

THE HOUSE LEARNS TO SAY NO

At IFA, camera-bearing home robots were joined by something less spectacular and more consequential: a lens cover, a local mode, and clearer limits on where household data can travel.



LEGIBLE PRIVACY CONTROLS FOR
HOME ROBOTICS

The acting home becomes easier to trust when refusal
is a product behavior, not a policy page.

01



Fresh IFA reporting says ECOVACS fitted its new DEEBOT X12S OmniCyclone with a physical cover over the built-in camera. A cover does not prove what happens elsewhere in the system, but it makes one sensing boundary visible without opening an app. The same report describes privacy controls moving into product behavior. DJI's launch record says ROMO 2 will receive Local Data Mode in the fourth quarter of 2026, severing the DJI Home app's internet connection; camera and microphone can be disabled separately. The feature is promised, not independently tested, and not yet available.

A QUESTION FOR DESIGN

THE LENS GETS A LID

Could a home robot make every sensing state as legible as a closed camera cover without sacrificing useful automation? ^{*1} ^{*2}

02



The same IFA reporting says Anker and Ugreen are keeping camera footage and AI analysis for their showcased smart-home systems inside the home rather than in the cloud. Roborock, meanwhile, says customer information is processed in regional data centers and that synthetic home data is used to train obstacle recognition. These are different boundaries, not interchangeable claims: on-device processing limits transmission, regional processing changes where it happens, and an offline mode removes the network path. The report also keeps the central limitation visible. Remote control and notifications still require external exchange, and knowing where data is stored does not by itself reveal who can access it.

A QUESTION FOR DESIGN

THE CLOUD GETS AN EXIT

What would a calm, intelligible control let a household keep working locally, and what should it plainly show will stop when the cloud is disconnected? ^{*1}

AUXETIC LENS

EXPAND WITHOUT ADDING WEIGHT.

The useful future is not the one with the most technology. It is the one that adapts without transferring its complexity to the person.

01

Could every sensing product make its data boundary as visible as its power state?

02

Which household capabilities should survive deliberate disconnection?

03

Can an autonomous product explain what will stop before privacy is tightened?

READ THE RECORD.

*1

CHOSUN.COM / 2026-09-07T23:54:16.331Z

CHINESE FIRMS EASE SECURITY FEARS WITH CAMERA COVERS AT IFA

[Open source ↗](#)

*2

PRNEWswire.COM / 2026-09-03T08:00:00-04:00

DJI REDEFINES THE PREMIUM SMART CLEANING EXPERIENCE WITH GLOBAL LAUNCH OF ROMO 2 SERIES

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