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# Best Smart Thermostat: Runner Up

by [MIKE PROSPERO](#) Jul 13, 2016, 1:15 AM

For those who want a fully integrated smart home, the Nest Learning Thermostat is the one to get. The third version of this Google-owned thermostat has a larger and sharper display than its predecessor. Like before, it can talk to hundreds of other smart home devices--from the Logitech Harmony remote to the Amazon Echo to the Dropcam Pro--so it can automatically change the temperature when someone comes home, or if you're about to watch a movie. While it has a retro-style circular design, its brushed stainless steel finish and turning mechanism all feel premium. This thermostat combines the best of the past with the future.

**9/10**

- **SMARTPHONE COMPATIBILITY**

Android, iOS

- **MULTIPLE ZONES**

No

- **SELF-INSTALLATION**

Yes

- **MOTION ACTIVATION**

Yes

- **WORKS OFFLINE**

Yes

- **WORKS WITH**

Amazon Echo, Nest, Logitech, IFTTT

## How We Tested and Rated

I installed—or had installed—several smart thermostats in my apartment, and tested them separately for at least one week. This included not just changing the temperature, but also evaluating its accompanying app and web portal, if available. If the thermostat

worked with other smart home devices or Web-connected services (such as IFTTT), I tested that functionality as well.

As you'll see in our comparison table (above), we break down the features you should look for in a smart thermostat. The Ecobee is the only device we tested that supports multiple zones. All of the smart thermostats reviewed offer motion activation, except for the Carrier Cor, which is also the only one that requires professional installation.

While there's a lot of futuristic things about the Ecobee--such as its slick touchscreen interface--its best feature is something that thermostat makers should have thought about years ago: How to make sure all the rooms of your house are getting heated or cooled properly. A small wireless sensor gets placed in the room that stays chilly, and the thermostat will keep the heat on until it senses that room has warmed up enough. Now that's smart.

Compared to the competition, the Ecobee3 also has the best overall feature set, and its mobile app worked seamlessly. It's compatible with Apple's HomeKit and the Amazon Echo, to name a few smart home systems. Also, the fact that I could get all of my rooms—not just one—to the right temperature makes all the difference.