BLINKIE

The BLINKIE is a wearable device that improves the way people interact with their smart homes, through blinking.

Statistics show that people are spending more time at home each year, and smart home technology development is accelerating in tandem. However, most major manufacturers of smart hubs and smart devices make use of mobile applications to control their homes, which is a solution offering little accessibility and usability when considering particular user groups.

When considering the difficulty the elderly encounter using modern technology, wheelchair users’ already occupied hands to move around, and the exclusion of the blind when designing apps, it seems that the people that can benefit from smart homes the most are the ones to whom it is the least accessible. Even remote workers, which are rapidly growing in popularity, can benefit. Mobile phones serve as the main distraction for remote workers and students, so using subtle gestures as the interface can help in maintaining focus.

Such a technology can help these user groups along with anyone who wishes to improve their overall quality of life at home, by making the way the temperature, lighting, entertainment, security, and any other smart appliance more accessible, intuitive and engaging to use.