



# No./16 Home Alone in the digital age

The technological advances that the upcoming reboot might embrace

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THE CHRISTMAS CLASSIC *Home Alone* has been designated ripe for reinvention, getting a reboot on Disney+. But how will the Wet Bandits fare when Kevin McCallister has a state-of-the-art smart home? After consulting with experts Will Hopkins and Sam Breen of YourSmartHome.co.uk, we drew up some ideas. Alexa! Order a cheese pizza and play 'Angels With Filthy Souls'!

## LIVING ROOM

**ENABLE ALEXA** From his bedroom hideout, Kevin instructs Alexa or Google Assistant to launch the living room TV to a deafening music channel, just as the bandits enter.

**TURN IT UP** The McCallisters, of course, have multi-room audio installed, so the cacophony from the ear-splitting rock channel can be broadcast throughout the house. The bandits race around in a panic.

**UNLEASH THE BOTS** As the bandits flap about, Kevin drives his robot vacuum cleaners under their feet to trip them up.

**LIGHTS OUT** Kevin instructs Alexa to turn off all the lights, then follows the progress of the bandits via motion sensors reporting to his phone screen.

## KITCHEN

**TURN ON THE TAPS** While the bandits are in the living room, Kevin turns on the kitchen's smart taps, causing the room to flood. The bandits open the door — and are met with a tidal wave.

**CAFFEINATE! CAFFEINATE!** Earlier, Kevin had remotely started the coffee machine percolating.

As the now definitely Wet Bandits splash on the floor, the home control system announces through the speakers that the coffee is ready. Panicked, Marv and Harry race upstairs.

## BEDROOM

**GIVE 'EM A SHOCK** While the criminals were downstairs, Kevin modified a smart socket to give electric shocks at the push of smartphone button. Seeing via the motion trackers that they've reached the main bedroom, Kevin buzzes the bandits as they reach to light a lamp.

**REMOTE ACTION** Kevin begins remotely switching on all the other bedroom lights.

Convinced that they've woken a whole household of people, the bandits race downstairs again.

**LIGHT THE FIRE** As they descend, Kevin triggers the audio system to announce that the house is on fire, and lights up an emergency exit route. The bandits follow the lights to the garden.

## GARDEN

**MAKE IT RAIN** Where they find Kevin has corralled them into a topiary dead end. Kevin turns on the sprinklers to hose them, and their movement triggers the motion-sensitive irrigation system. The Wet Bandits are, well, wet again.

**DRIVE THEM AWAY** The McCallisters own a Model X Tesla equipped with Enhanced Autopilot which they've parked off the property while they're away. Whipping out his phone again, Kevin uses the 'Summon' feature to bring the driverless car to the front of the house. Seeing it pulling into the driveway, the bandits flee. Victory!