# Practical, Affordable Smart Home Solutions for People with Disabilities

#### Tony Gentry, PhD OTR/L FAOTA

Professor Emeritus
Department of Occupational Therapy
College of Health Professions
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA

logentry@vcu.edu

#### **Chris Goodloe**

Metal Tech Fine Metals Corporation Ashland, VA

christopherwgoodloe155@gmail.com



#### What is a Smart Home?

- Designed for access, security, comfort & livability
- Ease of use features
- Supports functional independence
- Individualized to your needs and interests

 Smart home features are becoming increasingly available and affordable

#### Who Needs a Smart Home?

- People with:
  - Mobility limitations
  - Attention/memory/other cognitive problems
  - Medical care needs
  - Transition from supported to independent living
  - Emerging risk of nursing home placement
  - Motivation to increase independence thru AT

#### Smart Homes can...

- Improve safety and security
- Assist with mobility, transfers, access
- Automate routine appliance functions
- Allow remote control of home features using a variety of access tools and supports
- Provide communication tools, including passive occupant monitoring
- Assist with task support, shopping, bill-paying, social interaction

# The Right Fit:

#### **Assess:**

Functional abilities and interests

Human support resources

Environmental supports in place

Safety concerns

Medication management

ADL/IADL (food, hygiene, money management)

Financial resources/insurance

Work collaboratively to problem-solve solutions

Important: What is best access tool for remote control?



























- Stovetop monitor
- Tub overflow monitor
- Automatic coffeepot
- Motion-activated lighting
- Window escape systems
- Med-alert medallion





# Apple Watch 4-6

First accurate and reliable falls detection and response device.





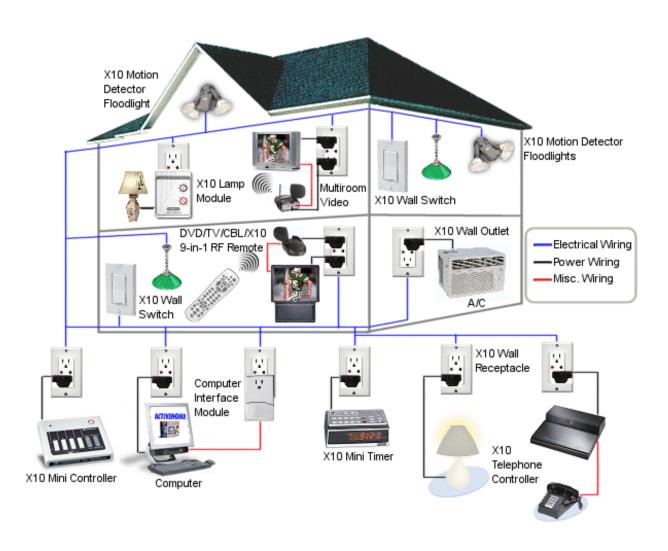
# **Transactions & Housekeeping**

- Automated Bill Paying
- Automated Grocery
   Order and Delivery
- Auto Plant Watering
- Robot Vacuum
   Cleaner
- Automated pet feeder



Rhoomba Vacuum Cleaner - \$375

# **Appliance Controls**



# What can be automated or controlled remotely?

- Lights and lamps
- Media equipment (tv, radio, camera, stereo, etc.)
- Appliances with on/off switches (fans, motorized doors & window shades)
- Door locks
- Thermostat
- Phone, Computer
- Occupant monitors

# The Origin of Smart Homes – x10 System Electronic Aids to Daily Living (EADL)



# Lights & Appliances

What do you want to control?

What is the best switch for your mobility?

What is the best transmitter of your command?

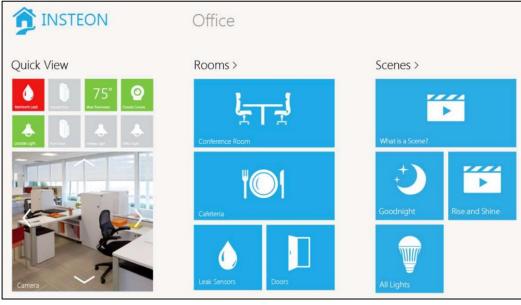
 What technology will operate the device based on your command?

### **Control Module**

- PC, tablet or phone
- App
- Remote module







### **Switches**

- Tap or proximity switch
- Head control
- Sip-n-puff
- Voice control
- Eye Gaze













#### **Voice Considerations**

(Apple Siri/Amazon Echo/Google Home/ Microsoft Cortana)

- Clear, concise commands
- Quiet environment
- Proximity to microphone
- Proper labeling of appliance modules
- Triggering of chained commands



# **Competing Technologies**



# **Monitoring Options:**

#### **Quiet-Care** by Care Innovations

Wireless motion sensors/changes in routine noted

#### Grandcare

set-top box on tv acts as communicator and control center for remote sensors

Vendor comes to your home to set these up and teach how to use them; monthly fee – Medicaid may support fee.

Phillips Hue Motion



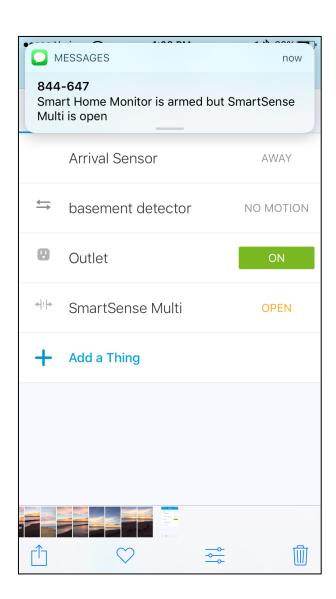
Sensor - \$35





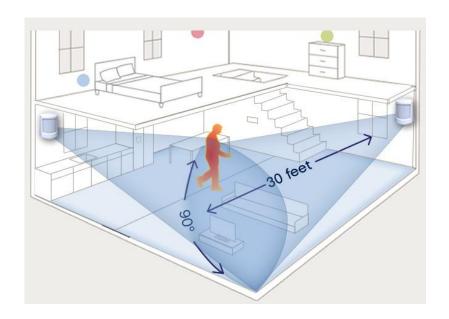
Homekit Door Sensor - \$29

SmartThings Arrival Sensor - \$16



# Sensors Go Where?

Motion Sensors	Arrival Sensors	Doorway Sensors
Living spaces	On key ring	Front & Back Doors
Garage door	On vehicle or bicycle	Bathroom door
	In backpack	Medicine Cabinet
		Refrigerator



Ceiling Fan with Lutron Wall Switch (\$200)



First Alert Smoke & MO Alarm (Homekit Enabled) (\$150)





Honeywell Lyric Thermostat (\$158)



ConnectSense Smart Outlet (2 lamps) \$59

(\$120)



Phillips Hue Motion Sensor (3) \$120

Apple TV (\$150)





iPhone or iPad with Home app

Total: \$898

# For under \$900, you can...

- Access home through garage
- Control 2 lights and/or appliances
- Auto-Manage thermostat
- Auto-Manage overhead fan
- Voice control television
- Broadcast smoke/MO alert to loved one
- Passively monitor activity in home
- Automate these actions based on triggers or scenes and while away from home via Apple TV

### Front Door considerations



Ring Video Doorbell - \$179



Open Sesame Door Opener \$2200





August Smart-Lock - \$229

#### **Smart Home Assessment**

- Mobility concerns
- Safety
- ADL/IADL Interests/Needs/Goals
- What human supports (nagging) can be simplified or automated to promote independent living?
- What tools might help?
- Recommend/install for loaner trial/adopt

# Case Study Example

- 25-year old with mild motor and cognitive impairment
- Lives with parents and twin brother who is severely autistic
- Works part-time at parents' metals shop as metal tech
- Drives locally
- Has fiancee (now married)
- I wanted to live on my own in my own home

#### Concerns

- Remembering to Do Things (Wake up!)
- Medication adherence hospitalization risk
- Home safety especially fire risk when cooking
- Overly long showers (water bill fears)
- Forgetting keys locked out of house

### **Demonstration Video**

# Medication Management

**MD2** (\$799) Epills.com



# **Cooking Safety**

- Cook Stop
- AmericanCompany
- \$359
- Works with Convection Ovens



# Morning Wake-up

### **Sonic Boom**

Bed Shaker Alarm (\$38)



#### The Shower!

**Shower Manager** (\$149)



# Take Home Thoughts

Explosion of smart home technologies

Individualized supports for people with any disability

Focus on: (1) Safety, (2) Accessibility, (3) Comfort and (4) Ease of Use

# Questions?