



## Smart Home Devices You Can Set Up Without Calling in the Pros (Excerpt)

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Home automation has been around as long as world's fairs, but the latest developments — making homes more energy efficient, controlling security on the Internet and running everything off a smart phone — have resulted in more powerful systems that are easier to install and cost less.

extend your security zone to eight sensors for around \$300). If a sensor-equipped door or window opens when the system is armed, an alarm will go off. Pay \$30 a month for InGrid's 24/7 monitoring service, and emergency personnel will be called as soon as something fishy is detected.



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### Green Automation

Automatic lawn sprinklers are convenient, but they can also be wasteful and uneconomical if they run when a storm passes through. [ETwater's SmartBox](#) (starting at \$1,550) is a lawn-sprinkler control box that uses real-time weather reports to automatically adjust itself. Every day, a new irrigation schedule is tailored to the weather at your location. A computer application lets you create zones and set up different watering schedules based on plant and soil type, slopes, sun and shade factors, and even sprinkler type.

### iAutomation

Turn your iPhone or iPod Touch into the ultimate universal remote. The FLPR (\$80) from New Potato Technologies is an attachment that plugs into either handheld, allowing it to sync up with and control any electronic device that uses an infrared remote control. An onboard database of 14,000 products lets you select items you own that you want to control with the device.

### Home Security

Setting up a security system at home does not need to cost thousands of dollars or require professional installation. The InGrid is a plug-and-play system that lets you secure three areas in your home — a door and two windows, for example — for around \$200 (you can