



THE LIBERTY FROM DOTTLING:
UNCOMPROMISING SECURITY AND
LUXURIOUS FINISHES MADE IN GERMANY



smart homes

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THE SOMFY ONE ALL-IN-ONE ALARM SYSTEM CAN LINK CAMERAS AROUND THE HOME TO A MOBILE PHONE



BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO



Safe as a house

Artificial intelligence and enhanced cybersecurity are shaping the future of our homes

Gone are the days of clunky padlocks and brass fire-alarm bells. Today, advances in IoT – the internet of things – have paved the way for smarter, more sophisticated home security and safety measures that provide peace of mind whether you're inside your home or away from it.

Benjamin Bertrand, connected solutions director of smart home automation brand Somfy, says he sees two major trends in smart home security: the increasing application of AI – Artificial Intelligence – to enable earlier and better detection of threats, and the integration of security and access control.

"In Europe, Somfy has released an outdoor security camera that's embedded with AI to detect suspicious

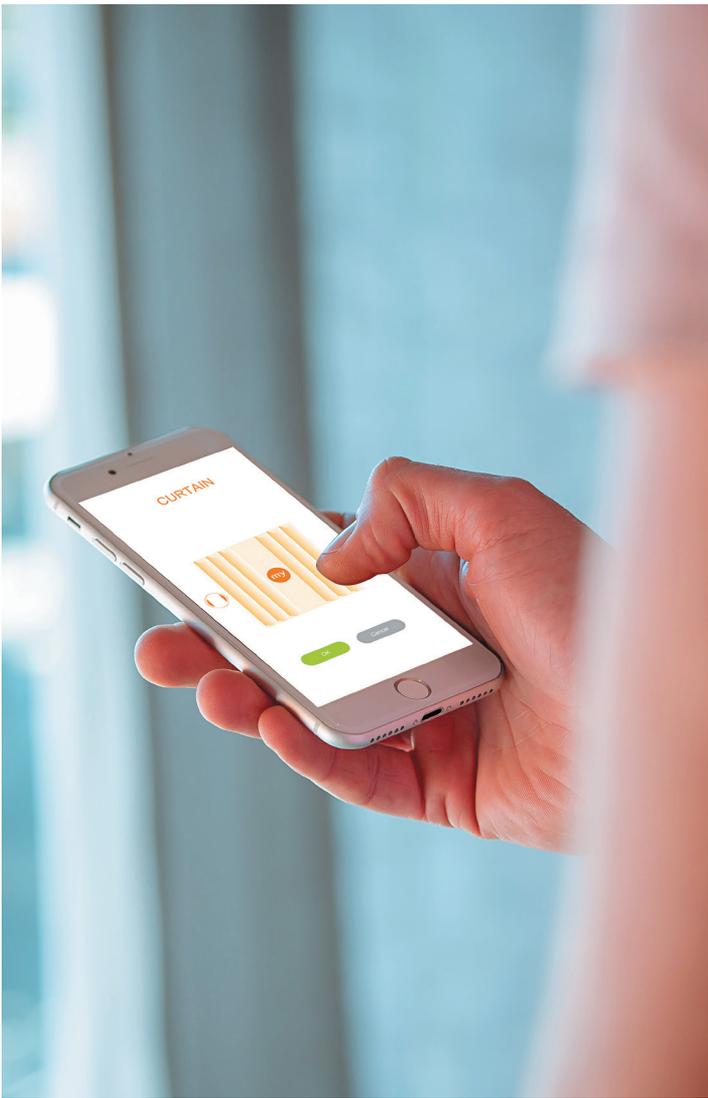
behaviour around your home, so the camera can react before a potential break-in. That is one of the ultimate frontiers in security, to not just provide an early response after an attack, but to prevent attacks from even happening," says Bertrand.

Integration, which involves bundling security-related products like alarms or cameras with access products such as smart door locks or gate openers, gives homeowners a two-way value proposition. "On the one hand, you prevent burglars from breaking in, and on the other hand, you can grant specific, controlled, secured, limited access to your home to whoever you want – a friend, a temporary guest, or a delivery person, for example – even when you are away," he says.

THE AWAIR 2ND EDITION AND ITS MOBILE APP MONITOR AIR QUALITY



THE FIBARO FLOOD SENSOR CAN DETECTS WATER LEAKAGE IMMEDIATELY



SOMFY CONNEXOON MOTORISED WINDOW CONTROLLER CAN BE ACTIVATED VIA AN APP



RING'S STICK UP CAM PROVIDES HIGH-RESOLUTION SURVEILLANCE

Synchronisation through smart hubs that can be accessed and controlled through smart phone and tablet apps will also continue to grow. Brands such as Ring, Samsung SmartThings, and Nest all offer IoT-connected, home security systems that allow you to mix and match products such as floodlights, video cameras, doorbells or smoke detectors to create crime prevention and home monitoring kits that best suit your needs.

Higher resolution captures of up to 4K is the biggest innovation in the realm of security cameras, with products such as Reolink's Go and Argus 2 now offering clearer, sharper videos at affordable prices. "Trends in home security cameras will also revolve around smart home integration and AI. With Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa integration, security cameras now allow users to see live streaming using voice commands," says Amanda Lee, of Reolink.

But safety in the home goes beyond crime prevention, and smart devices that track air quality, temperature, and fire, gas and flooding hazards are also becoming more popular.

Available in Hong Kong, Somfy's TaHoma Bee smart home system not only controls smart curtains and blinds and smart lighting, it also operates motion sensors, window and door opening sensors, and temperature, humidity, and water leakage sensors. "This system is mainly based upon the Zigbee Protocol, which is widespread and offers tons of devices. That means upon request, adding a new sensor, such as one for gas monitoring, for example, is very easy to do," says Bertrand.

For precise indoor air-quality monitoring, the innovative Awair 2nd Edition is an intelligent product that keeps track of the levels of five key indoor air pollutants – fine dust, volatile organic compounds, carbon dioxide, humidity, and temperature – that can significantly impact a person's health. The Awair 2nd Edition can also be programmed to optimise air quality for baby health, productivity, and allergies.

To prevent water leakage and potential flooding in your home, there is the compact but powerful Fibaro Flood Sensor. "After detecting a leak, a system equipped with electrovalves will close off the water supply to minimise



REOLINK GO SECURITY CAMERA CAPTURES FULL HD SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE

damage caused by the failure. Wherever you are, this foolproof device will keep your home safe. The small size of the sensor allows exact placement practically anywhere,” says Fibaro Asia-Pacific sales director Rafał Sieminski.

Because smart home security is dependent on your internet network, cyber security is a key concern in the growth of smart home tech. Jason Ho, vice president of electrical and network assurance at Intertek Hong Kong, a company that tests the performance and security of smart homes, says, “Unlike traditional home security systems that do not rely on the internet, smart home security systems and products will be connected to the internet to notify users of any abnormalities within or around the installed premises via the internet. Therefore it is important that cybersecurity evaluation has been done to ensure that your network will not be vulnerable to hackers or intruders.”



ELITE 6

SOMFY'S ZIGBEE SYSTEM ALLOWS HOMEOWNERS TO CONNECT SHADES AND CURTAINS TO A SMARTPHONE APP

TIPS

ON

SECURITY SYSTEMS

Benjamin Bertrand, connected solutions director of smart home automation brand Somfy, tells us what to consider when choosing a smart home security system.

Choose a reputable brand

Consider paying a little more to ensure you get a robust and durable system from a reputable brand with years of experience in the industry. A good way to gauge a security system's robustness is to check what technical protocol it is based on. The protocol is the specific communication technology that smart devices use to communicate between them and with the internet. By picking a system based on a reputable and trustworthy protocol, you can minimise risks of system failures.

Consider cybersecurity

Find out about the system's ability to resist hacker attacks, which are increasingly common in the smart home industry. Today, there is a lack of global standards when it comes to IoT devices' cybersecurity, so customers should ensure that the products they purchase have been security-tested by the manufacturer.

Data privacy

Think about your privacy as a consumer. You definitely don't want data such as camera footage or door-opening sensor history to be stored anywhere, without any restriction to access. A worthy solution should always integrate explanations of how data is stored, and offer the consumer the option of deleting sensitive data if required.



GOOGLE NEST CAM IQ OUTDOOR SECURITY CAMERA