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CNET wants to build the ultimate smarthome.

Maybe you have one or two smart gadgets sprawled across your home. Every now and then when you pass by your sophisticated looking thermostat, you giggle with pleasure and bask in the technical genius that is your home.

But that's probably all there is. Your home is a *little* smart, but calling it a 'genius' is probably going overboard. [CNET](#), on the other hand, does have a genius for a home.

This technology influencer wants to build the ultimate smarthome. Recently, they purchased a four bedroom, four bath home in Louisville to do exactly that. Their home will serve as the hotspot for all things smart. CNET's goal? **They want to accurately and realistically test a variety of smarthome products to show exactly how they work and if they serve their intended purpose in the process.**

This Louisville home is smart in every kind of way, from toothbrushes and infant formula to gardens and kitchen appliances. As you walk from room to room, something connected to the Internet of Things will greet you.

CNET's plans include a wireless charging countertop, robotic vacuums and lawn mowers, climate-controlled blinds, automated sprinklers, a web-connected washer and dryer, color changing light bulbs, and pattern-tracking sleep sensors.

Here's a rundown of a few of the rooms and their current gadgets:

Living Room

- SmartThings' second-gen hub
- FurniQi table
- Elgato Eve Room
- Philips Hue Bridge
- SimpliSafe

Kitchen

- Electrolux's ProCombi Plus Smart Oven
- June Intelligent Oven
- The PicoBrew Zymatic
- The Anova Precision Cooker
- The Instant Pot Smart
- Crock-Pot WeMo Smart Slow Cooker

Office

- iHome iSP5 SmartPlug
- i-Bright7x Smart Surge
- Dyson AM09 Hot+Cool
- Orbnext
- Quirky+GE Aros Smart Air Conditioner
- WeMo Insight Switch
- Quirky Pivot Power Genius

Garage

- Coolnest Cooler
- Whirlpool Gladiator Chillerator
- Big Ass Light
- Chamberlain MyQ Garage
- Automatic Lab's Automatic

Formal Dining Room

- MixStik
- Lutron Caséta Wireless Lighting Starter Kit
- Perfect Drink
- Somfy myLink
- Playbulb Candle
- Hue Connected Bulbs

If you're interested in learning more about any of these products, visit CNET's Smarthome page [here](#). On this page, you will find an interactive blueprint of the Louisville home where you can visit the 1st floor, 2nd floor and basement. Click on a room and receive a complete list of every product, as well as a review and the pricing of each item.



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What's not to like about Amazon Books?

Amazon has officially opened its brick-and-mortar bookstore, Amazon Books. And unfortunately for this online megastar, they aren't getting very many positive reviews.

From lack of selection and an ill-suited layout to limited stock and 90s [flashbacks](#) (Amazon was blamed for the widespread elimination of bookstores), Amazon Books is getting [slammed](#) all over the internet. But, really, these journalists are failing to see this brick-and-mortar for what it really is—an extension of Amazon (and a beautiful one at that).

Every book is face-out (which is why they have limited stock). So forget trying to search for a title with only the minimal real-estate that the spine provides, because you see every title loud and clear. Sections are categorized

to mimic their website: 'Gifts for the Gamer', 'Most Wish-Listed Cookbooks', 'Highly Rated', and 'Fiction Top Sellers'.

Amazon selects their stock based on website information such as star ratings, pre-orders, and curator assessments (which is why they have limited selection). Every book is strategically placed and accompanied with a customized card. Each card includes an Amazon customer review, the star rating (and date it was last assessed), and a barcode.

Scanning the barcode will show you the price of the item. And since it's Amazon, they promise to sell you the book at the lowest price possible, which happens to be another area of contention. What if you don't have a smartphone? Now you have to search for an attendant to awkwardly scan the book for you.

If you prefer reading from a connected device, [Amazon Books](#) designed a station devoted to e-readers, Fire Tablets, and Fire TV. But don't let that deter you from the store's main focus—good ol' fashioned books.

Inbox meet Artificial Intelligence.

No longer do we consider automatic archiving the most sophisticated aspect of our emails. Instead, Google has trained its email platform to respond to emails for you.

Smart Reply integrates AI into your inbox with the support of an arsenal filled with 20,000 short phrases. This new extension allows you to respond to emails quickly and cross items off your to-do list with little effort.

When you open an email, Gmail will "read" the content with you and automatically generate responses for you that directly relate to the content. Google employs a "thought vector" to capture the main essence of the email; this means that one key concept--despite its structure--will point to the same set of responses. An example would be, "Can you make the meeting tomorrow?" versus "Does tomorrow work for that meeting?"

Google attempts to offer users multiple ways to answer questions and respond to requests. If your email reads, "Would you like to have Christmas at our house?" Smart Reply could offer up: 'Count us in!', 'We'll be there!', or 'Sorry, we won't be able to make it.'

Coined as two-tap email on the go, Smart Reply only requires two taps to send an email. A tap to add the phrase and a tap to send the email. If you need to alter the phrase or add to it, that's not an issue. Tap to add your phrase, edit your content, and send it off.

<http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2015/11/computer-respond-to-this-email.html>

<http://www.wired.com/2015/11/google-is-using-ai-to-create-automatic-replies-in-gmail/>

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Alexey Boldin / Shutterstock.com

5 Tips to Keep your Credit Cards Safe this Holiday

Tis the season to shop till you drop... till you get decked trying to fight a mother of four for the very last My Little Pony, till you get trampled by the horde of shoppers behind you, or till you get buried alive in a pile of wrapping paper and scotch tape.

And, tis the season to suffer from credit card fraud, to have your identity stolen, and your bank account hacked. So while you're out and about, spending hundreds, eating too many calories, and thinking about in-laws, do what you can to save your finances from hitting rock bottom. Here are five tips to protect yourself both online and offline this holiday season.

Know what's going on.

Check your account daily. If someone hacks your account and begins to make purchases, the sooner you notice, the better. Sometimes hackers will charge very small items to your account to see if you're paying attention. It could be 59 cents on Monday morning, \$1.02 on Thursday afternoon, and \$4.99 on Friday night. If you don't notice, the big charge (or charges) aimed to drain your entire account may be a few hours away. If you notice the odd, standalone 52 cents on Monday afternoon and call up your banking institution right away, you'll avoid a great deal of stress and hassle.

Only carry what you need.

Last year, the [average](#) credit card owner in America had up to four separate accounts. In theory, you may have a credit card for Target, Walmart, Lowes, and a general purpose one from a company like Chase or Visa. However, the question is, do you have every card on you at all times? If you're going Christmas shopping at Target, do you still have your other three cards in your wallet? And if you do, why? The only

thing you're doing is opening yourself up to a potential for greater financial loss; therefore, it's best to leave your other cards at home in a safe place—and not left behind in a shopping cart somewhere.

Online shop at home.

The point of online shopping is to be able to purchase items from the convenience of your home, but this doesn't mean people don't online shop from outside their home. Maybe on Black Friday you were standing in line at Walmart eagerly awaiting mass hysteria, and you passed the time by purchasing other items on your Amazon app. And of course, you connected to Wi-Fi to do this extracurricular shopping, correct? Most likely. However, when it comes to Wi-Fi, it's important to be extremely picky and extra cautious. Hackers can set up illegitimate hotspots that appear to be nothing out of the ordinary, but as soon as you connect, you've given an outside source direct access to your smartphone and everything it contains. If you're going to connect to Wi-Fi, stay away from any online accounts and financial information.

Look for HTTPS.

This tip is very simple. At home or on-the-go, only purchase from websites with 'HTTPS' rather than 'HTTP'. HTTPS means the site is secure, and your data will be encrypted.

Keep everything up-to-date.

All those devices you have floating around—tablet, phone, laptop, PC, other tablet, second phone—they should be updated 24/7. Updates are there for a reason and in many cases, they are developed to patch security flaws and to strengthen your system. If you consistently postpone updates, you will create holes in your devices that hackers and malware can slip right through. Some devices are set up for automatic updates, and some are not. But most updates are very easy to find, and usually all it takes is a trip to your settings tab. Take the trip before it's too late.



vizable.tableau.com

See, touch, and understand your data.

Wouldn't it be nice to really know what your data says about your business? And then, to use it in a way that encourages your daily operations? Your purchasing decisions? Your employee productivity? Your overall abilities?

Vizable thinks so.

Coming to you in the form of a free, downloadable iPad app, Vizable allows you to see, touch, and understand your data. All that's required of you is a table of data. Vizable will do the analyzing, thinking, and organizing for you.

Tap, drag, or pinch your data and receive instant feedback. Take decades of information and instantly break it down into years, months, weeks, or even a single day. Rearrange columns to show different comparisons and calculations—from the sum to the average, or from the revenue of directors and movies to the revenue of directors and movies broken down by the leading male actor.

Vizable interprets data through beautiful, visual representations that any industry can appreciate. On Vizable's website, they showcase a food trucker who uses their data app. From the data she imports into Vizable, she can determine what season to sell certain dishes, how much of an ingredient to purchase, which is the most popular dish, and when to start prepping specific menu items.

Data can be imported instantly from apps such as Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud, and OneDrive and it can be applied in a variety of environments. A teacher can use it to analyze important moments in history, a small business owner can use it to determine hours of operation, and a fitness trainer can use it show clients calorie intake versus hours of exercise.

The beauty of Vizable is that it is easy to use for any business, person, or industry and can shed new light on your daily activities.

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