

Sampling Smart Home Tech

By ANNA CHANG-YEN | Green Shoot Media

Technology is making our homes smarter than ever, allowing us to do everything from turning on a light switch to locking the front door to setting the thermostat from anywhere we can get a wireless phone signal.

Although some of that technology can be pricey, you don't have to invest big bucks into a whole-home automation system to enjoy the safety and convenience of controlling your home from afar. Stay connected and in control of your home with a relatively small investment.

HUB OF ACTIVITY

Samsung's SmartThings Hub can control an army of Things that make life easier in your home, including a temperature/humidity sensor, a siren to scare off intruders, light bulbs, dimmer switches, outlets and motion sensors, among others. At \$99, it's a small investment to start automating your home, and you can add Things, which range in price from about \$50 to \$200, as your budget allows, and add SmartThings-compatible products from other manufacturers, including thermostats, light dimmers, door locks and sound systems.

BE IN CONTROL

Never leave the iron on again with a smart outlet. Starting around \$35, a wifi-connected



outlet can be turned on and off from your smart phone, allowing you peace of mind about that curling iron you might have left on in the bathroom this morning — or make life easier when you're just dozing off and realize you left a lamp on downstairs. Smart light switches are equally useful for turning on the porch light when you arrive home late at night or programming the lights on a schedule while you're away.

KNOW ON THE GO

Wondering if your online shopping purchase has arrived, what time your kids got home

from school or how much junk food they snagged from the pantry? Inexpensive wireless cameras that broadcast video to your smartphone can be had for about \$30, allowing you to keep tabs on your home when you're not home. Point one at your garden to find out which critters have been munching on your lettuce or use it in the nursery to check in on your baby while he's with the sitter.

LANDLORDS

Smart thermostats, door locks, security systems and smoke detectors can help landlords' jobs easier by allowing

them to stay in the loop and assist renters during emergencies. For example, a remote moisture detector and shutoff for water valves can help protect a property from water damage.

A wireless thermostat can help save on energy costs when landlords are footing the bill. Many units can be set to allow renters some control for their comfort, within pre-set maximum levels. Being able to monitor the thermostat remotely may alert you to extreme usage or other problematic trends.

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REAL ESTATE 101

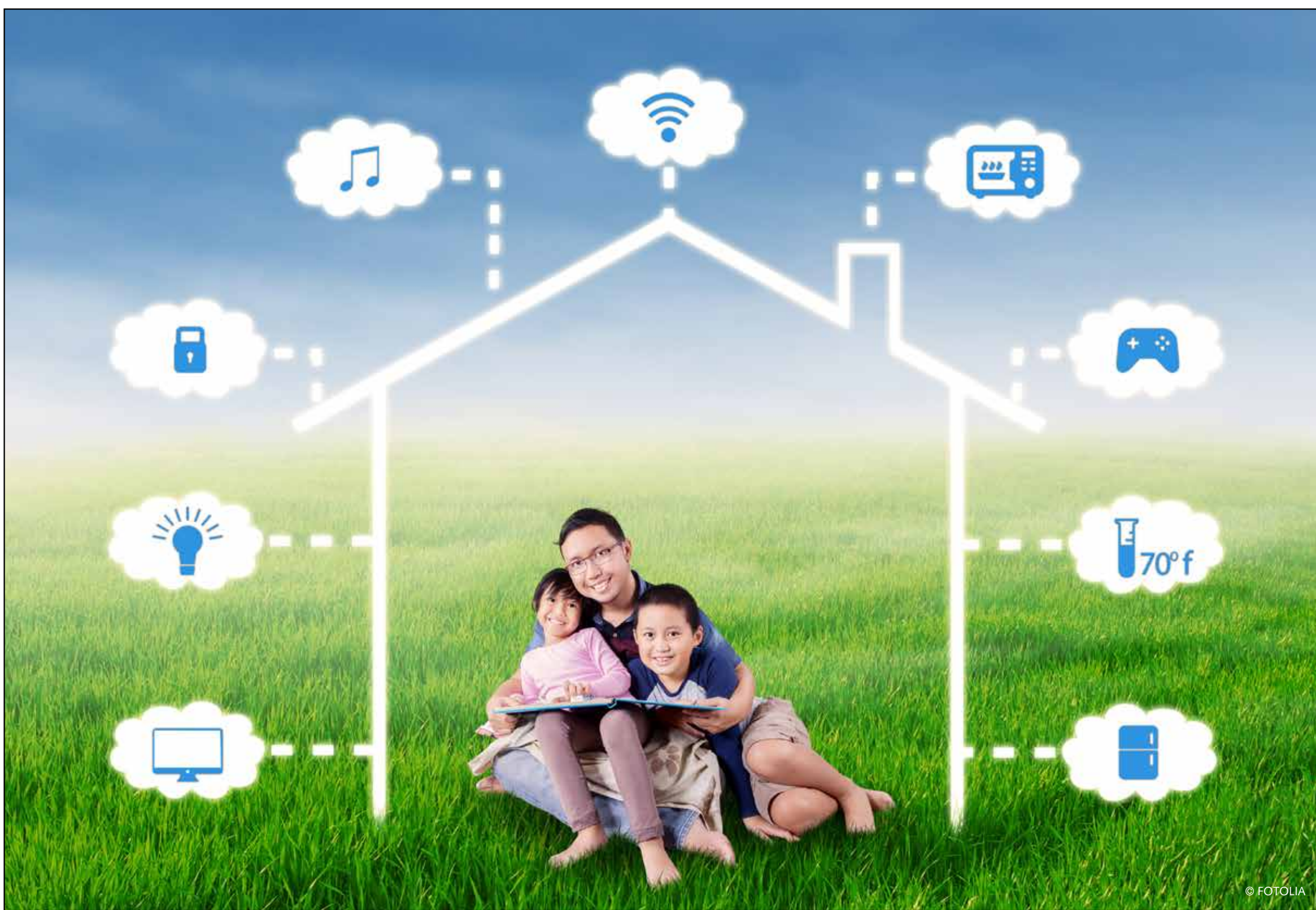
A Smart Investment

Coldwell Banker has declared 2016 "The Year Smart Home Technology Will be Mainstream." In its Real Estate Smart Home Marketplace Survey, the real estate giant found the following:

- Almost half (45 percent) of all Americans either own smart home technology or plan to invest in it in 2016.
- Seventy percent of people with smart home technology said buying their first smart home product made them more likely to buy another one.
- When asked about the types of pre-installed smart home technology that would be most appealing if they were buying a home, most Americans said smart security (58 percent) and temperature (56 percent).

smoke or heat is detected can keep homes safe and free from excessive odors. Remotely limit water heater temperatures to prevent scalding accidents or find out if a garage door is left open at night.

With a relatively small expenditure, you can protect your investment so it keeps working for you and your renters for years to come.



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A range hood that turns on whenever a certain amount of smoke or heat is detected can keep homes safe and free from excessive odors. Remotely limit water heater temperatures to prevent scalding accidents or find out if a garage door is left open at night.

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HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

Relief option: an alternative to foreclosure providing a borrower with temporary relief and the opportunity to cure a delinquency over a defined period of time.

Easement: an interest in land owned by another person, consisting of the right to use or control the land, or an area above or below it, for a specific limited purpose.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

AD SPACE