



# MTC

Everything You Need to Know  
About Automating Your Home

## Everything You Need to Know About Automating Your Home

Internet, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth have redefined the way home automation engages users—and more and more discerning consumers are enjoying total control with the click of a button

Whether you're considering a high-powered security system, an entertainment center or a simple lighting apparatus, you can automate it all.

Building “the home of the future” isn't hard—in fact, it's quite simple—but you'll need to learn a few basics before diving in.

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### WHAT IS HOME AUTOMATION, EXACTLY?

Home automation has been around for some years, and but today's technology is *very* different from what you may have seen even five years ago.

In general, the concept of “home automation” refers to the process of controlling multiple electronic systems in your house with just a few devices or systems.

Increasingly, those devices and systems are powered by one or more mobile apps on your smartphone.

And just as often these days, home automation systems are powered by real-time conversations between your smartphone and your home. Your thermostat, your entertainment system, your doors and windows—all of these can respond *instantaneously* to your every whim based on a couple of app clicks.

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Want to roll up your shades? Press a button. Need to unlock your back door? Swipe your app's "back door" tab. Want to kick off the surround sound system? Get your fingers on the touch tablet's "volume" section.

### WHY HOME AUTOMATION?

Our world is constantly becoming more connected—in a world where you can instantly find, use and send whatever information you desire, it becomes natural to want more from the tech that surrounds you. "If everything else works that way," the thinking goes, "then why can't my home?"

For this reason, the idea of a "smart" home has become incredibly popular in recent years.

There's nothing overly "futuristic" about home automation anymore. What once may have seemed like science fiction is now practically everywhere. More importantly: if there's a part of your home for which automation technology hasn't been invented yet, you can be sure that will be remedied

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soon. Multiple-room audio, home lighting, even refrigerator temperatures—these are now so common as to be commonplace.

It's tempting, then, to answer the question "Why home automation?" with another question...

Why *not* home automation?

### IS AN AUTOMATED HOME SOMEHOW *BETTER* THAN AN ORDINARY ONE?

You might think an automated home will make you lazy—or that you have to be that way in the first place to consider home automation.

That, however, couldn't be further from the truth. While everyday electronics can be operated by flipping a switch—and, doing so, you can get by just fine—an automated home makes every operation meaningful.

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Smartphone-powered air conditioning systems, for example, aren't popular because they're mobile. They're popular because they regulate room temperature based upon *previously collected data*. They use data patterns to make every process count.

That means home automation isn't lazy. It's innovative. Your device, when properly configured, can *anticipate your home's needs*.

In other words, automated homes pick up on patterns. They interact with you because of what they know about your wants and needs, your habits and routines. Auto-balancing light levels, custom-user locking mechanisms and dynamic acoustic sound systems are here—and they're being fueled by the same technology that's driving innovation in every other area of our lives.

*This* is why smart homes are catching on.

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### WHERE SHOULD I START?

While almost everything in a home can be automated, it makes sense to install certain systems first. If you're planning on automating your home, review this list. Everything here is a "base level" systems, so they'll be ready and able in future if you decide to add more technology.

#### Surveillance

If you want to keep an eye on your home, take charge with a smart surveillance system. Wireless cameras hooked into your mobile display give you an eagle eye's view of the premises—both inside and outside. Many smart surveillance systems include scheduling features and geo-fencing services, giving you control over pre-set security procedures, times and trigger boundaries. And yes, you can keep an eye on your house or family while you're away.

#### Lighting

A smart lighting system should be at the top of your home automation list, because they're one of the easiest ways to feel like you have total control

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over your environment. Want to create mood lighting for parties? Check. Shut everything off at a certain time to manage your electricity bill? Sure, you can do that too.

And hook your lights into other automated systems? No problem. First, have a collection of smart switches installed so you can dim the lights via Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. Then, use your smart lighting system's mobile app to define your home's "behavior."

Automatically dimming the lights in your theater room when you push play on your Blu-Ray... Turns out there's not so much "magic" to it after all.

### Temperature Control

An automated heating and cooling system should be another priority. Taking the work out of thermostat programming, a smart thermostat uses household sensors to determine your home's patterns. With home automation, you'll be able to turn on the heat or AC based on internal or

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external temperatures—or even, for example, on foot traffic to a particular room. (And in doing so, you'll can cut as much as 30 percent of your home's power bill, as well.)

### Audio

Who can forget music? Whether you have a dedicated listening room or settle down for Friday night movies in your theater—or whole-home, multi-zone audio is more your style—you can control it all with one remote. (Even if that remote is a phone or a smart watch.) Indoors, outdoors, or on headphones... The smart audio system moves with you to give you sound anywhere you want it.

### HOME AUTOMATION—TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Wondering how to get started? If you're overwhelmed, that's OK—an expert home automation installer like MTC Security can show you everything you need to know.

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Here's a checklist for talking to MTC or any other qualified installer:

- ❑ **Wireless connectivity.** A Wi-Fi or Bluetooth connection is necessary for any home automation system. Your Wi-Fi enabled hub doesn't need to be physically connected to a router, but it should be well-placed to communicate with the information that each of your components will transmit. Your installer will be able to help you analyze your wireless system for maximum effect.
- ❑ **Control hub.** You'll need to decide on a way to control the various automated systems in your home. Ask your installer how to take the "leg work" out of running your home's daily operations.
- ❑ **Scheduling and automation service.** Some say an automated system is only as good as its scheduler. After all, what good are automated shutters that only operate on a part-time basis? When deciding on home automation, ask about software scheduling services. (Especially if you want coffee automatically made for you before you wake up.)
- ❑ **Instant alerts and notifications.** Finally, your home automation system should be able to send out smartphone alerts about things like lost keys, unexpected rises in temperature, or security issues.

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One final piece of advice? Take the time to get things just right—for you. After all, it's *your* space you'll be automating. It only makes sense that, by the time you're finished, the “home of the future” feels like...

Well, home.

### ABOUT MTC SECURITY

We've served Long Island's East End for more than 30 years, offering security, automation, communication and entertainment products for your home, beach house or vacation getaway.

Our clients hire us for our experience with security and surveillance; burglary, fire and water damage monitoring; home automation; home theater and in-home communication. But they hire us again—and *again*—for our commitment to excellence, professionalism, speed and discretion.

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Employing a wide range of hardware and software from the industry's top manufacturers, we work quickly and professionally to minimize disruption—many times we're finished in a single day.

And when we're done, we offer industry leading customer service with a personal touch. After sales support is a priority—we feature on-site training, call-in technical support, quick response times for on-site troubleshooting and repair of warranty components, and courtesy call follow-ups.

Experience the white glove difference from MTC. Ask for references today.

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