Google Home job listing is another hint at touchscreen device

Google is rumored to be developing a touchscreen device that would join the company's Home lineup of consumer products. A recent job posting for a "touch sensor hardware engineer" spotted by *Variety* confirms that the company is looking to add multi-touch products to its repertoire. "In this role, you'll work on the next generation of Google Hardware to enable the best multi-touch user experience," the listing says.

That can be read as an obvious sign that multi-touch products — like Google's spin on the Echo Show — are in the pipeline. Seems reasonable. Multi-touch gestures could also find their way to speakers like the next revision of the Home and Home Max.

But keep in mind that Google had to address a humiliating hardware defect with its Google Home Mini speaker in October that forced the company to permanently disable the touch sensor at the top of that device. And while the decision to protect customer privacy was definitely the right one, doing so crippled some of the Mini's capabilities and appeal.

After the Home Mini disaster, I can understand why Google is looking for touch sensor engineers.
Photo by Dan Seifert / The Verge

I was super excited to use the little speaker as an alarm clock, but now, the only options for turning off that alarm are either talking to a device the minute you wake up or pulling the power cord. Usually I end up doing the latter.

Real fun stuff.

So it makes a lot of sense that Google wants to shore up its engineering and expertise around touch sensors to prevent any future embarrassments.