



Ohio Tech Ambassadors

Tech Talks: Smart Home Security Cameras

Arlo | Nest | Ring | Wyze



What is a Smart Security Camera?

- Wi-Fi connected cameras that monitor your home.
- Offer live streaming, motion alerts, and cloud storage.
- Can be accessed remotely via smartphone apps.
- Many include two-way audio, night vision, and AI detection.

Overview of Key Players

- **Arlo** – High-end, wireless, smart AI features.
- **Nest (Google)** – Smart AI, Google integration.
- **Ring (Amazon)** – Affordable, broad ecosystem.
- **Wyze** – Budget-friendly, surprisingly advanced features.

Feature Comparison

Feature	Arlo	Nest	Ring	Wyze
Video Quality	Up to 4K	1080p / 2K	1080p	1080p / 2K / 4K
Night Vision	Yes (Color)	Yes (Color)	Yes (Color)	Yes (Some Color)
AI Detection	Yes (People, Packages, Vehicles, Animals)	Yes (Familiar Faces, Packages)	Yes (People, Packages)	Yes (Person, Sound)
Subscription Needed?	Yes for full features	Yes for recording	Yes for recording	Yes for cloud recording
Smart Integration	Alexa, Google, Apple	Google Home only	Alexa, some Google	Alexa, Google
Local Storage	Optional (with base)	No	No	Yes (microSD)
Price Range	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	\$\$	\$

Arlo – Premium Protection

Price: \$300 to \$400

Pros

- ✓ 2K to 4K resolution for ultra-clear video
- ✓ AI-based alerts (people, animals, vehicles)
- ✓ Weatherproof, great for indoor/outdoor
- ✓ Works with Alexa, Google, Apple

Cons

- ✗ Pricey
- ✗ Requires base station for some models

[How to Install the Arlo Ultra 2 Wireless Security Camera](#)



Nest – Smart & Seamless

Price: \$200 to \$350

Pros

- ✓ Smooth integration with Google Assistant
- ✓ Familiar face recognition (with subscription)
- ✓ Sleek design, reliable performance
- ✓ Free 3-hour event history

Cons

- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ No local storage
- ✗ Google-only smart home compatibility

Home Security With the New Nest Cams and Doorbell From Google



Ring – Budget Friendly Ecosystem

Pros

Price: \$100 to \$200

- ✓ Affordable, easy to set up
- ✓ Part of the Ring and Alexa ecosystem
- ✓ Multiple camera types: indoor, floodlight, etc.
- ✓ Good app and notifications

Cons

- ✗ Subscription needed for video history
- ✗ Some past privacy concerns

Introducing the Ring Floodlight Cam Wired Plus
The All-New HD Video Ring Indoor Cam



Wyze – Power on a Budget

Pros

Price: \$20 - \$30

- ✓ Extremely affordable
- ✓ Supports local storage (microSD)
- ✓ Motion tagging, person detection (with Cam Plus)
- ✓ Indoor and outdoor models

Cons

- ✗ Inconsistent cloud service
- ✗ Limited customer support
- ✗ Some features locked behind subscription

[How to set up Wyze Cam OG](#)



**Which One is
Best for You?**

- Best Overall Quality & AI → **Arlo**
- Best for Google Users → Nest
- Best for Alexa & Ring Devices → **Ring**
- Best Budget Choice → **Wyze**

Final Thoughts

- Smart cameras are great for monitoring and peace of mind
- Each brand offers unique strengths
- Subscriptions often needed for full features
- Always secure your network & update devices regularly

Ohio Tech Ambassadors

Tech Talks: Smart Thermostats

Nest, Ecobee, Sensi, and Amazon Smart





What is a Smart Thermostat?

- A smart thermostat lets you control your home's heating and cooling remotely.
- Automatically adjusts temperature based on your preferences and habits.
- Helps reduce energy usage and save money.
- Controlled via smartphone apps, voice assistants, or schedules.

Top Smart Thermostats

- **Google Nest Thermostat** – Sleek design, Google ecosystem, energy-saving intelligence.
- **Ecobee SmartThermostat** – Room sensors, voice control, premium features.
- **Sensi Smart Thermostat** – Budget-friendly, reliable, easy to install.
- **Amazon Smart Thermostat** – Alexa-integrated, affordable smart home starter.

Feature Comparison

Feature	Google Nest	Ecobee	Sensi	Amazon Smart
Price Range	\$\$	\$\$\$	\$	\$
Learning Capabilities	Yes (auto-schedule)	No (manual or schedule)	No	No
Room Sensors	No (Nest Temp Sensor sold separately)	Yes	No	No
Smart Assistant Support	Google Assistant, Alexa	Alexa, Google, Siri	Alexa, Google	Alexa only
Energy Reports	Yes (Nest Leaf, Energy History)	Yes (Home IQ)	Yes	Basic (via Alexa app)
Voice Control	Yes	Yes (built-in Alexa)	Yes	Yes (via Alexa)
C-Wire Required?	Not always	Usually Yes	No (with batteries)	Yes or with adapter

Google Nest Thermostat

Price: ~ \$130

Pros

- ✓ Sleek, modern design
- ✓ Learns your habits to auto-schedule
- ✓ Energy-saving features (Nest Leaf, eco mode)
- ✓ Works with Google Home and Alexa

Cons

- ✗ No built-in voice assistant
- ✗ Limited without additional Nest Temp Sensors

Introducing the new Nest Thermostat from Google



Ecobee SmartThermostat

Pros

Price: \$150 to \$250

- ✓ Includes smart room sensor for balanced heating/cooling
- ✓ Built-in Alexa voice control
- ✓ Great for larger homes
- ✓ Energy usage reports with Home IQ

Cons

- ✗ Higher price point
- ✗ May require C-wire or power extender kit

Introducing the new ecobee Smart Thermostat Enhanced



Sensi Smart Thermostat

Price: \$80 to \$150

Pros

- ✓ Budget-friendly and simple
- ✓ Easy DIY installation
- ✓ Works with most HVAC systems
- ✓ Doesn't always require C-wire

Cons

- ✗ No learning features
- ✗ Basic design and app interface

Here's why Sensi might be the smart thermostat for you



Amazon Smart Thermostat

Price: ~ \$80

Pros

- ✓ Most affordable smart thermostat
- ✓ Designed for Alexa users
- ✓ Clean, minimalist design
- ✓ Energy-saving routines through Alexa

Cons

- ✗ No learning or sensor features
- ✗ Requires C-wire or adapter

[How to Set Up Your Amazon Smart Thermostat](#)



**Which One is
Best for You?**

- Best for Learning & Energy Savings → **Google Nest**
- Best for Voice Control & Room Sensors → **Ecobee**
- Best Budget Pick for DIYers → **Sensi**
- Best Alexa Smart Home Starter → **Amazon Smart Thermostat**

Final Thoughts

- Smart thermostats offer energy efficiency, comfort, and convenience.
- Choose based on your budget, home size, and smart ecosystem.
- Check HVAC compatibility and installation requirements.
- Take advantage of rebates from energy providers or utility companies.