

HOME SECURITY

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Security through
technology



Optex's new outdoor
detectors:
the ultimate Rottweiler



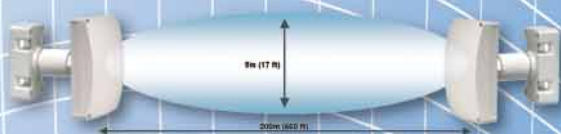
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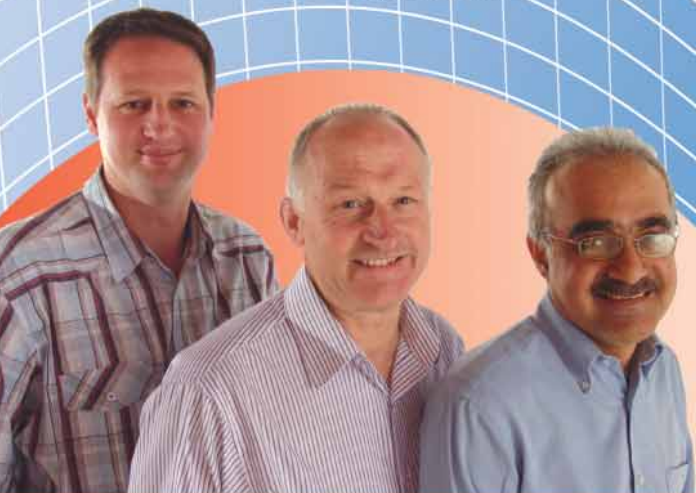
EDS-2000 DUO
Quad PIR and microwave
K-band outdoor sensor



EDS-3000 TRIO
Double quad PIR and
MW outdoor sensor



EDS-4000 QUATTRO
4 dual digital outdoor PIR
detectors with anti-masking



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The ultimate Rottweiler

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wanting to improve their security in remote locations but also for installers who can now celebrate enhanced convenience and reduced installation times. See page 8.



THE LAST FRONTIER

Your home is your final refuge against the tyranny of crime that plagues South Africa. It's where you should be able to put up your feet, relax and enjoy your family, friends and whatever interests you without worrying about the outside world and the numerous threats you may have to face at any moment.

Sadly this is not the case for those of us who live in South Africa, but it can be. The security solutions do exist that can help you regain the refuge that is your home. All it takes is the right advice, trusted service providers and careful consideration of your individual security needs.

Our goal in *Home Security* is to highlight what the security necessities are for securing our homes, and how to reliably go about finding the

right people and products to implement and make those solutions work the way we want them to.

Home owners have been burdened with fly-by-night service providers doing shabby work and offering no backup and support for too long. In this, the first issue of *Home Security*, we hope to take the first steps in helping home owners take control of their security without having to become technical experts. It can be done and we hope to take you on the journey that will see us all enjoying the pleasures of home without the constant stress of "when will it happen to me".

I hope you enjoy and learn from this first issue of *Home Security*. We want *Home Security* to be a resource for every home's security needs, so any comments, suggestions or criticisms are welcome. Please feel free to contact me at andrew@technews.co.za.



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SECURING YOUR HOME

The security of your person, family and home is first and foremost your responsibility.



Homeowners addressing their home security requirements often feel intimidated by the abundance of fancy security systems out there, many laden with so many bells and whistles that the notion of “simple” or “user-friendly” seems out of the question! This said, the next few pages have been carefully compiled to deconstruct the myths behind these gadgets and technologies, revealing that they are not only simple to understand, they are also simple to use.

Step one: Understand the basics of modern security solutions
Homeowners can no longer hide from the vital role that information technology (IT) now plays in their home security. And the notion that it is an expensive extravagance too advanced for simple home requirements must be met head on. Good technology may come at a price, but if you choose your solution smarter, it will work harder – without your spend having to exceed your budget.

Twenty-first century home security comprises



an IT nerve centre, with six integral control systems linked to this core. Traditional security solutions either treat these all as separate stand-alone entities. Modern solutions integrate them all into one effective security solution.

Step two: What are your requirements?

"People do not pay attention to their security system when building or renovating. It's a grudge buy." This according to Andrew Stead, MD of ADI in South Africa. He's not alone, it's a fact widely lamented in the security industry.

You need to ask yourself one fundamental question, says Stead: "What value do you put on your security system, and what are you wanting to protect foremost, your family or your assets?"

Stead argues that homeowners in

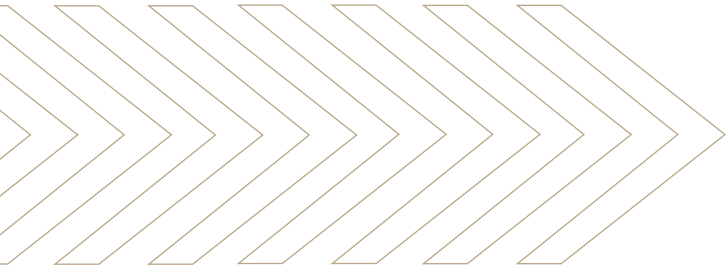
South Africa need to face the reality that if you want to protect your lives, and not just your home, then it will cost more. Simply put, extra security measures to ensure your absolute safety, come at a cost. And you have to decide if it's worth it.

Before you call an installer or security advisor, take the time to work through your security requirements methodically, layer by layer, right from the basics. The result will be far more satisfying because you will get what you want and your advisor will know that you have a clear understanding of your security needs. He will not have to make the decisions for you.

This done, you, the homeowner will be far more empowered to discuss the pros and cons of the products available to you with your advisor or installer. The whole process will appear less frightening and, most importantly, the options will make sense.

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“Security is a grudge buy”

The golden rule:

When deciding on which products to install, Gus Brecher from Cathexis Technologies advises customers to first determine if the products they want can be upgraded. If not, you can be sitting with obsolete technology in a couple of years that can't be fixed or upgraded – an expensive problem. Hybrid technologies, for example, make use of current analogue connectivity solutions, but are equally capable of being integrated into next-generation IP (Internet Protocol) solutions without the customer having to buy more hardware.

And Stead warns that insurance companies will not protect you if you do not have your ‘ducks in a row’. “Make sure you have an insurance approved installation and that it is linked to a central station,” he cautions. And ask yourself if the basic installation is adequate. It is widely contested that insurance companies don't actually care about the quality of your alarm system, however, it is in the best interests of all parties that your home is equipped with an alarm that meets your needs.



READER GIVE-AWAY

DIY CCTV kit

ADI International is giving away a DIY CCTV kit consisting of the following:

- 4 channel DVR.
- Hard drive.
- 4 cameras.
- And 4 x 20 metre cables.

For more information on CCTV equipment from ADI International contact +27 (0)11 574 2500 or e-mail Adelaide.Taylor@adiglobal.com

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Step three: Start with a plan

What kind of home do you have? South African homes fall into any one of the following six categories.

1. Free standing homes.
2. Estates.
3. Townhouse complexes.
4. Flats.
5. Small holdings.
6. Farms.

Each of these homes demands its own set of security requirements. Once you've understood your individual needs, you're ready to start your assessment:



- Assess your entrances at the perimeter gate, driveway and the front door.
- Assess your perimeter security.
- How many windows and doors do you have in your home?
- Do you have a garage?
- How many rooms in the home – and how many of these are bedrooms?
- How are your courtyard, back yard and veranda situated?
- What are the visual dimensions of your garden?
- Do you have a swimming pool?
- Do you have a cottage or outside office and does it have its own entrance?
- Do you have staff quarters?

Don't only think intruder protection.

- In addition to intruder protection, would you like fire, smoke, and carbon monoxide detection?
- Is your swimming pool a threat to your

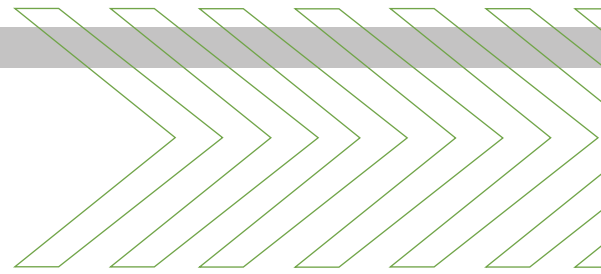
children's safety? One simple camera connected to your cell-phone or computer could save a life.

Step four: Budgets dictate

ADT says a consumer's choice of equipment depends on affordability. Entry-level security would include a simple house alarm and an electric fence. A reputable security company will either assess your existing electric fence or bring in a third

party to do this, before making any recommendations. If on the other hand, you are installing electric fencing from scratch, a credited supplier would be recommended to undertake the job. Any armed response company would want to ensure that your fence is correctly installed as poorly constructed fences result in false alarms or, even worse, a false sense of security.

If budget allows, added extras worth pursuing would be outside beams and a basic CCTV camera. A basic stand-alone camera retails anywhere from R1500 (no integration into an alarm system) to R8500 for a four-camera system installed into your home, and anything upwards of R20 000 for a more sophisticated camera installation.



The ultimate Rottweiler



needs of your property and installed by accredited professionals, you can enjoy the ultimate in home security without the bother of false alarms.

To this end, Optex, a world leader in the manufacture of outdoor detectors, has just released its new product range. Comprising three PIR (passive infrared) detectors and an active photoelectric beam detector, these flagship models have been designed to accommodate the lifestyle needs of South Africans. This means optimal functionality in a natural environment, regardless of surrounding conditions or location. Accordingly, the AX, HX, BX and VX short-range detectors are available in hardwired and wireless versions. This is great news not only for those wanting to improve their security in remote locations but also for installers who can now celebrate enhanced convenience and reduced installation times.

Watching from above ... the HX series

The High Mount HX40 series is available in three variants: HX40 (Hardwired), HX40AM (Hardwired with Anti-Masking technology) and the HX40 RAM (Wireless battery powered). Designed to be mounted up to 3 m high (beyond the reach of vandals) it provides exceptional external detection performance up to a range of 12 m.

When cabling isn't an option ... the AX series

For environments where cabling isn't an option, Optex introduces the wireless, battery-operated AX-100/200TFR. This active photo-electric beam detector has revolutionised perimeter security for a number of reasons. For one, it offers a significant cost-saving alternative to the traditional hardwired system. Quick and easy to install, it's highly flexible when it comes to location.

You have been warned ... VX series

The VX Series works on a dual detection method, which allows for maximum resistance to false or missed alarms. This it does by creating two discrete detection areas, sounding an alarm only when an intruder is detected in both places. Available in standard and battery-operated models, the flagship in this range is the VX-40REC, with its unique detector-activated voice warning feature.

Detect intruders before they break-in ... with the BX Series

The attractive and low-profile BX series of PIR outdoor detectors has a detection range of up to 24 m (12 m on each side). This creates an impressive 24 m x 1,3 m detection pattern, making it the ultimate invisible first line of defence.

If your home security needs an upgrade, you could consider getting a couple of Rottweilers.

Rottweilers are great, but if it's complete reliability and state-of-the-art technology you're after, you'd do better to have an outdoor detector from Optex installed.

Outdoor detectors are essentially the Rottweilers of security technology, designed to protect the area between your boundary and house by sounding the alarm before criminals can enter the building. Provided these systems are carefully planned around the individual



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- ⦿ Indoor Digital Motion Detectors
- ⦿ Indoor/Outdoor Photoelectric Beams
- ⦿ Outdoor Boundary Motion Detectors

A large, close-up photograph of a white OPTEX sensor unit. The unit has a circular lens and a black base with the 'OPTEX' logo in gold. The background is a light blue gradient.

OPTEX

To locate your nearest security service providers contact
Elvey Security Technologies Head Office on +27 (0) 11 401 6700
info@elvey.co.za, www.elvey.co.za



IS YOUR INSTALLER

REPUTABLE?

Have you thought about who is installing your security system and if they are qualified?

Whoever installs your security solution ultimately holds your life in their hands. A frightening thought. So, make sure you do your homework on your installation company.

The security products you install need to work immediately, every time you press a button or someone trips a sensor. You don't get second chances. It is your responsibility to ensure you select an installer capable of doing the job, and one that will be around when you need maintenance or expansion work done on your installation.

Know your home security installer:

1. Does the installer have proper contact details and company verification?
2. Is the company known in the industry and how long has it been going for? Companies that have been around for many years are likely to give better advice.
3. Before anything is installed in your home, make it your priority to get a full explanation from your installer about the technology that he advises you



to take on. Seek qualified advice on specific requirements for coverage, operation and contracting of your security system.

4. Go with security companies and products that have well established brand names. Research them on the Internet if necessary. Is it a local or international product? If international, does it have a local office and support?
5. Examine details such as guarantees on the product.
6. Make sure the products being installed can be serviced by your installer or other reputable dealers.
7. Does the company have after hours stand-by technicians?
8. Make sure you sign an indemnity form when work is being carried out on your home. If anything goes wrong during the installation process, who will be liable – you or your installer?
9. Is your installer accredited with relevant security governing bodies?
10. Make sure that the company you choose is also registered with the Private Security Regulatory Authority (PSIRA), which is a mandatory requirement for any security service provider.

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Continued from page 11

11. If you are uncertain about your installer's credentials, then talk to a security guild such as the South African Intruder Detection Service Associations (SAIDSA). Any installer worth their weight will be a member of this association, because it ensures all their installation and equipment meet appropriate industry standards.
12. Get three quotations. This should give you a good cross-reference of what services are available in your area and which product and company will best fit your requirements.
13. Give approval to the selected contractor by signing the offer to install, being sure you have agreed to the payment schedule, monitoring arrangements and costs and maintenance programme.
14. Once the installation is complete, ensure the contractor fully explains the system and its operation, that you and your family/colleagues understand.

Fly-by-night installers

"If you can't trust your security service provider, who can you trust?" says Tom Bramwell-Jones, sales and marketing manager of Inhep Electronics Holdings – a security company specialising in the sale and manufacture of alarms, access control and CCTV equipment. Bramwell-Jones agrees that while there are a number of reputable security companies out there offering good, solid advice, there are also plenty of fly-by-night installers in the market who know very little about their products or the security field itself.

Petro Vonk from installation company Frog Security agrees, adding that if a homeowner should land up with an installation that does go horribly wrong, they should contact any of the security governing bodies before doing anything further.

Credentials

Security specialist Alan Shrimpling from Connoisseur Electronics says that no matter whether a product has ISO 9001 certification, international awards to its name or simply a good track record, buyers must always be aware that any equipment purchased is only as good as its installation. "Credentials should be requested when contemplating the installation of any security products as a bad installation could jeopardise your safety," he advises.

Roy Alves, MD of Axis Communications in South Africa, a security company specialising in camera and video technology, says as a result of the poor level of standards amongst many installation companies or individual installers, Axis have set up a training academy to educate those in this industry.

Armed response installations

Vonk believes that armed response companies are not always vigilant enough with the installers they pick to do home installations. "Armed response companies get the bulk of their money from their monthly fees charged to their clients; the need to prioritise the quality of their installers is not top of their list. But for a reputable installer, its quality of work determines its income."



The keys to

sound security

Visible security measures act as a deterrent to home robbers, who are currently invading about 40 homes a day in South Africa, according to the latest crime statistics. Barriers on all doors and windows are an excellent starting point to establishing a sound security system and keeping these sometimes violent thieves out.

Begin a home security upgrade with a thorough check of your existing security measures. Their condition will depend on age and whether or not they have been properly maintained. Things to look out for include:

- signs of wear and tear or weathering.
- old-style burglar guards screwed into rotting wooden frames.
- rusting screws in burglar guards.
- security gates that don't slide open and close easily.
- unsecured external doors.
- welded units that have loosened over the years.
- windows without any form of protection.

Old, damaged burglar guards and gates that criminals can easily kick out or lever off will have to be replaced and new barriers installed on unsecured openings. Get professional help in choosing the correct mix of barrier security products for your particular circumstances. Make sure you secure every external doorway and window in your home. No window is too small or inaccessible for a determined thief.

Barriers are manufactured for different levels of security requirement, from low to high. The selection for each door, window or passageway will depend on factors such as

Good home security not only keeps one safe from home intruders but also takes the property up a notch if one decides to sell and move on.

location and accessibility. To give you an idea of what you'll need, complete the online security assessment at www.trellidor.co.za/trellidor/risk_assessment.asp or ask a security consultant to do this for you. They should give you a report including the cost of replacing units in poor condition.

Part of your security plan should be to close off an area where you can hide safely should your home be invaded by robbers. This could be the bedroom area, secured by a gate in the passageway and barriers on all windows. Or the bathroom, with sliding barriers on the windows to use as an escape route.

If you already have security

gates on external doors, ensure that you know where all the keys are. If you don't have a full set, ask yourself who has access to the missing keys and are they likely to be pressured into handing these over to robbers? If this is a matter for concern, rather get the locks changed than risk a violent break-in.

A good tip for home owners installing new barriers is to ask the supplier for a randomly allocated key for the security door used most by employees and the family, so only one lock has to be replaced if the key is lost or stolen. The rest of the sliding security units can be keyed alike and these keys kept in a safe place.





THE PATH INTO YOUR HOME

Controlling who has easy access to your home is the first step in a secure lifestyle.

Access control in the home is a broad topic that covers keeping undesirables off your property completely, through to detecting intruders in your property but before they enter the house, and finally, as a last resort, detecting intrusion and raising the alarm when criminals are inside your house.

Over the next few pages we will be examining some of the primary detection mechanisms in use today, ending with the newer technologies that are only now finding a place in the home. In future editions we will expand on this to include other products and solutions that make up a complete security implementation. This article will look at issues outside your house. To begin, we start at the gates.

Gate security

Your gate is the first point of entrance to your property. South Africa's high crime rate has literally rendered it mandatory for



Expert systems designed around your home.

Gate automation

Evo, developed by Centurion Systems, one of the most durable and reliable gate operators ever made, the legendary D5 is renowned the world over. Incorporating a 12 V version of the D10 controller, the D5 Evo also offers a wide range of useful features including the new Chronoguard timer functionality.



Other unique features include:

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- Now faster than the standard D5 – up to 22 m/min.
- Intelligent speed control, adjustable between opening and closing.
- Strong and reliable push force – up to 40 kgf starting and 20 kgf running.
- Accurate and safe position control.
- Intelligent automatic set-up.
- Break-in/ambush alarm.

Faster, smarter and easier to set-up, that's the D5 Evo.

most homeowners to have some form of remote motorised gate control as well as an intercom screening system.

Homeowners often do battle with their gate motors. If they're not sticking due to weather conditions or sabotage, they are at risk of being stolen or hit by lightning. You need a gate and a gate motor designed for South African conditions. Beware the 'cheap-and-nasty' options, they're not worth it as they can cost far more than the purchase price. When deciding on a gate, bear the following in mind:

1. **Quality:** Choose your brand wisely – it could save you a lot of money and time. There are many cheap and nasty brands imported from the East; some have no credibility and no backup system should things go wrong.
2. **Support:** Make sure the brand you buy is supported by your installer and that it has local representation in South Africa.
3. **Installation:** Must be top quality as this is your most used and trusted form of security. You do not want to be fiddling around at a gate because it won't open, this in itself is a serious security vulnerability.
4. **Maintenance:** Look after your gate.

Continued on page 16



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Francois Malan.

Continued from page 15

Can your gate be opened in an emergency?

Product manager for Elvey Security Technologies, Valerie Bingham, warns that residents barricade themselves into their properties in defiance of criminal activity, but in doing so they often overlook the fact that they are also cutting off vital access for their armed response companies in an emergency.

“Crime control today is not just about installing physical security measures,” she says. “Armed response reaction times and the ability by security personnel to enter the premises to investigate the cause of an alarm are critical elements of protection. It’s not much use for them to respond to an alarm in an instant, only to be unable to get on to the property.”

Francois Malan, director of Camsecure, a security solutions provider in South Africa, strongly recommends including a key pad at your gate and intercom access so as to allow security companies access to your property should you not be there.

In addition, cellular technology is also changing the way we access our properties. There are many affordable cellphone modules readily available on the market, set up to operate your gate remotely. Closing and opening your gate has never been simpler. Furthermore, cellphones enable early detection of interference with your gate, via software which enables your gate to automatically send an SMS to your phone should your gate open while you are away.

Cellphone modules retail anything upwards of R1000 and homeowners can purchase these from any good alarm supplier or local security providers.

Garage doors

Many residents access their homes via their garage door, but there is a downside to garage doors: they offer easy access for opportunistic criminals.

Coroma, a manufacturer of both garage and industrial doors, gives the following tips to help you avoid your garage being an open invitation to criminals:

- Keep your garage door closed at all times, particularly if it has an internal door leading into the house or is used to store tools and gardening implements that criminals could use to break into your home.



Valerie Bingham.

- Garage doors should be fitted with battery back-up to avoid being stranded outside an automated door during power cuts. Alternatively, ask your supplier to provide you with inverted power supply at minimal cost, to convert your 220 V operator into a battery back-up unit.
- If your automatic door is struggling to open or your manual door feels heavy, it’s probably out of balance and springs need adjustment. Call in the experts for help as they will be able to rectify this common problem for you as well as perform routine maintenance to keep the door operating at optimal level.
- Many garage doors are fitted with the bare minimum of features in order to save costs. Items such as weather seals and safety cables are omitted, leading to early wear and tear or compromised safety. Get a professional to check your door’s features and fit these safety precautions if necessary.
- Make sure you know where all your remote controls are. If one of these is lost, ask your garage door supplier to reset the rest to avoid potential theft. Never leave the remote controls in your car as some thieves are able to record your transmitter’s signal and open the door without stealing the control. Also, insist on encrypted coding or code hopping transmitters and receivers to optimise your security.
- Some garage door designs can be fitted with safety glass panels that allow you to see inside and avoid any nasty surprises.
- Check whether your garage door has an external key release. If so, keep the keys handy for situations when you may have to open the door manually. Should your garage door be the only way into your garage, an escape lock should be fitted, enabling you to manually override your motor from outside your garage. If you don’t have an external key release, make sure you always have your front door keys with you when you leave home!

Your first line of defence

Perimeter security is your first line of defence. It should be your first warning mechanism, stopping the intruder before they get inside your home.

What are the options?

- Electric fencing.

- Electric palisade fencing.
- Spiking.
- Rotating spikes.
- Barbed wire.
- High walls with lighting.
- High-tech fibre-optic detection systems.

Linking the above deterrents to your house alarm gives live 24-hour protection enabling instant armed response. The perimeter security industry is extensive. So be informed. Nicky Taylor, marketing support practitioner for Betafence, outlines some important facts to note.

Demarcation: Fences in the demarcation category indicate a boundary. It shows the public where your property begins or where an area ends.

Dissuasion: Fences in the dissuasion category prevent the intentional trespasser from crossing

Continued on page 18

Risk assessment: the rules

Establish the most appropriate fencing system for your home by identifying its risk. By following these simple Do's and Don'ts you will avoid making unnecessary and costly mistakes:

Do's:

- Speak to your local police station, armed response, local neighbourhood watch.
- Speak to your insurance company about what level of security is required in the area. Very often, they have all the statistics on hand to help you.
- Find out what type of crime is prevalent in your area.
- When does the most residentially targeted crime occur? Is it mainly in the daytime when no one is home but the alarm is on or is it mostly at night when you are at home and the alarm is switched off?
- Establish a budget: know how much

you can spend. Find out if your bank will finance the fencing through your mortgage bond.

- Work with reputable companies with references.
- Look for systems which require low maintenance or are offered with a maintenance plan.
- Get guarantees and warranties
- Plan and do a thorough risk assessment.
- Check that the fence installation is correct before you sign it off.
- Know where your property boundary is so that you don't install the fence on your neighbour's property in error.

Don'ts:

- Do not rely on your neighbour's systems to protect you. Their systems may be absent or non-operational.
- Don't look for a 'quick-fix' solution.

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Continued from page 17



your boundary. They have a dissuasive effect. Dissuasive fences form a physical obstacle, indicating that entry is reserved to authorised persons only.

Delay: Fences in the delay category hinder entry and are considered security fencing. Delay is defined as the time the fence resists unauthorised entry. The required delay time is very much related to the security response time. Tests by police departments have shown that the delay factor of high security fences must be over forty times greater than other systems.

Detection, access control and deterrence: Detection systems must trace any form of unwanted breach of the fence within the delay period. Additional electric components such as an acoustic alarm, security lighting and camera surveillance also have a deterrent effect.

Design: A fence should be an architectural extension of your

home and not an eyesore. It must however promote clear surveillance so as not to provide any hiding places for criminals. Ensure that there are no holes or gaps under the fence line which can become a weak point later on. Think "over, under and through" when assembling a fence, this way you can identify the vulnerable points.

Beware the pitfalls

Price: "It is a competitive market, so you can find a good quality product at the right price," says Taylor. "Remember it is an investment, so if you pay more in the beginning for a better product, you are likely to spend less in the long run on repairs and maintenance, thereby saving yourself money and a lot of effort."

DIY option: Ask for at least three quotes and compare specifications very carefully to ensure that you have the ideal system. Alternately, if your home is being designed by an architect, ensure he is aware of your needs right from the beginning to allow him to design and draw up the right specification for your perimeter fencing. Certain fencing manufacturers specialise in working closely with architects ensuring that the form and function of perimeter design are met.

Installation: Be sure to ask the supplier if they have an installer network that they can refer you to. This will mean that the installers have been trained in the installation of the fence system and you are ensured of a hassle-free installation!

Workmanship: This is often overlooked, but is crucial to the overall aesthetics and finished product. Ask if the contractor has any certification. The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) is the benchmark for verifying the standard of contractors in South Africa.

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Texecom

continues to set the standards

Texecom continues to set the standards of versatility in intruder detection both in residential and commercial applications. With the increase of violent crime in residential areas in South Africa, domestic security is an absolute necessity to ensure families are secure while in their home environment.

Texecom has invested vast sums of money into R&D to become a leader in the development of both domestic and commercial security systems with world class detection devices, both for internal and external use, specifically designed for the South African environmental conditions such as high ambient temperatures and high humidity which are often a cause of detection problems with standard conventional detectors.

Texecom supplies a range of high-tech control panels and detection devices from entry level requirements to the top of the range in a highly competitive market. Texecom's range of control panels, from entry level Texecom 412 control panel with 8 zones expandable to 16 zones with 2 partitions – allowing the system to be split into 2 separate areas i.e. main residence and granny flat or main residence and perimeter protection. The control panel has 8 programmable outputs and a 750 event buffer, the largest event buffer in the industry for entry level control panels.

The outputs can be programmed and used to switch devices such as external security lights and ensuring users may access the premises at prescribed times of the day.

The Texecom 412 control panel has 6 home arming modes to ensure the versatility for the homeowner to arm sections of the secured premises as required. The Texecom range of control panels all have an auto arm/auto disarm function ideal for allowing gardeners onto the premises while homeowners are away. This function can select specific days of the week as required.

Following the 412 control panel in the larger residential application, is the Texecom 832 control panel, with 8 zones expandable to 32 zones and all the functionality of the Texecom 412 control panel. The Texecom 832, however, is programmable to 4 partitions i.e. should there be a home utilising 4 separate areas such as a granny flat, kids living in an outside cottage etc, the system can be split into 4 separate alarm systems minimising the cost of purchasing 4 separate systems.

Texecom has also developed a range of high-tech detection devices such as passive infrared detectors, dual tech detectors. The CloakWise dual tech detector was developed to ensure superior detection where intruders may be cloaked, pet immune detectors for applications where pets are retained within the home. Texecom supplies a range of Atsumi outdoor beams offering a combination of both passive infrared detection and active infrared detection should the application require it.

Texecom will continue to develop product suited specifically for the South African industry as our requirements differ vastly from those of Europe and the rest of the Western world. Ask your nearest installer for a demonstration or an end-user DVD to view our feature-packed alarm products.

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Premier Series



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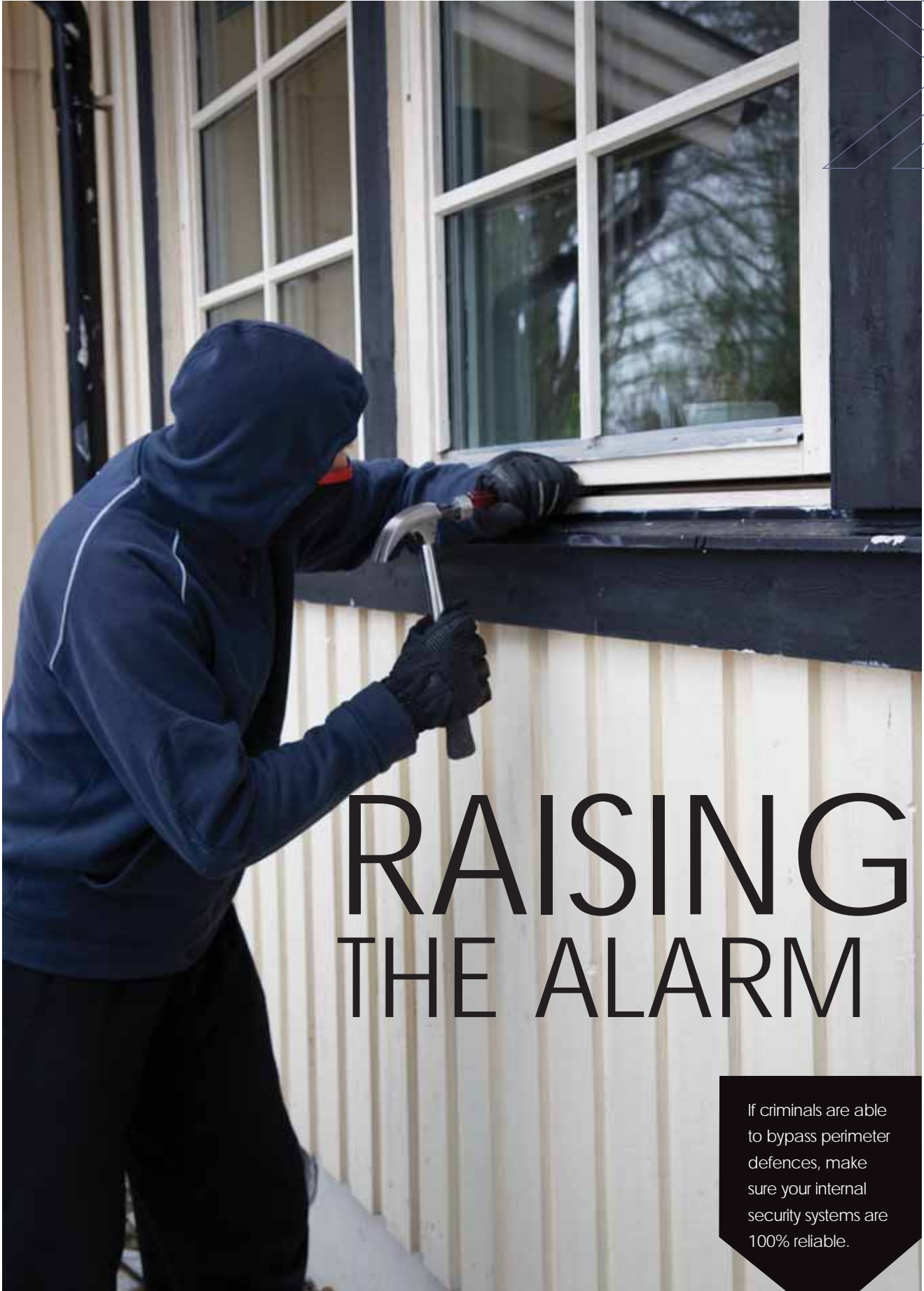
Prestige CW

Cloakwise™ dual technology detector



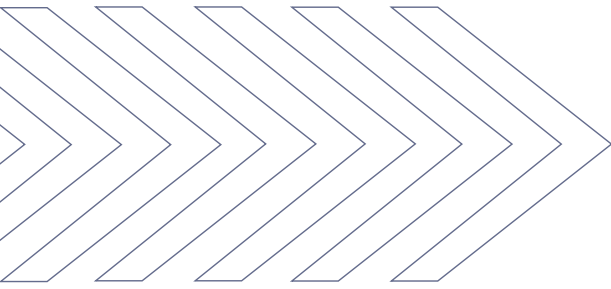
Prestige TD

Professional twin dual element PIR



RAISING THE ALARM

If criminals are able to bypass perimeter defences, make sure your internal security systems are 100% reliable.



“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.”

Leonardo Da Vinci

An effective intrusion detection or prevention system outside one's house is crucial to the effective security of your family. What happens when they bypass all that and find a way into your home?

While there are many options when it comes to internal security, from alarms to cameras to beams and so on, in this issue of *Home Security* we will focus on alarms and newer camera and video technologies. We will offer more advice and insight into the various other options available in future issues.

A typical home alarm system comprises the following:

- a control unit.
- detectors or switches built into your door and window frames that sense when the door or window is opened.
- sensors with infra-red detectors, known as passives, to detect a presence in the room by sensing either motion or body heat.
- a siren/alarm bell.
- a panic button.

Most people understand the basic workings of an intruder alarm system. They know it has detectors, door contacts and a control panel that is usually connected to a siren located on site. They also believe that by connecting the system, via a standard telephone line, to a Central Monitoring Station (CMS) that their premises are well protected. “Sadly this is an illusion” says Elvey Security Technologies technicians. “The reality is that such devices don't make the doors any stronger or the windows any tougher.”

Demystifying the alarms

There are many alarms on the market, each with different functions and different levels of protection. Many alarm panels are now so sophisticated they have numerous arming modes. For example, if you're ready to go to sleep, a simple press of a button on your control panel enables a pre-programmed function to kick in whereby your entire home is armed except your bedroom which is bypassed by the alarm. The same applies when you leave your home, pressing the away button means your entire home is automatically armed.

Continued on page 22

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Magnetic contacts: the most basic alarm

These are small magnetic contacts installed on the perimeters of doors and windows. If the magnetic contact is broken (i.e. a door or window is opened), an alarm is activated. They are very common because they are inexpensive and they work. The contacts are not able to raise false alarms.

Passive infrared detectors

A passive detector focuses on a field of view directly in front of it and is activated when this field of view is intercepted. The interception is detected via temperature change in the passive's field of view. A passive detector only receives information (i.e. it doesn't transmit anything). New technology has enabled cameras and passive detectors to be interlinked, thereby advancing the practice of integrating different security solutions into one single solution managed centrally.

Indoor pet friendly passive infrared detection is popular, allowing the detector to pick up human movement, but not that of small pets. This option is also very popular and reasonably priced.

Dual detectors: expensive yet very effective

A dual detector is a combination of a passive infrared detector and a microwave detector, merged into one single brain and is used in harsher environments such as a garage or warehouse. A microwave transmits and receives a signal all in one, whereas a passive infrared only receives, explains Andrew Stead, MD of ADI. Stead explains that the dual detector requires two signals to be activated before it goes into alarm mode, i.e. an "a" and "b" is needed before the system goes into an alarm.

"This option is not as popular as it should be," Stead says. "The most likely reason is that they are triple the price of basic passives, yet they should be better marketed by installers and alarm companies because they have successfully confronted the problem of false alarms. Unfortunately too many armed response companies don't advocate the need for having a high quality alarm that not only addresses false alarm issues but also works to more stringent controls."



CHOOSING AN ALARM



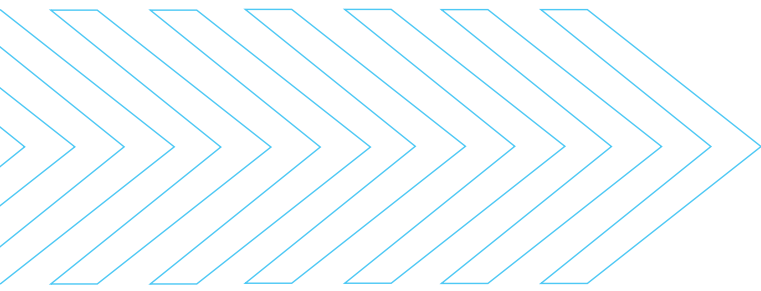
There are endless choices when purchasing an alarm system, make sure you buy a reliable system that will not let you down. More expensive is not always better.

There are thousands of alarm systems on the

market. So how do consumers know what to choose?

Homeowners need to make an effort when researching their alarm system. If family and home are your dearest assets, then choosing a well-known reliable brand to protect them should be non-negotiable. Equally important is whom you choose to install and back up your system.

When considering an alarm system, Regal Security sales and marketing director, Mel Labuschagne, believes consumers should never trade-off functionality, features and benefits, future



expansion, stability and reliability over aesthetics. A product may be considered appealing due to its clean lines, coloured blue lights or rounded edges, but this should not be allowed to cloud its functionality.

“Don’t fall into the common trap of making a superficial purchase instead of asking: ‘Is this product right for me?’ A good alarm system will achieve an elegant balance of all factors,” says Labuschagne.

Know your features

When choosing your alarm, focus on the features. Don’t land up with limited features because you didn’t ask for them. Avoid a compromise or trade-off by determining what is needed and how your security concerns will be addressed by the features available on the alarm. Most importantly, the unit must be easy to use by all family members.

Based on a predefined budget, a homeowner should select a system which allows for future expansion from a supplier or service provider with a sound track record.

Homeowners should not be bulldozed into a ‘quick buy’ based on the instruction of an insurance company or because there is an urgent need for the installation.

“It is extremely important to get a clear understanding of the various detector functionalities and the complex layout of an alarm system to establish which type of control panel will best suit your needs,” warns Labuschagne. “And ensure that the exact layout, number of detectors, areas protected and system operation is understood and agreed upon before installation.”

Cellular technology and alarms

Many alarm panels have add-on modules that allow the alarms to be controlled from a cellular phone. These modules give residents more control and the technology is secure because it’s accessed via a pin code.

False alarms

If you ask any security company what their biggest frustration is, they will tell you it is ‘false alarms’. “Most alarms going off are false,” says Richard McGhee, marketing director of ADT Security. “But security companies cannot risk ignoring a single alarm.”

False alarms are primarily caused by poorly designed and installed security systems or human operating error. McGhee says poor maintenance of

electric fences, windows left open, pets left inside, trees growing over fences, power outages all contribute to false alarms.

“Home owners don’t adhere to the basic principles of looking after your security setup,” he says.

CSS Tactical says 98% of alarms it responds to are false alarms, but because they cost these vehicle reaction times into the community’s budget, they don’t mind dealing with them.

Too many false alarms in a suburb start to offset the ‘alarm factor’ making residents slack in their response to the sound of an alarm nearby. And it is not only residents who become complacent it’s the armed response company too.

“False alarms can, to a large extent, be prevented by the home owner,” says McGhee. The problem is, homeowners become apathetic about the security systems, and rely too heavily on their armed response company.”

Francois Malan of Camsecure says cellular technology is taking home security to another level. "Allowing your security needs to be taken care of on your cell phone enables you to have a mobile control room in your pocket."

If an alarm goes off at home, an SMS will immediately warn the resident who can immediately download footage from the cameras on site and analyse what caused the alarm. Communication by SMS is not the only mode of communication if your alarm is set off. Another means of communicating is via a GSM module or GPRS through to your computer.

Using your cellular network, you would be able to receive an e-mail giving details on the alarm system. Blackberry users can also interrogate their alarm system and analyse the history of an incident by using the Internet.

Homeowners can also turn their alarm on from their cell phone if they forget to do so when leaving home. Another option is the ability to activate different partitions in your home from your cell phone. Driving home you may want to switch off your garage beams, but not your actual house alarm. You can do all this from your cell phone's keypad.

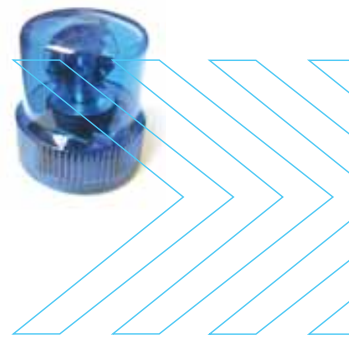
Video verification technology

Experts swear that there is no better way to verify an alarm, hold-up, burglary or other life-threatening event than with video verification. Burglars will often set an alarm off, and defiantly, with lightning speed, still accomplish their task before the alarmed response company arrives to check out the scene. And you are left with no evidence

other than the loss of assets and lots of trauma."

A video verification unit is seamlessly integrated into alarm panels to provide video services and will smoothly transmit pre- and post-video alarm signals with site identification and time stamp. What's more, when the signal is received by the central monitoring station, the pre- and post-video clip pops up on the automation screen, allowing the dispatcher to access the event in a timely manner. The same applies to notifications such as arming and disarming the alarm system. In these instances, open/close video reporting shows who opened and closed the house (or business), who was with them and if they carried anything away with them.

Event notification documents the chain of events at any location and at any time, whether attended or unattended. This is significant because it allows people to manage their homes and businesses from anywhere in the world. Some units have a built-in modem, so all that's required is a computer with Internet connection and the correct software. In areas where telephone lines or Internet are not available, videos can be transmitted through cellular phone.



Know your alarm

- A good entry level alarm normally caters for 8 zones.
- If you intend increasing your zones, make sure you buy an alarm that can cater for this requirement. Some can't expand.
- An alarm can expand to over 64 zones for a house. These zones normally increase in modules of eight.
- Be careful about pet friendly detectors indoors.
- IP-enabled alarms are cost-effective.
- You can opt for an integrated multi-channel connectivity solution.
- Some alarm systems include a combination of wired and wireless devices.
- Does the alarm operate with intuitive programming and walk-through menus?
- Does the model have a false alarm prevention.
- Does the system arm with a keypad, keyfob, proximity card or remotely via phone or LAN?

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All areas



SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

Sadly, in South Africa we cannot only rely on technology to offer us protection. An armed response company is a necessary evil.

Homeowners can have the best home security system around, but without a reliable security company to back it up, their system can turn out to be nothing more than fancy technology.

What must a homeowner look out for when selecting a security company?

- Area.
- Service and backup / vehicle deployment.
- Technology.
- Guards and training.
- Contracts.
- Cost.
- Is the company able to offer dual monitoring of your alarm system, either by the telephone line, radio transmitter or by GPRS outstations?

Here are some tips on how to go about selecting an armed response security company to protect your home.

Fly-by-night operators

Beware of fly-by-night operators. Sign up only with people who have good coverage in your area and a good reputation.

"It's so easy to set up a security company and fool the public into its legitimacy," says Richard McGhee, sales and marketing director at ADT. "All a company needs is a bakkie, some cheap labour, and a boss claiming to be an expert in the field, with a cheaper price and more personal service. Don't believe it!"

"Always check the security credentials, the legitimacy of certificates, the training procedures, the number and calibre of vehicles – even ask to see the head office – it can tell you a lot!"

According to McGhee, unqualified security companies pose not only a threat to your overall safety and financial investment, but should anything go wrong during a security incident, and your supposed security company is involved in a shootout, YOU, and not your security company, will be held liable if the legalities are not watertight in your contract.

Area

Choose a security company that is active in your area! If you don't, you will not get the

Continued on page 28

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To find out more about these and other services call 0860 100 911 or visit www.adt.co.za for information. At ADT, we believe every South African has the right to a safe and secure home



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Always There



Continued from page 27

service you are paying for; if a security company's main hub is in the next door suburb, nine times out of ten their priorities will be with that area, and your suburb will fall short of continuous patrolling and monitoring. Equally, in a time of crisis, instead of getting to you quickly, they will have an extra distance to travel before reaching you, and this could cost you dearly.

Service

Where is the security company's monitoring service located? How many vehicles are deployed at a given time to monitor the suburb? What other monitoring should you expect i.e. bicycle, undercover vehicles, armed, cameras on roads or homes?

Technology

Does the security company you are choosing assist with selecting an alarm system? If so, ensure you have a risk assessment done on your home and that the salesperson recommends the appropriate solution? How well do they know their products? Do not give in to pressure to buy unnecessary extras!

Credentials, Guards and Training

How long has the company been in business? Do they have happy customers? Consider the company's qualifications. Inquire about licensing, certifications, memberships, training, experience, and status among professional peers. Are these legitimate? Is the company PSIRA registered?

Pre-consultation

When setting up a consultation make sure a representative visits your home to offer a customised appraisal and advise you of areas of need, limitations, and potential solutions.

Installation

Do they install the equipment or do they outsource? Save time, money, and hassle by ensuring professionals set up your alarm system. Check the credentials of the installers they outsource to. Check what recourse you have should there be a problem with any of the equipment or accessories deployed?

Access to your properties

Can the company set up a digipad at your gate to allow guards access into your property should an emergency arise. Is this part of their service? No security company will allow its security guards to access a property without consent. The digipad is an electronic pad placed outside your gate, which can be accessed if you are not at home and the alarm is activated. Once the guard has radioed the control room with the house address, the control room is able to access the code and deactivate the alarm. The gate will also be able to open and close. A digipad costs about R850 to install. Without it, a security company can do nothing to de-activate your alarm if you are not able to attend to it yourself.

Cost

How much does the monthly monitoring service cost in addition to the sales and installation cost? Is it a set price or do the fees increase periodically? Obtain detailed price quotes, including setup, equipment, monthly monitoring fees, and warranty options.

Contracts

Most armed response/security companies require leases, so do your homework before signing any contract. It may be difficult to get out of a signed contract if it doesn't turn out to be what you expected.

COMPLEXES TOO

One of the drawbacks of moving into a complex or gated community is that homeowners become complacent about safety. With access security measures in place, residents are lulled into a false sense of security. "But," says Charlene Erasmus, Trellidor's brand and public relations manager, "security is regularly being breached in these complexes."

COMPLACENT?

Living in a secure estate or complex might give the illusion of safety, but residents still need to manage their own security.





Don't assume that the access control into the complex is the responsibility of the body corporate and the armed response company responsible for the security of the complex. Residents need to take responsibility for monitoring the complex's access control as well as their own security.

The free movement of strangers in and out of complexes, such as daily workers given access codes by employers, has often been blamed for providing opportunities for theft. The same applies to services such as deliveries and garden services.

Addressing access control in estates

Gus Brecher from Cathexis Technologies, says technology has had to step up in order to meet the security risks placed on estates because of the constant traffic moving in and out of these estates.

A recent incident at an upmarket estate in KwaZulu-Natal prompted the need for the estate to up its game, and invest in stricter access controls. Cathexis Technologies was asked to design a system, using camera technology, to address the security issues at the estate's access control hub. The solution was designed along the following principles:

1. Every resident requires an access card to get in and out of his estate.
2. Using camera technology, a central control room in the estate will get footage of every transaction that happens at the access point.
3. The security system's software is specifically programmed to home in on any abnormal transaction and it will be immediately recorded and monitored.
4. Cathexis designed the system to incorporate a number of other programmed rules written into the central software. Some estates for example, set up an anti-passback transaction, whereby a person who enters an estate with his card, must exit with his card. No one, therefore, can take a card on the premises, hide it away for later use, and think that they can re-enter the estate at another time. They will be denied access.
5. If this does occur, the control room is then alerted that an anti-passback transaction has just occurred, and they will investigate.
6. The camera footage at the access point will automatically switch to the specific monitor screening the incident in question, so that it can be studied.
7. An SMS will automatically be sent to the cardholder.
8. Appropriate action will be taken.



Need to know: Estate access

- Security guards at access points are often terrorised into tipping off offenders. So be as vigilant.
- Access control must be tight with good bedside manners – no re-entry must be allowed.
- Estates need video images associated with access transactions – for follow up investigations.
- This video footage needs to be easy to find by having a video database.
- There must be a dedicated CCTV and video control room located somewhere in the estate to be able to take immediate action on abnormal transactions.
- Check that there is 24 hour monitoring at the access point and that the integrity of the system is strong. There should be automatic notification to residents should anything go wrong with the system in place.



TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Video surveillance is not an expensive technology reserved for government ministers and multi-million rand homes anymore.

The advent of camera technology in the security industry has catapulted security to new levels. Thanks to CCTV capabilities, alarm systems now come with a completely new set of modules.

Visual detection has not only improved the services of armed response companies, it has also empowered estates, complexes and homeowners to monitor their own security set-up as well as access their own footage when they need to. However, cameras are expensive and many homeowners struggle to justify the spend required to install them.

There are many types of CCTV systems on the market. Nowadays, new cameras are IP (Internet

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“Remember that connecting the camera to the Internet requires Internet access and may require additional hardware such as an ADSL modem.”

Continued from page 31

Protocol) based and are networked together so that any camera’s images can be viewed from anywhere on the network, including the Internet if required, and digital storage is used to record the images.

CCTV security cameras provide constant surveillance 24 hours a day. Their level of sophistication has dramatically reduced crime in businesses and homeowners are turning to this option because of its success. “CCTV technology is affordable and easy to use,” says Roy Alves, MD of Axis Security, “but South African home owners are taking a while to cotton on to this. It’s also more expensive than traditional home security solutions.”

Because cameras can be connected directly to your IP network, homeowners are able to take back their control over their home security; they can monitor and view directly through a computer with Internet access. This also gives residents a lot of flexibility as to how they wish to customise their video surveillance.

Moreover, technology advances have catapulted us into a wireless world. While hard-wired systems still work well, you would have to run cables to the location where you will be mounting the camera. Wireless video surveillance systems (VSS) are easier to install in your home.

Wireless technology makes it virtually impossible to disable a system by cutting exposed wires, because there simply aren’t any. Each component in a wireless system is powered by its own batteries and they will signal the control panel when they run low, so there is no chance of a dead battery. The wireless camera would only require a wireless adaptor which would plug into your computer and facilitate the electronic communication between your security camera and the computer.

A Wireless Video Surveillance System comprises the following:

- At least one camera/transmitter.
- Power supply (typically 12-volt DC).
- Receiver and antenna.
- Optional additional monitor and VCR (a VCR is only necessary if you want to record the images being broadcast by your transmitter).

There are many wireless alarm systems on the market. Ask your local security provider or any reputable alarm installation company.

Effective places to install cameras

- At your front gate.
- On or facing your perimeter.
- In your driveway.
- In your garage.
- In your backyard.
- On your patio.
- In your garden.

Global monitoring

Homeowners are now able to monitor their home security from virtually anywhere in the world if their home security system is set up with CCTV camera security. “Once the system is up and running, all a person needs to do is log onto a specially designated Internet site using a PC, and they can instantly access camera images. They can even use their Web browser to move the camera’s pointing direction and modify its digital zoom to bring objects of interest into closer view,” says Tami Alves, marketing manager at Axis. “Furthermore, residents can use any cellphone that’s Internet enabled to manage and keep an eye on their home from any location in the world.

“Accessing images of your home via your camera network also enables you to perform functions like opening and closing your remote control gates should the need arise.”

Quick Facts

Guss Technologies gives us the CCTV facts:

What is a video server?

A video server is an object/device that allows you to use the Internet to see what is happening at home through your surveillance cameras when you are away. The video server transforms any local surveillance camera into a live video feed.

How does it make life easier?

Having a video server gives you maximum security and surveillance from anywhere in the world. You can access your home from the comfort of your office, overseas, or on holiday. This way if your children or pets are at home and you are away, you can still keep a close and protective eye over them, and be fully aware of what is happening.

How easy is it to use?

To connect you to your video server all you need to do is connect to the Internet, type in the Web page address and press enter. Wait a few seconds and all the relevant information will appear. It is simple and convenient and only takes a few seconds of your time.

Remote monitoring via digital video recording (DVR)

"The arrival of video verification technology, which is being successfully used to reduce false alarm incidents and control the deployment of resources, is not a day too soon," says Michael Brett, national sales manager for Elvey Security Technologies.

As the cost of CCTV surveillance equipment is dropping, homeowners are seeing the many added benefits of these systems. Not only are they able to view the outside perimeter of their premises whilst in the safety of their home, they are also able to monitor other areas of their home such as their pool area. If a child comes within a certain specified range of the pool area, an audible alarm will be triggered followed by a live viewing image.

With the decreasing costs of broadband connectivity such as ADSL and 3G, an attractive option is to have the capability of offsite remote monitoring of the premises such as from work, or while on holiday. Although still quite costly from a 24-hour monitoring perspective, checking once a day for a few minutes is still viable.

Video verification is seamlessly integrated into alarm panels to provide video services and will smoothly transmit pre- and post-video alarm signals with site identification and time stamp. What's more, when the signal is received by the central monitoring station, the pre- and post-video clip pops up on the automation screen, allowing the dispatcher to access the event in a timely manner. The same applies to notifications such as arming and disarming the alarm system. In these instances, open/close video reporting shows who opened and closed your home and if they carried anything away with them.

Remote video monitoring and off-site digital video recording capabilities also makes it ideal for insurance purposes when it comes to being able to prove that there was no negligence on the part of the owner.

CCTV decisions

- Decide what you want to monitor.
- What is your budget?
- Consider a wireless installation to save money.
- Do you need interior or exterior cameras?
- How many cameras do you need?
- Black and white or colour? For low lighting conditions consider a black and white CCTV camera and colour should really be used inside with good lighting conditions.
- There are two types of camera: CMOS and CCD, which are the image sensors within the camera. CCD cameras produce a clearer sharper picture, but are more expensive than CMOS.
- An important specification is a camera's capability to work in low lighting conditions. Light levels are measured in LUX and the lower the number the less light it will take to reproduce a clear image.
- If you need sharp, quality images, go for a higher resolution camera. Entry-level cameras have a resolution of 330 lines whereas high-resolution cameras will produce around 400 lines.
- Consider your image storage. DVR (digital video recorder) is the best option and is relatively inexpensive. They record onto a hard disk.
- Select a monitor that is compatible with the resolution of your CCTV camera system.
- There are many different brands available so do your research.

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SECURING AN UPMARKET HOME



When looking to secure their brand new home in a newly developed estate in Kyalami, Susan and John realised two things: that they were not only looking at security solutions from an intruder perspective, but also from a watchdog perspective.

Their front gate was continually being opened and closed in order to let the garden service, the house-keeper, as well as builders still completing bits and pieces around their home in. In addition, Susan also has a work from home set-up so there was a continual flow of visitors needing to gain access to the property.

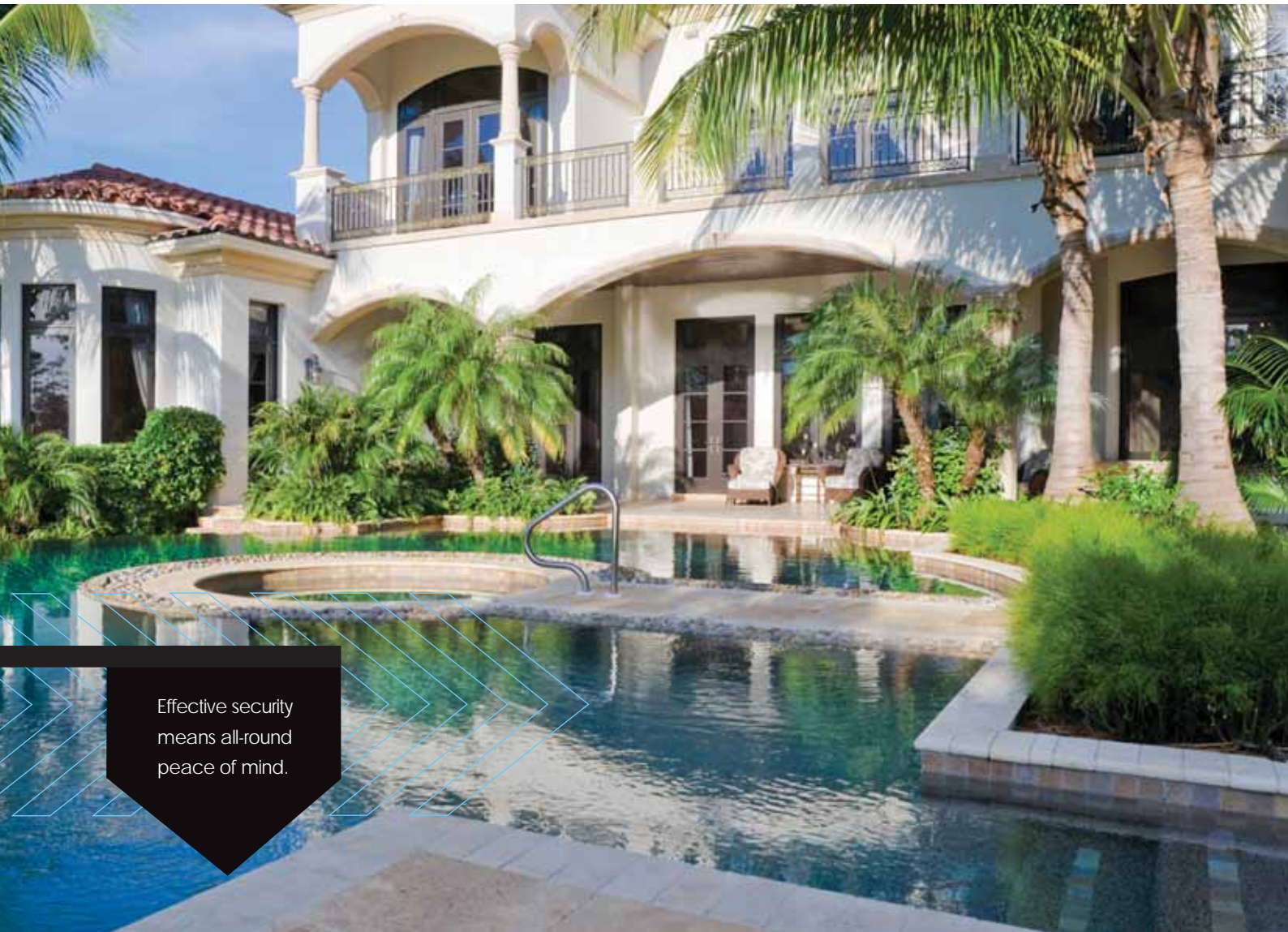
Susan and John also needed their au pair to be able to access the property securely and feel completely safe while looking after their three young children. The activity was endless.

It was concluded that the couple's security requirements would need to address the following:

- Access Control: they needed remote control for their front gate to function both from within the home and from afar.
- Cameras had to be placed in all major entry points

of their home, for example, their entrance gate, their garage, their front door, their kitchen entrance and their veranda entrance.

- Cameras needed to be placed in view of all vulnerable areas of their home for example their swimming pool. By using software programmed into their alarm system, they would select a boundary that was considered 'too close to the pool'; a camera and a security beam would be positioned to zone in on this demarcated perimeter of the pool. If the beam was crossed it would activate, sending an e-mail or SMS alert warning of potential danger. The camera would also start recording the minute the alarm was activated.
- They would need outside lighting throughout their garden and exterior of their home that would turn on automatically after dark.
- An optional extra was to place security beams in their garden.
- They decided that because the outside of their property was well secured, they would have no need to put cameras in the living areas inside their home.
- Motion detectors were to be placed in all rooms in the house, all being programmed via their alarm system



Effective security means all-round peace of mind.

to ring a warning sound should any person access these rooms uninvited.

- Because they were living in an estate, they decided that perimeter security around their own home boundary would be unnecessary, as the main estate perimeter security had already been taken care of.
- When investigating the estate's perimeter security, they were shown several cameras that had been placed in strategic spots along the perimeter. These cameras are called Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras because they can rotate. If an alarm is triggered on a certain spot on the perimeter security, this camera would be controlled by software programmed to hone in on the area that triggered the alarm – known as an active tampering alarm. Not only would the camera rotate and fix on the spot where the tampering took place, but inside the control room where all the camera footage is being monitored, the software had been programmed in such a way that it was able to pick up the specific camera that detected the specific area that had been tampered with.
- Travel: because the couple travel abroad, they wanted to be able to monitor their home from anywhere in the world. All that was required for this was setting up

an IP (digital) address which is simple and straightforward. From their cellphones or laptops they would then be able to not only check out visually that their home was in order, but they could also open and close gates via the Internet.

Budget

Once they had worked out what they would need in their home, Susan and John set out to do a costing sheet on each item that they would require to secure their home. They categorised each item.

For example, when looking at the costs of CCTV cameras they discovered a considerable variance in price and quality; however they did learn that a sound, versatile camera with a small footprint (± 15 cm) did not have to come with a high price tag. With cameras no longer being luxury unobtainable items, market prices were competitive. The cameras they chose retailed at R1500.00 each, and were designed in such a way that they could be reduced in size by dismantling their outer cases, to fit in a passive detector. These cameras were therefore designed to fit in small, well lit spaces, with a special focus on a specific area. Susan and John needed five cameras for their large home, as they opted for swimming pool security; most homeowners however would only need two or three cameras.



PROTECT YOURSELF

Simple precautions and a little time can make the difference between being a victim and being secure.



After many years operating in the security industry in South Africa, Bob Power has put pen to paper and written a book covering all the aspects of security small businesses and home users need to consider when protecting themselves.

Home Security has been given permission to print a summarised extract from the book. Below is part of the chapter on home security. For more information, please contact Bob Power on 083 393 2854 or e-mail rpower@mweb.co.za.

Lock it up or lose it

It is imperative to note that no system is invincible, but the more deterrents you have, the more difficult it is for the criminal, who will probably move to easier pastures. Further, the systems must be maintained and up to date. The longer you can delay the criminal, the better.

When securing your home, the following must be considered:

- Alarm systems
 - ✓ Check specifically the credentials of installers.
 - ✓ The systems must be cost effective.
 - ✓ It is imperative that you check the system at least once a week to ensure that it is working effectively – especially panic buttons.
 - ✓ Make sure employees are aware of the panic buttons' locations.
- Electric fencing
 - ✓ Installed on existing perimeter fences and walls – such fencing is a good deterrent.
 - ✓ It is necessary to check, monitor

and maintain such fencing.

- ✓ Backup systems are now becoming a reality – for electricity shortages.

• Lighting

- ✓ Bright interior and exterior lighting is necessary.
- ✓ However, by itself lighting is not a deterrent, other deterrents must also be in place.

• Gates, bars and barriers

- ✓ Again, reputable suppliers must be approached. Burglar bars may be ugly, but are a good deterrent.
- ✓ The installation of barriers over doors and windows provides a good defence against criminals.

• CCTV

- ✓ Advice is necessary on how to choose a system and where to place the cameras, especially in retail premises.

• Armed response

- ✓ This is a very good backup for protecting your premises (armed security supplied on alarm) – and the response time is getting better.

Get proper advice and shop around. Most importantly, don't buy a system you don't understand. It is also extremely important to have continuous monitoring and backup systems.

Put yourself in the shoes of the criminal. Find out what the weak spots in your premises are. It can be a cruel financial blow, soul destroying and traumatic to be a victim of crime, so do all you can to prevent it.



Know your terminology



The control unit

- The control unit is the brain of the home security system. It receives signals from the switches and triggers the alarm.
- The control unit can be powered by mains or battery. Some can be fed by mains with the battery for backup power. This backup battery will automatically recharge when power is regained.
- The control unit may have the capability to dial the phone number of a security company or nominated neighbour.

The switches

- Switches are magnetic devices fitted to frame and casement of a window or door (there are other options, but this is most common). When the window or door is opened, the circuit is broken and the alarm triggered. All windows and doors must be closed when the alarm system is armed.

The alarm

- Most alarms are sirens and serve as noisy deterrents, so you'll want to make sure the alarm you choose is loud enough. Anything below 95 decibels can't be heard over distance. Most sirens sound for 20 minutes then shut off. Some alarms are connected to a monitoring service via phone line, and some external sirens also incorporate a bright flashing strobe light.

Panic button

- This is a manually operated button, similar to a car remote (or key fob). The panic button can be placed by the bedside, couch, or wherever it's needed so that the user can trigger the alarm whether or not the rest of the system is on.

Wired home security systems

- Wired home security systems need to have a closed electrical circuit, meaning that when the

alarm is turned on the circuit is completed. If there is any interference (such as the wires being cut) the alarm will go off. These systems require wires to be run from the control panel to each sensor.

- While wired home security systems offer maximum reliability and are generally less expensive, they are probably not a great DIY option. Determining how to run the wires in an attractive way that's difficult for burglars to defeat is tricky and time consuming.

Wireless home security systems

- Wireless home security systems can be a great DIY option. They're battery powered, which means no complicated wiring is involved, and transmit a radio signal to the control unit in order to trigger the alarm. Many wireless alarm systems can be armed using a remote key fob that doubles as a mobile panic alarm, and some systems offer a repeater unit, increasing transmission range so that outbuildings can be protected on the system.
- Wireless home security cameras, on the other hand, are not always the best use of your money. Wireless cameras run on batteries and guzzle power; most batteries will only provide 24 hours of power to the camera. Another potential drawback to wireless home security systems is that most don't have the ability to be connected to a telephone land line. That means that if you're looking to establish a relationship with a monitoring system, you'll have to go with a cellular compatible system.



Contact Listing

Installers and suppliers of security products and services

NATIONWIDE

ADI Global Distribution

5 Platinum Drive, Longmeadow Business Estate, North Gate, Modderfontein
Tel: 0860 22 55 23 Fax: +27 (0)11 574 2539
e-mail: adelaide.taylor@adiglobal.com Website: www.adi-intl.com

ADI is a global distributor of security and low voltage products with 200 branches worldwide. Solutions include intrusion, fire, CCTV, IP networking, access and home solutions.

Supplier of: Security products.

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Fax: +27 (0)11 259 3510
e-mail: rmcgee@tycoint.com Website: www.adt.co.za

Security, armed response and monitoring; CCTV; access control; manned guarding; electronic article surveillance (EAS); fire suppression systems.

Supplier of: security products and security installers.

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Units B6-10, Bergriver Business Park, Cnr Jan van Riebeeck Drive & Borsenberg Road, Dal Josafat, Paarl, 7616
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e-mail: info@betafence.co.za Website: www.betafence.co.za

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Supplier of: Security fencing systems.

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e-mail: sales@camsec.co.za Website: www.camsec.co.za

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Supplier of: Security products and security installers.

Installer.

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e-mail: solutions@camsecure.co.za Website: www.camsecure.co.za

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Installer.

Cathexis Technologies

1 Frosterley Crescent, Frosterley Park, La Lucia Ridge Office Estate, 4051, KwaZulu-Natal
Tel: +27 (0)31 566 7800 Fax: +27 (0)31 566 2993
E-mail: gusb@cat.co.za Website: www.cathexis.co.za

Cathexis is an electronic systems development and manufacturing house specialising in digital surveillance systems for both the local and international security market.

Supplier of: Security products.

Centurion Systems

Unit 13, Northlands Production Park, Northriding, Randburg, Gauteng
Tel: 0860 Centurion Fax: +27 (0)11 704 3412
e-mail: sales@centsys.co.za Website: www.centsys.co.za

Centurion Systems is a manufacturing company offering a diverse range of products from gate motors, garage door openers, remote controls to intercoms and proximity access control.

Supplier of: Security products.

Chubb Security SA

Cnr Pigeon & Pheasant Streets, Horison, Roodepoort, Johannesburg, 1724
Tel: 0861 202 911 Fax: +27 (0)11 761 7231
e-mail: info.chubb@chubb.co.za Website: www.chubb.co.za

Chubb's unparalleled range of security and fire protection services and products includes electronic security, CCTV, access control, monitoring and armed response, fire detection and suppression.

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Continued on page 40



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Continued from page 38

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e-mail: electronics@fidelitysecurity.co.za Website: www.fidelitysecurity.co.za

Suppliers and installers of electronic equipment i.e. alarm systems, CCTV equipment, access control, panic systems, monitoring and armed response.
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3 Riley Road, Bedfordview Office Park, Bedfordview, 2007
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e-mail: info@guss.co.za Website: www.guss.co.za

GUSS Technology specialises in digital video recording and surveillance cameras with superior performance and exceptional quality, such as vehicle DVR, capture cards, CCTV and more.
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Fax: 088 011 462 0898
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Home Integration Technology is the local distributor of the Comfort Home Controller which integrates intruder alarm, home automation, voicemail and intercom.
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Website: www.miro.co.za

Miro distribution is a national distributor of IP security equipment. Specialising in wired and wireless networking equipment, VoIP communication solutions and IP video technologies.
Supplier of: Security products.

Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority

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e-mail: info@psira.co.za Website: www.psira.co.za

The objective of the authority is to regulate the private security industry in the public and national interest, and the interest of the industry itself.
Regulates: Private security industry in South Africa.

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Secequip Supplies, exclusive distributors of Texecom, is a supplier of electronic intrusion detection equipment, both indoor and outdoor, CCTV, access control and gate automation.
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Independent security consulting company specialising in the residential estate environment, providing unique solutions to homeowner associations and developers throughout South Africa.
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GAUTENG

Axis Communications

Hampton Office Park, Atterbury House, 20 Georgian Crescent, Bryanston, Johannesburg
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Regal Security is a manufacturer, importer and distributor of all electronic security products that include intruder detection, CCTV, access control, gate and garage automation.

Supplier of: Security products.

The Touch Line

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48 Kinds Road, Pinetown
Tel: +27 (0)31 717 5000 Fax: +27 (0)31 717 5044
e-mail: info@bluesecurity.co.za Website: www.bluesecurity.co.za

PSIRA and SAIDSA registered, Durban-based provider of electronic intruder detection equipment, system monitoring and armed response as well as automated gates, electric fencing, CCTV and community policing.

Installer.

Enforce Electronics

43 Sea Cow Lake Road, Enforce Park, Springfield Park, 4091
Tel: 0860 110 011 Fax: 0866 000 646
e-mail: kevinm@enforce.co.za Website: www.enforce.co.za

Supply and install full range of security systems for home and business.

Supplier of: Security products.

Installer.

NORTH WEST

M and N Retail Solutions

47 Medlar Road, Randpark Ridge, Randburg
Tel: +27 (0)11 792 2954 Fax: +27 (0)11 793 5722
e-mail: sales@mandn.co.za Website: www.mandn.co.za

Supply and install biometric fingerprint readers for time and attendance and access control, CCTV equipment.

Supplier of: Security products.

Installers.

WESTERN CAPE

Axis Communications

Hampton Office Park, Atterbury House, 20 Georgian Crescent, Bryanston, Johannesburg
Tel: +27 (0)11 548 6780 Fax: +27 (0)11 548 6799
e-mail: tami.alves@axis.com Website: www.axis.com

Axis was first to bring the benefits of network video technology to video surveillance and remote monitoring applications, introducing the first network camera in 1996.

Supplier of: Security products.

**To list your company in the next issue of
Home Security, contact vivienne@technews.co.za**

Disclaimer: While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in the Contact Listing, the information was provided by the companies concerned and Technews can not be held responsible for its accuracy.

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