Somfy evolves home automation with Vodafone IoT

Somfy is a Ready Business

Vodafone
Power to you

Vodafone IoT helps Somfy to control household management

In the past, when people talked about where future technology would lead us in our homes, automation was always a key factor. The vision was one of robotized houses with automatic systems or remote controls but thanks to the Internet of Things, the reality has gone even further. Network connectivity for multiple devices and equipment is enabling households to be become increasingly automated smart homes that react to user's needs wherever they are.

Challenge

Connectivity all the time

Founded in 1969, Somfy is a French multinational company which has led Spain's smart home market for over 30 years and is committed to bringing the digital revolution into homes in more than 60 countries. It aims to bring added value to the everyday lives of users by improving the quality of life, safety and energy savings in their homes and work environments. These innovative efforts to improve people's wellbeing are reflected in the more than 400 patents developed by Somfy's Research & Development department. These innovations support 10% of the company's sales.

Automation in the connected home brings efficient energy management and security but also improves the wellbeing and comfort of individuals and families. Air conditioning, curtains, blinds and awnings, intrusion alarms, IP cameras, entrance and garage doors, smoke and heat detectors, are just some of the services which can already be controlled remotely and the list is growing.

To reduce wiring and cost, Somfy products use wireless technology to communicate with each other. It features Radio Technology Somfy (RTS) protocols which run more than 10 million units worldwide, and multi-band wireless technology io-homecontrol®, which is a protocol used by Somfy in its latest generation of motors and other brands. Through this remote technology, Somfy provides coordinated and centralised control for greater user convenience.

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> **Albert López, Architect, Somfy España**

Homes are often left empty so owners want to monitor them remotely. The benefits of the smart home mean that they can be in control no matter where they are.

To enable this, Somfy launched TaHoma®, a solution that allows the property to be controlled by connecting different solutions which can be operated from any location either inside or outside of the house.

Solution

Simplicity and flexibility

TaHoma® is a wireless, multi-protocol service with a single intuitive interface which brings together all the devices installed in a house within a 200m radius.

The interface communicates with compatible devices via radio provided by Somfy or other manufacturers. Internet connectivity, allows devices to be controlled from a smartphone, tablet or computer connected to the Internet anywhere in the world.

TaHoma® controls equipment connected separately or in groups, creates scenarios to manage different equipment simultaneously, schedules weekly controls on different days, combines scenarios with sensors and sends alerts by email if the sensors detect incidents.

One of the advantages of TaHoma® is its plug-and-play technology, which recognises different items of equipment installed in the home and integrates them automatically, without the need for a technician or specialist. The user manages it personally.

For many residences, Internet access using fibre or digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure may be difficult due to their location in areas where coverage is still not available. Many second and third residences are empty for a large part of the year and their owners would not consider the possibility of installing a permanent cable connection to the Internet.

These coverage problems have been resolved by the Vodafone IoT managed connectivity service.

❝ Vodafone is not just another provider, but a partner that has enabled us to offer our customers, wherever they may be, a quality solution that is reliable and easy to implement. Vodafone has understood perfectly our idea of service. ❞

Albert López, Architect, Somfy España

With unique experience in the development of hardware, connectivity and applications, Vodafone has collaborated with Somfy to produce a complete end-to-end solution that is easy to manage and economical. Vodafone provides a small pre-configured router exclusively for Somfy which is automatically activated and connected to Internet roaming, allowing the home to be controlled from any location, especially in the second homes where remote control is an added value.

"Users want to be able to access their bank, email and interact on social networks from their smartphone, but they also want to control their home," comments Albert López, Somfy Architect. "The future lies in making things possible from the mobile phone we always carry with us and, thanks to Vodafone IoT, our customers can do this more easily and at a reasonable price."

Vodafone is a key player in the development of the connected home, helping manufacturers like Somfy to connect its products and develop new and innovative services.

To make Somfy's service available anywhere, in addition to its own coverage, Vodafone IoT is offering its managed routing service, based on the best mobile telecommunications coverage in Spain. Moreover, consumption of the mobiles is minimal, with barely 15 seconds required every time they connect to transmit data or receive timely instructions.

Albert López states, "Vodafone is not just another provider, but a partner that has enabled us to offer our customers, wherever they may be, a quality solution that is reliable and easy to implement. Vodafone has understood perfectly our idea of service.

"Collaboration between Somfy and Vodafone is also important for us to be able to attend trade fairs, events or conferences which sometimes do not have easy access to the Internet. Likewise, the promoters can demonstrate what homes would look like if they had all the advantages of the smart home in show flats or property developments," said López. "We can't forget the advantages for owners of tourist apartments closed for a large part of the year which can quickly and easily be given the necessary coverage when required in order to provide their customers with the best service."

The future

Collaboration between leaders

Albert López concludes by saying, "Our world is changing due to digital technology and new ways of doing things. With Somfy and Vodafone, users, wherever they may be, can manage all the equipment in their home with a wireless Internet connection that is secure, reliable and easy to use."

The benefits

- Simple plug-and-play solution, automatic and pre-configured connectivity
- Generation of alerts activated by sensors and programmable events, enabling the prevention of damage and early decision-making
- Minimum running costs for users
- Simplicity of relationship and management with Vodafone IoT
- Full coverage thanks to Vodafone's network and its managed connectivity service

About Somfy

- Somfy is a French multinational company founded in 1969, leader in motorisation, automation and smart homes with over 30 years experience in Spain
- Present in more than 60 countries and a world leader in door and window automation for homes and the construction industry, with more than 100 million motors sold around the world
- www.somfy.es

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