

Post

Utilities and Sustainability



The Smart Home of the Future? Don't have to wait, it is here...

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We've all had discussions about what would we like our house to have as "accessories" to make life simpler, easier or even more fun; things like: mood-lights, voice commands, refrigerators that order food for us when they are running low or past their expiration date, and even the intelligence to change the temperature according to weather changes on our region.

Well, every single one of these items are already here, and it is only a small sample of the capabilities that are at hand today. M2M technology has leapfrogged the development of Smart Home and Smart Buildings over the last years. The most important factor is that all this technology is already accessible globally, and with a low cost; this latter point was one of the challenges when people wanted to "upgrade their pad".

The M2M capabilities are facilitating life and making important changes to the way interact with their properties. Namely 6 cases:

- Water leak detection: through the installation of simple sensors on specific parts of the property, a person can know if a pipe bursts in the middle of winter. The solutions even have the capability to automatically shut down the water mains and text the owner about the damage. This could save important amounts of money on property damages and insurance premiums.
- Energy management: similarly, through the installation (DIY) of a simple kit, house owners could have real time visibility of the consumption and act accordingly, switch off lights, or any other devices that are not currently being used.



- Peace of mind: through M2M devices, cameras, lock and movement that link to smart phones can provide parents better control of their youngsters. See when the kids or nanny have arrived, or if someone forgot the key, open the lock by a simple order on the phone or over the web.
- Elderly care: Many families have elderly relatives living alone or staying in the house, so M2M technology allows people to monitor (through personal sensors and cameras) every action and provide a sense of security our loved ones are well. Even identifying if the medicine bottles have been opened are record the time, so no more “don’t know if I took the noon pill or not”.
- Smart Appliances: Several household vendors, like Samsung have fridges that have built in touch-screens that keep track of the food, and even find recipes that match the current inventory. Son you don’t even have to think about what to cook!
- Diagnostics: Together with the previous point, many of the household goods now include self-diagnostics that alert owners when maintenance is needed or can contact directly the repair shop for maintenance.

The list goes on and on and on. And it is a valuable market too; as a sample, Berg Insight calculates that just for Spain, the value of the Smart Home market for 2014 is €350 million, and this is only one country.



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