

## Home Automation for Convenience and Security

Home Automation means more than just home security. It means home control.

Home automation consists of connecting your various appliances and/or home security system to timers, remote controls, or virtual controllers. Basically, home automation gives you the power to run your home appliances and security from your couch, office, or anywhere else.

Implementing a home automation system may seem rather complicated at first, but current technology has made it user-friendly and ergonomic. The average do-it-yourselfer is able to install these systems quickly, affordably, and effectively. Whether choosing a wireless or hardwired home automation system, the complexity of the actual system and its installation is kept to a minimum.

### Lighting Control

The most basic home automation system is light control. Operating lights through home automation is a function of both convenience and home security.

As a matter of convenience, with a remote control or a timer, you have the ability to dim lights or just turn them off and on. The remote empowers you to change the intensity of the light from any position or area in the house. Before home automation, you would have to get up out of your chair or bed to turn the light off or on. With a home-automated system, a remote control or a timer will do the moving for you.

As a matter of security, remote or timer operated lights are highly effective resources. Most intruders will only invade a dark home when they think no one is there. By placing your lights on a home automation controller, you can easily make it look as if you are home when you are away.

The control has the ability to activate several appliances — television, lights, radios — at various times throughout the day to give the impression of human presence. Not only at specifically programmed times, but you can also program the timers to alter times. With this unique programming, anyone watching your house will not see methodical automation. Instead, there will appear to be a definite human presence since the timing on the lights will not be mechanical.

### Appliance Control

While basic home automation may be just lighting, it includes the possibilities of a whole lot more. Remote controls put in your hands the capability of accessing almost any appliance in your home from a sofa, bed, or anywhere else in your house. Remotes can be programmed to control your home entertainment, stereo system, intercom, air conditioning and heating, and much more. At the same time, these remotes can be switched with a click of a button to operate the television, VCR, radio, and so on, eliminating the need for multiple remotes.

Much like your lights, home automation allows you to access and control your appliances away from home as well as at home. Through specially protected programs, you can operate your home automation system from any Internet connection worldwide. It gives

you the opportunity to save energy by switching up or down your thermostat when you are away from home, and turn it back to your preferred setting when you plan to return.

## **Security Control**

Home automation gives you convenient control of your home security system. Whether your system is monitored or non-monitored, you can easily integrate home automation into your current system. When the alarms — burglar or environment — are activated, your home automation system will automatically alert you to the danger.

The system can be programmed to allow you to decide how and what actions are to be taken in regard to a breach of security or safety. If there is, for example, a water leak in the basement or kitchen and your flood detector goes off; you will be alerted to the presence of the water. You can then resolve the problem on your own and as soon as possible. The same applies to fires or intrusions. You will be alerted and you can decide how to respond.

Home automation places the home entirely in the hands of the homeowner. With the help of timers, remote controls, and the Internet, with home automation, you empower yourself with the unique ability to control your home from basically anywhere in the world.