

IoT in my house

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Products Now In Use

- Philips Hue lighting system
- WeMo switches
- Amazon Echo
- Canary security system
- Nest thermostat and smoke alarms
- Leo Smart Alert
- Logitech Harmony remote control

Philips Hue lighting system

- Requires a Hue hub with an Ethernet cable connection to your router
- Put it next to the router
- Lighting bulbs & devices connect in a mesh network
- Control via apps on phones, tablets, computers, watches, ...
- Published API

WeMo switches

- Several different kinds – wall switch replacement and plug into outlet
- No hub required for switches but a hub is needed for some other WeMo devices
- Controlled via app on phones, tablets and some other devices such as the Amazon Echo
- Fairly expensive – wall switch replacement is \$38; WeMo Insight is \$53

Amazon Echo

- Product available from Amazon
- Plug it in, connect to WiFi, and talk to it
- Ask questions, ask it to play music, tell it to turn on/off Philips Hue lights, WeMo switches, ask for the news, weather, a joke, etc.
- Can connect to and control some other home devices, systems
- Cost \$180; Amazon Prime membership not required but does get you lots more music

Canary security system

- Video monitoring system and much more
- Continuously monitors temperature, humidity, air quality and sound
- When armed, detects and alerts via phone app if unusual activity occurs
- Permits viewing of live scene
- Saves video clips
- Cost about \$180 each
- A bit of work to train to your environment

Nest thermostat

- Very easy to install – replaces regular thermostat; connects to your WiFi
- Control at the device or via phone, tablet, or computer at home or away from home
- Easy to program, can learn your use pattern, can automatically switch between heating and cooling
- Cost is \$200-250 depending on model

Nest smoke and CO alarm

- Detects smoke and carbon monoxide
- Loud alarm and also voice information
- Models that are wired in or battery-operated
- Connects to your WiFi
- Notifies via alarm and app on phone
- Cost \$100 each
- Can turn off furnace if you have a Nest thermostat

Leo Smart Alert

- Listens for sound of smoke and/or carbon monoxide alarms; monitors temp, humidity too
- Plugs into any outlet and connects to your WiFi
- Notifies via phone app
- Will call you first – if no response, will go down a call list
- One device listens for all alarms in house
- Cost \$50

Logitech Harmony remote control

- Logitech makes several version of Harmony remote controls
- I have the “Logitech Harmony Smart Control with Smartphone App and Simple Remote – Black” which costs about \$120; there is a slightly newer version that costs \$135
- Can control any kind of audio/video setup
- Fairly easy to setup with phone, tablet or computer
- Adapts easily to configuration changes

Harmony remote control (cont.)

- All functions plus more can be done on tablet or phone via app
- Can control Philips Hue lights
- Can control almost anything that uses infrared remote -- doesn't have to be audio/video
- This is not just another universal remote – you press a button to say what you want to do and it does all the rest for you