

Lean Back, Open the App, and Manage Your Systems

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“Your smartphone is your universal remote,” Zeidan said. “You don’t have to have individual remotes for anything anymore.”

Zeidan’s real-time cameras could catch a thief in the act. He’s poised and ready: His business has been burgled twice. He now has cameras and motion detectors throughout his Concord office, and is shopping for a system for his Lafayette home. Depending on the cameras’ resolution, a system will run from around \$250 to \$1,200. Zeidan likes high resolution.

“If someone is breaking in, I want to be able to see a face,” he said. “I want a license plate.” He has so many cameras that if you’re talking to him in the office and waving your arms you can see yourself on his phone.

Zeidan occasionally runs late getting home, and

if there’s a favorite TV show coming on, all he has to do is pick up his phone and have his home network record it. One of his favorite jobs was in a large home that threw big parties, so he hooked up the network so that music could be synchronized by phone for the dance floor, with different music piped to the area where people were quietly chatting over hors d’oeuvres, and other areas. “You don’t want loud dance music in all those areas,” he said. But you don’t have to run from one area to another to keep it all going, either, he said.

Sarah Kellar, a realtor with the Dana Green Team, has been surprised by how many homes now have Nest systems installed to control indoor temperatures. The systems also send alerts to a phone when a smoke or carbon monoxide detector goes off.

“Probably half of all homes have them now,” she said. “We’re headed into a new world again.”

And even more people have them in their second homes, she said. Going up to Tahoe? Turn on the heat from the highway. “You program your phone to turn on the heat and you don’t have to wait for three hours for the house to warm up. You can just turn on the furnace en route. Lots of people are using these systems that way.” In reverse, you can turn your lights on and off back home to make it look like you’re home, while monitoring your security cameras.

No app is available yet for shoveling the snow for arrival or cleaning the kitchen before you return. But they’re probably not far off.



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