

Smart Condos

Dave Gould and Peggy Cummings
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Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide information about making 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.

The world is undergoing a rapid digital transformation--a change from the physical to the electronic. Here are some thoughts.

Contents

- Prerequisite
- What?
- Why?
- Who?
- How much?
- External Resources
- Coming Attractions
- Q&A
- Close

Prerequisite

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



What is a Smart Condo?

Home Automation

A condo with devices that can be controlled by voice, smart phone, or smart watch.

What are Some Devices?

- Alarm Systems (Smoke, Water Leaks)
- Blinds or shades
- Door locks
- Lighting
- Hubs (Apple TV, HomePod,...)
- Music
- Smartphone
- Thermostat
- TV
- Miscellaneous



What Can These Devices Do?

- Alarm Systems
 - Notify residents in the event of a break-in
 - Notify the police or alarm company
- Blinds / Shades
 - Open / close on a schedule, open / close on voice or touch
- 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,selections or channels)
 - Listen to the news or ebooks
 - Ask questions such as, what is the weather forecast for Seattle, Literally thousands of questions.
 - Create and manage your calendar.

What Can These Devices Do (cont)?

- Smart Phone
 - Place calls by voice or touch command. For example, ask your iPhone to call Suzie. Or call Dr. Smith. Or call Emerald City Management.
- Water Leaks
 - A water leak sensor such as sold by Govee, will both beep and send you an email if a water leak is detected. This is then monitored and if detected you would receive an email where you may be as long as you are on the grid.

What Else?

- Find my (anything). Tag objects of interest and find them via touch or voice command if misplaced. For example, “Find my car keys!” or “Find my car!” “Find my cat!” “Find my husband”
- 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 another option.
 - The background color can be changed to black, white, sepia or ???
 - Subscription services are available for reading newspapers, magazines, and journals on your eBook reader or in a browser.
 - For example, Apple News (News +) includes over 150 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 makes it easy.
- For those with limited mobility, voice control or touch makes it easy.
- Some devices, such as shades / blinds or lighting can be scheduled to turn on / off or open / close at specified times.

Who Could Use a Smarter 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 Condo?

- Some cost examples
 - A good alarm system costs between \$200 and \$400 and a monthly fee for those wanting police or alarm company notification
 - 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.
 - Light switches cost about \$20-\$40 per outlet.
 - Blinds / shades may cost a 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, Apple News, Amazon Music .. Range from free to around \$10/m0.
 - Note: Prices vary as technology continues to evolve and products are unbundled or bundled

External Resources (Not a Smart Home Device)

Available external services that may complement your smart condo in terms of convenience.

- Home care services
- Food and beverage delivery services such as Smith Brothers, Amazon, Safeway and several others
 - Smith Brothers currently delivers to several BTS residences. See <https://www.smithbrothersfarms.com>
- Medication 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.

External Resources

- Free access to WebMD (<https://www.webmd.com>) and other health related databases
- Telefinance (online conversations with your financial advisor in addition to online banking today; many financial analysts working from home today.)
- Transportation such as Lyft, Uber, and of course Taxis
- King County Library services (Libby) are free, and hundreds of books and magazines can be downloaded and read on a Tablet, Smartphone, or laptop.

Coming Attractions

- Caregiver robots
- Telemedicine (online conversations with your doctor; some doctors are now using some telemed.)
- Conversational personal assistants (something to talk to in natural or conversational language; examples include talking with a digital assistance and in the near future, a robotic pet dog, cat, teddy bear, ...)
- And many more things we haven't discussed or imagined.

For Additional Information

- Vendors
 - Apple
 - Amazon
 - Alphabet (Google)
 - And many others

Q & A

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Thank you!