

Wireless Tech RERC

Mainstream Tech News January 2023

Welcome, Wireless RERC team! As part of an innovative team, it is important to be aware of how companies and organizations are improving and integrating Mainstream Wireless Tech.

Wireless RERC Update(s):

External Resources Page

New year, new resources! Our [External Resources](#) webpage got an upgrade. We recognize it can be a challenge to find user-friendly resources for mainstream wireless tech, so we compiled our favorites to help you learn about wireless devices, as well as how to set up and use their accessibility features on Apple and Android. [Resources on Smartphones and Tablets](#) are now live, and we look forward to sharing more soon.

Smart Tech Talk: Live with Lindsey

We are introducing a new series — **Smart Tech Talk: Live with Lindsey**. This series aims to help individuals with disabilities effectively interact with their mainstream wireless tech by answering questions from a wide audience — persons with disabilities, families/caregivers, and practitioners. Our first theme is **Smartphone Access**. We welcome any questions you may have regarding smartphone accessibility features and apps, or any general questions regarding mobile access. Submit questions via [this form](#) or send them to wirelessrerc@shrs.pitt.edu. To ensure your questions are answered during the live session in March (more details to follow), please submit by the end of February.



Smartphone Accessibility Tips Series

We will be launching a new, monthly social media video series on smartphone accessibility settings on both iOS and Android. If there are any accessibility settings you would like to see featured in future videos, please email your requests to: wirelessrerc@shrs.pitt.edu.

What Do You Know About Matter—the New Smart Home Interoperability Standard?

To build a smart home system, you will need both Matter controllers and Matter devices.

✦ What Matter controllers are available now?

For more on what Matter controllers are, check out our [2022 November newsletter](#). Google and Amazon joined Apple and Samsung, and recently updated some of their existing devices such as Google Nest Hubs and Amazon Echo devices to be Matter controllers in December 2022. It is worth noting that the Matter controllers available on the market differ in terms of what Matter devices they can support. For example, Amazon's first phase of its Matter rollout is limited to Android phones and Wi-Fi devices, and iOS and Thread support will arrive sometime this year. Find more on [Google and Android Matter updates](#) and on [Amazon Echo Matter updates](#).

Matter was the buzzword throughout the 2023 Consumer Electronics Show (CES). Many companies made new product announcements supporting Matter. Read more about the [Matter updates from these companies](#), which include some new Matter controllers. One of them is [the SmartThings Station](#) from Samsung set to release in February. It includes built-in radios for Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Zigbee and Thread. Additionally, the device itself doubles as a 15-watt wireless fast-charging station and can send an alert when your phone or tablet is fully charged.

✦ What Matter devices are available now?

There are still very limited Matter devices available on the market now. In addition to [Meross Matter Smart Wi-Fi Plug Mini](#) that you can purchase now, three Eve smart home devices (i.e., Eve Motion, Eve Energy, and Eve Door & Window) that are exclusively Apple Home devices can now be upgraded to support Matter, which means they can now be controlled through Amazon, Google and Samsung Matter controllers. However, the upgrading process is not as easy and smooth based on consumer feedback at this time, although it may be improved constantly. Find more on [Matter-compatible Eve devices](#).



You can also find more Matter devices from the [new product announcements](#) at CES 2023. Here is [a library](#) where you can find Matter certified products, although many are yet available on the market.

Tech News:

Eufy cameras and doorbells security issues — Eufy security cameras and video doorbells have been subject to security issues as well as directly inaccurate marketing claims for privacy. The company promised that data would be stored locally, however, Eufy has been caught uploading identifiable footage to the cloud. Read more about **the investigations by the Verge**.

The CES was live January 5-8, 2023 for the first time since 2020.

- **14 winners were announced in the accessibility category** at the CES 2023 Innovation Awards including a helpful toilet lifter stabilizing smart makeup applicator, wearable navigation system for visually impaired individuals, pressure ulcer management device, self-driving power wheelchair service, and more.
- 86 products won the CES 2023 innovation awards in the digital health category, which includes the **XK300-H autonomous home vital sign monitor** that unobtrusively and continuously collects heart and respiration rates, presence and motion, at-home urine analysis such as **Vivoo Smart Toilet** and **Withings's U-Scan, Nix Hydration Biosensor** that provides a personal hydration strategy by analyzing sweat, and more.
- 49 products won the CES 2023 innovation awards in the smart home category, which includes **SmartSlydr**, an automatic sliding door/window opener, **Eve MotionBlinds for DIY**, the first connected motor for retrofitting existing blinds and shades, **Shelly Motion2**, an always-connected Wi-Fi motion sensor with over 1 year of battery life that requires no hub or dedicated controller, **Luxtep**, a foot balance monitoring mat, **Schneider Electric's smart home energy ecosystem** which allows users to control their power usage at the breaker or switch and outlet level, and more.



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