bintellix®

Connected Intelligence

Best practice rules for building automation

What matters when designing your smart home

bintellix® combines years of experience mastering complex challenges for a range of customers large and small. Our experts have devised the following best practices for smart home projects – field-tested, time-tested, and validated across numerous successful projects.

Manufacturer-independent -

👎 Don’t get locked into one particular manufacturer and their proprietary products. It’s better to avoid restrictive, closed systems.

👍 Embrace open standards such as KNX, Zigbee and DALI instead.

System-wide smart solutions -

👎 It’s a pain to have to grapple with a combination of isolated solutions – each with their own app, each requiring individual ‘programming’ via their own tools, each completely unaware of their neighboring systems and other contextual information.

👍 Invest in system-wide control systems instead – for better efficiency, performance, and ease of use.

Redundant sensor networks -

👎 A central control unit is limited in its expansion capabilities, and potentially error-prone.

👍 Decentralized and distributed sensor networks, e.g. MQTT, which all smart-home systems have access to, are a much better solution.

Consolidated infrastructure information -

👎 Don’t waste time configuring multiple components with more or less the same data over and over again.

👍 Instead, focus on establishing a single consolidated data management system – one that records every component and automatically distributes this information as required.

Security by design -

👎 There’s no need to assign individual experts to be in charge of each individual system. Divided like this, each is capable of putting the overarching security concept at risk.

👍 It’s better to create a system group of smart agents right from the start – one in which every layer of an OSI model is aware of the rest.

Decentralized function control -

👎 It’s astounding how many smart home components only work when actively connected to the internet and a cloud service. What happens when the internet goes down? Or if a manufacturer changes their product design, or a purchased product is taken from market? This can lead to a partial or even system-wide blackout.

👍 Decentralized function control systems are a much safer bet. These are much more reliable and secure for you and your home.

Professional applications -

👎 Don’t be fooled by the range of functions you sometimes see on offer. The smart home industry is filled with quick and ‘clever’ DIY solutions – risky, poorly integrated, and far removed from established and trusted IT standards.

👍 Norms exist for a reason: these established software standards ensure exceptional fault tolerance and high availability for your components. Stick to these instead.

Good design first -

👎 Nobody likes monstrous control panels that make a mess of a building’s design while being extremely complicated to operate.

👍 Put your focus on smart, intuitive, and versatile components instead – components that can cover multiple functions as required.

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