

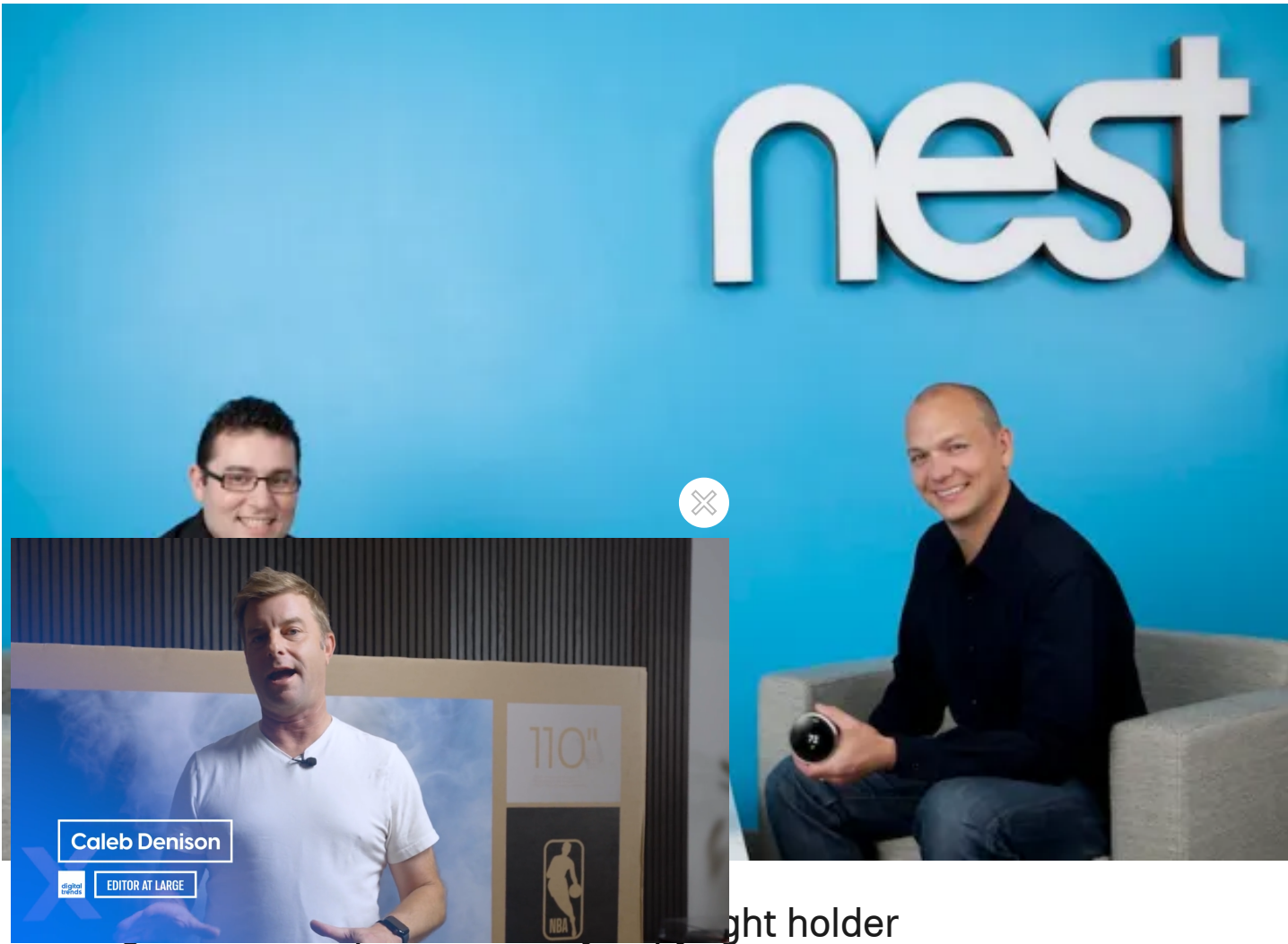


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Nest Lab debuts world's first learning thermostat

By Geoff Duncan October 25, 2011



Two Apple vets want to take control of your home heating and cooling. Tony Faddel (known as the "godfather" of the iPod) and former iPhone software manager Matt Rogers have announced the [Nest Learning Thermostat](#), the first product from their startup [Nest Labs](#). The idea behind the Nest thermostat is simple: instead of blindly following a rote schedule and trying to maintain arbitrary settings, the Nest incorporates learning behaviors through a series of sensors, algorithms, and—yes—cloud computing. The Nest thermostat adjusts its behavior dynamically to make sure users are comfortable when they're at home saving energy if that time away

wasn't part of the thermostat's programming.

"It was unacceptable to me that the device that controls 10 percent of all energy consumed in the U.S. hadn't kept up with advancements in technology and design," said Tony Fadell, Nest Labs co-founder and CEO, in a statement. "[We] set out to reinvent the thermostat using advanced technologies, high-quality manufacturing processes and the thoughtful design elements the iPhone generation has come to expect."





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The key behavior of the Nest home thermostat is that it programs itself. Users just set base temperatures, and Nest pays attention to users' schedules during its first week after installation, and will start heating and cooling your home. Over time, it develops a more-refined sense of when you're able to adjust its

behavior very finely—for instance, about two hours after users have left the house, Nest will sense they've gone and will adjust heating and cooling to save energy. Nest does this with a combination of temperature sensors, a 150° activity sensor to detect nearby movement, and even includes ambient light sensors to keep its display from blinding you if you walk up to it in the middle of the night.

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Users adjust the Nest with a simple dial: turning it up for heating, turning it down for cooling: the Nest turns orange when it's heating and blue when it's cooling. To encourage users to save energy, Nest will eventually start displaying green "Nest Leaf" icons when users set temperature settings that are energy-efficient settings. The thermostat settings will change automatically if a user (say)

turns down the thermostat on Friday afternoons two weeks in a row, Nest will remember that next week.

But that's not all there is to the Nest thermostat. The Nest thermostat connects to a user's home Internet connection via Wi-Fi, which means users can log in to an account at Nest.com to control their home temperature via the Internet from their computer, smartphone, or other mobile device. (This includes managing multiple Nest thermostats per household.) The Nest will also automatically receive software updates via the Internet - no configuration also grabs weather at, so it can adjust conditions.

The Nest thermostat will be available in mid-November for a suggested retail price of \$249; pre-orders are available now. Most installation materials come in the box for do-it-yourselfers (basically, the same as installing a lighting fixture), or customers can bundle installation service in with their order.

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