

TEXTE

Apple, Google and Amazon decide to 'play nice' over smart home tech.

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- 5 **The highly competitive tech giants Apple, Google and Amazon have announced they are teaming up in an effort to make smart home tech easier to use.**

The firms, along with the Zigbee Alliance, will work together so that smart home products are compatible with many different smartphones and voice assistants.

Ikea is among other companies involved.

- 10 One analyst said the move was a "surprise" and showed the companies were willing to "play nice".

In recent years, the tech giants have been fiercely vying for dominance over smart home tech - with Amazon's Alexa and Google Assistant often considered to have carved up the lion's share of products.

- 15 Manufacturers have often had to choose a particular voice assistant with which to make their device compatible - a smart speaker that "works with Alexa" but not Siri, for instance.

To take an example, Hive does not yet have Apple HomeKit integration, which would allow its wide range of smart home products to be used with Siri and the iPhone's Home app, despite having promised to add the functionality for years.

- 20 Meanwhile, the Chamberlain MyQ system for garage door openers can be operated via voice with Google Assistant - but not Amazon's Alexa.

Having to force consumers - and manufacturers - to choose one voice assistant over another could be a thing of the past, if the new partnership between the tech firms goes as planned.

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25 On their project website, the companies state: "Customers can be confident that their device of choice will work in their home and that they will be able to set up and control it with their preferred system."

The firms say that current smart home products should continue to work, even after the new standard is brought in.

30 However, that won't be imminent - draft specifications are due to be released in late 2020 at the earliest.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology>

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