypad, or key--around \$150 or so. Some automatically lock after a few seconds as well.
 - Light switches cost about \$20-\$40 per outlet.
 - Blinds / shades may cost up to few hundred to a few thousand dollars depending on the configuration, brand, and so on.
 - Book readers are available for about \$100 and up or free if used on a laptop or tablet
 - Apple Music is \$9.99 per month; Apple News is \$9.99 per month

External Resources (Not a Smart Home Device)

Available external services

- Home care services (in home help with health care, cleaning, ...)
- Food and beverage delivery services such as Smith Brothers, Amazon, Safeway and several others.
- Medical delivery services such as Amazon and many others
- Laptops or Tablets for staying in touch, taking free or nearly free university education courses from Coursera, the Santa Fe Institute, MIT, Stanford, Yale, edX, and others.
- Free access to WebMD (www.webmd.com) and other health related databases
- Video conferencing software such as FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, and others
- Transportation such as Lyft, Uber, and of course Taxis

Coming Attractions

- Caregiver robots (in home and hospital)
- Telemedicine (online conversations with your doctor, some diagnosis, some prescriptions)
- Telefinance (online conversations with your financial advisor, tax advisor, in addition to online banking today)
- Conversational personal assistants (something to talk to in natural or conversational language)
- Find my (anything). Tag objects of interest and find them via touch or voice command if misplaced or lost. For example, “Find my car keys!” or “Find my car!” “Find my cat!” “Find my kids!”
- And many more things we haven’t discussed or imagined.

For Additional Information

- Vendors
 - Apple
 - Amazon
 - Alphabet (Google)
 - Smith Brothers Farms
 - Dozens more (Google for them)

Q & A

Thank you!