

HomeKit

Overview

HomeKit enables your app to coordinate and control home automation accessories from multiple vendors to present a unified, user-focused interface.

HomeKit then allows these accessories to work together using scenes.

For example, you can create a scene so that when you get home, you can

- Open the garage door
- Turn on individual lights
- Turn the thermostat to a comfortable level.

This kind of integration would not be possible without a central manager of home accessories such as HomeKit.



HomeKit & The Home App

HomeKit is the framework that provides this capability, and the Home App (from Apple) is the App that allows a user to interface with HomeKit.

A maker of accessories can integrate HomeKit into their App.

Useful for setting up the integration of your device into HomeKit but also opens up other possibilities of integrating with other HomeKit accessories.

Should you integrate your accessory with HomeKit?

In homes with Apple devices, users may expect the new devices that they purchase to work with HomeKit.

When there are competitive products, HomeKit integration could be the deciding factor in their purchase decision.

The best strategy is to support all of the prominent platforms, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, and HomeKit.

When someone decides on your product or someone else's, you don't want to lose out because of not having integrated with one of these platforms.

HomeKit example - ecobee

HomeKit integration involves having a menu item in your App to access HomeKit settings. Do any additional HomeKit settings then provide what is necessary for your accessory.



Example from ecobee

In this example, for ecobee, you can create homes, rooms to associate with your ecobee, followed by naming your device.

Creating a custom HomeKit App

There are other types of Apps that you can create with HomeKit other than an Accessory setup App. Since we don't have an accessory to do a setup App for, we'll create an App that makes using a large number of lights easier.

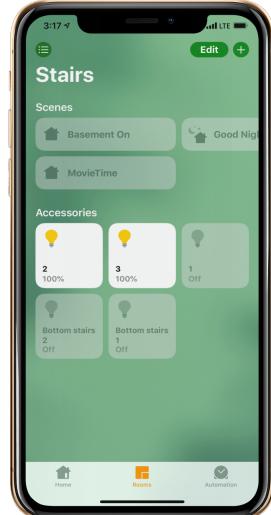
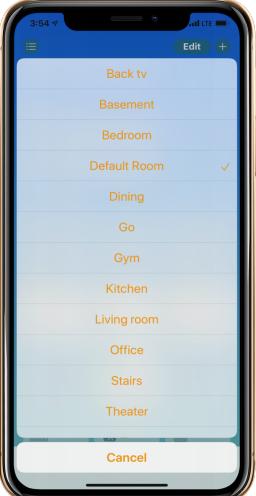
Having lots of rooms and lights

Using HomeApp, navigation can be challenging when working with a fair amount of rooms. The more rooms & lights, the more scrolling to select the desired room.

Upon finding the room, lights can only be turned on/off one at a time. Instead, how about that lights on/off and dimness as one unit.



Room Selection



One light at a time

A custom solution

1. Allow all of the rooms to scroll vertically. There is a lot of space horizontally that serves little purpose. You can now navigate to the room much faster.
2. Put in some smarter sorting and filtering.
3. If I recently turned on lights, I probably want to turn them back off. Have those lights at the sorted to the top
4. Easily and quickly filter by on / off.
5. If I'm turning off lights, seeing only lights that are on helps me to turn off those lights again quickly.
6. Treat the lights in a room as one unit. For this App, lights should be turned off or on as a group, not individuals.

The final result can be seen below, including screenshots and videos highlighting the functionality of the App.



Video Demos

[Adjusting Lights](#)

[Filter](#)

[Sort](#)

[Dark Mode](#)

[Dynamic Text](#)

[Permissions Empty State](#)

