A sample Ownership audit

See what an audit of an existing smart home looks like, for an invented house.

Sample. The house, the people, the system and every detail are invented.

Audited: an invented eight-year-old system, installer retired

The short answer

You own more than you think and control less than you should. One letter is the first step. Don't replace anything until it's answered.

Who holds the keys

Thing	Who controls it	How sure	Ask for
Lighting program	The retired installer	Certain	The file, its version, and the software it opens in
Processor login	Unknown	Likely the same	Transfer, or a documented reset by a dealer
Thermostats	You	Certain	Nothing
Music service	An old email address	Certain	Move it to yours this week
Shades	Wall controls work alone	Tested by you	Motor model list
Remote support account	Unknown third party	Possible	Confirmation that it's closed

What's fragile

Risk	If it fails	Do this first
One processor, no spare, no backup	Scenes stop. Wall switches, unknown	Ask a dealer to make a backup before anything else
Discontinued keypad model	One broken button means a hunt	Buy two used spares if a dealer confirms they fit
Old account email	You can't reset it	Change it now

Send this

"We own the system at our home that you installed. Please send the current programming file and any backups, list the accounts and logins created for us, and confirm in writing that your remote access has been removed. If someone else now handles your customers, please tell us who."

Your options

Option	Good if	Watch
Stay, with the files	It mostly does what you want	Find a dealer willing to take it on before you need one
Stay, smaller	You use four of the nineteen scenes	Let a dealer simplify it

Option	Good if	Watch
Leave a room at a time	Walls are opening anyway	Keep what works alone
Replace it all	The files are gone and parts are scarce	Get The Plan first, so you don't buy the same problem

What I couldn't tell

- Whether the file still opens in current software. A dealer can.
- What the wiring would allow.
- Whether the installer has to hand it over. Your contract decides.

Limits

This is an opinion from documents and what you told me. It isn't a safety, code or security inspection, and I didn't access the system.