



## What Are Smart Hubs?

Once you've started putting together your smart home, you'll notice that having everything spread around different apps can get confusing; using a smart hub can help you streamline your experience. These hubs can control a variety of devices using various protocols, and reduce the "clutter" created by using multiple manufacturers and products.

### What are the benefits of smart hubs?

Smart hubs simplify the setup and use of multiple smart devices, creating a unified experience throughout your home. A hub not only places all of your devices within one app, it can chain together events that keep the residents of your home happier, healthier, and safer. For instance, you can have your hub turn on the AC and certain lights when you're home, and turn them off – and turn on other lights – when you're away. ■

### How do smart hubs work?

Smart hubs work by incorporating several device protocols – such as Bluetooth, wifi, Zigbee, and others – into one product, so that these devices that usually cannot talk to each other have a place to communicate. From there, consumers can use one app, instead of many, to control multiple devices at once, without being constrained to one brand or protocol. ■

### What are the challenges of smart hubs?

Smart hubs are an extra investment outside of the devices themselves, and are not required for most products. However, they are inexpensive and often simplify the smart home experience. They travel with the owner (and are not part of a sale), but can control some devices that would stay behind in a sale (like thermostats and smoke detectors), so if selling a home with devices that hook up to a hub, make sure to delete them from the hub and properly reset them to keep homeowner information safe and secure. ■



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