HOW SMART HOME TECH WORKS

ECOSYSTEMS

- Help integrate smart home devices and provides a central control interface accessed via an app or digital assistant.
- Increased automation capabilities.
- **HELPFUL HINTS:** Look for the "works with" badge and check your smart home ecosystem manufacturer website to find compatible devices.

SMART HOME DEVICE COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

POPULAR ECOSYSTEMS

Works with Apple HomeKit™

works with Google Assistant™

Works with SmartThings™

WORKS WITH alexa™ *

A new standard for smart device connection is emerging to improve interoperability. Click the link here to learn more.

WI-FI

- Inexpensive
- Can integrate into ecosystem without hub.
- High power – inefficient for battery powered devices.
- More Wi-Fi devices on one ecosystem can affect reliability and speed.

ZIGBEE, Z-WAVE, THREAD, AND BLUETOOTH

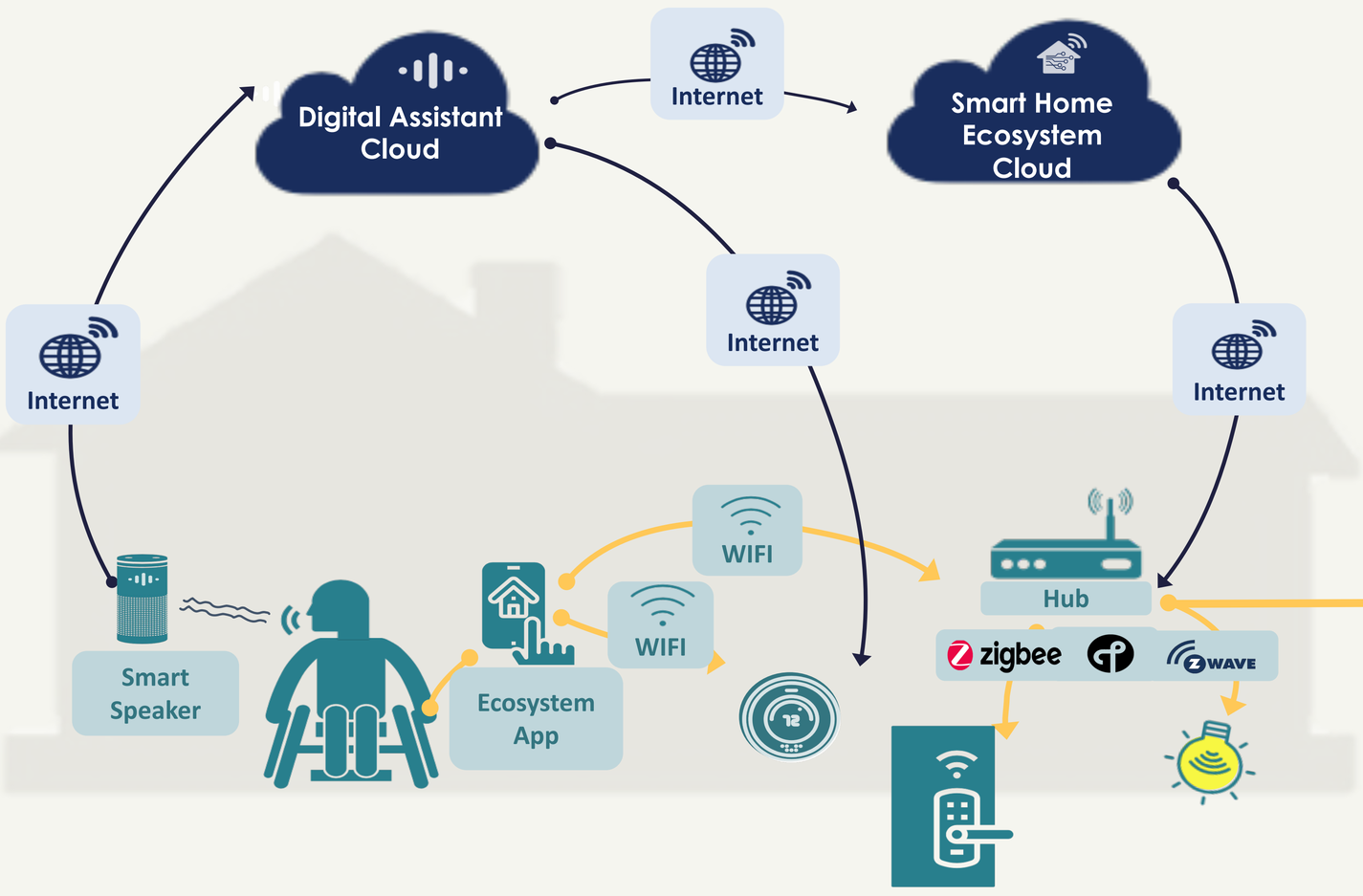
- Low power –efficient for battery powered devices.
- Adding more devices improves the systems communication range and stability.
- Need hub to integrate smart device into ecosystem.

HUBS *

- A physical device with built-in radio chips that can communicate with devices running one or more protocols above to integrate them into an ecosystem.
- May be standalone device or built-in to smart speaker or display.

CLOUD CONTROL

- Signal processed in devices cloud server and sent to and from home via internet.
- Can control smart devices inside and outside the home.
- Smart device response time can be slower.
- Increased data security and privacy risks.



FACTORS INFLUENCING CLOUD OR LOCAL CONTROL OF YOUR SMART HOME SYSTEM

- What communication protocols your smart home devices use?
- How are your smart home devices integrated into your smart home ecosystem?
- Are you using a digital assistant to control your smart home devices by voice?

LOCAL CONTROL

- Signal processed by devices in the home.
- Response speed not affected by internet quality.
- Decreased data security and privacy risks.

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