THE SMARTHOME PROJECT

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TEAM 9

WHY SMARTHOME?

Creating a smart home means using a lot of device specific apps...
Philips Hue app, Belkin WeMo app, etc. etc.

or...

Pay Time Warner to setup your home with their equipment.
Monthly service charge? No Thanks.

The SmartHome Project allows users to use a single mobile application to control all of their smart devices from anywhere.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Our project is motivated by the rapidly growing need for home automation in a new, emerging smart device market.

As consumers become intrigued by the concept of a *smart home*, the need for a *generic* mobile application to control different and multiple smart devices is becoming apparent.

Most manufactures create their own standalone applications to control their devices rather than conforming to a standard—and currently there isn't one. Consumers are forced to choose between using a single manufacturer's product line from which to purchase their smart devices, or use an unnecessary number of applications to manage devices from different manufactures.

The SmartHome project aims to ease the pain of operating a smart home by providing a single, central application to control and manage various "smart" home devices.

SmartHome interfaces with and controls various environmental agents such as thermostats, light sensors, sound sensors, power switches, and more—and it does this based on the users currently logged in to a home's local network and the users' preferences via communication with our "SmartHome API."

SMART API, SMART DESIGN

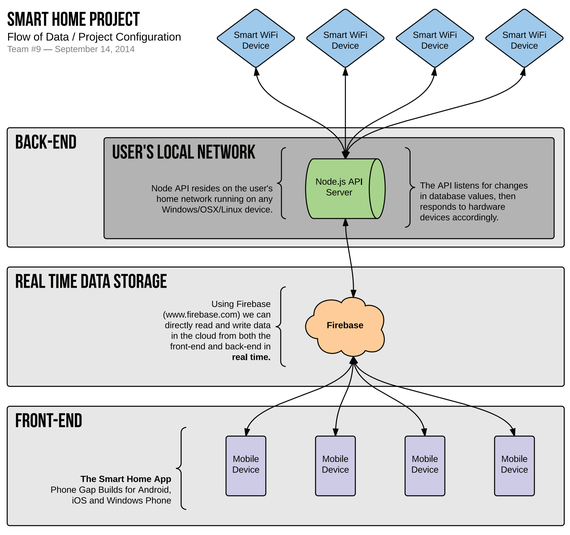
INTUITIVE & COMPATIBLE

The SmartHome API receives requests from users in the SmartHome App, interprets and forwards them to the particular smart device to modify, and then responds to the user with the device's response.

It's that simple. By acting as the "middle man," SmartHome allows manufacturers to focus on what they do best: hardware. Their typically crude and 'thrown' together apps can now replaced by SmartHome!

Adding or updating devices for SmartHome compatibility is as easy as writing a single device driver—about 500 lines of code on average.

Our API generalizes each smart device's *manufacturer specific* API into a generic one; this means that any Wi-Fi smart device with an open API can be controlled via our app by writing a simple manufacturer and model specific "device controller"—JavaScript Objects that implement code for specific methods that define the operations a device can perform.

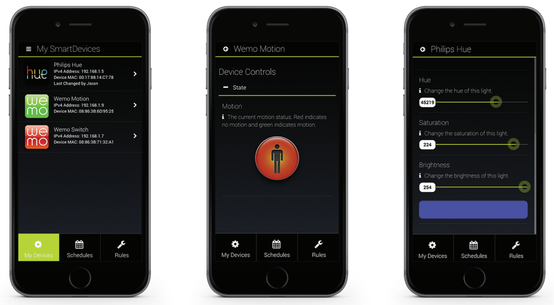


THE FRONT-END

The SmartHome App utilizes the power of jQuery Mobile and PhoneGap together, intuitively.

Why PhoneGap and not a native app? It's Business. PhoneGap allows us to develop for a wider audience, across multiple mobile platforms. If the product takes off, then we start thinking native! Until then, exposure is the key to success.

However, by combining jQuery Mobile and PhoneGap together, we've achieved a beautiful and fluid AJAX powered application with the look and feel of a native app without any of the vendor specific hassle.



ASYNC ARCHITECTURE

Node.js' event-driven design model has enabled us to write a lightning fast, 'non-blocking', and asynchronous back-end.

This means, controlling multiple smart devices at once can be done without performance lag.

REAL-TIME, CLOUD BASED DATA

Users don't have the patience to wait even a few seconds for their lights to click on or off. So we've used a dynamic, real-time object database system: Firebase.

Firebase is at the heart of the SmartHome Project—and it's real time, cloud based data processing is the key.

We've utilized a data-centric design; user requests are sent to our Firebase app, our API receives them, talks to smart devices and pushes the results back to Firebase, and finally the app picks up the results. It's a fast and simple solution to a complex problem.

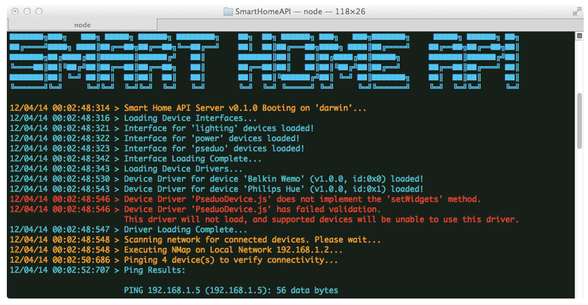
Also, storing user configuration in the cloud means that users can control their smart devices from anywhere they have an internet connection!

THE BACK-END

Dynamite comes in small packages! Just like Node.js.

Our SmartHome API is written in JavaScript, utilizing the power of Node. By using Node.js, we've developed a scalable and modular back-end with small, loosely coupled components.

Below: The SmartHome API booting. The API has scanned the user's local network and added all supported smart devices to the user's profile for user interaction.



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SMART HOME
making your smart home smarter!

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node JS

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jQuery mobile