

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is finally here, and we have some new toys at Smart Homes Inc./Smart Offices to share with you! From outdoor entertainment systems to the latest network and computing options, there are plenty of new products to explore.



For instance, the innovative Soundcast 2 and the Paradigm Stylus 270 outdoor speakers are a perfect addition to summer living. They offer more satellite range than any other speaker setups on the market, as well as nice, stylish cases that protect against weather, water, and UV damage. So if you are looking to replace your current outdoor speakers or simply looking to add to your outdoor entertainment, we can help!

In addition to sound systems, the technology behind outdoor televisions now provides the same HD quality picture you can get in your living room! With special coating, all-weather enclosures, water-tight cable entry systems, and even water resistant remote controls, the addition of an outdoor TV will ensure that you never have to compromise between your favorite TV Shows and beautiful summer weather!



With the new season, we've added a few new members to the SHSO team as well. We are proud to welcome Nick Leiby to the Smart Offices team as an IT Specialist. Aside from his work with computers, Nick also teaches classes centered on Microsoft Office software at Lansing Community College. We are very happy to have Nick join us, so make sure to stop in or chat with him on the phone. He will

be a big help to the team!

We'd also like to welcome Brandon Waterloo to the team as an IT Intern. Brandon has already proven to be a key contributor to our database and content management projects, and we are happy to bring his expertise and positive attitude into our office.

Just as a reminder, we are still offering our Customer Referral Program for past and current customers, so if you know someone who has technology needs for their home or office, we are happy to reward you for your referral with either a dinner and DVD of your choice (\$75 value) or one free service call or complete system check-up (1 hr. of on-site time - \$89 value). For more details, call us today!

I'd also like to take this time to mention a more vital aspect of technology that I hold dear to my heart. With the years flying by, I watch my parents growing into their late 70's, and I can't express the importance of ensuring their safety and security. I've recently discovered a new system that works with Control4, called CloseBy Networks, which connects your loved ones through state-of-the-art secure web servers to designated members of a Care Network, a group of people who are available 24/7. The technology here is simply amazing, and if you'd like further information on this, call us today and we'll be sure to take the time to meet with you.



Well, that's about all for this issue, so enjoy the articles! Thank you for your business, both past and present, and we can't wait to hear from you!

Sincerely,

John Gilluly
President, Smart Homes Inc./Smart Offices

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MEET THE TEAM MEMBERS:



**ALYCIA McINTYRE-
JOHNSON (AMJ)**
Administrative Assistant

AMJ brings her 20+ years of office support, customer service, and human resource experience to Smart Homes to streamline office efficiency. In addition to providing a reliable contact person to our customers, AMJ is responsible for managing incoming inventory shipments.

Along with spending time with her two children, AMJ enjoys spending time with her dog, an Akida named Jada, reading books and attending seminars on personal development, attending church, and going to a salsa dance class on weekends.



**BRANDON
WATERLOO**
IT Intern

As a welcome addition to the SHSO team this summer, Brandon is currently entering his third year at Michigan State, where he has studied C++, PHP, SQL, and has experience working on the development of a PHP-based Content Management System. After graduation, he plans to attend graduate school, where he will pursue a Master's Degree in Computer Science.

Brandon spends most of his time in the office working with Image Premier quoting, tracking orders, and creating new features for use for payroll and inventory tracking.

Aside from his internship at Smart Homes Inc./Smart Offices, Brandon enjoys hanging out with friends, building custom PC's, computer gaming, and woodworking.



NICK LEIBY
IT Specialist

Nick's career in IT management and computer analysis stems back to his years at LCC and Olivet College, where he studied Information Technology. Along the way, he became certified in A+, Net+, XP, Security+, MCSA, and Server 03.

As the most recent addition to the Smart Homes, Inc./Smart Offices team, Nick brings a broad range of capabilities with computer repair and analysis, focusing on both software and hardware issues for business and personal use.

In his free time, Nick enjoys paintball and going to see the newest action movies. He is also an avid PC gamer.



KIERNAN MANION
Graphic/Web Designer

Kiernan joined the SH/SO team last summer as a Marketing & Web Design intern with three years of writing, designing, and editing experience, and has continued to work with the company throughout his final year at Michigan State, where he studies Professional Writing with a specialization in Business Communication.

Currently, Kiernan spends most of his time at Smart Homes, Inc. creating marketing material for both print and digital use, such as brochures, print advertisements, and banners.

Outside of work, Kiernan enjoys driving along open roads in his Camaro, writing short stories, and listening to rock and techno music.

FEATURED PRODUCT: OUTDOOR SOUND SYSTEMS



With summer weather finally here, outdoor activities are a great way to relax, enjoy great weather and spend time with friends and loved ones. From family gatherings and parties to simply relaxing in the hot sun, there's one component of home environments that really helps turn everyday events into spectacles: outdoor sound systems.

Here's some basic information on four distinct models to help you build the outdoor sound experience you've always dreamed of, in addition to

Paradigm Stylus Series

Paradigm Stylus Series speakers, in addition to the Rock Monitor and AMS X-treme series, can enhance your backyard with the high-performance sound that Paradigm is famous for, all at an affordable price. Whether it's indoor or outdoor use a single Stylus "SM" (stereo/mono)



speaker offers rich, pure-fidelity dual-channel sound that is ideal for small outdoor areas.

In larger areas, multiple "SM" speakers work to eliminate sound imbalances with the right placement options, which are custom-designed for your specific landscape and home architecture. Fully sealed PolyGlass mineral-filled enclosures and unique, controlled WaveGuide Faceplates guarantee the highest quality sound and reliability on the market today.

Paradigm Rock Monitor Series

With their exclusive exterior, designed to flawlessly blend with natural outdoor surroundings, Rock Monitor Series speakers provide two channels of L/R outdoor sound, operating with Dual-Directional Soundfield with two offset tweeters and a



twin voice coil bass/midrange driver, which deliver an extremely wide sound dispersion that is ideal for listening outdoors where there are no sound-containing ceilings or walls.

Paradigm AMS X-treme Moisture Series

Sure enough, the "X" stands for "X-treme" with these speakers, and they live up to their name! Specially designed to weather the elements, these versions of Paradigm's pinnacle AMS Series speakers will endure full exposure in any outdoor setting, whether it's by the lake, surrounding the pool, or even in high-moisture areas like bathrooms and spa rooms!



Soundcast OutCast

With a broadcast range of up to 350 ft, the Soundcast OutCast Speaker is capable of receiving transmissions through walls, ceilings, and floors while avoiding the hassle of running wires, since the whole setup is wireless! The OutCast allows you to connect up your MP3 Player, iPod, Computer or even TV, delivering premium audio quality.



The OutCast is also fully weather-resistant, allowing you to place it by the pool, on the patio, or even on a boat. The battery lasts about 8-10 hours, ensuring that you'll keep listening as long as you want to. To top it all off, the OutCast is a fully portable speaker that you can take anywhere!

If you're interested in learning more about an outdoor sound setup for your home, don't hesitate to contact us at Smart Homes, Inc. today!

RESIDENTIAL INSTALLATIONS

Recently, Smart Homes, Inc. installed a brilliant 16-speaker entertainment system, creating the ultimate home entertainment system for Dr. Paul Rangi and his family in their newly-renovated basement.

Smart Homes, Inc. installers and engineers collaborated with Dr. Rangi in planning a layout for speaker placement throughout the basement rooms. They created wiring diagrams for running high-quality AV wires, and ordered processors and an audio matrix switch system from Control4 for the equipment rack, where all the equipment was installed in areas designated by the homeowner.

Through careful analysis of the architecture in the basement, installers Devon Wolfe and Sean Donahue got to work installing Paradigm and Bose speakers in specific locations throughout the basement in order to deliver the best sound clarity and distribution.

As Devon puts it, "The whole system has more power and control capabilities than the customer could ever want." The setup includes video distribution to four screens, audio distribution to eight different zones, and a total of four iPod docks



throughout the basement.

The entire project took roughly a month to plan, install, and program.

For more information about home entertainment and other technology products for your home, visit our website or give us a call today!

4 TIPS FOR: Conserving Energy with a Home Automation System

1. Automated **climate control** through programmed thermostats adjusts heating and cooling based on specific schedules and settings.



2. Home **lighting control** saves energy usage and cost by automatically setting brightness levels and turning on and off lights using occupancy sensors.



3. **Water conservation** systems manage sprinkler systems and hot water heaters to adapt to climate changes and living conditions.
4. Automated **shades and blinds** cut back on lighting by opening and closing at specific times, which helps reduce cooling costs as well.



COMMERCIAL INSTALLATIONS: DBI OFFICE INTERIORS



As Michigan's largest independently owned and operated office supply and interior designer, DBI Office Interiors enlisted Smart Homes, Inc./Smart Offices to implement several innovative elements in the conference room at their main office in Lansing.

The work at DBI incorporated high-quality communication tools for meetings with clients and business partners, including a widescreen overhead projector, interactive multi-touch screen SmartBoard with a computer interface, and a full audio conferencing system, complete with tabletop microphones and overhead speakers that allow complete immersion, especially for interactive meetings from multiple locations.

Additionally, Smart Offices installers set up a PC and flat screen TV display for a separate conference room, and in the next few weeks, will top it all off with a complete lighting control system.

The entire system is controlled through state-of-the-art equipment, stationed at various locations throughout the building. The main equipment rack included many of the most integral parts of the project, such as the entire Clear One Interact Audio Conferencing Phone System, Crestron QM Distribution. Crestron Flip-Top Button Boxes are used to control separate specific functions within the conference room.



To provide immediate support and scheduling, Crestron RoomView was installed, which offers the ability to schedule a room through the Microsoft Outlook Interface and to supply IT/Tech Support with immediate feedback on all equipment, including hours of use and other important quantitative data, including the current status of the equipment. RoomView can also lock out a room if known equipment issues must be repaired.

With DBI's position in the world of office furniture and interior-based products, the company will now be able to offer all of their clientele the latest technological innovations for communication, while still providing the highest quality products.

This will allow improvements to the speed at which they communicate with and sell to current and future customers throughout the state of Michigan and the Midwest. The project is scheduled for completion in July.



WE PROUDLY OFFER:



ASK THE INSTALLER

Q: *What can I do to protect my important data at home and in the workplace?*

A: First and foremost, you always want to have some form of backup, both locally and remote (in the cloud). Backups ensure that information, whether personal, confidential, or financial, is protected in the event of a disaster. Purchasing insurance, installing security systems, developing company security policies, encrypting data, and purchasing software for server backup services are all great options to look after important data both at home and in the office.



Q: *Preventing virus and malware attacks is a top priority for me. What can I do to ensure my computer is safe?*

A: Avoid clicking on links within emails, especially from major social networking sites, like Facebook and Twitter. Instead, Copy & Paste the URL into a new tab, as it will reduce your risk of obtaining a virus. Make sure your Operating system is fully up to date with the latest patches, updates and security hotfixes. Typically, it's best to use the latest version of Mozilla Firefox to surf the web; it functions very similar to Internet Explorer, but it is actually much harder to get a virus when using Firefox. Also, blocking pop ups when websurfing will lower your risk of a virus. Essentially, use your best judgment and instinct; if a site seems sketchy, it usually is.

We assure you that every question submitted to our column will be answered, but unfortunately not all will be published due to the volume of questions that we anticipate will be sent to Smart Homes/Smart Offices.

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