Smart Home
Smarter Shopping

By Matt Harmon, Jerry Michel, and Josh Heisler
Marshall District Library
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Getting Started

- Smartphone or Tablet **Required**
- Internet Connection **Required**
- What’s important to you?
  - Controlling your lights? Thermostat?
    - Listening to music?
- Are you already paying for Amazon Prime,
  YouTube Music, or Apple Music?
Selecting an Ecosystem
Pros

- Inexpensive to start (Echo Dot @ $50)
- Been around the longest
- Fairly easy to set up
- Most 3rd party support
- Audiobooks from Kindle and Audible are integrated
- Most devices to choose from

Cons

- Not as good at answering basic questions
- Mishears you more than Google devices
Google

Pros

- Inexpensive to start (Home Mini @ $50)
- Best at answering questions
- Easiest to set up
- Works with a lot of third party devices
- Integrates very well with Google accounts

Cons

- Less third party devices than Amazon
- Slightly more expensive than Amazon devices

Google Home
Google Mini
Google Max
Chromecast Audio
Chromecast
Apple

Pros

- Works great with all Apple products
- Easy to set up
- Best sound quality

Cons

- Expensive to get started (Homepod @ $350)
- Least 3rd party support
- Not as good at answering basic questions
- Only supports Apple music through commands

HomePod

Apple TV

iPhone
Movies/TV
Honorable Mentions

- Samsung Galaxy Home
- Harman/Kardon Invoke
- Facebook Portal
- Facebook Portal +
Smart Devices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Smart Thermostat</strong></th>
<th><strong>Best option for the Amazon ecosystem.</strong> Has Alexa built in. Also works with Apple.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>nest</strong></td>
<td>Great option for any ecosystem. Works with Google, Alexa, and Apple.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ecobee</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Smart Lock</strong></th>
<th><strong>Great option for any ecosystem. Works with Google, Alexa, and Apple.</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yale</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August</strong></td>
<td>Another great option for any ecosystem. Works with Google, Alexa, and Apple.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smart Display</td>
<td>Smart Doorbell</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Google Home Hub</strong></td>
<td><strong>arlo</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lenovo Smart Display</strong></td>
<td><strong>ring</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>amazon Echo Show</strong></td>
<td><strong>nest</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### Smart Camera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amazon</strong></td>
<td>Live feed on Amazon devices. Only works with Alexa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nest</strong></td>
<td>Most popular smart camera. Built-in <strong>Google</strong> Assistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arlo</strong></td>
<td>Wireless or wired functionality. Local or cloud backup storage. Works with <strong>Google</strong> and <strong>Alexa</strong>.</td>
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### Smart Bulb

<table>
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<th>Brand</th>
<th>Features</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Philips</strong></td>
<td>Most popular smart bulbs. Most options to choose from. Requires hub. Works with <strong>Google</strong>, <strong>Alexa</strong>, and <strong>Apple</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TP-Link</strong></td>
<td>A trusted brand. Lower prices. Does not require hub. Works with <strong>Google</strong>, <strong>Alexa</strong>, and <strong>Apple</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Smart Vacuum**

- **iRobot Roomba**
  - The most well known smart vacuum.
  - Works with Alexa and Google.

- **Samsung POWERbot**
  - Samsung’s answer to the Smart Vacuum scene.
  - Works with Alexa and Google.

**Smart Plug**

- **Amazon**
  - Simple design and easy to install.
  - Works only with Alexa.

- **TP-Link**
  - A trusted brand.
  - Easy to set up.
  - Works with Google and Alexa.

- **iHome**
  - One of the only smart plug options that work with Apple.
Smarter Shopping
### The Best Time to Buy Anything Year Round

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Quarter</th>
<th>Second Quarter</th>
<th>Third Quarter</th>
<th>Fourth Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
<td><strong>April</strong></td>
<td><strong>July</strong></td>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
<td><strong>August</strong></td>
<td><strong>November</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
<td><strong>June</strong></td>
<td><strong>September</strong></td>
<td><strong>October</strong></td>
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</table>

**First Quarter:**
- January: Clothing, Broadway Tickets, Carpeting, Furniture, Gift Cards, Linens, Motorcycles, Suits, Video Games
- February: Broadway Tickets, Cellphones, Televisions & Home Theaters
- March: Chocolate, Frozen Foods, Golf Clubs, Luggage

**Second Quarter:**
- April: Cruises, Sneakers
- May: Refrigerators, Mattresses, Office Furniture
- June: Dishware, Gym Memberships & Equipment, Tools

**Third Quarter:**
- July: Furniture, Home Decor, Tools, Video Games
- August: Linens & Storage, Office Furniture, Kids' Clothing, Office Supplies, Swimsuits
- September: Appliances, Bicycles, Broadway Tickets, Cars, Lawnmowers, Holiday Airfare, Office Supplies, Wine

**Fourth Quarter:**
- October: Appliances, Broadway Tickets, Jeans, Patio Furniture
- November: Appliances, Candy, Televisions & Electronics, Tools
- December: Champagne, Golf Clubs, Pools, Televisions & Electronics, Tools
Top Sites to Find Sales / Coupons

- Top Websites for Deals
  - https://slickdeals.net
  - https://www.bradsdeals.com
  - https://www.retailmenot.com/
  - https://www.amazon.com/

- Black Friday/Cyber Monday Deals
  - https://bestblackfriday.com/
  - https://blackfriday.com/
Top Apps / Browser Extensions For Saving Money
Honey
(Browser Extension)

- Requires creating an account (Free)
- Add items to your “Drop List” and get notified when they go on sale via email
- Automatically checks promo codes on the website you are on when checking out to get the best price
- Not supported on mobile browsers or app stores yet (App in development)
Wikibuy
(Browser Extension, Website)

- Requires creating an account (Free)
- Add items to your “Watchlist” and get notified when they go on sale via email
- Automatically checks promo codes & sale prices across the web to find the best price

Also available as an app for iOS and Android
Requires creating an account (Free)

Lets you get Cash Back for shopping online at over 2,500 stores

Stores pay Ebates commission for sending you their way. Ebates shares that commission with you. Get paid every three months. Paid over $1B to members since 1998

Receive a check or PayPal payment with no fees or forms

Also available as an app for iOS and Android
Questions?