

Wish List – 2017 Update
or
What I did this year

TV

- Do not recommend Smart TV, using separate streaming device instead
- Go with 4K now even though broadcast content is limited

Streaming devices

- Roku
 - Roku Ultra adds 4K support
- Amazon Fire TV Stick (Fire TV)
 - Search is Amazon centric compared with Roku
 - Google has said they will cut off YouTube streaming from Amazon FireTV due to “un-supported” code

Universal Controller

- Logitech Harmony \$70 to \$350
 - Pete: Small keys on low price remote, not always responsive
 - Tom: I agree the buttons are small but I rarely make a mistake
 - Integrates well with Amazon Echo/Dot
 - Alexa, turn on ABC

ps: Pete just needed to move Harmony Hub and LED emitter to proper locations

Broadband & Routers

- Avoid ADSL offerings from AT&T or Verizon
- Suddenlink minimum speed now is 100MB/sec (streaming a movie takes 4-6 MB/sec)
- Suddenlink provided routers are quite expensive (\$10/mo) compared to purchasing your own dedicated router (\$30-100 one time)
- Open Source router vs. Google
 - Google very easy low-tech setup

Automation hubs

- Philips Hue Bridge – limited to one radio
- Samsung SmartThings \$50+
 - Pete likes & uses
- Wink \$35+ – bought by Will.I.Am

Voice Response Speakers

- Amazon Echo / Dot \$39 to \$120
 - Cannot do timed events – i.e., turn on at sunset minus 30 (must use hub or use IFTTT)
- Google Assistant/Home \$30 to \$400
 - No experience with but acceptance growing quickly
- Apple HomePod \$349
 - Limited use & Apple does not appear to push
- Voice will only work when Internet is up

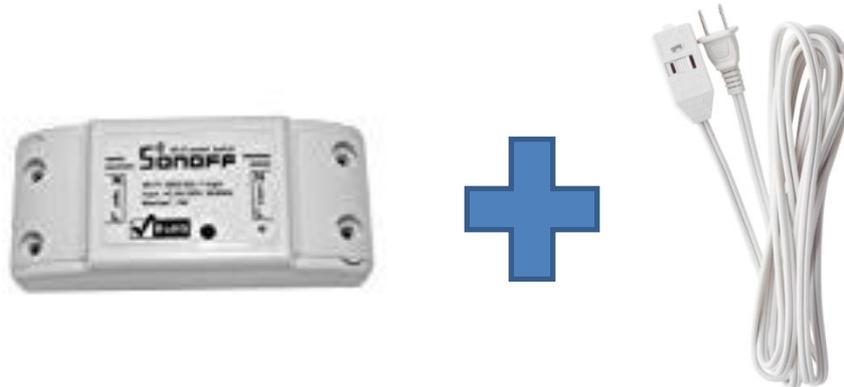
Automation elements

- Activate via hub or direct to voice (usually Cloud to Cloud services)
- Each brand usually has their own Tablet/SmartPhone App to use and configure
- Choose for compatibility with hub or other devices
 - My Christmas tree outlet (TP-Link Smart Plug) not compatible with SmartThings hub or Sonoff Intelligent Extension Cord but is controllable with Echo

Other items

- OpenSprinkler –a great solution for controlling sprinkler system, now using \$5 ESP8266 but still about \$150
- OpenGarage
 - Tom: Considering
 - Pete: Concerned about automated locks
- Ooma Voice over IP
 - Pete: Sub-second delay when starting connection, noticeable problems at times when two people speak at same time

Sonoff Intelligent Extension Cord



1. Cut extension code – Basic WiFi version of Sonoff \$5-6 (as shown) only switches one live and neutral leads, ground lead bypass
2. Connect live side to Sonoff Input, extension end to Output
3. Either use distributed software with app or can load any software on the internal ESP8266 – I use with software that my SmartThings hub recognizes so I setup timed events (my Amazon Echo ‘discovers’ the SmartThings devices), other versions can be controlled directly by Amazon Echo. Using for Xmas indoor & outdoor lights (device as shown is indoor only with waterproof box an additional cost).
4. Loading new software requires some soldering and one of the several USB adapters for connecting to PC
5. Now that I have “my own” software loaded on the ESP8266, it includes the ability to load new software Over The Air (OTA).
6. Other Sonoff versions plus have seen some buried behind wall switch