

# Heritage Home Automation Club

Share Ideas - Help Each Other - Learn and Grow

Howard - October 20, 2022

# Interacting With Alexa - Wake Words

You can change her name!

Alexa      Amazon      Computer

Echo                      Ziggy

Alexa App > Devices > Echo & Alexa > Your Device > Settings > Wake Word

# Interacting With Alexa - Voices

American, British and more



# Interacting With Alexa - Whisper Mode

Great if you don't want to wake your partner



# Intercom - Drop In

Person to person or room to room

*Alexa. Drop in to the kitchen*

*Alexa. Drop in on Bob*



Audio only

*Alexa. Hang up*



Audio & video

# Intercom - Announcements

**Alexa. Make an announcement**



**Plays on all Alexas on your network**

**Call the family for dinner and it rings the dinner bell!**

# Whole Home Audio - Music Sources

Connect your music library to Alexa



vevo

# Alexa Skills - Adding Functionality

## Smart home integration



- *“Alexa, is the front door locked?”*
- *“Alexa, lock the front door!”*

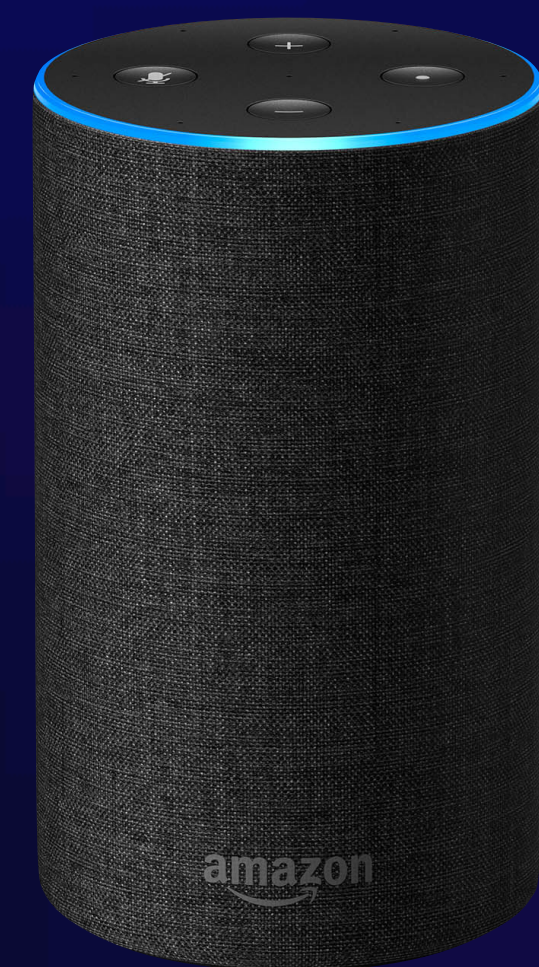


- *“Alexa, arm/disarm the alarm”*
- *“Alexa, show me the front door”*



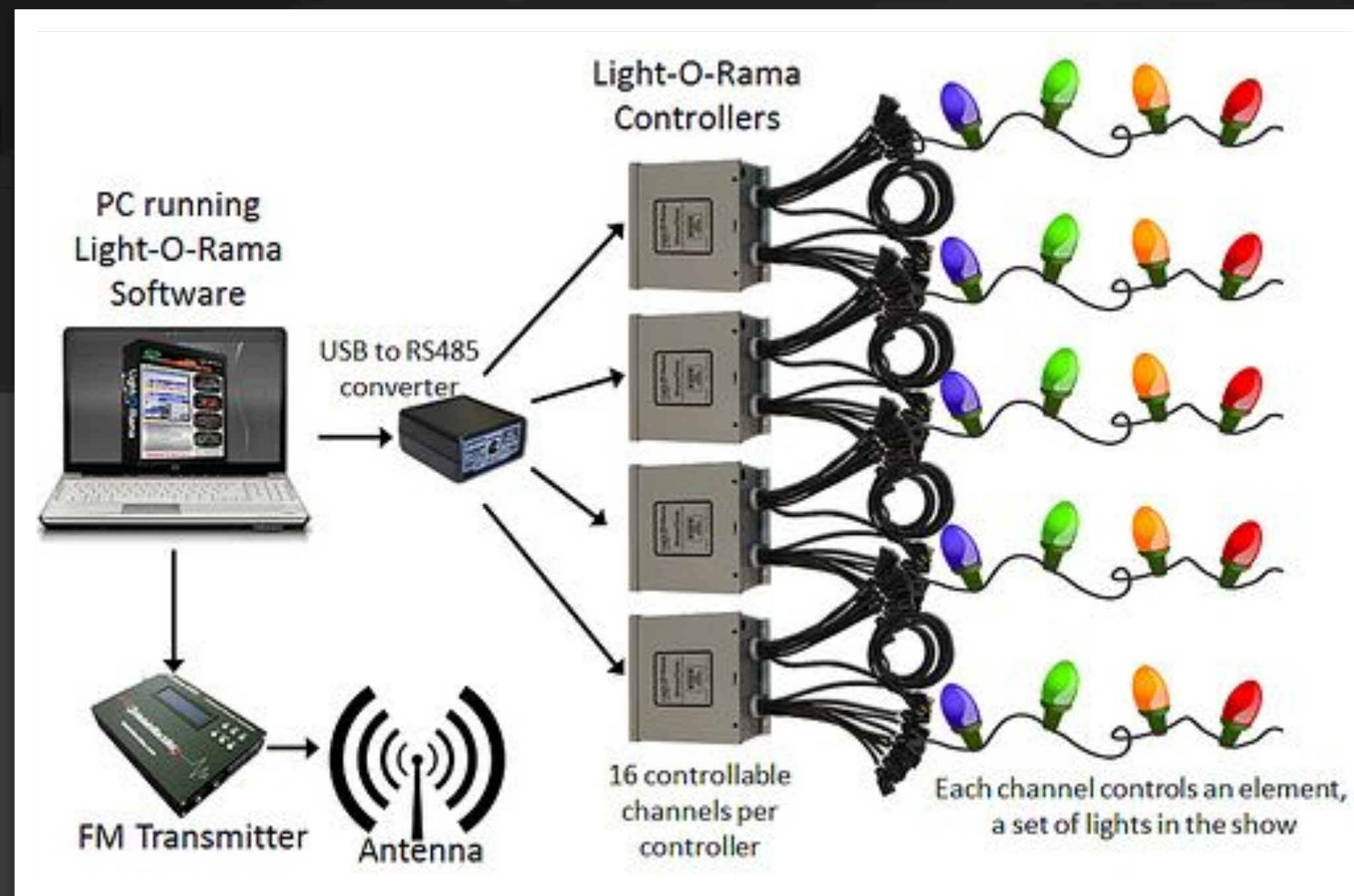
- *“Alexa, turn the lights on”*
- *“Alexa, dim the lights to 50%”*
- *“Alexa, set the lights to orange”*
- *“Alexa, turn off all the lights”*

# Holiday Decoration Automation



# Two Ways to Automate

## The DIY Way

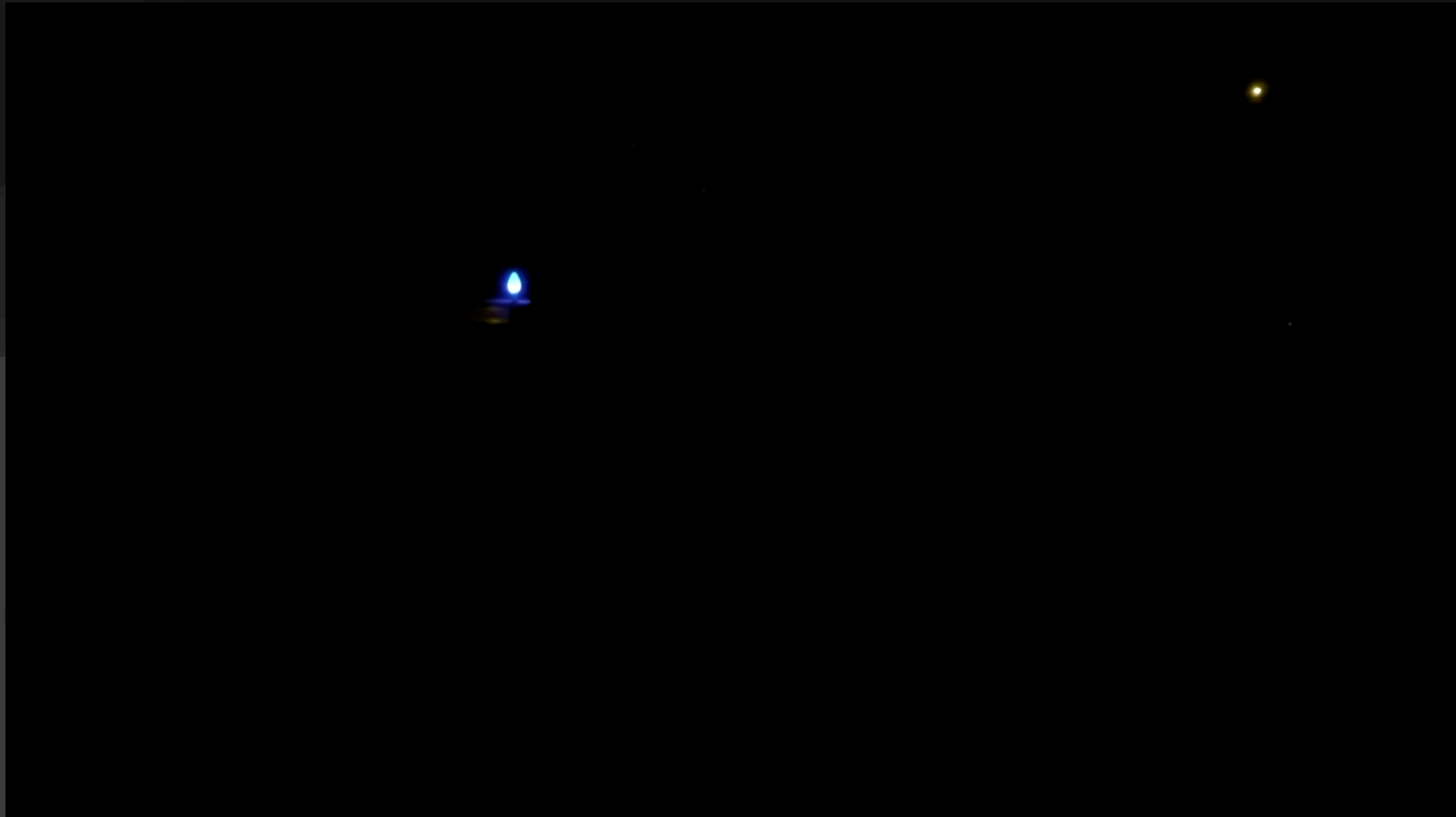


## The Easy Way



# The DIY Way - Results

You can do A LOT!



# The Easy Way

Almost as good



# The Easy Way

## My House!



# The Easy Way

## Indoor decorations too



# Hardware

What do you need?

## Smart Decorations



## Regular Decorations



# Software

Controlling it automatically

## Alexa Skills



## Scenes & Routines

### Scenes

- Use your voice

### Routines

- Automate
  - Time of day
  - Event

# Club Mailing Website

heritage.howardprice.name

# Club Mailing List

- For any communication between club members, open to all
- Subscribe by sending an email to -
  - [homeautomation-subscribe@howardprice.name](mailto:homeautomation-subscribe@howardprice.name)
  - Title “[Subscribe](#)”
- To send to all, use the address -
  - [homeautomation@howardprice.name](mailto:homeautomation@howardprice.name)

Questions?

# Possible Topics

- Convenience
  - Door unlocking
  - Turning on/off lights
  - Battery monitoring
  - Presence detection
- Security
  - Automatically locking doors
  - Notification of open windows/gates
  - Motion outside
  - Arming alarms when away
  - Displaying who's at the door
  - Automating lights on motion outside
  - Remote alerting
- Comfort
  - Controlling temperature
  - Lowering shades
  - Using scenes
- Energy Saving
  - Turning off devices not in use
  - Monitoring power consumption
  - Warning when moving to higher tariff
  - Optimizing solar usage
- Remote Access
  - eKeys
  - Remote monitoring of cameras
- Control
  - Dashboards
  - Remote Control
- Whole home audio/video
- Controlling holiday lights
- Integrating multiple controllers
- Understanding automation platforms (HomeKit, Alexa, Google Assistant, SmartThings, Home Assistant, etc)
- Home automation protocols (Zwave, Zigbee, WiFi, Matter, Insteon, X10, etc)
- Water saving/monitoring