**Smart homes**

How many times did we all wonder 'Did I turn the cooker off' or 'Did I leave the iron on' when leaving the house? With a smart home, all of these worries could be silenced with one glance at a smartphone or tablet. What is a smart home and could it become our future?

Home automation started with the invention of the Thermostat and has developed into one of the biggest and fastest-growing markets in technology. You can use it for home security, controlling appliances, monitoring energy use, as a personal assistant, for looking after the kids, the elderly or disabled, and more.

Smart home technology utilizes an array of sensors, connected devices, the Internet of things (IoT), machine learning, and artificial intelligence technologies for home automation. These smart-home-connected devices can be controlled and monitored from anywhere using a mobile or other networked device.

Installing a smart home technology system provides its owners with convenience because every home appliance can be controlled with just a smartphone or tablet. Since they're portable devices, users can always get notifications about what's happening at their home and if there are some issues.

Unfortunately, security risks and bugs continue to plague makers and users of smart homes. Also, this technology is really expensive and very complex to learn.

To sum up, smart home automation is becoming more affordable because of the penetration of the latest technology. These homes provide home security, save energy and improve users' comfort. So, the question is are we ready for the future in which our home knows us better than we know ourselves?