



The Investigator Newsletter

Smart Home Device Hacking



When Your Smart Home Turns Against You: Hacking Risks and Prevention

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Smart Home Device Hacking

Hackers have discovered ways to access Google Home, Alexa, Nest, and other smart home devices. The hacker is then able to control any smart home devices connected to it, such as thermostats, house locks, and Amazon accounts. The hacker can activate the call function and call themselves, allowing them to listen in on all conversations and speak through the device.

Once the hacker gains access to the device, they can order items on Amazon or from grocery stores and charge them to your card. They can make the house excessively warm by changing the thermostat, and can lock you out of your house using smart locks. This can be very dangerous.

How to identify if you have been hacked

- Weird behaviour from smart home devices (thermostat changing by itself)
- New devices are being added to your Wi-Fi network
- Someone speaking through the device
- Loss of access to the device settings

The best way to prevent this is by always keeping your devices fully up to date. These software updates continually fix bugs and enhance the device's security.

To learn more about smart home hackers, listen to [episode 16 of Scams 360](#) wherever you get podcasts!

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