



“SSS GETAWAY” VACATION RENTAL HOME CUTS ENERGY USAGE AND COSTS THANKS TO VENSTAR’S COLORTOUCH THERMOSTAT WITH SKYPORT

CHALLENGE:

Remotely Manage HVAC Equipment to Cut Energy Usage and Costs

The “SSS Getaway” is an upscale vacation rental home located in Big Bear Lake, a prestigious winter ski and summer lake vacation destination. Owned by the Hingorani family, the 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom log cabin home is the “home away from home” for visitors who come to enjoy the gorgeous Southern California San Bernardino Mountains.

Unfortunately, energy costs had skyrocketed as many of the visitors were leaving the heat on too high after they had vacated the property. The family was challenged with trying to remotely manage the energy use despite being more than 120 miles away in Los Angeles. They turned to Venstar, a leading thermostat manufacturer and maker of ColorTouch®, a top-ranked digital programmable thermostat, to find a solution.

SOLUTION:

ColorTouch Thermostats With Skyport Mobile App and Remote Sensors

Tony Albers, Venstar’s regional sales manager for the western states, recommended Venstar’s ColorTouch programmable Wi-Fi® touchscreen thermostat with Venstar’s free Skyport™ Mobile App to enable the Hingorani family to remotely monitor and control the home’s heating equipment.

Using Venstar’s Skyport Mobile App from virtually any computer or mobile device, the Hingorani family can remotely access the ColorTouch thermostats to monitor, program or change the settings. Using Skyport, they can control heating energy costs by remotely turning the heating on or off or by changing temperature setpoints. Using the Skyport Mobile App, they can see the outside temperature and decide whether or not to leave the heating system on.

During summer months, they turn the heating system off. During colder months, they set the thermostats to keep the temperature above 55 degrees when the home is not rented. The system is programmed to send email alerts if the indoor temperatures drop below the pre-determined setpoint of 45 degrees so they are aware of any issues before there’s a real problem.

“Being able to remotely control the rental home’s HVAC usage and maintain a minimum temperature to avoid freezing pipes gives us great peace of mind,” said Rajan Hingorani.

For security, the ColorTouch thermostats provide the ability to be locked remotely using the SkyPort Website but can still give guests the ability to change the temperature for



About

ColorTouch®

Venstar offers six models of its award-winning ColorTouch smart programmable residential and commercial thermostats. Top-ranked by Consumer Reports, all six ColorTouch models have a multi-functional, simple-to-use touchscreen, which can be programmed to display a picture gallery of up to 100 files to be used as a digital picture frame when not in thermostat display.

ColorTouch thermostats are compatible with Venstar’s free Skyport Cloud Services, which allows both commercial and residential users to use Venstar’s free Skyport Mobile App on their Apple iOS® and Android®, mobile devices or directly from the Web to instantly access and control multiple thermostats at numerous locations.

their comfort. The Hingorani family wants their guests to be comfortable, so they don't have a high temperature setpoint. Most guests do not set it higher than 80 degrees.

The Hingorani family also sends text messages for their guests to view right on on the ColorTouch screen, including welcome and special occasion messages, such as birthday and anniversary greetings. When there is a quick turnaround, they also send a message reminding guests that check-out is 11:00 a.m. "It's great to be able interact with guests but not interrupt their privacy," he said.

The family also takes advantages of ColorTouch's built-in background themes. They often use the mountain theme and change them for holidays.

Results:

Reduced Energy Usage by 35 Percent, Saving \$1,200 Per Year

Since the ColorTouch thermostats were installed, energy usage has been reduced by 35 percent, resulting in a savings of \$1,200 per year.

The Hingorani family finds the Skyport Mobile App to be very intuitive and easy to use, allowing them to quickly make changes from their mobile phones or computers.

"With the ColorTouch thermostats with SkyPort Mobile App, I can make changes that save me hundreds of dollars each year. Plus, I can be assured that my guests are comfortable and that I will be alerted if there are any issues with the heating," said Rajan Hingorani.

About Venstar

Founded in 1992, Venstar Inc. is a leading thermostat and energy management system (EMS) manufacturer, known for providing value to its customers via ease of use and installation, proven cost savings, improved energy efficiency, quality and reliability. Venstar is one of the largest thermostat suppliers in the world and designs and produces Venstar-branded products, as well as OEM thermostat products for the biggest names in HVAC. Venstar's Surveyor is a leading energy management system, typically saving small-box retailers 25–35 percent of their energy costs, which translates to tens of millions of dollars in savings each year and dramatic reductions in CO² emissions. Surveyor currently controls the energy usage of 25,000+ retail locations across the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico.



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About "SSS Getaway" Big Bear Vacation Rental Home

Owned by the Hingorani family, the "SSS Getaway" Big Bear Vacation Rental Home is located in a prime location for winter ski vacations and summer lake vacations. In Big Bear Lake, California, the home has 3,700 square feet of living space, including four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a game room and gourmet kitchen. SSS stands for the names of the Hingorani family's three daughters: Sunita, Sonum and Serena.

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