by Patrick McAuley

TECHNOLOGY IS A complicated business and understanding it isn’t that simple. More and more Australians are choosing to install smart technology in their homes. Saving them endless amounts of time and energy. All with the press of a button.

James Billington is the Director of Smart Home Solutions. A smart homes company that specialises in designing and installing electronic systems for the home. Including home automation, home entertainment systems, lighting control and security systems. James ran the Sydney Observer through the advantages of a smart home.

■ The concept

Basically a smart home, is a home with special wiring that allows residents to remotely control electronic devices in the home, all with the just one press of a button. A smart home is built up from the cabling and the cabling all connects to one central location, making it easy to mix systems and introduce new technologies into the home. This is different to the average cabling in the home. It makes using technology easier and less complicated. By way of example James says if you are downstairs in your home and wanted to go upstairs to your bedroom, you can press just one button, and a path will light your way upstairs.

■ The cost

Prices obviously vary dramatically between installations. James says that on average people will spend $50000, but some of the more expensive installations he has done, have included one in Point Piper that was worth $600000 and a $250000 home theatre installation in a home in Tennyson Point. But while your jaw may have temporarily dropped because of those prices, James says smart home installations can add real value to your property. Also the houses that he has worked on in the past have sold very quickly because of the technology. So this could be the extra edge you might want later in life when the time comes to sell your home.

■ Is it for you?

If you’re the type of person, who is constantly scrambling with ten different remotes, then this is probably for you. James says the three main reasons to smarten up your home: it will make your life more fun, it is an efficient use of your energy and can add value to your home.

Unfortunately it is difficult to make your home a smart one once it is already built, so unless you are undergoing a renovation soon, this smart technology throughout the home probably won’t be for you.

Lastly, before you commit to a smart project, you should do some research on the company or contractor who is doing the work. There are many contractors and companies that say they specialise in smart technology for the home, but are not so reliable. James warns that it’s important to check that any company you approach are Custom Electronic Design & Installation (CEDIA) approved.

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