Added to the Arch Linux install media back in April was Archinstall for easy and quick installations. It's worked very well for basic Arch Linux installs in a matter of minutes while with Archinstall 2.3 now available it has even more features.

Over recent years, legislation has started to emerge to protect consumers from unethical behaviour from IoT vendors. Far too many smart devices didn’t charge for a subscription to the online platform that made the device “smart”. As a result, manufacturers had a perverse incentive to end-of-life product in order to sell you their next great smart thing.

A good example of this was the Revolv home hub: Google’s Nest division acquired the firm behind the $300 hub. Two years later, they shut the platform down, leaving consumers with a pile of useless electronics, orphaned from the platform. Uproar ensued, resulting in the US FTC investigating. Fortunately for Revolv owners, the FTC ruled in their favour and made Google compensate hub owners.

Sonos owners will recall a similar kerfuffle around their “recycle mode” that killed the device when one traded up for a newer product, among many negative press stories around the length of product support.

Existing and planned regulation for IoT is increasingly having manufacturers state up front how long they will support the product for. Whilst some legislation is focussed on the longevity of product security updates, others focus on length of platform support.
This is good: it will allow consumers to make informed decisions about the smart products they buy. I, for one, don’t expect to be replacing a smart door lock after a couple of years simply because the manufacturer wanted to sell me a newer version.

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