

IT'S ALWAYS THE SEASON FOR MORE CONTROL

Holidays & automation go together like red & hot, stars & stripes, cake & ice cream. The previous issue of Home Smart Home featured 10 great ideas from Control4 dealers, customers and employees on how to make your smart home even smarter for a few end-of-the-year holidays. To help you fill out the rest of your calendar year, here are a few more suggestions:



1. For many countries, ski season alone is reason enough to celebrate for a few months! Chalet owners of One Happpo in Hakuba, Japan use sensors to trigger the heated roof and driveway to melt snow on impact. That way, their best winter hours are spent skiing, not shoveling.

2. The same clever couple enlists a strategic Control4 wakeup scene to get them on the slopes as soon as possible: Starting at 5:00 am, the shades silently rise, the lights gradually come up and then...- Boom! Every speaker in the house pulses with just the music to move them out of bed and get them first in line on the Happpone mountain.

3. A bachelor in Massachusetts had his Control4 installer program a "Barry White" button to set the mood—or is it "intention"?—of his high-rise condo in one touch: Lights, fireplace, and the music of everyone's favorite R&B baritone all work in harmony to help fan the flames of romance for him and his lucky guest. How's that for a first, a last, an "everything" button?

4. Yes, your Control4 smart home is so smart, it can also remember birthdays, year after year, automatically. Make sure that certain someone feel special from the moment they rise with a birthday wakeup scene: Use the Wireless Music Bridge to rouse the sleepyhead with the "Birthday" by the Beatles and have the TV turn on to a photo collage featuring the birthday boy or girl.

5. If you've got smart door locks integrated with your Control4 system, you can keep the surprises going all day long: Program the lock to trigger a special song (how about They Might Be Giants' anti-anthem "Older") approximately 30 seconds after the honoree keys in his or her unique passcode. You could also record a custom greeting to be triggered upon arrival.

6. Invest in a few good wireless Speaker Points and a Wireless Music Bridge so that your soundtrack to summer doesn't just follow you everywhere in the house, but out by the pool, too. Even friends can contribute to the waves of the party mood by streaming music straight from their phone to whatever audio zone may flow.

7. If you have a vacation rental property, this one's for you: In addition to appreciating 24/7 access to your cameras thanks to 4Sight with Anywhere Access, your Control4 system also makes it possible to receive instant alerts on your mobile phone when certain events take place, like a water leak, or every time someone enters the property. "It's great to feel so connected," says one customer. "I'm never left wondering."

8. If you celebrate a nationalistic holiday, queue up some pride, fully automated, with your smart home: Try a patriotic playlist, or humor visitors with a doorbell chime that plays the opening notes of your country's anthem.

9. If both mom and dad work in a office vs. a home office, invest in a few good smart locks so you'll always be the first to know the second your child gets home from school. With unique codes to identify users, smart locks can trigger automatic and immediate messages to let you know who got home and when. Getting kids to do their homework, however, remains manual labor...

10. Falling into shorter days also means returning home to a darker house. A garage door sensor can add equal parts comfort and security. As you pull into the garage at the end of a hectic day, the Control4 system can trigger certain events—from turning on the house lights to automatically queuing up your favorite relaxing playlist in your den, or tuning the television to ESPN.