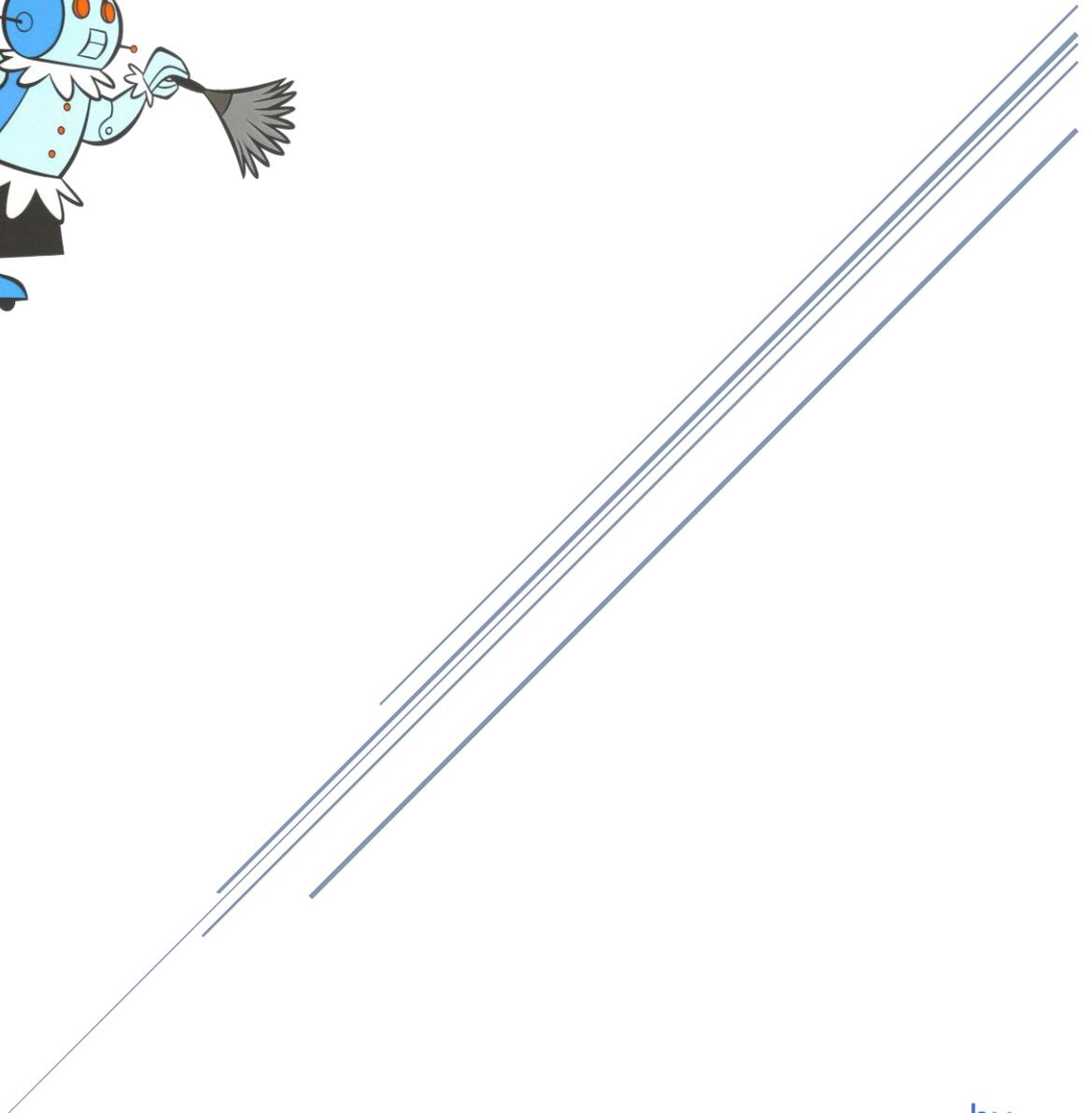
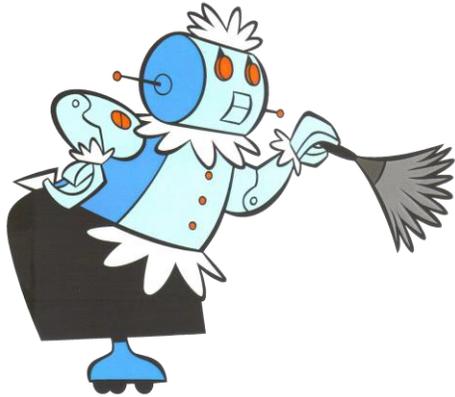


AI SMART SPEAKER

Artificial Intelligence



by
J.J. Johnson

Amazon Echo vs Google Home vs Apple HomePod: Which is right for you?

SMART SPEAKERS

You've no doubt heard the buzz about smart speakers. Why else would you be reading this article? A few years ago, if you wanted a smart speaker with a hands-free digital assistant, there was only one option. The Amazon Echo was one-of-a-kind when it debuted in November 2014, and it launched into uncharted waters unsure if it would find a home with consumers.

But it was a smash hit, and was quickly followed up by the Google Home and a slew of third-party devices with Alexa or Google Assistant built in. Even Apple finally joined the party with the HomePod in early February.

Amazon Echo

Echo (2nd Gen) has a new speaker, new design, and is available in a range of styles including fabrics and wood veneers. Echo connects to Alexa to play music, make calls, set music alarms and timers, ask questions, control smart home devices, and more— instantly.

Just ask for a song, artist, or genre from Amazon Music, Spotify, Pandora, and more. With multi-room music, you can play music on compatible Echo devices in different rooms. Echo can also play Audible audiobooks, radio stations, news briefs, and more.

Call or message almost anyone hands-free with your Echo device. Also, instantly connect to other Echo devices in your home using just your voice.

- Echo Dot \$49.99
- Echo \$99.99
- Echo Plus \$149.99
- Echo Dot Kids \$79.99
- Echo Spot \$129.99
- Echo Show \$229.99
- Echo Look 199.99



Google Home

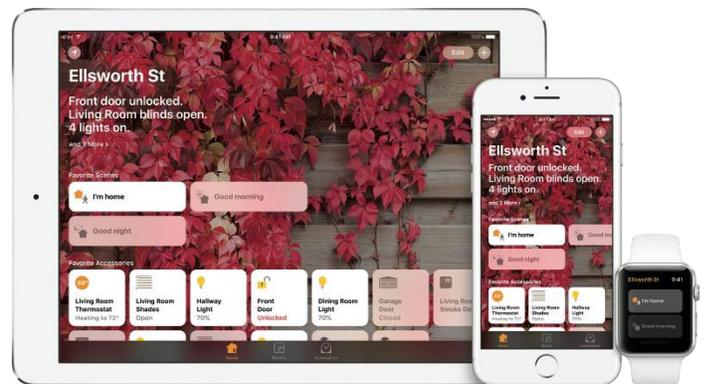
Google Home is a brand of smart speakers developed by Google. ... Google Home speakers enable users to speak voice commands to interact with services through Google's intelligent personal assistant called Google Assistant.

- Google Home \$129.99
- Google Mini \$49.99



Apple HomeKit

The **Apple Home** app, which runs on iOS 10 or later, lets you securely control any smart home device labeled as a "Works with **Apple HomeKit**" accessory. In the app, you can organize your accessories by room, manage multiple accessories at the same time, control your home with Siri, and more.



DOORBELLS

Ring Video Doorbell

Ring was one of the first startups to offer a DIY smart doorbell.

Its Video Doorbell, available in the US for \$199, Australia for AU\$244 and has a 180-degree field-of-view and motion detection zones.

It also has a rechargeable battery -- or you can hardwire it for continuous power.

Ring Video Doorbell 2

The \$199/£155/AU\$299 Ring Video Doorbell 2 can either be hardwired or you can use the removable, rechargeable battery. It has 1,920x1,080p HD resolution, a 160-degree field of view and optional 60-day storage for \$3 per month. This model works with Amazon's Alexa, IFTTT and Wink.



Ring Video Doorbell Pro

Ring's \$250 Video Doorbell Pro has a much thinner design than the company's first generation of Wi-Fi buzzers.

The Video Doorbell Pro has 1080p high-definition resolution, interchangeable face plates and motion detection zones.

It also has to be hard-wired, so reconsider this model if you don't want to bother with a wired doorbell. \$250 converts to roughly £185 and AU\$330 at the current exchange rate.

Nest Hello Doorbell



Nest hasn't yet announced pricing for its Hello smart doorbell, but its specs are similar to the Nest Cam IQ Indoor and Outdoor cameras. It offers person alerts, familiar face alerts (with a Nest Aware subscription) and HD live streaming.

August Doorbell Cam Pro

August's Doorbell Cam is a smarter, simpler access point between you and your visitors -- if you can get it to fit on your door frame

August's US-only \$199 Doorbell Cam Pro lets you see who's at your front door in high-definition.

It also has two-way talk, push alerts, live streaming and integration with [August's line of smart locks](#).

This smart buzzer has to be hard-wired, though and its square shape won't fit on every doorframe. At the current exchange rate, \$199.



SECURITY CAMERAS

Netgear Arlo

Netgear's indoor-outdoor-rated Arlo security cameras cost \$180 each.

Rather than having to rely on a power adapter, Arlo models require 4 CR123 lithium 3-volt photo batteries.

That gives you more flexibility when it comes to install location, but you will have to swap out the batteries fairly regularly.



Netgear Arlo Pro

The \$250 Netgear Arlo Pro (AU\$330, converted) is a rechargeable indoor/outdoor security camera. Like the Netgear Arlo, you get seven days of free clip-based cloud storage. Its rechargeable battery should last for up to six months.

Netgear Arlo Pro 2

Standalone Netgear Arlo Pro 2 cameras cost \$220 each. Two- and four-camera kits are sold with a base station for \$480 and \$800.

Prices convert to roughly £170 and AU\$280 for a single camera, £365/AU\$615 for the two-camera kit and for the four-camera kit.

- Here's an overview of the Arlo Pro 2's specs:
- 1080p high-definition live-streaming
- Powered by rechargeable lithium ion battery or cable
- Rated for indoor and/or outdoor use
- 7-day free event-based cloud storage

Ring Spotlight Cam

The battery-powered (\$199, converted) Ring Spotlight Cam has built-in LEDs, motion detection, 1080p HD live streaming and two-way talk. An optional solar-powered model is available for \$229.

Nest Cam Outdoor



Nest's \$200/ outdoor camera is similar to its [indoor model](#).

With 1080p high-definition live streaming, motion and sound detection, activity zones, [IFTTT integration](#) and integration with other Nest products via the related Android and iPhone app, this camera can do a lot.

You can do even more with a monthly subscription to the Nest Aware service, including Person Alerts. This feature shoots you a notification both when it thinks it sees a person and when it's sure it sees a person.

Ooma Telo Security System



Ooma, one of the biggest names in VoIP (voice over internet protocol) phone service, is expanding into the DIY home security market. Ooma Telo owners will soon be able to install motion, door/window, and/or flood sensors in their homes, and add a new tier of service that provides home security monitoring



AMAZON ECHO	GOOGLE HOME	HUMAN COUNTERPART
\$99.99 one-off payment	\$129.00 one-off payment	\$15–40 per hour
Best sound quality  ✓	3–4 dB less than Echo	No mute button 
Plays music from apps	Let's you upload your own music 	Might sing for you if persuaded. Or if paid more.
Multiple wake-word options like "Alexa" or "Echo" 	Only responds to "Hey, Google!"	Might get mad if you call them at 6am to order you coffee
Responds better to particular word choices	Doesn't seem to mind what words you use	 Be polite!
Has access to multiple third-party sites 	Has access to many of the same third-party sites, as well as YouTube, which Alexa lacks	Can log onto YouTube for you, maybe even recommend new tunes; probably knows cool new apps
Spells words, sets timers, reads you the news	 Spells words, sets timers, reads you the news	I mean, I guess they <i>could</i> sit there and read to you, but what are you, 5? 
Maybe one day robots will be able to collect laundry	It could happen — you never know	Can collect your laundry easily 
Won't yell back at you 	Won't yell back at you	 Is a sentient being who understands everything you say

Reported by: Kelly Meehan Brown

January 30, 2018 - Alexa vs. **Google** Assistant. Both Amazon Alexa and **Google** Assistant have developed into excellent voice assistants. They have dueling sets of features: Alexa supports slightly more smart **home** devices, for instance, while **Google** lets you upload your own music to its cloud.

Amazon offers several other Alexa-enabled smart speakers in addition to the standard-model **Echo**: the smaller **Echo Dot**, which is a good choice if you want to connect it to your own (higher-quality) speaker system; the **Echo Plus**, with a built-in Zigbee smart-**home** hub; the portable **Echo Tap**; and the video-enabled **Echo**.

Resources

Amazon Echo @ Amazon.com

Ecobee Thermostat @ Ecobee.com

Ring Doorbell @ Ring.com @

Nest Doorbell @ Nest.com

August Doorbell Cam @ August.cm

Arlo Security Camera @ Netgear.com

Ooma Telo Security @ Ooma.com

Cenet.com

