

Z-Wave Technology - The Low-Energy Alternative to WiFi Connectivity

You'd be right in thinking that WiFi connectivity plays an important part in the creation of smart homes, as since the concept came into being, it has been seen as the foundation on which to structure all your IoT devices via a single smart hub. However, there is a growing trend for home networks to be hub-less and it is Z-Wave Technology that is coming to the fore as a result. We look now in more detail into what it is about Z-Wave hardware that is driving its popularity.

Mesh Network

As we just alluded to, a useful benefit of Z-Wave tech is that it doesn't need to work via a central hub, as Z-Wave devices use low energy radio waves to communicate with each other. This means that communication is possible using much less energy than WiFi and over much bigger distances than is possible using Bluetooth. These devices talk to each other from device to device, creating what's known as *source-routed mesh network topology*.

Using Z-Wave devices is also super easy, as all devices that use the protocol are compatible with all others and it uses the same symmetric encryption as WiFi, so it's nice and secure.

The Devices Themselves

So, let's take a look at just a few of those available that offer these low energy communication benefits...

Aeon Labs ZW096 Smart Switch 6

This smart plug <https://amzn.to/2Q2q23P> offers both surge protection and real-time energy metering and it also includes a USB port, ideal for charging your tablet or smartphone. It is tested to work with a range of Z-Wave gateways, such as *Home Assistant*, *Fibaro* and *Oomi*, to name just three.

Aeon Labs ZW098-A LED Light Bulb

Another example of an extremely lower power device, this 9W LED light bulb <https://amzn.to/2Q6ps4P> emits over 16 million colours and has a lifespan in excess of 50,000 hours. It also acts as a Z-Wave signal booster/repeater and its *plug and play* functionality makes it super easy to install.

Z-Stick Gen5, Z-Wave Plus Gateway

Able to be used as a gateway to control Z-Wave and Z-Wave Plus devices, the *Z-Stick Gen5* <https://amzn.to/2Uvqif7> has the capacity to manage up to 232 simultaneous operations. This hardware is able to provide a central control point for all of your devices in one easy package.

With the need for energy conservation in the home becoming ever greater, Z-Wave technology represents the future of IoT communication. Combining a low power consumption profile with a high degree of interoperability, including these devices in your home network is a savvy move.

Come and Check Us Out

If you would like to know more about Z-Wave technology or IoT, then we recommend that you take a look at our website www.sureuniversal.com. At Sure Universal, we provide user-friendly, secure and scalable IoT solutions, that are backed by our extremely robust IoT software platform.

If you have more questions afterwards or you'd like to book a consultation, simply enter your details into our contact form <http://bit.ly/2MYshVg> and someone will get back to you shortly.