Lean Back, Open the App, and Manage Your Systems

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Edward Zeidan of Nerd 4 Rent shows that his car is safe and sound in the parking lot. He's shopping for a similar system for his Lafayette home that will be able to monitor his house by phone.   *Photo Chris Lavin*

The gate and the door are on the smartphone, too.

"There are so many more devices now that connect to the network," Zeidan said. "Audio visual – the audio-visual folks are having a terrible time adapting, because everything is computerized now, and didn't used to be. But starting in the mid-2000s everything started getting integrated into the network. Your speakers, hot tubs, swimming pools, lighting, shutters, room temperature – everything."

Zeidan picked up his phone and punched the icon for the security camera pointing to the parking lot.

"My car's still there," he said.

In his hand he held an average smartphone, and even that has more computer power than got the Apollo space mission to the moon in 1969. RAM memory has become so inexpensive, he said, that almost any electronic device in the home can be programmed to interface with a phone or a tablet. You can start the wash, turn on the hot tub, or filter your pool. He said Sonos wireless hi-fi systems and Lorex home security systems are particularly popular.

Small cameras are popular security devices that can be integrated into home networks, so that any motion or pictures can be sent to a cell phone.

Zeidan doesn't rely totally on technology for security. In what he calls "hillbilly security," he is not afraid of large metal locks.