

Academic writing

Assignment 2

1)Introduction

In this assignment  will be talking about Wi-Fi controlled heating and lighting systems or a smart thermostat in the home. More specifically the advantages, disadvantages, and the positive and negative effects. The systems can be controlled via your phone using the wi-fi in your home or they can run automatically.

Smart thermostat/ wi-fi controlled heating

2)Advantages of a smart thermostat

2.1. removes human error

The smart thermostat removes human error as they can learn your schedule and likes/dislikes, making it more energy efficient as the thermostat handles the dropping and raising of the home's temperatures depending whether you are home or not.

2.2. Adjust the temperature from anywhere

If you are leaving work early, going back home from your holidays or still in bed and feeling cold just wishing your room was warmer and you have a mobile device in your vicinity then you control your thermostat!

2.3. Get emailed alerts

Certain smart thermostats support email alerts in the event of your home temperature being outside of your specifications. Also, if your thermostat is disconnected from its network, perhaps due to a power outage, you can be notified of that too.

(Grant, n.d.)

3) Advantages and Disadvantages of a Wi-Fi Thermostat

3.1. Advantages

Energy savings

According to Energy Star, using a smart thermostat can help you save about £130/year. the smart thermostat will give you your energy use by displaying how much you are using a day.

3.2. Disadvantages

A disadvantage is these devices have a higher initial price than a non-smart thermostat. These smart thermostats are designed to be installed quite easily, hiring a professional to install it should be added to the cost which can be around £200 to £400 this a high cost for those in financial difficulties you might not even save much money by changing to a smart thermostat if you turn it off every time you leave home.

(Alvin, n.d.)

Wi-fi controlled lighting

4.THE ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES OF A HOME LIGHTING CONTROL SYSTEM

4.1. Advantages

houses can waste large amounts of energy simply by having lights on when they are not needed. Integrated lighting systems allows you to find what lights can be turned on or off depending where you are in your home. You can even schedule your lights to come on at certain times automatically so if you go to work and forget to turn a light off no need to worry. You can also save energy by using digital dimmer lights e.g dimming lights by 10% can save lots of energy especially in large properties. You can even increase light bulb life by using Lighting control systems as you can put your lamps to low or full lamp brightness

4.2. Disadvantages

Wireless systems can be unreliable as the systems require 100% for example if they have a little interference this could mean the systems requires maintenance. The level of which depend on the issues the system is having

Badly setup systems can be difficult to use if not designed properly an installed system can be difficult to use even if this is just because it differs from the normal switches people expect, even the fully customisable systems may not fit the clients requirements. They can also require ongoing maintenance even though a well installed system should not require this.

(Custom Controls, n.d.)

5)The pros and cons of smart light bulbs

5.1. pros

The wi-fi controls systems and bulbs can be quite cheap with very little issues. The bulbs can be controlled via an app on your phone or

tablet, so you can turn the bulb on or off it can even let you set a timer for this to be done automatically. In some models you can change the colour of the light being produced from the normal colour to pink or purple hues.

5.2 cons

There is more than one type of bulb some are connected via wifi  hub which helps link a device like the amazon echo to your lights so they become voice controlled, which in theory never has issues. The main issue is the bulbs themselves as they can have a tendency to blink instead of holding a steady stream of light which means that they have to be reset via the wall switch and sometimes the device they are connected to this can be a very annoying process as it can be time consuming.

(Buckingham, n.d.)

6)Smart Lighting Disadvantages

6.1. Difficult to Control

With most smart lights you will need a type of hub, meaning the lights you have should be the same type so you can control them with the same hub.

6.2. They Often Break

Smart lights can have problems with reliability as when you make a technology like a light bulb then increase its complexity you are creating opportunities for failure. As technology ages, it will more than likely get more consistent. Currently you may have to return your light bulbs or get them replaced until such time this is no longer necessary.

6.3. Human micro-managing

People believe that through smart lighting you could save time instead it may be taking up more of your time. With a smart system you can find yourself fixating over the colour and tone of the lights instead of focusing on more important matters. You will also be spending large amounts of time updating the lighting system.

6.4. Hard to take with you

When you move you may have to remove and replace all your smart bulbs with regular bulbs in your old home, recalibrate your next home to use the bulbs and redo features that you had previously with the bulbs. That means all the work you had done in your old home needs be redone in your new home if you move to a house that is not already fitted with smart lights.

(Protect America, n.d.)

7) Conclusion

From all the evidence and research, I have done I find that wi-fi controlled heating and lighting is overall a good thing for people to have in their lives even though there are some issues which can be fixed with time meaning that though these systems are not perfect they can help you live a less slightly easier life.

All references

Section 2-2.3 (Grant, n.d.) Accessed 14/03/18

Section 3-3.2 (Alvin, n.d.) Accessed 14/03/18

Section 4-4.2 (Custom Controls, n.d.) Accessed 14/03/18

Section 5-5.2 (Buckingham, n.d.) Accessed 14/03/18

Section 6-6.4 (Protect America, n.d.) Accessed 14/03/18

Section 7 (My opinion)