# Keeping up with the

# INTERNET *of* THINGS

Interconnective homes are being transformed by Internet advances

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SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

"It" now is IoT.

• The Internet of Things is revolutionizing our lifestyles, making it easier to live at home, even when we're not even home. • "Basically, more and more devices are able to communicate with each other with a home network or even send information back to manufacturers who then can identify your service needs and the repairs you'll need remotely," said Blake Sutton, director of

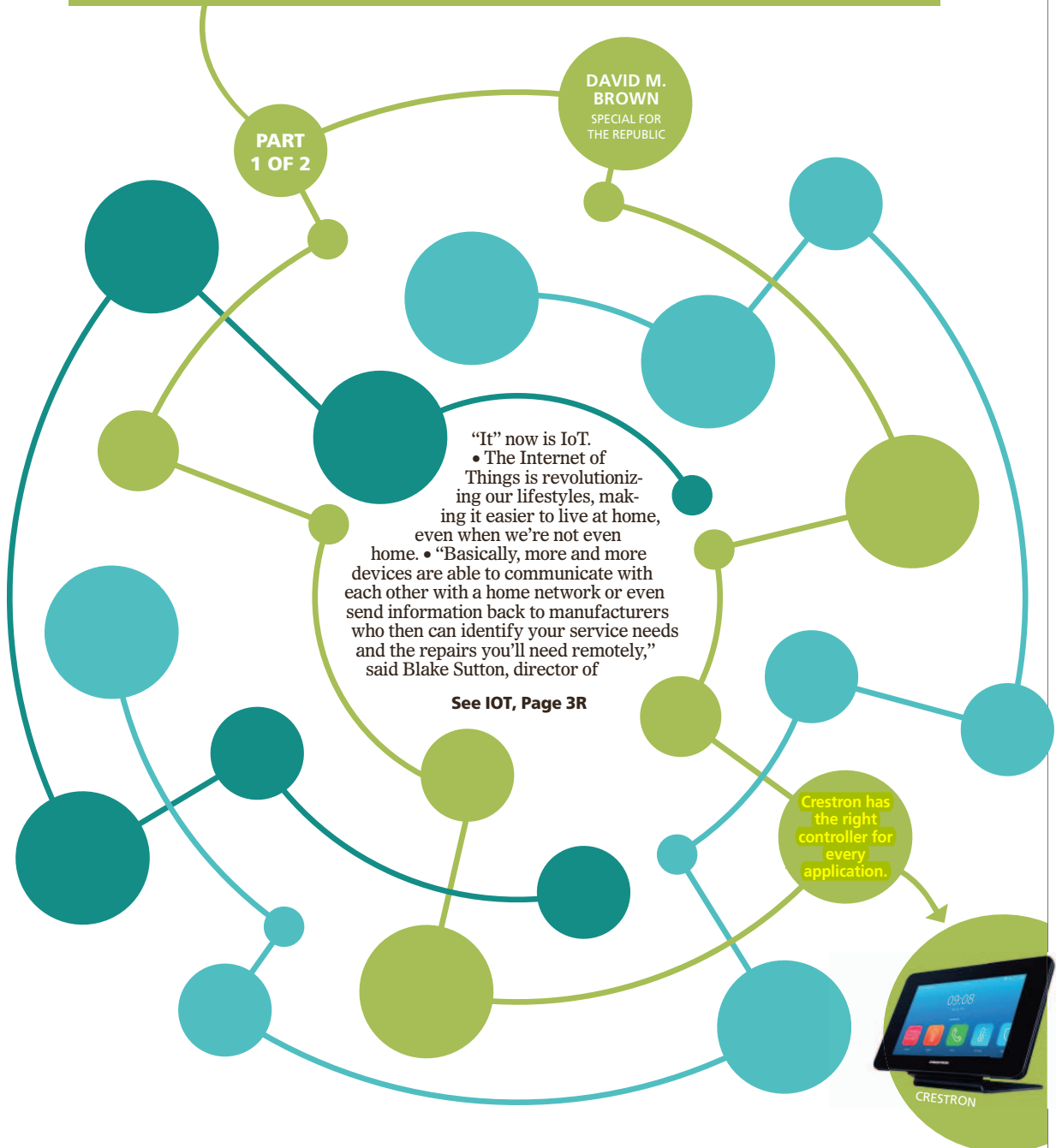Crestron has the right controller for every application.

CRESTRON

ILLUSTRATION BY ALIYA MOOD/THE REPUBLIC AND THINKSTOCK

# IoT

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operations at Est Est Inc. in Scottsdale, the Valley's oldest interior-design firm.

"Currently, your lights, thermostats, security cameras, sound system, televisions, phones, computers, home appliances, pool and spa, and other components are capable of communicating over a network that can be controlled by computer, phone or iPad, locally or remotely, and are much, much more user-friendly than before."

They're friendlier for interior designers, too.

"In years past, multiple devices were required to coordinate the technology in a room," Sutton said, "which left the walls cluttered. If a homeowner purchased an existing house that hadn't been prewired properly, the ability to retrofit home-control systems was nearly impossible without turning the walls into Swiss cheese."

But the IoT allows for more home devices to have their own IP address and the ability to communicate wirelessly over a home network.

"Your phone is your new 'house manager,'" said Nikal Conti, a principal for PHX Architecture in Scottsdale. "Clients love to control heat, cooling, security, music, TV and more — all from their smart phone."

## Shades, security, spa

More and more building components are becoming IoT ready, including appliances, air-filtration systems, mobile-accessible HVAC in addition to audio.



**Desert Star Construction offers state-of-the-art electronics and AV systems.**
DESERT STAR CONSTRUCTION

video, and security components, said Jerry Meek, president of Desert Star Construction in Phoenix, the state's first custom-home builder with a LEED for Homes Accredited Professional certification. Desert Star has completed 17 LEED certified and three Net-Zero Energy projects.

"If there is electricity to a home device or component ...it can probably be controlled and/or monitored over the local network or through the home's firewall anywhere in the world," he said. "The nature of IoT is that elements are embedded, and they blend into 'normal' life."

Renewable energy technologies also are connectable, such as solar electric arrays and geothermal HVAC systems. And, for security there are a variety of standards available through biometrics, depending on the level of security the

homeowner desires.

## Fridge and fiber

Everyone's getting involved.

Such high-end appliance manufacturers as Subzero-Wolf also have entered IoT.

"They have multiple appliances that can interact with Crestron and soon will be 'online' with Subzero's corporate office so that their customers will know in advance if there's an issue with their appliance or a service call is warranted," said Chris Matthews, president of Acoustic Designs, a Scottsdale company specializing in home-theater and home-automation systems with smartphone control.

**Next Sunday:** A look at what's coming down the Internet superhighway.