



The Connected Home, Clearly

A practical first guide to smart devices, safer habits, and better everyday choices

Understand what connects, protect what matters, and make your home work smarter for you.

SHAD EDDIE MONGRUE

Free preview edition · pages 1–2
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01

See Your Connected Home

Your home may be more connected than it looks. This guide helps you spot devices, find their controls, and make smart choices without getting buried in technical terms.

- ◆ Smart homes may include connected thermostats, light bulbs, security systems, and energy-saving appliances¹.
- ◆ A connected device can be easy to miss, especially when it is a light bulb or security system¹.
- ◆ Critical security updates may be necessary for connected devices, so it helps to know where to check¹.
- ◆ An unsecured device could expose its information and other things connected to it to a hacker².

The Internet of Things, or IoT, includes devices that connect as part of a home's technology. That connection can make everyday tasks easier, and it gives you new settings to manage. Start by noticing what connects, finding its controls, and making device checks part of your home routine. You do not need technical expertise to take a clear first step. Next, you'll put that approach to work with one device.

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

You'll start with a quick device check, get familiar with connected-home basics, and follow a simple starter plan. Then you'll explore useful skills and see what this shelf has planned next.

02

Check One Device

Choose one connected device you use often and spend a little time exploring its settings. Use the device's app or the maker's instructions to guide you.

- ◆ Pick a device you can identify, such as a thermostat, bulb, appliance, or security system.
- ◆ Find its app, account page, or manufacturer instructions, and keep your password private.
- ◆ Look in the app or device settings for a software or firmware update option.
- ◆ If an update is offered, follow the manufacturer's instructions and let it finish.
- ◆ Review account access, and remove an unfamiliar connection only after you identify it.

Some smart devices, including light bulbs and security systems, can be difficult for new owners to recognize¹. If you are unsure whether an item connects, check its label, app, or instructions. Note the device name and where you found its settings. If the instructions are unclear, use the manufacturer's guidance instead of guessing. Next, you'll learn the basic ideas that make these checks useful.

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You've read the free pages. Here's what the rest of this book covers:

- 3 Know the Basics
- 4 Build a Weeklong Routine
- 5 Build Skills, Avoid Mistakes
- 6 Choose Your Next Step

BY THE END OF THIS SHELF, YOU WILL

- ◆ Recognize common connected-home devices
- ◆ Find device settings and update guidance
- ◆ Build a repeatable device-check routine
- ◆ Choose connected features with more care
- ◆ Practice safer, more confident device use

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Sources for the free pages

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- 1 **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**, Buying or selling a “smart” home? Read this. (January 3, 2018). <https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2018/01/buying-or-selling-smart-home-read>
- 2 **Federal Trade Commission**, Keeping the Internet of Things Secure. https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/913a_careful_connections.pdf