



Courey McCubbin (above), a sales executive for Hitcents, explains the EyeOn Home Automation system Thursday at the Bowling Green home of Ed, Chrystal and Macy Mills. Brian Foster (below), an electrical engineer at Hitcents, adjusts the system at the Mills' home. The technology can automate home entertainment, lighting control and security among many other tasks. There are four homes in Bowling Green with the system and six in the process of installation.



Home: AI

Hitcents turns eye on digitizing local housing market

EYEON
~~HONEY~~ do:

With EyeOn software, your house can:

- Maintain its own climate
- Adjust its window shades and lighting to save you energy
- Feed the dog
- Have the doorbell pause your movies and change screens to the front door surveillance camera.
- Be monitored with a remote-based surveillance system
- Air satellite radio, CDs and various audio sources in each room
- Control your home with a single remote
- Be customized to suit your needs

Programmed houses that can tell you when to take out the trash and what temperature to expect for the day have made their way to southcentral Kentucky.

With a program that isn't even two years old, Hitcents.com is using its innovative EyeOn Automation software to make a dozen or so homes in the region technically inclined. More than 10 have already been built in Bowling Green and Russellville, including three houses in Olde Stone off Scottsville Road.

On Thursday, Hitcents sales executives Courey McCubbin, Scott Lewis, Alan Ruanto and others showed off the house at 901 Elmwood Court to Realtors and builders to highlight the software's capabilities.

The doorbell is bewitched – literally, and carries a sound effect from the classic TV show.

"Because it's a magical house it has a magical doorbell," Chrystal Mills said.

As you walk up the stairs, motion detectors sense your movement and trigger sounds ranging from reminders of when to take out the trash to temperature forecasts.

You can use any device capable of utilizing the Internet to run EyeOn software, including cell phones, laptops, touchscreens, Blackberries and personal digital assistants.

Homeowners can also customize house sounds used throughout the house. Chrystal and Ed Mills have the sound of their daughter's voice to announce temperature updates and listen to XM satellite radio wired throughout their home.

See MAGIC, 2B



Chrystal Mills lives with her family in one of four local houses with EyeOn technology. The screen behind her is one of several in her home that shows video surveillance of the residence.

MAGIC, from 1B

You can feed the security monitoring system to your cell phone so any time someone rings your doorbell you'll see them, whether you're home or not.

You can set the house to run certain tasks. For example, if you know the UPS delivery person will have a package for you at a certain time, you can have the house open the garage door and watch the delivery man drop off the package and leave, all from your cell phone. You can even shut the door when he leaves.

The EyeOn software also controls the house's climate and lighting.

The software is usable to an older crowd who may be slow in integrating digital technologies into their lifestyle.

"They've done a very good job of making it user-friendly," said Johnston Boyd, vice president of operations for the Vision Group.

Chris Mills, one of many creators of the EyeOn software, said he had heard of such houses in California, but when he looked for the technology himself, he was disappointed.

"The more I looked the less I could find. You could find a company that did audio or video but you couldn't find a company that did everything," he said.

So Mills started programming his own system with a Linux-based server, and went on the search to find the best of the best in each category.

As he fed in the technology and programmed each component to interact side by side in the same system, the EyeOn software was born.

Mills hired electrical engineer Bryan Foster to handle the wiring for the EyeOn installation along with five programmers, each who specialized in different types of programming language like Flash, Visual Basic, Pearl, and HTML, to put the system together.

The program was created in

March 2005.

"I think it's fixing to blow up," said Steven Freeman, president of the Vision Group, a real estate conglomerate of development, construction and design that is building the Traditions development on Lovers Lane. "It's convenient for all ages. Everyone is becoming more tech savvy."

Freeman hopes to incorporate the EyeOn technology at Traditions.

"We're overwhelmed with work," Mills was happy to say. "For Hitcents, it has opened the door to other things," he said. "Our ultimate goal is to be nationwide, we want to be a distributor and sell to certified wholesalers."

For commercial buildings, the EyeOn software could act as an energy management system, Mills said.

"At the end of the day, we want it to save a company money," he said.

Dr. Eli Jackson will implement the technology in the new building for his practice, currently next door to Riley's Bakery on U.S. 31-W By-Pass, Mills said.

Mills also mentioned you can customize a house with extra features. For instance, you could set up the house to feed your dog.

Besides that, you could program your house to do other tasks, like customize rooms with tasks to dim lights or turn on equipment at certain times, and help you cook or assemble your grocery list.

"The more we move into the future, the more standard things like this will become and not optional," Mills said. "When the cell phone first came out, you really didn't need it, now you can't live without one."

— *For more information about Hitcents' new software, visit www.eyeonautomation.com or call 796-5063.*