

The Smart Home

Dick Parent – Senior Design Engineer
Electro Networks



THE SMART HOME cannot spell "CAT" or "DOG." However, it can show you what your furry friends are doing even when you are away from home.

The Smart Home is a residential building that is "Connected for Living." It is a home specially wired to support all of the technological advances that are commonplace in today's world: internet access, security systems, intercom and audio systems, home theater and entertainment systems, lighting controls, utilities and environmental controls. All of these systems can be controlled from any room in the home and even from a remote location.

A Smart Home is a functional home. A home isn't just a place to hang your hat. It 's a place to work, learn, play, and attend to life's necessities like banking and paying bills. Here are some of the functions Smart Homes support:

- Home offices
- Distance learning
- Child monitoring
- Electronic banking
- Intelligent lighting systems
- Security alerts
- Remote metering
- Heating/cooling control
- Electronic shopping
- Home schooling
- Other high-tech applications

New advances are being introduced daily that make this specially wired home even more of an advantage. Smart ranges and refrigerators can send information to the manufacturer identifying maintenance and operational issues before they become major problems. All of these applications can coexist because of the Smart Home's Structured Cabling System.

THE STRUCTURED CABLING SYSTEM is a way of providing the newest technological services throughout the home using high performance cables. For decades, basic home wiring consisted of a single telephone connection and an electrical connection for lights and appliances. The stand-alone TV was the home entertainment center. Installing wiring to support this simple type of technology required little skill. The information highway was like a country road, narrow and easily traveled, with very little traffic and usage. Obversely, the Structured Cabling System of today's Smart Home is like an eight-lane super highway. The ability to handle larger amounts of traffic at much higher speeds is one of the major benefits achieved with a Structured Cabling System.

With proper outlet and configuration you can take full advantage of this new wiring system. The Internet can be accessed from any room in your home. Resources like modems, printers, scanners and even programs can be shared by networking PCs together using the cabling system. Each outlet in the home can provide multiuse services, telephone, networked (Internet) access, CATV, audio systems and more.

A secondary benefit of an installed cabling system is the additional resale value of your home. Homeowners need to insure that the contractor installs a wiring system that will meet their requirements as well as those of potential buyers. With new construction or renovations, a contractor should request the services of an established Cabling Contractor, licensed in Rhode Island, to install a standards-based Structured Cabling System. This professionally engineered and installed system will future-proof your home by supporting tomorrow's technological advances.

A Smart Home combines all its systems seamlessly. Program lighting, monitor stocks, and check on the sleeping baby, all through the PC in the den/office. Accomplish a lot in your fast-paced life, all from our favorite place, Home Smart Home!

Renovating or building a new "HOME"? This may be the perfect time to get "SMART!"

Electro Networks offers Network Engineering Services. For more information, call us at 401-943-1164 or log onto our website at <http://www.electro-networks.com>.