

April 10, 2016

What's New? By George Harding

ALLie Home ...

This is a home security application of the IoT (Internet of Things) variety. It consists of a camera and a smartphone application.

The purpose is to be able to see what's happening in the camera's view and react to it by talking through the camera, recording what's happening in the camera's view or taking a picture.

The product contains the camera, a power cord and an Instruction manual. Setting up the camera involves only placing it where you want and plugging it in.



There are two ways to set up the system, by smartphone app and by computer. I did the smartphone method. The Instruction manual is very good about telling you what you need to do for this process, using text and pictures. This is one of the best such manuals available today, in contrast to the usual few pages of small type and unlabeled pictures.

I downloaded the app to my iPhone and followed the manual's steps, the first of which is to create an account with email and password. This generates an email with which to confirm your email address.

You login and search to find the camera by Bluetooth. Once found, the app displays available networks and you connect to yours. That's all the steps needed to set up Allie Home and use the camera.

The camera has two lenses, giving you a 360° view. You access this view by moving your smartphone around to see what you want to see.



There are several things you can do. The home screen shows what the camera is currently seeing and displays 3 icons: Gallery, Cloud and Settings. If you simply click on the view, you get a full screen view and a circle at the bottom with several icons.

Gallery is a folder of pictures and videos you have taken with the camera.

Cloud takes you to a set of subscription plans for recording videos and saving them to the cloud for various periods of time, at a cost. The shortest recording period is 24 hours for \$6.95 per month and the longest is 72 hours at \$12.95 per month. Each is a separate recording. If space becomes unavailable, the oldest recording is deleted in favor of the current one.

Settings shows the various changes in status you can select or change.

In the full screen view, there is a circle at the bottom of the screen with icons for Gallery, Mute, VR, Gyroscope, Photo and Record.

Gallery takes you to the photos and videos you have recorded. Mute turns off the relay of sound from your phone to the camera and vice versa.

Gyroscope switches between moving your phone around 360° or sliding the phone's screen to see 360°. The latter is easier to do.

Photo takes a picture of the view on the screen. It is a 360° view and is stored in Gallery.

Record takes you to the various storage plans available and their prices.

ALLie comes with a 3 year warranty and free technical support.

This is a great home security product and is easy to set up and use.

ALLie Home

www.alliecam.com

Price \$599

IOS Card Reader ...

This is a neat little device for your iPhone, iPad or iPod. It is a supplementary storage device that can also be used for backup.

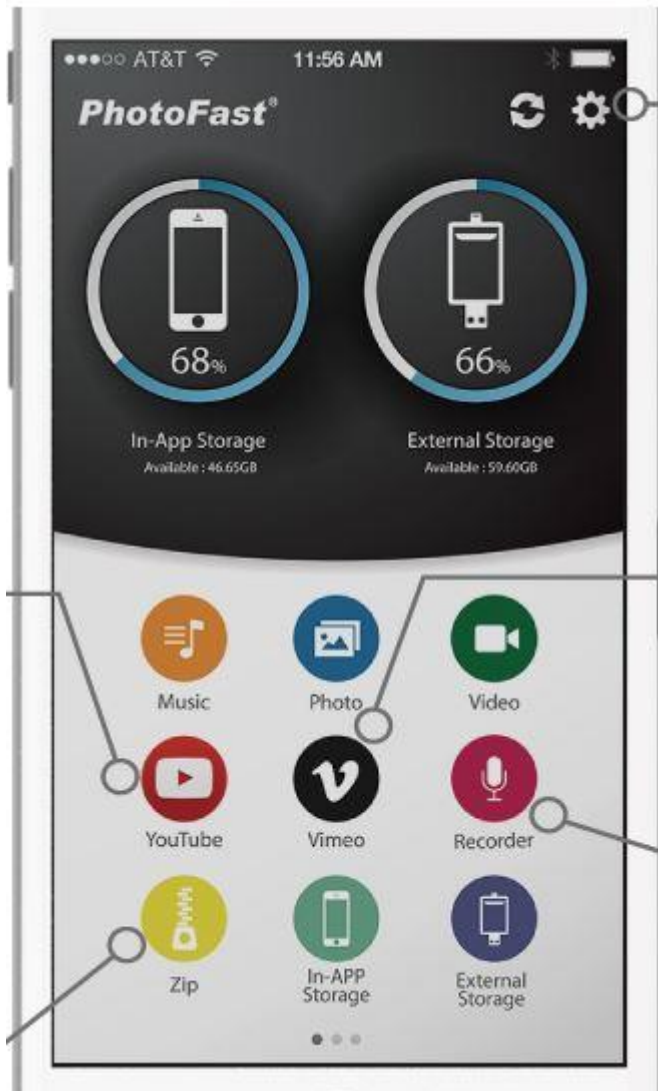
One of the problems with these three products is that it's difficult or impossible to increase storage space on the devices. You can use iCloud, of course, but that space is limited, too.



This product is unique in that it plugs into the charging port at the bottom of the iPhone, etc. with a Lightning connector. I had thought that that port was for input only. The Lightning connector limits the use to iPhone 5 and 6, as well as the several variants of this.

The device has a slot for a microSD card, which is used as the storage device and can be as large as 128 GB.

What can you store? Just about anything that's on your phone: songs, movies, backup of contacts, backup of photos, and more.



You access the device through an app downloadable from the App Store. With the app you can save, backup and upload files and data.

Through the use of the MicroSD card you can even transfer files and data from other devices that accept SD cards.

IOS Card Reader by PhotoFast

www.photofast.com

Price \$40

iHealth Edge ...

This year at CES there were many companies exhibiting devices to monitor and improve health. The Edge is a wristband with the Edge inside it. It is circular with a face that is featureless most of the time.

Edge captures your activity and sleep data and transmits it to an application for your smartphone. It requires both Bluetooth for the transmission. Your smartphone must be later versions of iPhone and of Android.

Your first step is to charge the device. A charging cable comes with the kit, but is unique to the Edge. It has a three-pin connector that matches the three contacts on the back of the Edge. The other end of the cable is a USB plug.



Once charged, you connect with Bluetooth in the usual fashion. Then you download the iHealth app and set up your account. Now your activity and sleep will be logged by the device and synced to the app.

The kit comes with the Edge device, two wristbands, charging cable, booklet and waist clip.

The device will display a limited amount of current data upon “flicking” your wrist. You can display the time, charge status, date, steps and distance. To examine the complete data, though, you access the smartphone app.

Here you can see in graphical or tabular form your activity and sleep data for various days and periods.

The booklet that is included is very well designed, but contains very little useful information (6 small pages) ,although it is presented in several languages. The web site has much more useful information.

My experience so far has been positive. I’ve been able to see the degree of activity and the quality of my sleep for several days. I can’t say that it has had any effect on my lifestyle so far, though.

The Company has several other items available that would be useful to others. These include blood pressure monitors, weight scales, pulse oximeter and glucometers. Each is connected by Bluetooth to the smartphone app and information is displayed graphically and in tables.

iHealth Edge

www.ihealthlabs.com

Price \$70

