Elgato

Elgato is a brand of consumer technology products . The manufacturer , also called Elgato , was founded in 1992 by Markus Fest and is headquartered in Munich , Germany .

Elgato is best known for a line of video @-@ recording products called EyeTV , which record video from over @-@ the @-@ air antennas , satellite TV , or mobile devices . The first EyeTV product was introduced in November 2002 .

More recently , Elgato introduced a line of " smart " products , such as a key fob that track 's the user 's distance from their car or purse and provides notifications to help them find it . In 2014 , it introduced a home monitoring system called Eve , which provides alerts to users regarding things like air pressure , temperature and water use . Elgato also developed light bulbs that can respond to programming on a mobile device and respond to commands over Bluetooth and it produces two Thunderbolt products : a dock for MacBooks and an external hard drive .

EyeTV

History

The first EyeTV hardware device was introduced in November 2002 . It was a small USB @-@ powered device that contained a cable tuner and hardware encoder in order to convert television video into an MPEG @-@ 1 format for watching on a computer . It also had coaxial and RCA plugs to connect it with a VCR or camcorder . A 2002 article in Macworld said it was the " first step " in bridging computers and television , but at this point still had " some kinks " .

The next iteration was released in 2004 and called EyeTV 200 . EyeTV 200 introduced a digital remote control and converted video programming into the higher @-@ quality MPEG @-@ 2 format . A Macworld review gave it 4 out of 5 stars for " very good " and emphasized the video quality and ease @-@ of @-@ use . A story in the Washington Post said it was more expensive than some alternatives , but worked on a Mac and had good @-@ quality recordings . Also in 2004 the first EyeTV product for satellite television was introduced with the EyeTV 310 , which was later discontinued and replaced with EyeTV Sat .

That same year a home media server called EyeHome was introduced . It had recording features similar to other EyeTV products , but was also intended for steaming a computer display to a television . It connected Mac computers and televisions that share the same home network . A review in Macworld gave it three stars or a " good " rating , saying that it was easy to install and worked well with Apple applications , but some aspects were quirky or frustrating . Sound and Vision Magazine said it was " pretty darn cool " and an easy , inexpensive way to get media server functionality , though there were some user interface quirks . It gave the product an 89 out of 100 rating .

By 2005 , several other EyeTV products had been introduced , such as the EyeTV for DTT , the EyeTV EZ and the EyeTV Wonder . The EyeTV for DTT (digital terrestrial TV) is a small USB @-@ powered device with an antenna for receiving free over @-@ the @-@ air television broadcasts . It received a 4 out of 5 rating in TechRadar . A review in The Register gave it an 85 percent rating . The Eye TV Wonder was only available from July 2005 to January 2006 , before being discontinued and replaced with the Eye TV EZ . The EZ was a basic , entry @-@ level product with an analog tuner for watching TV on a Mac computer .

In 2006 , version 2 @.@ 1 of the EyeTV software was introduced with a new user @-@ interface , an integrated TV guide from TitanTV and compatibility with Apple remotes . The interface was similar to that of other Apple products . An article in Macworld praised the update and especially the new editing features , but said it had some quirks , such as a difficult @-@ to @-@ find Edit button . Some of the iHome software , which plays video content from a computer onto a television , was released in 2006 as a universal binary .

Version 2 @.@ 4 of the EyeTV software was released in 2007 and added an export tool for Apple

TV .

= = = = Exit from the ATSC tuner market = = = =

As of February 2015 , Elgato no longer sells ATSC tuners . (ATSC is the digital television standard used in the United States , Canada , South Korea , Mexico and the Dominican Republic .) The Elgato web site explicitly declines to give a reason : " Elgato Technical Support is not able to comment on this business decision . "

= = = Current products = = =

= = = = Over the air = = = =

The EyeTV Diversity is a USB @-@ powered device with dual tuners for receiving over the air television broadcasts . The tuners can be used simultaneously for an optimized signal , or one tuner can be used to record a channel , while another is used to watch a separate show . Diversity was first introduced in November 2006 . A driver in 2009 added compatibility with Windows 7 . A review in TechRadar gave EyeTV Diversity five out of five stars . PC advisor and Pocket @-@ Lint both gave it four out of five stars .
EyeTV Hybrid , which can pick up digital or analog television broadcasts , was first released in early 2009 . A CNET review said the device was easy and effective to use , but that buffering was often too slow to make watching live TV practical . Macworld said EyeTV 's " core strength " was recording scheduled TV shows . A review in PC Magazine gave the product 3 @.@ 5 out of 5 stars . The review said it " works exceptionally well " but doesn 't come with Windows software .

= = = = Satellite = = = =

In June 2010 , the EyeTV HD product for recording high @-@ definition cable and satellite programming was introduced . Because cable and satellite signals are encoded , the device must be connected to a tuner from a television provider . Then it provides remote controls , recording and DVR @-@ functionality from a connected computer . A Macworld review gave the product four out of five stars . A review in Laptop Magazine gave EyeTV HD 3 @.@ 5 out of 5 stars . It said the interface was intuitive and the video quality was good , but noted it was only compatible with Macs .
The EyeTV Netstream 4Sat has four satellite tuners , allowing four channels to be watched simultaneously from different devices . It was introduced in 2014 . A review in Macworld gave it 5 out of 5 stars . The review said Elgato had addressed some of the limitations of prior EyeTV satellite tuners like Netstream Sat / DTT . Pocket @-@ Lint gave it 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 stars CNET gave it five stars . The EyeTV Sat product , which receives free @-@ to @-@ air television , was introduced in Europe in late 2009 . The Register gave it an 80 % rating , saying that it " works well " and that the documentation did not make it clear how to install the Apple and Windows versions of the software .

= = = = Software = = = =

The EyeTV software was updated to version 3 @.@ 0 in 2008 . 3 @.@ 0 made user interface improvements , such as being able to mark favorites or automatically record shows in a series . A review in TechRadar gave it 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 stars . The review noted that EyeTV was the de facto software for TV and computer video integration and praised its new features , but said it was expensive when purchased separately . A 2007 article in MacLife said their " top picks " for USB @-@ powered tuners were those using the EyeTV software , such as the EyeTV hybrid or EyeTV 250 . In addition to Elgato 's EyeTV line of consumer devices , other brands such as Terratec and Miglia use the EyeTV software in their products through licensing agreements with Elgato .

= = = = Mobile = = = =

 The EyeTV W was introduced in November 2013 . It is a small 44 gram device that receives free digital over @-@ the @-@ air television broadcasts and makes it available to portable devices through a wireless hot spot . A review in Macworld said it was portable , easy to use and had good battery life , but noted that users can 't connect to other wi @-@ fi networks and watch TV at the same time . It gave the product 4 out of 5 stars . An EyeTV Mobile device for iPads was announced at the 2011 International Franchise Conference as the first tuner for the new Freeview system in the United Kingdom .
 Subsequently the EyeTV Mobile and EyeTV Micro products were released for iPhones and Android respectively . The Micro and Mobile allow users to watch or record free over @-@ the @-@ air television programming from their smartphone . Reviews of the mobile products ranged from 2 out of 5 stars by CNET 4 out of 5 stars in Macworld and 3 out of 5 stars in PC Magazine . There is also an EyeTV iPhone app that allows the user to watch their recorded shows on their iPhone , control their EyeTV recordings or watch live TV while connected to Wi @-@ Fi . A compact version for laptops , the EyeTV GO , was introduced in May 2014 .

 = = Smart product line = =

 = = = Smart key = = =

 Elgato manufactures and markets a smart @-@ key system . The system comes with a small 10 @-@ gram device that is placed on a key ring , in a purse , inside a car , or somewhere else . Then it communicates with an Elgato app on an iOS device . If it is set up for keys , the app will alert the user when they are 10 meters away from their keys , indicating that they may have forgotten them . It takes advantage of the " Smart Bluetooth " Apple implemented in iOS 7 . A review in TheNextWeb said it was " money well spent " and worked " exactly as described " , but that the beeping of the device could be louder and users will still need to supplement it with the Find my Phone app . A review in Macworld gave it 4 out of 5 stars .

 = = = Smart home = = =

 In September 2014 , Elgato announced a home monitoring system called Eve , which monitors a home 's air pressure , water usage , temperature , air quality and other factors . Elgato said the product won 't be available until the HomeKit software , which is expected to come with Apple iOS 8 , is released . It also introduced smart light bulbs , which communicate with iOS devices through Bluetooth and allow users to adjust home lighting from their mobile device .

 = = = Smart power = = =

 In late 2014 , Elgato introduced the Smart Power battery backup for mobile devices . It communicates with the user 's bluetooth @-@ enabled device to provide notifications and calendar reminders when it needs to be charged .

 = = Thunderbolt = =

 = = = Thunderbolt dock = = =

 Elgato introduced a Thunderbolt docking station in June 2014 . A computer is plugged into the dock using a Thunderbolt port in order to gain access to the dock 's three USB ports , audio jacks , HDMI and ethernet . It is typically used to plug a Macbook into an office setting (printer , monitor ,

keyboard) or to provide additional ports not available in the Macbook Air . A review in The Register said it was compact and useful , but Windows users should consider a USB 3 @.@ 0 dock . The Register and CNET disagreed on whether it was competitively priced . Reviews in TechRadar and Macworld gave it 4 out of 5 stars .

= = = Thunderbolt SSD = = =

 Elgato introduced two firewire external hard drives in September 2012 called Thunderbolt Drive . Benchmark tests by MacWorld and Tom 's Hardware said that the hard drive was slower than other products they tested , despite being connected through a faster Thunderbolt port , rather than Firewire . The following year , in 2013 , Elgato replaced them with similar drives identified as " Thunderbolt Drive + " , which added USB 3 @.@ 0 support and was claimed to be faster than the previous iteration . A CNET review of a Thunderbolt Drive + drive gave it a 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 star rating . It said the drive was " blazing fast " and " the most portable drive to date " but was also expensive . An article in The Register explained that the original drives introduced in 2012 didn 't perform well in benchmark tests , but the newer " plus " version had impressive speed results during testing .

= = Gaming = =

 Game Capture HD , which connects to gaming consoles to record gameplay , was introduced in 2012 . It was created in response to gamers that were hacking EyeTV products for gameplay recording . The device connects between a gaming console and the TV and is powered by a USB connection . It captures video as the console sends it to the television , compresses and stores it . A review in iPhone Life gave it 4 out of 5 stars and noted that it could also be used to record iPad games with the right setup .
 In October 2014 Elgato released a new version called HD 60 . It recorded in 60 frames per second and 1080p high definition video , whereas typical low @-@ end video game recording devices capture in 720p and 30 frames per second . The Telegraph gave it four out of five stars . A review in Gizmodo said that it captured extremely high @-@ quality footage , but it may be higher @-@ end than needed for many gamers that would be satisfied with the recording features built @-@ in to the console .