Tech-protect your home

Technology has transformed home security from the watchdog-at-the-door to wireless networks where you can remote control surveillance with the push of a button. Sanjiv Malvi introduces you to futuristic home security.
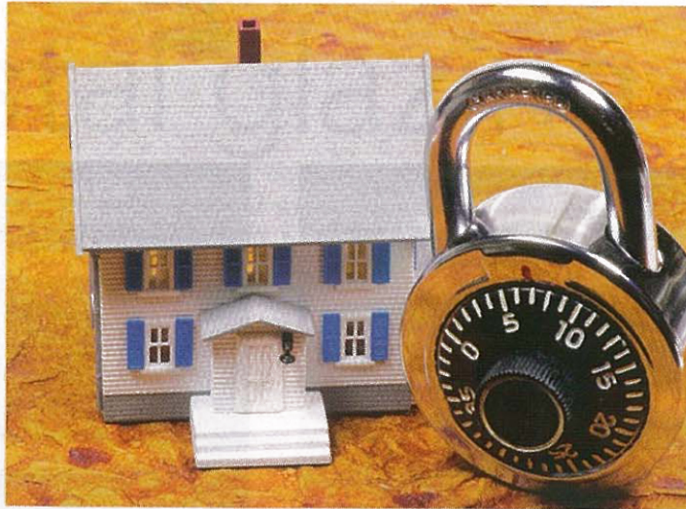
Security is one of the fastest growing concerns on our planet today. In our quest to protect what is ours, we have become increasingly dependent on technology. New technologies available today help us feel more protected within the bubble of our domains.

Hiring an automation consultant enhances the effectiveness and ease of use of the technology involved. Having a security consultant work in tandem with the automation consultant is a must for larger bungalows and properties.

Recognising potential threats and taking measures is half the battle won. If you are building an "intelligent home", it's only logical to integrate the security plan with the automation plan.

SECURITY TECHNOLOGY AT A GLANCE

Cameras: They form an integral part of any security plan. The range available is exhaustive — from the secretive pinhole, the bullet to the dome. Infra-red cameras help you see in the dark, and are used in low light

DVR: In more advanced security plans, all cameras on the property are connected to a (DVR) Digital Video Recorder. This device constantly records and stores all the imagery captured by the assorted cameras. Depending on the storage capacity of the hard disk, you can store information from one month up to a year or more in the past. A combination of cameras and DVR's helps provide vital clues, in case of an

plan. Use it for specific cupboards and for areas where you need to restrict access. Not only does it rid you of the hassle of carrying your keys along everywhere, it also keeps a complete log of who opened what and when in its data chip.

Intelligent fencing: A state-of-the-art concept for perimeter protection, intelligent fencing involves a benign-looking decorative electronic fence. If you have a large bungalow or

- Loud alarms are raised
- You are SMSed
- Automated gates and doors are bolted
- As an owner, you are given remote access to the system for viewing the scenario.

Perimeter monitoring for different terrains can be enhanced by using taut wire technology, micro wave sensors and pressure strips.

RF Tagging: Refers to a technology that emits and receives radio frequency. It works by assigning a specific RF frequency to a chip you can carry along. The applications of RF tagging can be creatively tailored to address security-related issues. For instance, it can be used to open gates automatically when the owner is approaching.

GPS devices: Another technology of independent standing, GPS can be applied to locate position for security-related issues. For instance, by fitting his son's car with a GPS device, a businessman can keep track of his son even from his office desk.

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and night applications. IP-based cameras capture images that can be seen remotely via the internet. PTZ cameras are highly sophisticated electronic devices that will enable you to cover large areas remotely. With an integrated PTZ camera, you can focus on a particular spot and zoom in. And they are so easy to use that even Grandma can operate them.

eventuality.

Biometrics: Simply put, biometrics is an application that can scan fingerprints or irises. Since both are unique to every individual, biometrics uses these as a key to authorise access. The technology is not relegated to sci-fi films anymore; it is now commonly used in laptops and locks. A biometric lock is a handy device for any security

private piece of land to protect, this type of fencing sends not only an alert but also the accurate location of any encroachment. Automate the system such that in case of any intrusion:

- The lights are triggered on
- PTZ cameras zoom in on the co-ordinates of the intrusion
- The guards are alerted