

Own your home.

Replace SmartThings and Google Home with Home Assistant.

A local smart-home hub that keeps working when the internet — or the vendor's servers — go away, and supports thousands of devices across brands.

Who this is for

Anyone whose smart home depends on a cloud that keeps changing, willing to run a small dedicated device (a Raspberry Pi). With Google Assistant shutting down in March 2026, a good moment to move.

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Why move to a local hub

Cloud smart-home platforms break when servers change and quietly drop devices and features. Google Assistant is shutting down in March 2026. **Home Assistant** runs locally: your automations keep working offline, and it speaks to thousands of devices across ecosystems.

What you keep — and gain

Local control that survives internet outages · one app for every brand · powerful automations · no vendor lock-in.
What you drop: dependence on someone else's cloud.

1 · What you need

Component	Recommendation
Device	Raspberry Pi 4 (4 GB) minimum; Pi 5 (8 GB) recommended
Storage	USB SSD or NVMe — never a microSD card (see below)
Install	Home Assistant OS (HAOS) — the beginner-friendly image
Time	About 20 minutes to first boot

Do not use an SD card for storage

Home Assistant's database writes constantly and destroys microSD cards within months. Boot and run from a USB SSD or NVMe drive — this is the single most common regret of new users.

2 · Install Home Assistant OS

HAOS is a purpose-built operating system that includes the Supervisor for add-ons, backups and updates. You flash it once and everything else happens in the browser.

- 1 Download Raspberry Pi Imager, choose your Pi model, and under 'Other specific-purpose OS' pick Home Assistant → HAOS. Flash it to the SSD.
- 2 Boot the Pi from the SSD and wait a few minutes.
- 3 On another computer, open `http://homeassistant.local:8123`.

Checkpoint

You should reach the onboarding screen in the browser. If the address doesn't resolve, find the Pi's IP from your router and use `http://THAT-IP:8123`.

3 · Onboarding & add the app

- Create your account and complete onboarding; Home Assistant auto-discovers many devices on your network.
- Install the Home Assistant mobile app for remote control and presence detection.

- Take a first backup from Settings → System → Backups once things are set up.

4 · Migrate your devices

Migration is device-by-device, and it's non-destructive — you can run both systems in parallel while you move.

- SmartThings: add the official SmartThings integration via its cloud login to pull existing devices in without re-pairing.
- Zigbee devices: move fastest with a local Zigbee coordinator stick (e.g. a Conbee II) — re-pair them to Home Assistant.
- Z-Wave devices: exclude each from the old hub, then include it in Home Assistant.
- Wi-Fi devices: most have a direct Home Assistant integration — add them by brand.

Go gradually

Migrate one room or device type at a time and keep the old hub running until each group works locally. Don't factory-reset anything until its replacement automation is proven.

5 · Verify, then decommission

- Confirm each migrated device responds locally and your key automations fire.
- Test that things still work with the internet unplugged — that's the whole point.
- Keep automatic backups (Supervisor snapshots) turned on.
- Retire the old hub only once every device has a working local equivalent.

Common snags

Symptom	Fix
Corruption after weeks	You're on an SD card. Move to a USB SSD/NVMe.
Device won't pair	Zigbee/Z-Wave must be excluded from the old hub first.
Can't reach homeassistant.local	Use the Pi's IP address instead.

Found this useful?

This guide is free — pay what you want if it saved you time. More offline & one-time-purchase alternatives to subscription apps, plus other migration guides, at payoncehq.com.

Sources: official Home Assistant documentation. Commands and hardware notes current as of 2026; check home-assistant.io for the latest. Independent guide, not affiliated with Home Assistant, Samsung or Google.