

## **Smart Home Basics**

### **What is a “smart home”?**

A home equipped with lighting, heating, and electronic devices that can be controlled remotely by phone or computer. These types of devices are typically referred to as “smart devices”

### **Common types of smart devices:**

Lightbulbs—Phillips Hue, Lix, Eufy

Outlets—TP Link, Belkin Wemo

Thermostats—Nest, Ecobee, Honeywell

Locks—Nest, Kwiset, August SmartLock

Home Surveillance Cameras—Amazon CloudCam, Nest Secure, Arlo Pro, Ring

### **What is required to use smart devices?**

All smart devices require a wireless internet connection in your home (WiFi). Many devices also require a smart phone app to control the device, and some devices require a separate hub that connects the device with your WiFi connection.

### **How do I control these devices?**

Most smart devices are controlled via smartphone apps from the manufacturer. Many devices can also be controlled by “smart speakers” that respond to voice commands. A smart speaker is not required to use smart devices. Smart speakers can also be used to answer questions, give recipes, play music, and many other functions besides just controlled smart devices.

The 2 main smart speakers are the Amazon Echo and Google Home

Amazon Echo (Alexa) (\$50-\$230)

Google Home (Google Assistant) (\$50-\$400)

### **Resources:**

<https://www.parkridgelibrary.org/smarthome/>