

SMARTRONIC

Automation Magazine

Volume -12 / December / 2017

Merry

Christmas

&

Happy New Year - 2018

abode Home
Security System Control
Nest Thermostats, Philips
Hue Light Bulbs and More

Lynky
Launches
as "A Universal
Remote"
for Home
Automation

Crestron

connects two luxury homes
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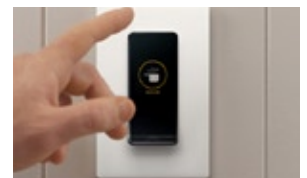


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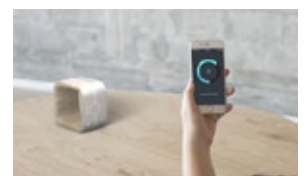


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abode Home Security

abode Home Security System Control Nest Thermostats, Philips Hue Light Bulbs and More

DIY home security system works with top products in the smart home industry including Nest, Philips Hue, ecobee, and LifX.



abode, a DIY home security system, now features full support for Nest and ecobee thermostats and smart RGB lighting integration with LifX and Philips Hue. While protecting your home and loved ones you can enjoy the convenience of automated lighting and thermostat control. In one system your home environment becomes more manageable.

abode Systems recently unveiled several new abode-certified devices that further smart thermostat functionality

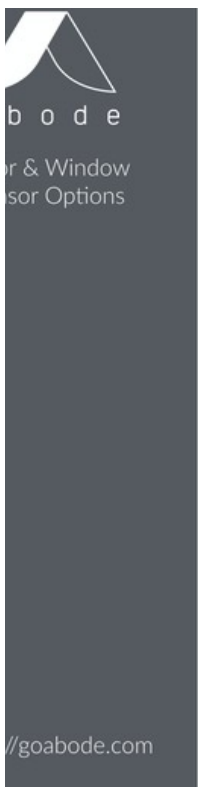
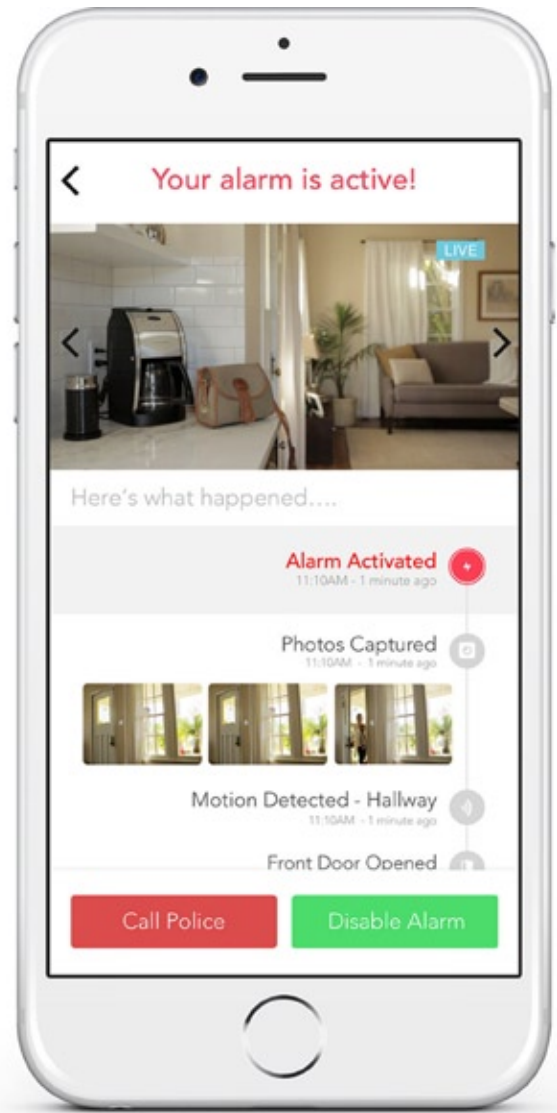
for the ecobee and Nest smart thermostats. Other new offerings include a new 1080p streaming camera and door sensors. The new devices join a growing list of supported smart home devices that empower abode users to build their smart home their way.

According to the company's press announcement, new to the abode lineup, the 1080p streaming camera provides live video and connection to a user's network via Ethernet or Wi-Fi. The camera automatically uploads video clips

to a timeline when an alarm occurs and includes two-way voice communication. Additionally, the streaming camera can be integrated into abode home automation routines to record clips when events occur. Integrated IR LEDs provide night vision in low light conditions.

In addition to the streaming camera, abode introduced a mini door / window sensor, and two door sensors. Z-Wave devices that are also now supported include the Aeotec Door/Window Sensor 6, Aeotec Smart Dimmer 6, Fortrez Z-Wave Water Valve, Sensitive Invisible Door/Window Strips, and ZooZ Z-Wave Valve Controller.

On the lighting side, abode has introduced RGB light bulb support for LifX and Philips Hue. The abode app will give customers power over the brightness, hue, and saturation for all RGB lighting from those brands. The abode Amazon Alexa Smart Home Skill are now able to support voice control of the RGB smart lighting devices from LifX and Philips so Alexa can control the lighting in any room via simple commands.



Which self-respecting couch potato
gets up to control the lights.™



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B.E.G.

Launches PICO-KNX

B.E.G. Launches PICO-KNX – the World's Smallest KNX Occupancy Detector

Lighting controls specialist B.E.G. has launched the world's smallest KNX occupancy detector.

The PICO-KNX, with dimensions of only 33mm x 34mm(h), can be installed in almost any mounting and can easily be integrated into luminaires.

Despite its small size, the detector has an impressive detection area of 10m in diameter at a mounting height of 2.5m and of approximately 12m at a mounting height of 3m.

The PICO-KNX offers almost all of the functionality of the new range of advanced B.E.G. KNX Generation 6 Deluxe pres-



ence detectors which, for the first time, include built-in logic as well as sound and temperature monitoring – an industry-first for the KNX market.

The logic module is independent of the detector operation and has proved to be most useful to KNX integrators.

The integrated sound sensor can be used in areas where there are restrictions to the normal presence detection such as toilet cubicles. If configured, the sound sensor will activate, but only after motion is detected. Run-on times are configurable.

The built-in temperature sensor will send temperature readings to the KNX bus to

be used by HVAC actuators. This means separate temperature sensors do not have to be fitted to the wall, saving installation time and expense.

The PICO-KNX offers condensed presence with shortened follow-up time after brief occupancy of the room, and an offset function which allows end-users to create up to three lighting zones for a uniform lighting level throughout the room.

Thanks to the bidirectional remote-control capability, the programmed parameters can be accessed at any time and activated comfortably using the remote control.



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Crestron

Crestron connects two luxury homes at the flick of a switch

Crestron exclusively shared the video case study above with HiddenWires. Sleek, stylish and charming homes may not be uncommon to West London's Little Venice area, but few can boast the technology to bring the homeowner's second home under their command at the flick of a switch.

The homes of Robert, long-term client of Ireland-based integrator ClearSphere may be 200 miles apart, yet both can now be completely under his control wherever he may be thanks to his extensive home automation system.

"Both houses underwent a complete ground-up renovation. The Devon Barn was a complete ruin and the Little Venice house was last done-up in the 1980s. The clients had lots of experience in renovating their homes and really got involved with the project," commented Alistair Ingram, co-owner of Clear sphere.

Lighting, temperature, door entry, security and AV were already managed by the client via his TSW-750 touch-screens, TSR-302 remotes and iPads at his barn conversion located in the county of Devon, England, completed in 2010. Yet the



“THERE IS NO DOUBT HAVING OUR TWO HOMES LINKED TOGETHER MAKES FOR A SYSTEM WITH BENEFITS GREATER THAN THEIR TWO PARTS.”



recently completed second phase of the project has brought a new level of innovation to his home control only possible with a professionally installed system.

“I laid down a challenge in asking Clear-Sphere to link our two systems together and the results are fantastic,” commented the client.

“There is no doubt having our two homes linked together makes for a system with benefits greater than their two parts.”

No expense was spared by at Clear-Sphere fulfilling the homeowner’s request for bringing the slick, easy-to-use technology the team had previously brought to the homeowner’s coastal retreat (with over £200,000 spent in total on both systems).

A seamless user interface found at both properties allows the client to monitor and control everything from the under-floor heating to ultraviolet feature lights in a particular part of his home in his modern London sanctuary.



“The distance from London to Devon was always going to be a challenge. This meant we had to carefully plan for and maximise the work done on each visit,” said Ingram.

“Although the ability to control one house from the other was a great feature it brought up a load of cyber security issues: network security was very important and we had to go to great lengths to ensure the entire system was secure, both physically and virtually.”

When entering either home, the client can easily manage lighting via the Crestron on a TSW touch screen or iPad. From either interface he can control his lights on a room-by-room basis or using its overview feature incorporating a floor plan of the home bringing complete control of tech-

nology across the entire property into his hands. The system additionally makes full use of the touch screen’s SIP-based intercom, and rooms can be paged by simply clicking on the desired room.

Both his Devon and London home incorporate centralised dimming that can be controlled at either location, providing the client with the option of activating outdoor security lighting for added safety, or turn on lights before they arrive home.

Lighting inside the client’s Little Venice retreat is particularly striking – no better exemplified by the homeowner’s unique ‘apothecary’ area by the main entrance. Here the colours of rows of Uranium-enriched glass rare antique medicine bottles, accentuated by UV feature lighting, create an intriguing centrepiece to the home.

Integration of the two access control systems also brings added protection to the client's homes – both properties are alerted via touchscreen when either main doorbell is pressed, allowing him to identify and communicate with the caller and receive deliveries, as well as open vehicle gates and garage doors via CCTV cameras wherever he may be in the world.

The homeowner can also monitor and set an alarm from any screen in the home, and when alerted deactivate it without having to release the relevant security code.

In addition to his double-home automation system, the homeowner also benefits from integration with the air conditioning system and a building management system (BMS). Crucially, this monitors the health of hardware in the home where possible (including boilers, pumps and water temperatures), as well as providing control of

heating and air conditioning to ensure the client always returns home to their desired temperature. The homeowner is alerted to any potential faults with products whether they may be, allowing him to arrange any necessary repairs without even being in the relevant property.

Following the completion of the project, ClearSphere remained on hand to support the client's interlinked system ensure it continues to bring added convenience, security and peace of mind to the homeowner's life.

“The client loves his technology and regularly calls us to discuss tweaks to his system and upgrade opportunities,” said Ingram. “And the ability to create bespoke software solutions with Crestron to suit the client's needs usually means we can deliver exactly what the client wants.”



Loxone Offers Smart-Home Control for ‘Everyman’

Home technology integrator and quasi-Millennial visits Loxone showroom to scope out the home control and automation system for his new home.

Simple Control

Living in a Loxone Smart Home is like flying on autopilot! If you ever want to change something, a single click on a switch or tap on the Loxone App is enough. Loxone's connected home controls allow you to control lights, music, blinds, and more.

[More About The Loxone Standard](#)

For someone in the home tech industry, I don't have a whole lot of technology in my home. I have a little home theater with a standalone Crestron system controlling it. I have a URC programmable remote for my living room.

I bought a first generation Nest thermostat for my HVAC control back in 2010. I had a Sonos system but didn't really end up using it.

The biggest challenge I've had, technology-wise, has been getting my Wi-Fi robust enough to handle all the devices we have connecting to the Internet and streaming (a handful of computers, kindles for the kids, mobile devices, and an iPad). In my experience, most folks in the industry end up with a constantly evolving laboratory of electronics in their houses.

But what happens when you have the opportunity to start from scratch, on a normal consumer's budget?

Here's the real challenge: integrators across the industry have found their niche focusing on elite clientele — folks who can spend \$100k+ on their home control systems and AV. As an industry, we've been on the outside looking in as “GAFA” pushes into the market. Various startups ride the wave of IoT tech, betting on DIY consumers adopting app based control for home technology.

I believe there is a strong market opportunity for products geared toward the “X-ennial” and Millennial client who is interested in “smart home” technology that is both cool and practical, wants profes-

sional installation and support, and is willing to “trade up” for a reasonable cost to a fully integrated control solution for the home.

You just have to know where to look. Considering Loxone for Home Control

Loxone (pronounced “lox-own”) is based in Germany and has had a strong presence in Europe, boasting 9,000 integrators worldwide. Although Loxone has been available in the U.S. for a few years, it has stayed pretty quiet.

In late 2016, the company re-launched its unique solution to total home control to the CEDIA channel of dealers. There isn’t a whole lot on Loxone’s website from a technical perspective; it’s for consumers.

In order to really see what Loxone is all about, I knew I’d have to see it in person. I did have one takeaway from its website and promotional videos, though: Europeans are all about their colored LED strips.

Because of the personal nature of the visit, I decided my wife should see the system in person. She doesn’t often get to experience the technology that I’ve grown accustomed to in our industry, and I knew there were some unique aspects to the Loxone home that I knew she would either love or hate.

Getting her perspective was important, but it was even more important that I’d have her buy-in on what we put in our house. It’s not just me that has to live with it. For instance, Loxone “keypads” are small, square, flat capacitive surfaces — no buttons. I wasn’t sure if she would be ok with these control points instead of traditional light switches or keypads.

So we made the drive out to Media, Penn., to tour the Loxone show home with Florian Woess, CEO of Loxone (U.S.).

Control

The keypads, which are capacitive surfaces with five touch points, were about a third the size of a normal light switch on the wall. Hallways, bathrooms and closets have no light switches — they are all automatically engaged through motion and occupancy sensors. A primary wall-mounted iPad in the Kitchen runs the intuitive Loxone app.

Lighting

Loxone makes its own RGBW in-ceiling LED lights, which it has throughout the home. The lights are wired into the control system directly (just another device in the tree), and powered at the sub-panel.

Fan control and lighting dimmer modules are available for line voltage accent fixtures throughout the house, providing a centralized dimming solution.

In the show home there is a sub-panel on each floor and a trunk between them. Every controlled device, not just lighting, wires to the sub-panel.

HVAC

Every wired keypad has a built-in temp sensor. The HVAC control works best when you use Loxone in-line dampers for each room. This gives multi-zone control without requiring an actual **multi-zone** HVAC system.

Security

Using more traditional security devices like CO2 detectors, door and window contacts, and water bugs, the Loxone system uses two “levels” for security.

When a security device is tripped, an alert goes out through the app, while the lights throughout the home flash. The speakers can act as a siren sounding an alarm. Having a system preconfigured to offer

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- **Scalable:** Various configurations made to size, facilitating add-on devices over the years without changing or upgrading the controller
- **Global platform:** A standard compliant platform which adopts latest technologies such as Zigbee, SIP, GSM
- **Customisation:** Ability to tailor solutions as per consumer need
- **Extensible:** New unforeseen features can be developed and integrated at a later stage

this integrated functionality is very convenient.

The second level is to call or text the homeowner. This could be integrated with a monitoring facility, if desired, or used to alert the homeowner directly.

Infrastructure/Wiring

The wiring infrastructure is a proprietary tree where multiple types of devices can be on a single branch, including the LED spots, LED strip control, motion sensors, keypads, window contacts and other devices. The wiring of devices is incredibly flexible, and up to 50 devices are supported per branch.

Audio

Loxone's audio distribution solution isn't elegant, but it seems to work. Loxone have a zone controller and multi-channel amplifier. The zone controller is an audio server — the client can load their music, access from a server in the house, or stream multiple Internet radio stations which are supported via the UI.

Interestingly, Loxone is using uPnP technology in its zone controller. So in theory, you can actually stream to a Sonos zone controller from the Loxone system, turning a Sonos Play:5, for instance, into a Loxone audio zone.

Video

There isn't much by way of video distribution. If you are doing multi-zone video distribution, you're using third party remotes and distribution infrastructure. Your video zones are basically standalone for control. You can play some tricks to make it more integrated, but it's not built-in.

Although not totally flawless, the Loxone system is quite impressive. In fact, when you consider each subsystem and the overall design, it's arguably the most vertically integrated control solution on the market.

That's enough for me to not only take them seriously, but consider putting it in my personal home.

Stay tuned to learn a little more about the system from a practical standpoint; and find out why I chose to go with Loxone.



Lynky Launches as “A Universal Remote” for Home Automation

The growth of smart home devices has led to many users having to navigate and learn multiple apps, interfaces and devices to realize the promise of the connected home. Lynky is unveiling the solution to this problem – the world’s first touchscreen smart home hub with Google Assistant that can control a myriad of IoT products with one, elegant device.

Available today for preorder on Indiegogo at the introductory price of \$99, Lynky acts like the universal remote of the smart home, allowing multiple products to be setup, managed and controlled with a super-simple, intuitive interface. With Lynky, operating multiple IoT devices at once becomes as effortless as using an everyday appliance in the home.

Its open platform and Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and Zigbee connections allows it to work with thousands of the most popular IoT products including Philips Hue, Nest, August Home, Ring, GE Lighting, iHome and TP-Link to name just a few.

“People tend to buy smart home devices to make their lives easier, but often find that the more devices they have, the more overwhelming and complicated using IoT gadgets can be for them,” said Jerry Hou, product manager at Lynky. “I’m proud that Lynky is able to accomplish the true vision of the connected home by finally allowing people to simplify and centralize all of their devices in one convenient place.”

Multiple Formats in Multiple Locations

Lynky comes in two formats – a desktop that can be placed anywhere in the home and a wall version that can be mounted and powered by any existing light switch fittings. The wall version can also control a light or ceiling fan that was previously connected to the switch. While a single Lynky can control actions around an entire house, multiple Lynky hubs can be placed throughout a home to provide a control panel in any room. Every Lynky can connect and sync automatically to each other.

Additionally, each Lynky can be customized with the preferred smart gadgets and commands for that space. For example, while a Lynky in a kitchen might be linked to every IoT device available in a home, a Lynky in that home’s guest bedroom might only display the devices in that room and the living room.

Controlling devices in other rooms is just a scroll or voice command away. Interactions with the Lynky smart home hub can be triggered through touch, voice or even with connected devices sensing their environment and responding to predefined rules.

The Simple Touch

The Lynky touchscreen can be used to connect and load any Lynky-certified smart device in just two simple steps. The touchscreen interface has been designed

to be extremely simple with easy to use virtual buttons and controls. Actions can be controlled on the Lynky itself, on smartphones using the Lynky App or online through the Lynky cloud based portal when away from the home.

Your Voice is Lynky's Command

Lynky can also be controlled by voice command and has Google Assistant natively integrated within it. It has a two-microphone array for far-field listening and allows access to the full array of Google Assistant services including getting information, news, weather, listening to music, internet radio and podcasts.

Setting the Scene

As well as controlling individual devices and actions, Lynky can be used to set scenes within the home allowing one command or touch to trigger multiple actions. For instance, "Movie Time" may automatically dim the lights, close the



drapes and switch the TV to Netflix. A morning wake up scene may trigger as an alarm clock sounds, the drapes open and the coffee machine begins to percolate.

Scenes are easy to set on Lynky itself through a simple drag and drop feature. Lynky also integrates with IFTTT for even more elaborate scenes, schedules and automations



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BPL has been pioneers in intelligent automation systems that connect the dots and put you in control. At home we can connect all your gadgets and equipment so that you can command everything at the touch of a fingertip, and enjoy life without getting hassled. You can do that in your workplace too. BPL also have a whole range of surveillance system that can keep a watchful eye on things because you can't be present everywhere at any one time.

it's easily integrated with most smart home products via the "Works with Nest" protocol, including voice control like Amazon Alexa and, of course, Google Home.

Meanwhile, Nest just debuted its new Nest Thermostat E, which has all the same features as the original Nest Learning Thermostat, but with a new design and a less expensive retail price. The device can be controlled from a smartphone and comes programmed with a simple schedule.

Moreover, the new frosted display helps it blend into a homeowner's wall. In terms of functionality, the Nest Thermostat E maintains the same functions for Works with Nest partner compatibility, including allowing for third-party smart home control, along with voice control via Google Home or Amazon Alexa. The unit is capable of handling systems that have two-heat/one-cool zones, or systems that are

two-cool/one-heat zones. The only difference from the original Nest Learning Thermostat is that the Nest Thermostat E does not have humidity control, although it can still measure humidity.

The Nest Thermostat E is compatible with 85 percent of all HVAC systems in North America, compared to 95 percent of systems with the original Nest Learning Thermostat.

Ecobee3 Smarter Wi-fi Although it employs the same learning technology as the Nest and has integration with Apple HomeKit and the Alexa, it goes about it in a very different way. The Ecobee3 monitors your home through sensors that you place throughout your home. By monitoring your habits, the Ecobee3 is able to more efficiently heat more used areas of your home. Because of its sensor-based topology, the Ecobee3 is recommended for larger homes and can accommodate



Nest Thermostat: Is it the Right Smart Thermostat for You?

The uber-popular Nest Thermostat faces competition from Honeywell, Aprilaire, Ecobee and Sensi.



A good first step toward greater energy efficiency at home is to install a smart thermostat. Like every product, each thermostat has its pros and cons. The mere fact that you are looking into purchasing a smart thermostat

is a sign as to just how far this product category has come and how important it is to consumers. All the thermostats claim they will reduce a home energy bill by as much as 15 percent. Let's look at the top contenders: Nest Learning Thermostat The Nest Learning Thermostat has quickly become the first choice among many consumers because of its adaptability and its simple design. After a simple **set up the Nest** will begin to take note of your habits and change its settings to match your needs. Once the Nest has learned your habits it will send you back data on its needs to meet your requirements and then show ways to save money. An added bonus is that its active support **base means**





up to 32 zones. The unit, it has an attractive and it is compatible with Samsung SmartThings. It also has humidity control.

Honeywell Lyric Round For years, Honeywell owned the thermostat market. Now the company is playing a bit of catch up in this hot new market. The idea behind the Honeywell Lyric Round is simple and easy to get behind for any homeowner looking to make their first step into a smarter home. The Honeywell Lyric Round gets updated with your local weather reports and anticipates and compensates for changes in temperature to match your settings. Though not as advanced as the other two, the Honeywell Lyric Round can connect to your iOS or

Android device, and with its cheaper price tag, it makes a great starting point for anyone looking to upgrade to a smarter home. The Lyric also works with Samsung SmartThings, as well as Apple HomeKit. Aprilaire Model 8920W Wi-Fi Thermostat Aprilaire has a long background as a maker of smart thermostats, which are constructed with the latest technology and operate electronically (digitally) and control single-stage or multi-stage forced air, heat pump or hydronic HVAC systems. The AprilaireWiFi Thermostat includes exclusive IAQ Control features to easily control all aspects of Indoor Air Quality via a simple app. It has a programmable touchscreen interface, and can also integrate with lighting, audio, video, security systems. Aprilaire claims the thermostat can save the average U.S. home \$180 per year in energy costs. The thermostat is designed to be professionally installed.



Sensi Smart Thermostat , the Sensi Smart Thermostat offers a highly rated, remotely accessible iOS and Android app, an app interface that changes color to let you know at a glance whether your system is heating or cooling, geofencing capability that automatically adjusts the temperature based on your proximity to your home, smart alerts to notify you of extreme temperature or humidity changes, and keypad lockout to prevent changes if needed.



Noon Home brings connected home smarts to light switches

Smart light bulbs have been one of the cornerstones of the connected home space from the beginning. Philips has a pretty strong grip on the market with its Hue line, but everyone from the 116-year-old stalwart Sylvania to start-ups like LIFX are getting in on the action with colour-changing connected bulbs.

Noon Home, a new Bay Area-based home automation start-up, is going after the light switch. The company, which includes former executives from places like

Nest and August Home, has been operating in stealth under the decidedly less pronounceable code name, Loco roll. It's already scored backing from investors like Shasta Ventures, Lux Capital and Sway Ventures. The company's first product is the straightforwardly named Noon Smart Lighting System.

At \$400, the system isn't cheap, though it's designed to replace far more costly custom installs. The primary control pad is a small touchscreen display that plugs





directly into the wall power, swiping in for the light switch. Once up and running, it works with existing lights to offer customized layered lighting designed for a specific space.

The system does its best to guess at the room's lighting needs using on-board sensors, but the rest of the customization is up to the user. Like many other smart home offerings, it also can be used to develop custom scenes for different scenarios. It gives you three out of the box: everyday, bright and relax, which can be controlled via the switch or remotely with the company's app.

And, naturally, the product is launching with Alexa functionality — no surprise there, given how bullish Amazon has been about embracing every connected home gadget of late.

Smart Home Trend: Tuneable White LED Lights

Demonstrated by Legrand, Ketra, Smartika and others tuneable white LED lights regulate circadian rhythms, enhance mood, and improve sleep.

For the past few years, tuneable white lighting has been all the rage in the commercial lighting industry, but the category is only now appearing in smart homes.

White LED lights come in a variety of color temperatures, ranging from reddish (warm) to bluish (cool). The tint of the light can affect your moods and sleep patterns through melatonin production or restriction: Warmer temperatures can be calming; cooler temps can be energizing.

Ideally you want this “human centric lighting” (HCL) to align with circadian rhythms – emitting cooler colors at the start of the day, and warmer colors as you head into bedtime – so-called “dynamic natural lighting.” This was the message of all tuneable-

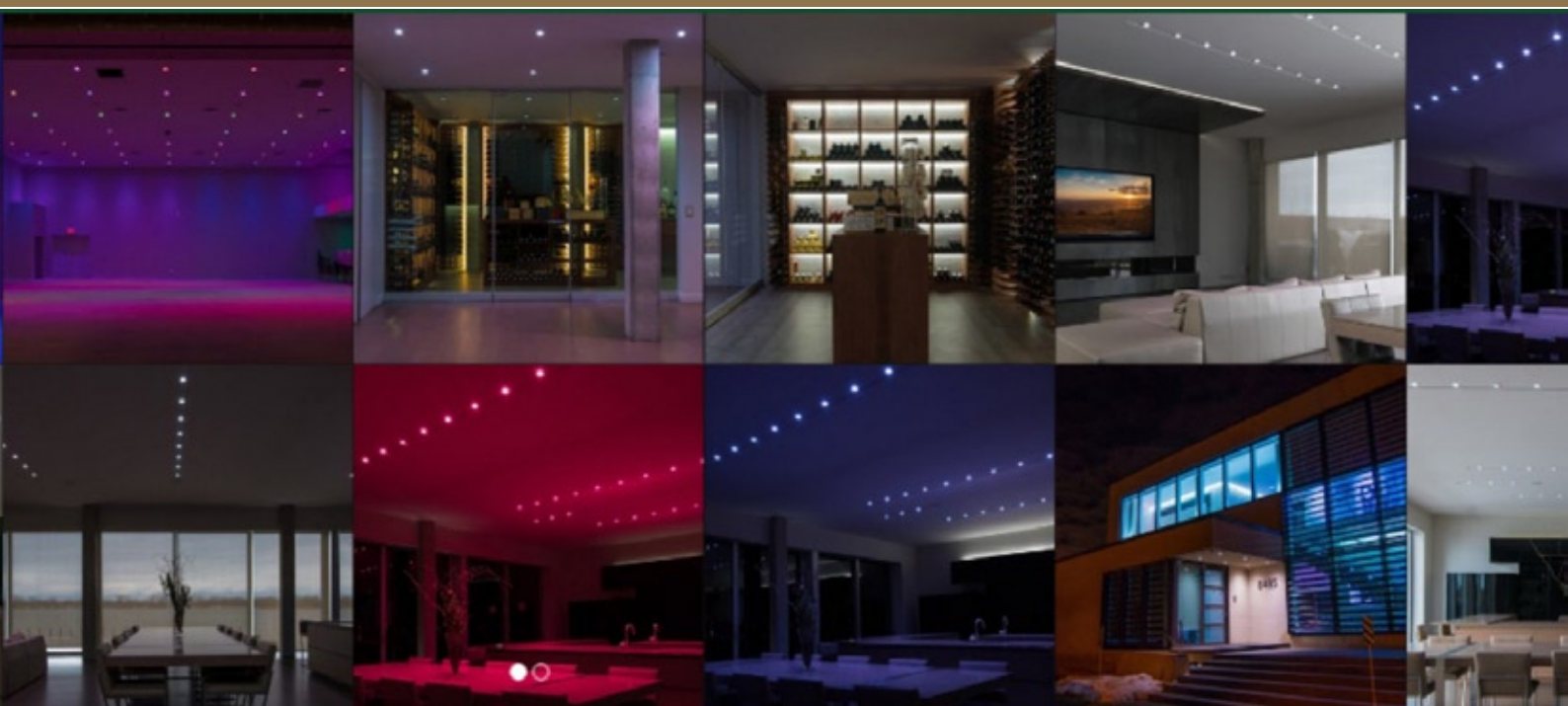
lighting manufacturers such as Legrand, Lutron, Ketra, and Smartika.

At Light fair 2016, Lutron demonstrated the impact of different white-light color temperatures on the environment.

At Lightfair 2016, Lutron demonstrated the impact of different white-light color temperatures on the environment.

Craig Casey, senior building science engineer at Lutron, explains that a circadian rhythm is “not actually 24 hours. It’s longer, so we need to adjust.”

Tunable lighting allows occupants to experience a natural, 24-hour cycle. “Warmer light in the afternoon is beneficial,” Casey



says, “Because as we go into evening, blue light can interrupt our natural cycle, disrupting our sleep, and likely decreasing our melatonin production.”



Legrand demo’tunable lighting under the Vantage brand, explaining that lights should get warmer (redder) throughout the day to help occupants gear up for slumber. In the morning, a cool blue tint can energize the sleeper.

Legrand and Vantage Controls used the 2017 CEDIA Expo held recently in San Diego to demonstrate color tuning to home technology integrators.

The booth featured a bedroom vignette, where the company demonstrated the somnolent effects of warmer hues (good-night) and energizing effects of cooler tones (wake up).

Reid Cram, director of marketing for Vantage, says the company uses dimming engines from Lumenetix, “with our DMX to simulate the Circadian rhythm.”

Legrand and Vantage Demo Day/Night



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DMX is a popular Cat 5-based LED control protocol typically used for commercial lighting, as well as live stage shows.

Lighting Newbies

Smartika's tunable white luminaires and "smart canopy."

Smartika is barely three years old, offering a small ecosystem of environmental controls, including smart lighting, a very nice looking thermostat and a water sensor. However, tunable white lighting is a big initiative of the company. It offers a variety of LED light fixtures, with a couple of kits designed for bathrooms that include a controller to adjust the temperature of the white light.



Pendant light from Lumastream

Smartika plans to integrate its tunable white lighting with Control4 home automation systems in 2018.

Another relative newcomer, Ketra, has been busy in the commercial space since 2009 — doing tunable lighting and little else, with numerous installs in retail, hospitality and other commercial spaces.

Now the company is headed into the luxury residential market with a complete system that allows users to tune their LED lighting via a mobile app.



Luastream and Colorbeam are two other companies offering tunable white LED lights for homes. Both offer a unique approach to home LED lighting: Instead of utilizing standard electrical wiring to power the lights, fixtures are derived

power over low-voltage wiring. This same wire transports signals to fully control and dim LED lights, and special drivers convert AC power to low-voltage DC power.

This means a home systems integrator can install the system rather than an electrician and there's no need for control wiring.

LumaStream says this leads to a simpler installation and more energy efficient solution. In addition to the wiring infrastructure, LumaStream and Colorbeam offer everything else required for a complete home LED lighting system: processors, fixtures, trims, and enclosures—and both systems can be integrated with home automation systems



Lutron Caséta Review

Introduction

As we move forward in the smart-home world, numerous products are becoming available and are adopting multiple platforms which creates competition. This is great news for us everyday consumers hoping to lower the barrier of entry in the the once thought of as “luxury living.” It also pushes the technology to become more secure, more feature rich, and more stable. With that being said, one company has designed a product that I have observed for nearly seven months now with absolutely zero flaws. That company is Lutron and the product is the Caseta line.

At first glance, I hesitated to add this product to my smart home. The reason was that the products require their own “Hub” which was something that I feel would add another layer for malfunction opportunities. Common sense says that more channels of communication between products and controllers would create more chances of simple errors.

Lutron Caseta uses its own communication protocol they call “Clear Connect Wireless,” and whoever designed it should be awarded the symbolic “Smart Key to the World.” In roughly seven months of use, through wifi restarts, power outages, OS updates, and normal wear and tear, I have not had to reset the “Clear Connect Hub” once. Furthermore, triggering each switch via HomeKit,



Alexa, Lutron's Application, or manually on the switch or remote switch has not failed me one time. It's responsive, intuitive and very well integrated.

Feature Rich

-3-way, 4-way or more-way installation options (without buying expensive hardware or another whole switch) more on this a bit later.

-Integrations with Google Home, Alexa, HomeKit, SmartThings, and much more.

-A full comprehensive line that offers in-wall dimmers, in-wall switches, plug in lamp dimmers, and remotes. As well as a full line of accessories that offer, pico remote wall mounts, remote



pedestals, visor clips (for your car), and in-wall mounting bracket for remote. Lutron also offers Serena, remote controllable window shades that can be integrated with Caseta control.

-The Application offers the ability to create scenes, as well as incorporate and adopt control of other devices like Nest Thermostats. It also offers a “Smart Away” mode that uses your location to know when you are away. With this knowledge Caseta can randomly control lights and window coverings helping to deter break-ins by creating the illusion that someone is home.

Installation

The most important part of the installation procedure is making sure you have the correct hardware and tools for the job. This may sound silly, right? I mean, a switch is a switch, right? I rate this installation as Easy/Medium as you will need to do some simple wiring. Always make sure you cut the power in your breaker box before working with wiring. Using the simple installation guides that Lutron provides with the product or on their website, I feel confident that most people can do this on their own. However, if you are concerned about it, call a local electrician, and he or she can have these installed for you in a snap.



What is the right choice?

Centralised vs. distributed smart home systems -
What is the right choice?



To make it dramatic from the beginning: What would happen, if the government would fail from one day to the other? Right – Panic would break loose but the world would still turn, due to the private sector.

What does a failing government have to do with a centralized and/or a distributed system? Easy – whilst the government is the central point of a country, the private sector is acting as the distributed player in this scenario. Whilst government-owned institutions and services would stop working after a collapse, the companies and institutions which are not involved in a governmental collapse are (even if only theoretically) functional.

And this is the point also for centralized and

distributed systems. But let's have a look first at the two **different systems**:

Centralized Systems

With growing distribution of Smart Home solutions, the smart home has arrived in more and more households. "Switch off the light!" will soon be heard more often than the question asked, whether the light has been switched off or not (a common nightmare, once departed for your holidays). Clearly, this makes life more comfortable and gives the feeling of owning a little bit of the future, which is yet to come. Having said that, we have not talked about the



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Functions

- With capacitive touchscreen tech., and high-contrast screen to achieve excellent display
- The panel has its own sensor to detect and display room's temperature and humidity
- Function of temperature control, with temperature control algorithm by itself
- Function of cycle timer
- Display clock and week. Time can be updated via KNX net
- Backlight brightness is adjustable
- Function of warning tone. Panel warns when button is pushed, and this function can be activated/ deactivated via ETS
- Fold input for thermistor sensor



7" Touch Screen CHVD-07/01.1

Functions

- It comes with function of smart-home control, and video-door phone (optional)
- With the breathing lamps around the base of screen, and color adjustable lights
- With the function of proximity sensor, The screen starts automatically when people approach
- With the magnetic absorption application, the touch panel is easy to take and install
- Compatible with Android APP, and users can download and install it by themselves
- With multi-point touch screen, gravity sensor, vibration motor function
- The screen can be connected to KNX system directly, without via any converter



3.5" Touch Screen CHTF-35/00.1.0.1

Functions

- Firmware can be upgraded via TF Card
- Support up to 64 buttons, and they can be configured via configuration toolkit on PC and displayed in multi pages
- Support user defined icons for lighting scenario bind control functions
- Connect to KNX directly



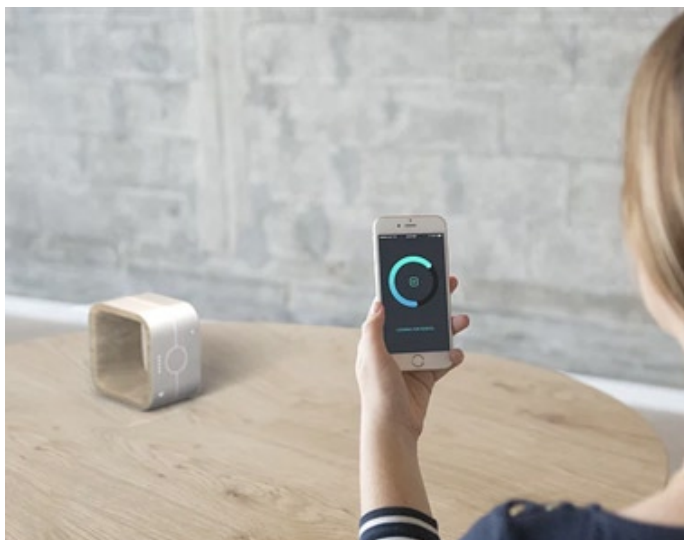
Smart Home Control Software

Functions

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Central device for smart home solutions

further advantages, such as the shopping list items, which Amazon can have delivered to you within hours, or the recommendations for goods, that Google thinks we need. Besides controlling our houses, we also have funny gadgets to play around with.

**“Where there is light,
there must be shadow”**

What do the systems of centralized solutions have in common? Right – They are all controlled by one central controller. On the bright side, the easy user interface allows to have all devices connected and configured in no time. The easy user interfaces allow even children to configure their smart homes according to their wishes.

However, the drawback of these nice and easy systems is also what makes them so interesting – All is controlled by a central controller. Let’s just think about what would happen, if the devices, which you talk to would stop listening, because they are broken, the battery is flat or your dog was buried your smart box in the garden. Voice control would first of all not be the same, if you have nobody listening to it and worse, nothing would be controllable. And if the devices is still working, do not forget that as the configuration is very easy, changes by unauthorized persons, which could negatively impact the whole installation, will be a constant threat to normal functioning (Even South Park and Burger King did it).

Furthermore, looking at the fast moving developments, devices and their technologies usually do not have a longer life span than the house you are living in. Result is that your smart homes needs constant upgrades, which will create extra costs. Also, consider yourself as lucky, if you only have to invest in upgrades and not a whole system (click on the link for more information).

So in short: Newly released centralized systems are easy to configure, install and add a futuristic touch to your home. However, it is yet unforeseen, what will happen in the future with these systems, not even taking into

Example of a distributed system



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consideration when the central controller is not functioning anymore.

Distributed Systems

Smart homes and buildings have been existing for more than 30 years – Difference is that we have never noticed them. And not noticing them is the best thing that can happen: The user cannot make changes to the system and thereby ruin the installation, energy savings reach another level and the level of comfort is increasing tremendously. In the end, the user does not have to shout to any boxes to have the light switched off, when the house is left – Timers and sensors will do that automatically.

We might argue that not having a magical device we talk to might be a curse or blessing, but one thing is certain – If the central device breaks down, the remaining devices still function, keeping the room smart, which is especially very important in commercially used buildings, such as offices or hotels. This is ensured by the decentralized nature of these systems.

But also distributed systems have their cons. Foremost, in order to have a smart system installed, a professional installer is required, who integrates the system. Also, in most cases, when changes are necessary, a professional installer needs to be called.

“But how about the sustainability of a distributed system? – Well, here is the key!”

The best example is the KNX system – The system now exists almost 30 years and is the most used system in Europe and China. All devices, which are supporting the KNX technology can and are still being used in smart homes and buildings.

The special feature of this system is that more than 400 manufacturers are provid-

ing a big range of devices, which are all working together. Outcome is that a distributed installation does not require any upgrades, which might affect the whole installation. Also, once the house has been made smart, it stays like this. Therefore, in terms of sustainability, the distributed system wins by far!

So which system is the right system for me?

The answer is as often: It depends on what you want and need.

The centralised system, with a central controller, allows a fast installation of your smart devices. Furthermore, the configuration of the installation and modifications afterwards are easy to be taken care of. Lastly, having one of those boxes gives a futuristic touch to your home. Downsides are that if the controller breaks, the whole installation does not work anymore, it can be tampered with very easily and future upgrades might limit its functionality.

The distributed system is a one which runs in the background and allows the seamless integration of all applications and functions in a smart home and building.

Whilst making your home smart, it is also the more sustainable choice as it does not have a central controller, which can break down. In case of malfunctioning of one device, the whole installation would still run.

Furthermore, the KNX system exists now for almost 30 years, and has many devices available, making it future proof. Downside is that for making your home smart, in most cases a professional installation is required, done by a system integrator.

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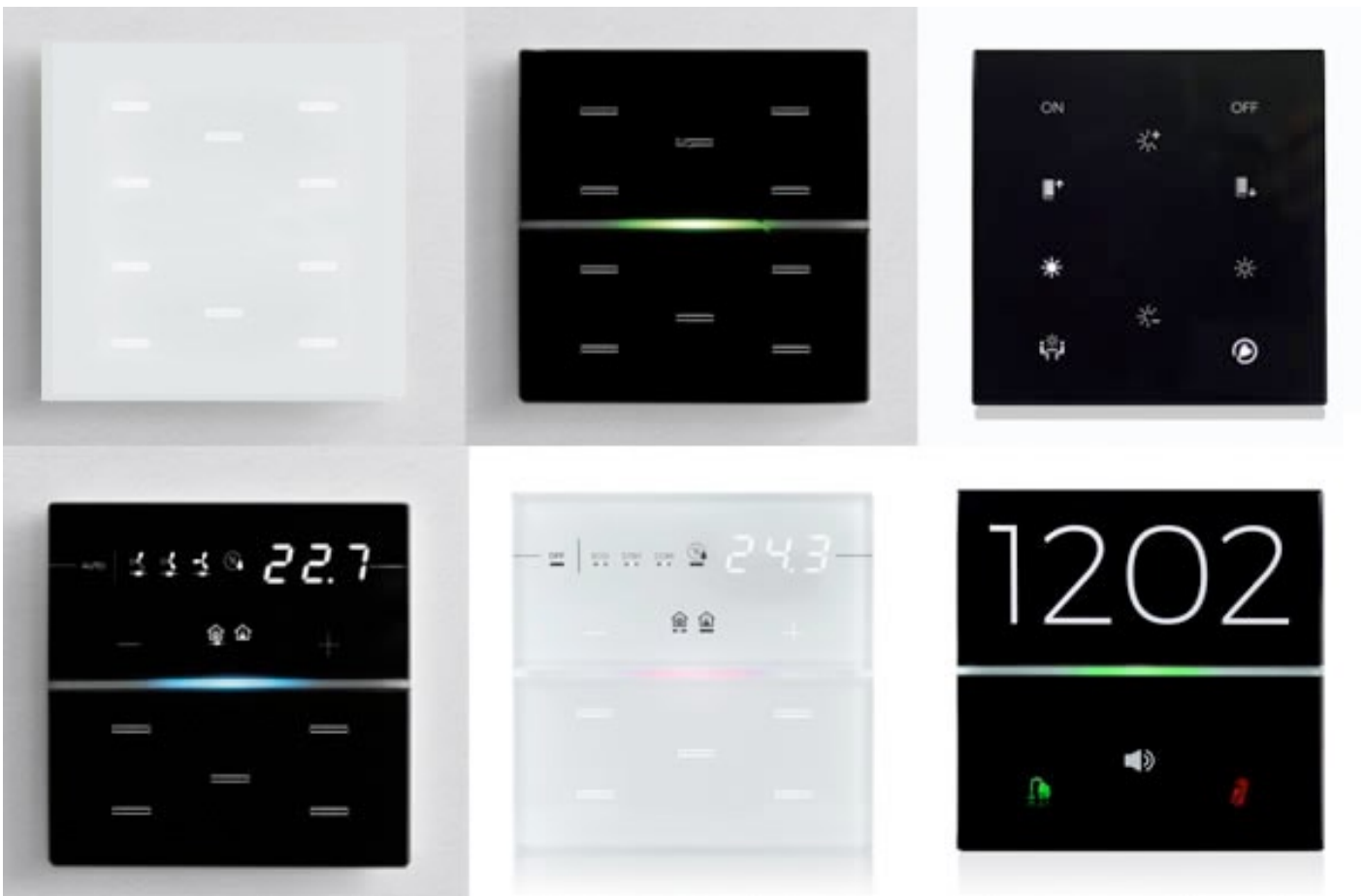
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KNX Capacitive Glass Switches

Eelectron Launches 9025 range of KNX Capacitive Glass Switches & Thermostats/Humidistats

EelectronSpA is delighted to introduce the new 9025 range of capacitive switches and room temperature controllers/humidistats. The 9025 range is available in a black or white glass finish, as well as in a custom version.



9025 Capacitive KNX Switch

The 9025 capacitive KNX switch is available in a Standard range and an RGB range.

The 9025 KNX switch range consists of 2-, 4-, 6-, 8- and 10-channel capacitive button versions. Each button can be configured to manage on/off commands, dimming, shutter and venetian control, scene recall and control, object sequences etc.

The product includes a two-stage room temperature controller with integrated PI to control heating and cooling equipment, valves, 2- and 4-pipe fan coils etc. It has an embedded temperature sensor and a rear 2-pole connector that is configurable as digital or analogue input. It is also possible to connect an additional NTC temperature probe (electron codes TS01A01ACC or TS01B01ACC – not included) to perform a direct temperature measurement.

The 9025 KNX switch RGB range has an RGB LED bar on the front in order to visualise feedback or other values available over the KNX bus.

The KNX 9025 Standard and RGB ranges are available in a black or white glass finish, or a custom version that makes it possible to light up custom and interchangeable icons to match the associated function. The 9025 KNX range is mounted in a 2-module box and is compliant with main standards (British, German, Italian, etc). The product is equipped with a KNX communication interface.

9025 Room Temperature Controller/Humidistat

The 9025 thermostat is a KNX room temperature controller that includes 7 configurable capacitive buttons for on/off, dimming, rolling shutter and venetian controls, scene recall and control, object sequences, local thermostat controls, etc. The product offers a 2-stage thermostat with integrated PI controller to control heating and cooling equipment, valves, 2- and 4-pipe fan coils etc.

The product has an embedded temperature sensor and a rear 2-pole connector,

that is configurable as digital or analogue input. It is also possible to connect an additional NTC temperature probe (electron codes TS01A01ACC or TS01B01ACC – not included) to perform a direct temperature measurement. A version with integrated temperature and relative humidity sensor is available for controlling actuators for ambient humidity control.

The 9025 range has a RGB LED bar on the front side in order to visualise thermostat operating modes or feedback and other values available over the KNX bus. Glass covers are available for HOTEL or RESIDENTIAL applications; both covers can be in a custom version. Using glasses in CUSTOM version that makes it possible to light up custom and interchangeable icons to match the associated function.

The 9025 KNX range is mounted in a 2-module box and is compliant with main standards (British, German, Italian, etc). The product is equipped with KNX communication interface.





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