

Oh Snap... We Forgot To Leave A Light On



How many times have you gone out for the evening and realized, hey, I forgot to leave a light on. Assuring proper lighting is left on when you leave your home is a primary way to prevent home burglary. There is a new solution for this problem provided by Philips Lighting called Philips Hue.

This product includes one or more led bulbs along with a physical hub used to control the bulbs. The hub connects into your home network via Ethernet cable. The hub then utilizes wireless connectivity to communicate with each of the led bulbs. The intelligence comes in with options to remotely control the lights and set up software timers to control individual or groups of lights. In addition, there are options not only to turn the lights on or off but to control the color (hue) of each of light, brightness of each light, and even setting the lights to react to music and sound.

While some of these features seem to be more playful than functional, the Philips Hue system solves the issue of assuring lights are left on in your home when you are away. The homeowner never has to walk into a dark house anymore, they can simply turn on the lights remotely prior to entering the house. With the ability to set software timers, I personally have configured the lights in our home to automatically come on at a set time and automatically go off at a set time. We can also remotely control the lighting which means when we are away for an extended period of time, we can vary which lights are on and which lights are off giving the impression to outsiders the house is occupied thereby greatly lowering the probability of burglary.

While being very easy to set up and simple to operate, the Philips Hue system also provides a great range of flexibility for the more adventurous at heart. It even includes an API allowing a multitude of options not available in the provided app. This API, via the ThingWorx extension for the Philips Hue, can easily be leveraged within ThingWorx to allow mashups to be created reflecting the current status of the lights as well as being able to remotely control the lights via ThingWorx.

The Philips Hue product has taken the need for basic lighting and combined that with a smart connected product which provides many options and solutions to assure that need is always and easily satisfied.