

Home Automation

Apple Home App

Overview for Today

- **Home Automation** covers a wide range of items
- History of Automation
- We will focus on two applications today
 - Smart Thermostat
 - Garage Door Control
- We will give a general overview of other devices that can be used with the **Home App**
- How to use the **Home App**

Beginnings of Home Automation

Amazon Alexa

- One could argue programmable timers were first
- True Smart Automation started with **Alexa**
- **Alexa** was first invented in Poland and called Ivona
 - Inspired by 2001: A Space Odyssey
- Amazon Bought the Technology in 2013 and Renamed it **Alexa**
 - Star Trek and the Computer on the Enterprise were an inspiration
- The first **Echo** was introduced in 2014

Apple Home App

Hey Siri, to use voice commands

- Apple saw Alexa and introduced Siri in 2014
- Apple wanted a more Secure and Robust System
- **Homekit** requires a **Hub**: AppleTV or HomePod
- Apple created the standard but did not make hardware
- Third Party Developers were slow to adopt the new specifications
- Early products were expensive and hard to Use
- Rumor is 2025 is the year Apple gets serious with the Home App

Alexa is the Default Standard

Virtually all devices work with Alexa

- **Alexa** has the most **Compatible Devices** such as cameras, switches, etc.
- Google is second
- Apple Home is third
- Look for the following on the package of the device
 - Works with Alexa
 - Works with Google Home
 - Works with Apple Home





New Universal Standard

- After years of stagnation a Universal Standard was created
- **Matter** was started in 2019 and published in 2022
- The goal was to have One Standard that worked on all platforms
- **Matter** is Open Sourced so no company owns or controls it
- New **Matter** compatible devices are becoming more common
- Provided a major boost to **Apple Home**

Thermostats

Top Options

- Ecobee
- Nest (Google)
- Honeywell
- Amazon
- Copeland (White Rogers, Emerson)

Thermostats

Where to Buy

- You can find thermostats everywhere
- Sales do pop up, the better ones are expensive (about \$50 - \$300)
- Best deal is usually at SRP Marketplace
 - Only catch is you have to sign up for monitoring
 - SRP can change your settings in times of power shortages
 - <https://marketplace.srpnet.com/thermostats/smart-thermostats/>

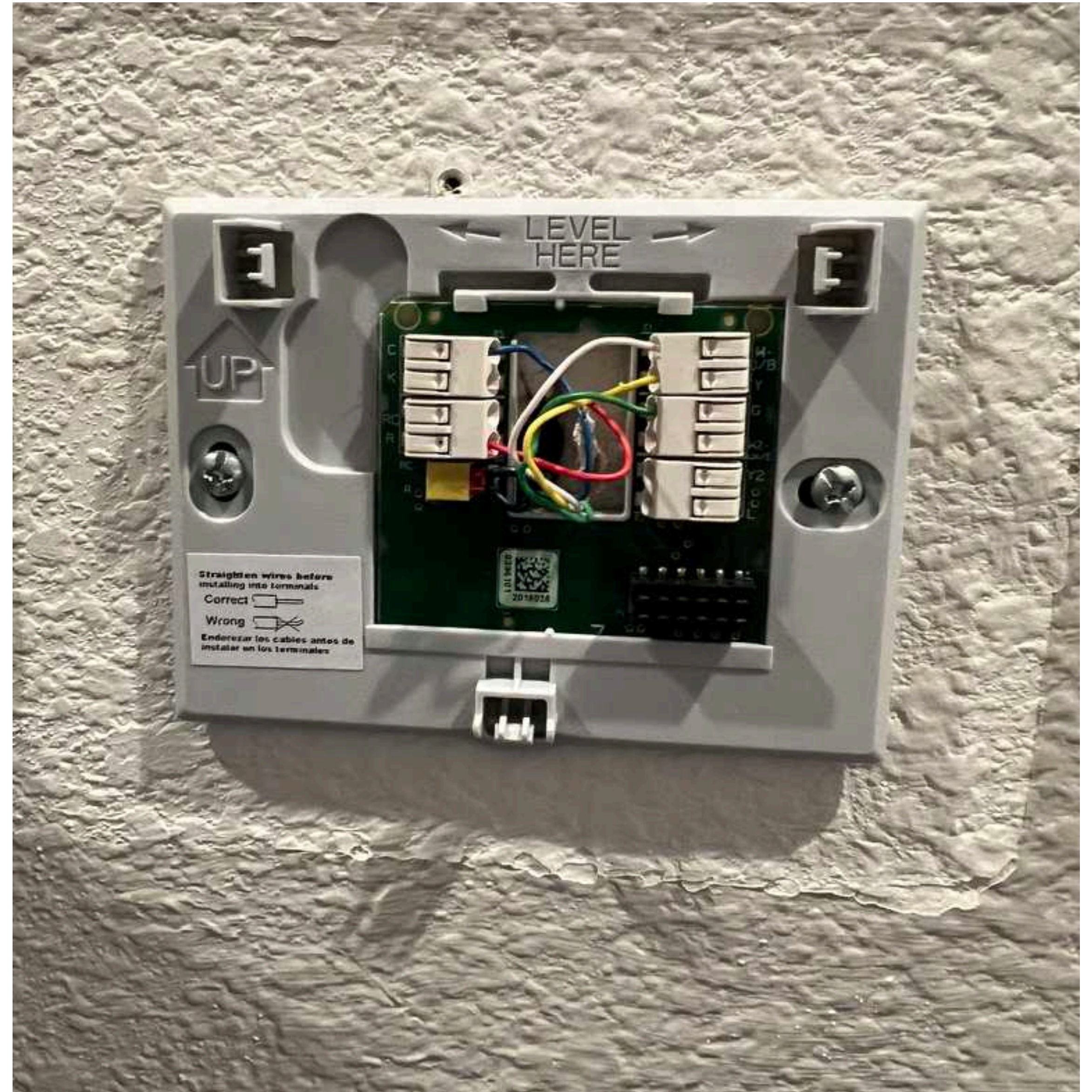
Thermostat Installation

- If you are “Handy” installation is not difficult
- One big potential issue is the Common Wire, usually Blue
- Many Smart Thermostats require the **Common Wire**
- If your home has the Blue wire it should be easy
- If it does not, you are better off calling your HVAC company

HoneyWell

Dumb Thermostat

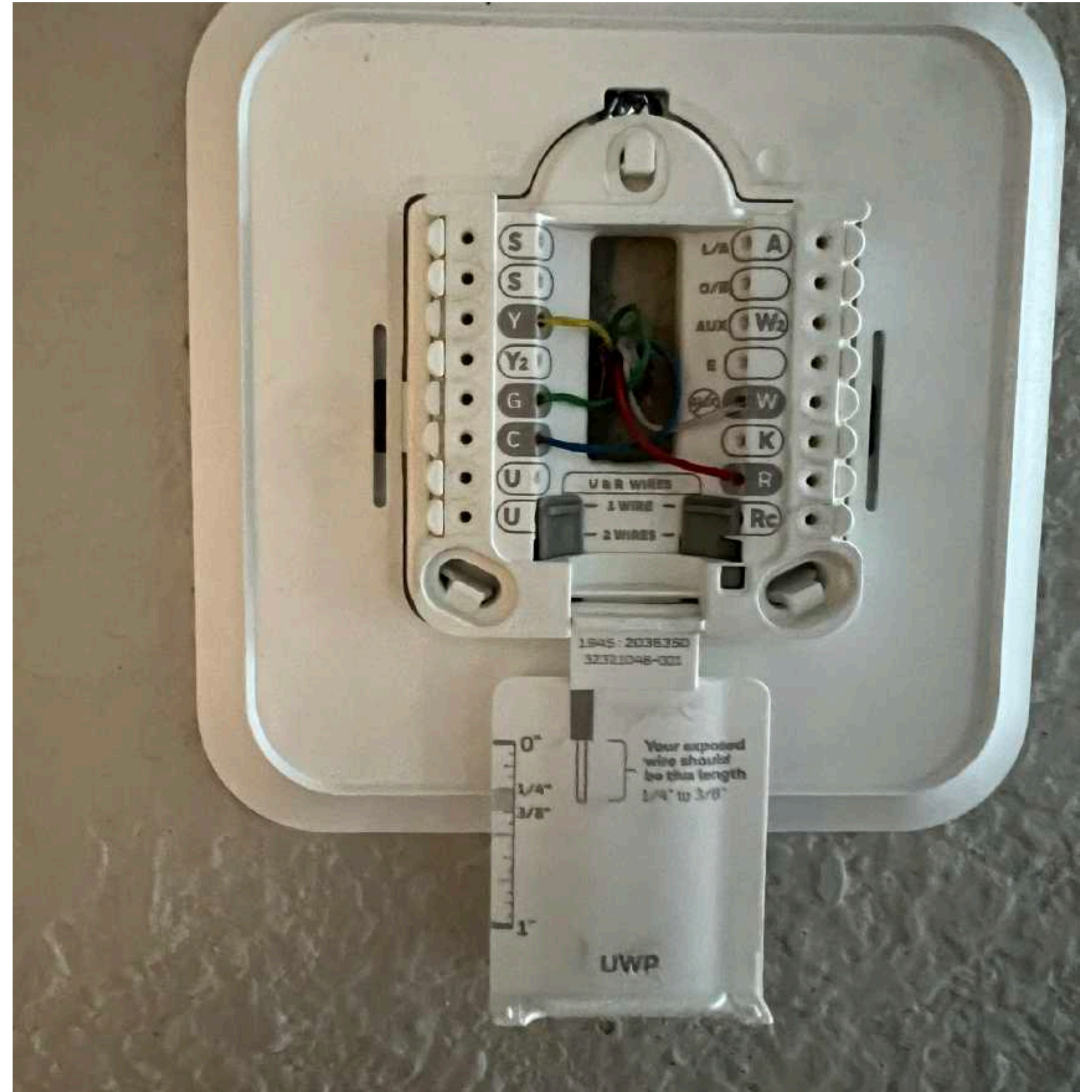
- Remove Existing Thermostat
- Take a picture to show wires
- New Thermostat will use same wires



Ecobee

Smart Thermostat

- Make sure all wires match old thermostat and installation instructions
- Y - Yellow
- G - Green
- R - Red
- W - White
- C - Blue (common)



Garage Door Controller

(Works with existing Garage Door Opener)

Top Options

- Meross
- Chamberland MyQ (Works with Amazon)
- Tailwind
- Wyze
- <https://www.consumerreports.org/home-garden/garage-doors/best-smart-garage-door-opener-controllers-a7061531291/>

Garage Door Controller

Installation

- Installation is pretty simple if you are handy
- Includes WiFi connection box that requires power
- **Position Switch**, battery powered, mounts on the door
 - Indicates Door Open (Horizontal) and Door Closed (Vertical)
- Two wires to connect to the Garage Door Opener
- Does require getting on a ladder to reach the opener
- Chamberlain openers with Yellow Learn Button Require More Steps

Other Device Options if you want to play

- Video Door Bell
- Exterior Door Lock Control
- Smart Light Bulbs
- Power Controller Plugs
- Smart Wall Switches
- Moisture Sensors
- Cameras
- Irrigation Control

How Does it all Work

Home App

- Home App is built in to all Apple OS
- IOS App (iPhone) is the most full featured
 - You need to use the iPhone to add new devices to Home
- MacOS App allows you to control devices but NOT add new ones
- Each hardware device needs to be added to the Home App

Standards Supported

How can I control this

- Virtually all devices work with Alexa
- Look for Home, or Apple Home
- Devices also have stand alone apps that can work
- Home allows you to see them all in one place
- Home allows voice commands



Matter Logo

Compatible with Home

- **Matter** Logo means **Home App** compatible
- It will also list Home





FaceTime



Watch



Numbers



Keynote



Home



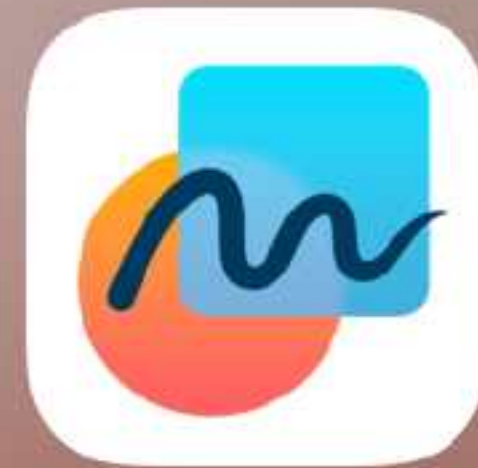
Pages



Shortcuts



 iMovie



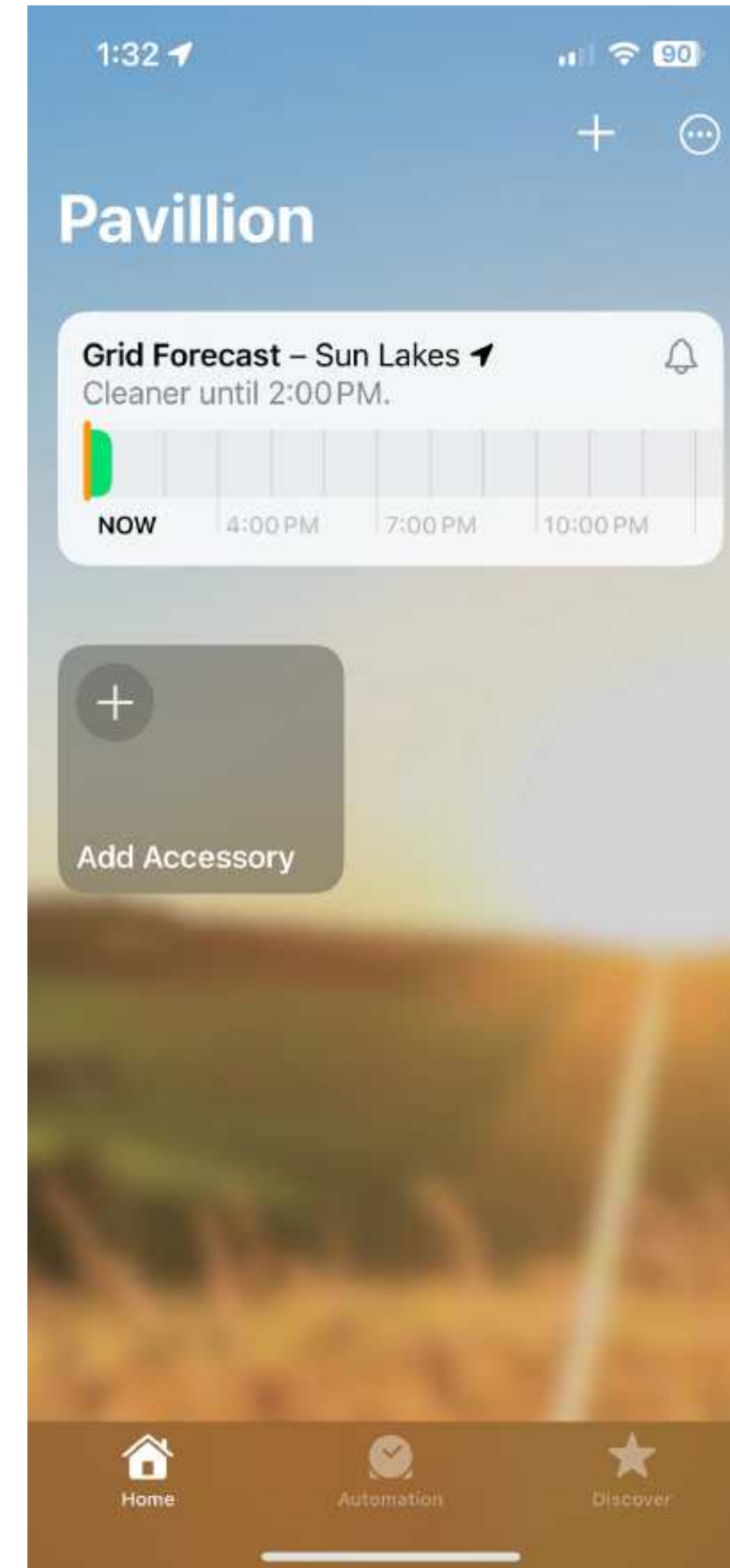
Freeform



Home App

Starting Display

- Home App starts empty
- You need to add devices to use them
- If you have not used it yet, you should see something like this



Home App

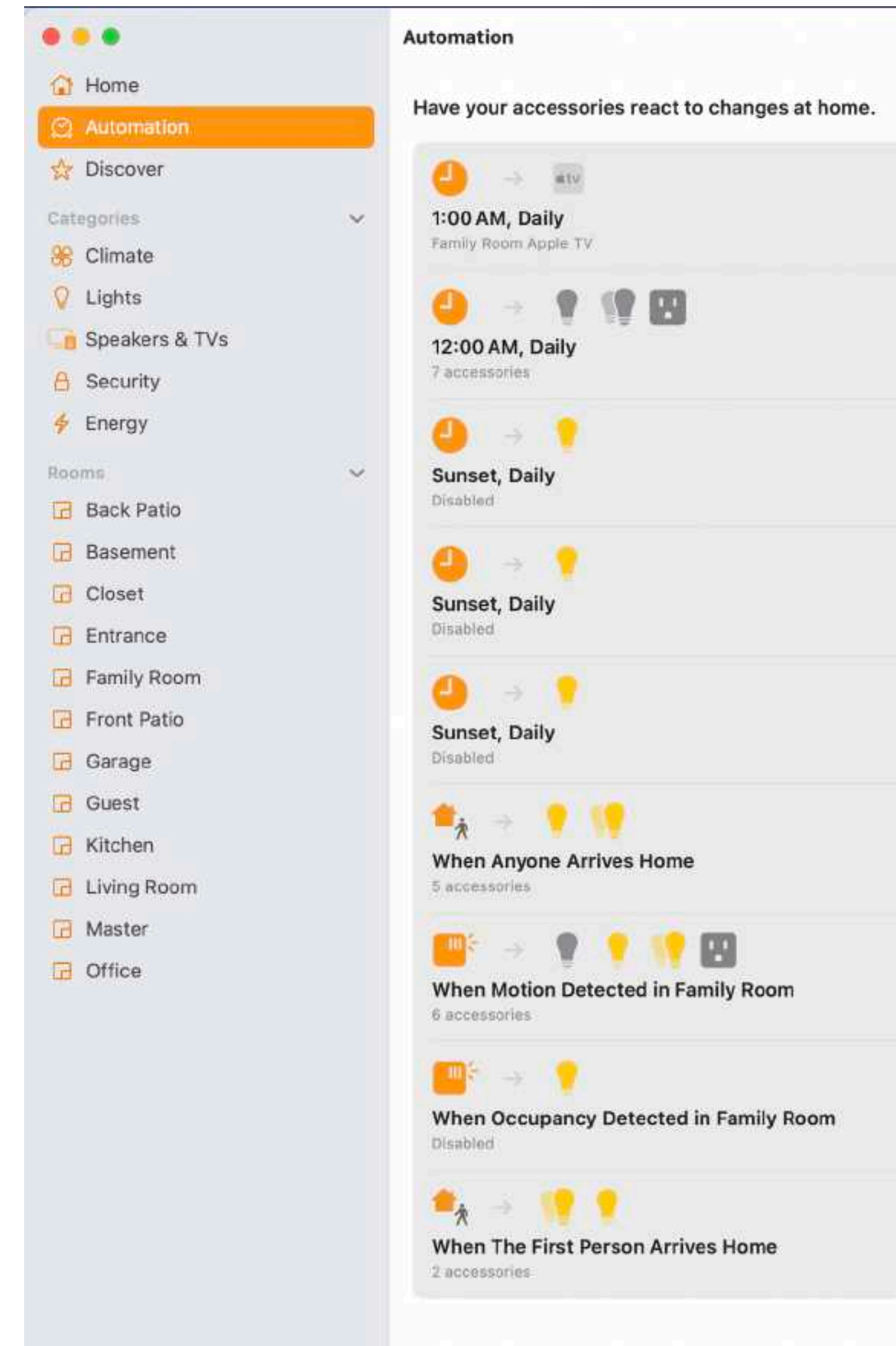
IOS Version on iPhone

- **Home App** on IOS
- Plus Sign, upper Right, to add new Devices
- Automation allows you to define certain actions.
 - At sunset turn on lights
 - At 1 AM turn off all lights



Home App Automation

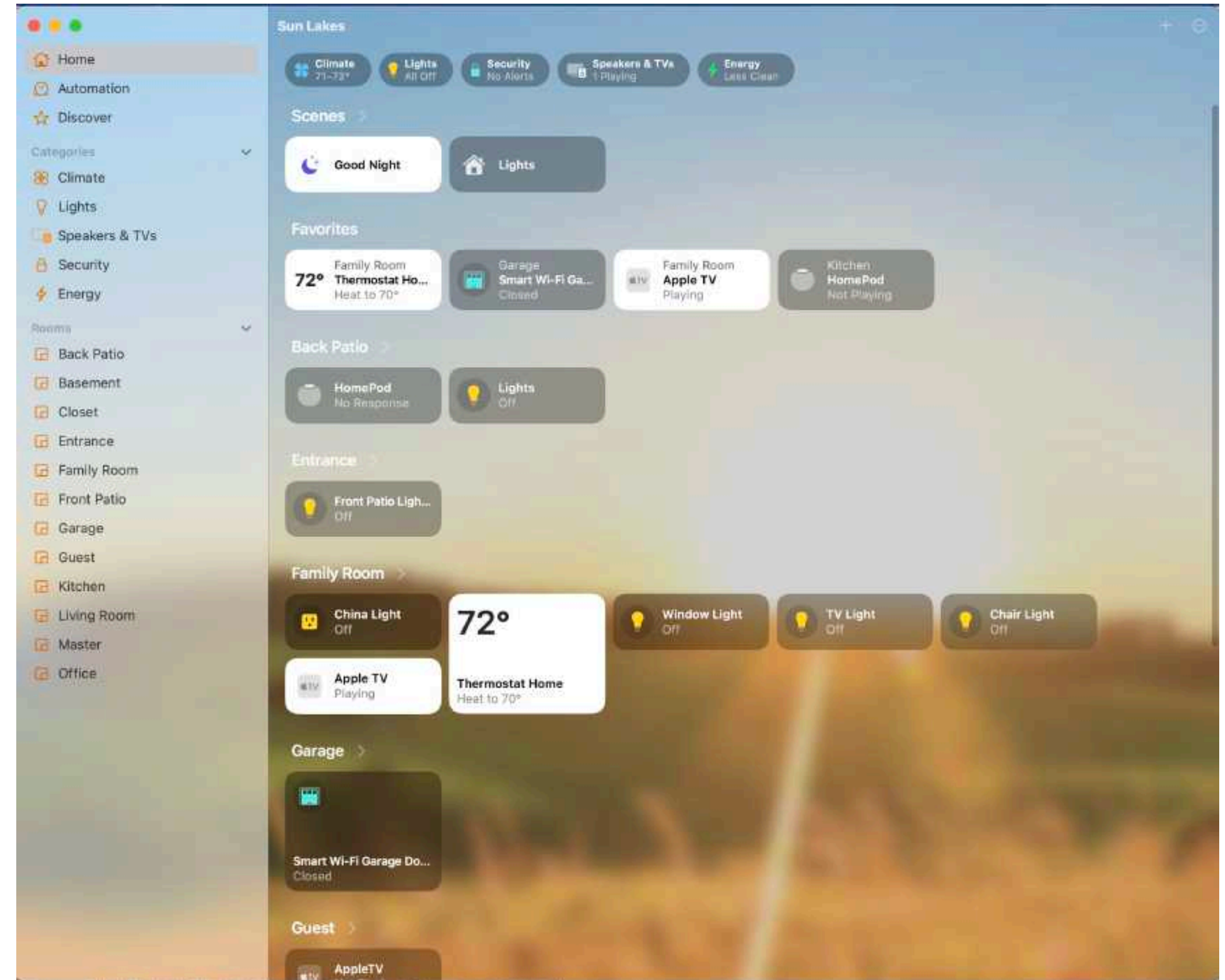
- Set up actions based on events
- Actions can be Active or Disabled
 - You may want a Christmas Light automation part of the year
- Lots of trigger events that can be used



Home App

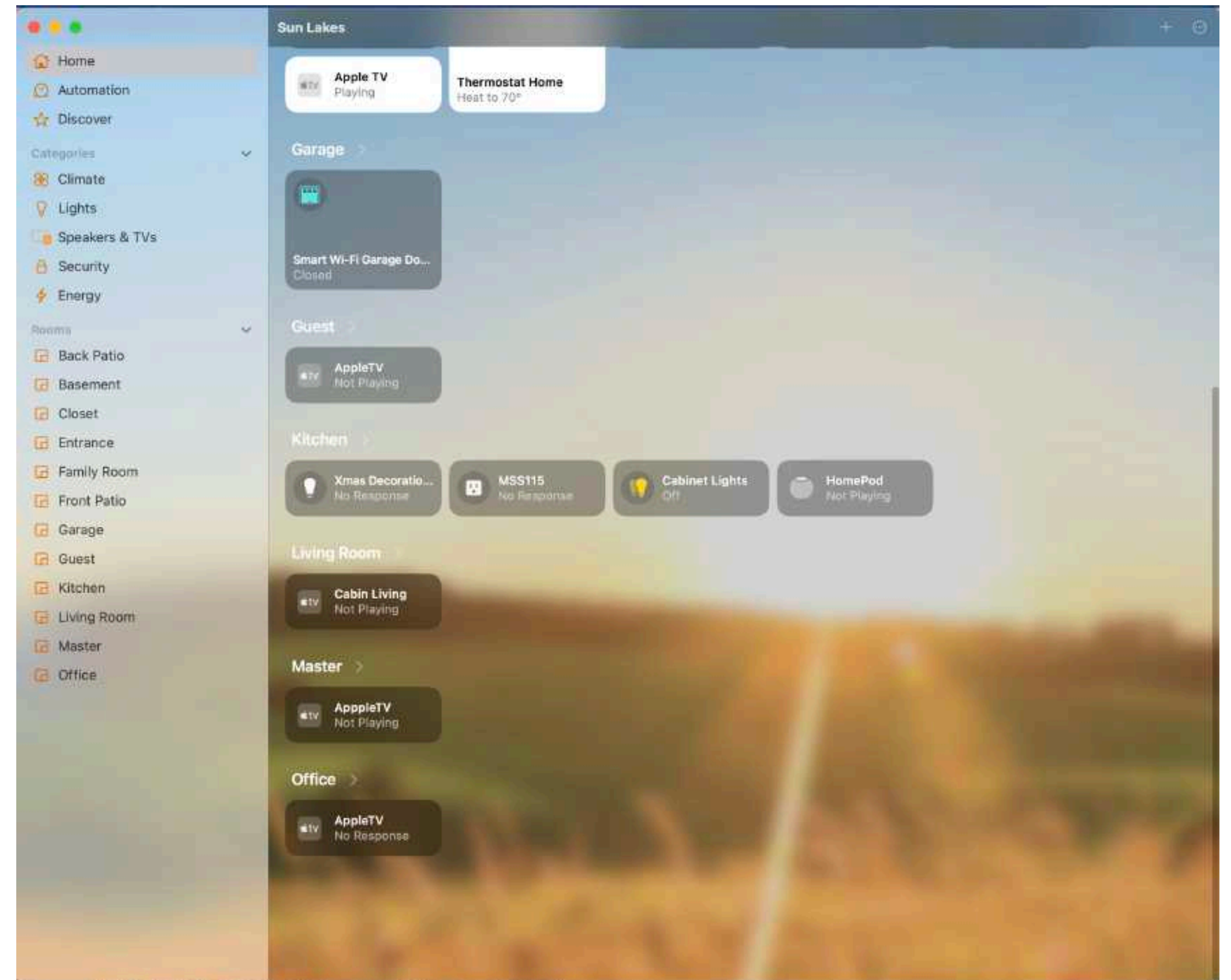
Viewed on a Mac

- This is part of my Home App
- Devices are arranged by Room
- Most used can be added to Favorites at the top
- Scenes define a group of devices
 - “Hey Siri Goodnight” turns off all lights



Home App Mac

- My Home App cont.
- AppleTV can be controlled



Home App

Discover

- Open Home App - Click **Discover** (bottom right)
- Good Introduction to **Home App**
- **Hub** options, AppleTV and HomePod
- Lists Types of items that can be automated
- Scroll to the bottom, **Smart Home Accessories**
 - A list of Home compatible devices
 - This list is not everything and more are added all the time