Home security and home automation are wonderful features that everyone would like to enjoy if they weren't so expensive to install and maintain. A less expensive alternative is an automated security system that owners can monitor themselves. This is made possible through the use of a cell phone and a home phone line. The home phone line is used to contact the owner at specified phone numbers in the event of a fire alarm or security problem. Settings on the security system or the thermostat can be changed at home or by a cell phone. Thermostat control enables the owner to adjust the thermostat from a remote location via their cell phone.

As an example, if the system is armed and the window sensor is tripped, the system will call the owner indicating that the window sensor was tripped. The owner can then listen to what is happening inside the home through use of microphones near each sensor that transmit through the phone line when a sensor is triggered. The owner can then communicate with whoever is inside the house through the use of a speaker. They also have the options of setting off the siren or having the system call a neighbor to check on the house. If the system cannot contact the owner, it will use an internal ordered list of other numbers to make backup calls. When there is a security problem the owner should be the first to know. With this system homeowners now have the ability to be in control of such situations.