

Leadership

Kenneth Wacks, Ph.D.

Connected Home Council Chair

Dr. Wacks has been a pioneer in establishing the home systems industry and a management advisor to more than 150 clients worldwide. His clients range from start-ups to the Fortune 500. Dr. Wacks was appointed by the United States Department of Energy to serve four terms on the GridWise® Architecture Council, focusing on the grid interface to customer equipment including DER (local power from wind, solar, and storage) managed automatically with artificial intelligence (AI). He is a founding member of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel, now part of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA). He chairs the Customer Grid Edge committee at the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC). The member nations of ISO/IEC have elected Dr. Wacks chair of the committee developing international home and building system standards for eight terms. He received the IEC 1906 Award commemorating the founding of the IEC in 1906 and honoring experts whose work is fundamental to world standards. He has also written American National Standards in home automation and networked appliances for the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), where he chairs the energy management standards committee. Dr. Wacks is a featured contributor to the CABA Journal (formerly called iHomes & Buildings) and a prolific author (more than 300 papers and presentations). He wrote the book Home Automation and Utility Customer Services. As an entrepreneur at a venture-backed start-up, he developed UNIX workstations for the semiconductor industry. Dr. Wacks received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from MIT as a Hertz Fellow and studied at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Charlie Derk

Connected Home Council Vice-Chair

Charlie Derk is the Vice President of Strategy for Legrand's Building Controls Division. His responsibilities include mergers and acquisitions as well as focusing on the strategic direction for residential and commercial lighting control products including Wattstopper, Encelium and Vantage. Charlie has been working with lighting and shading control products for the past 25 years holding positions in engineering, product management, marketing and sales at Lutron and Crestron. Charlie holds a degree in Computer Science and is currently based in eastern Pennsylvania.