

FREE SELF-ASSESSMENT · ZENSMART HOME SOLUTIONS

The Whole-Home Automation Readiness Assessment

A 20-question, four-pillar self-assessment — automation, security, wellness, and operations — with score bands and the build-next map for your home.

Score your home across the four pillars

Twenty questions, five per pillar. Score each **0** (no), **1** (partly), **2** (yes, and it works reliably). Subtotal each pillar, read your band, then use the pillar table to decide what to build next. Reliability counts: a device you rebooted twice this month scores 1, not 2.

Pillar 1 — Automation & control (max 10)

1. Lighting in main living areas can be controlled by schedule or scene, not just switches.
2. Your home has at least one routine that runs itself (morning, away, bedtime).
3. Climate control adjusts automatically to occupancy or schedule.
4. One app or hub controls multiple brands — not one app per device.
5. Someone besides you can operate the house without a tutorial.

Pillar 2 — Security & access (max 10)

1. Exterior doors report locked/unlocked state remotely.
2. Cameras or a doorbell cover the main approaches, with recordings you can retrieve.
3. You get an alert for unexpected motion, door, or glass events when away.
4. Guest access exists without hiding keys under mats (codes, temporary passes).
5. Security devices keep working through an internet outage (local recording/battery).

Pillar 3 — Wellness tech (max 10)

1. Air quality (PM2.5/CO2/humidity) is measured somewhere in the house.
2. Bedroom lighting supports evening wind-down (warm dim), not just on/off.
3. Water leaks in the usual places (heater, laundry, sinks) would alert you before the ceiling does.
4. Sleep environment (temperature, light, sound) is managed deliberately.
5. Smoke/CO detection reaches your phone, not just the hallway.

Pillar 4 — Operations & efficiency (max 10)

1. You can see energy use by day — and spot an anomaly.
2. Big loads (HVAC, water heater, EV charging) run on schedules or rates you chose.
3. Wi-Fi covers every corner where a device lives (no “that camera drops out” zones).
4. Devices are on current firmware, and default passwords are gone.

- If the internet dies, the essentials (locks, lights, heat) still work locally.

Read your total

Total (max 40)	Band	What it means
33–40	Fully optimized	You are in tuning territory — scenes, energy rates, and integrations
25–32	Connected home	Strong base; your lowest pillar is the obvious next project
15–24	Partial setup	Devices without a system — a hub + routines converts gadgets into a smart home
0–14	Starting point	Perfect place to design it right the first time instead of accumulating apps

What to build next, by lowest pillar

Lowest pillar	First project	Typical scope
Automation	One hub + three scenes (morning/away/night)	A weekend, modest budget
Security	Smart locks + doorbell + entry sensors	1–2 days with configuration
Wellness	Air monitor + leak sensors + bedroom lighting	Half a day, immediate payoff
Operations	Energy monitoring + Wi-Fi fix + firmware pass	The unglamorous pillar everything else depends on

The reliability rule: a smart home is judged by its worst device. Fix the flaky before adding the fancy — every unreliable gadget spends the household's trust, and trust is the real budget.

The order-of-operations most homes get wrong

- Network first: coverage and a guest/loT network. Everything rides on this.
- Hub second: pick the ecosystem before the next ten devices, not after.
- Safety third: locks, detectors, leak sensors — boring, highest real-world value.
- Comfort fourth: lighting scenes, climate, media.
- Optimization last: energy dashboards, advanced routines, integrations.

A worked example

A family scores 22/40: Automation 7, Security 8, Wellness 3, Operations 4. The temptation is more automation — it is the fun pillar and it already leads. The map says otherwise: Operations is the floor (dead Wi-Fi corner, three devices on factory passwords, no local fallback), and Wellness is nearly untouched. Their next two weekends: a mesh node for the back of the house, a password-and-firmware pass, leak sensors under the water heater and washer, and an air monitor in the nursery. Total spend: modest. Score two months later: 31 — and, more telling, zero “the camera is down again” complaints, because the boring pillar carries every other one.

The 12-month roadmap by band

Your band	Months 1–3	Months 4–12
Starting point	Network + hub + locks/detectors	One room fully automated, then replicate
Partial setup	Consolidate onto one platform; retire orphans	Scenes, leak/air sensors, energy visibility
Connected home	Fix the lowest pillar to parity	Local-first upgrades; guest access; energy schedules
Fully optimized	Rate-aware load scheduling	Integrations, dashboards, seasonal scene tuning

Scored under 25 and want it designed properly? ZenSmart's Whole-Home Automation Design & Install service covers all four pillars, from network to handover — zensmarthomesolutions.com.

Educational self-assessment only. Not electrical, security, or safety-code advice; use licensed professionals for wiring and life-safety systems.