

Computerized Homes

We are heading into an era where quantum advances are being made in electronics and the most startling development will soon touch individuals in the form of computerization of home and business. When we hear the word computerization we immediately think of those cold-hearted computers used by large organizations to keep records and record data such as bank statements, credit card purchases, and other details requiring exact recording.

We all have had the opportunity to "disagree" with a computer written letter or demand only to find out that there was no real person responsible for the computer's errors. At that point our tendency is to believe that computers are large, irresponsible, faulty devices that always seem to aid the large organizations.

With the development and large scale marketing of the personal computer, the general public now has the ability to utilize a computer to serve their own needs. It is quite possible right now to interface a computer with other devices to automate a residence or business to the wishes of the owner. The following represents just some of the abilities in this field. Most are available now and more will be developed with time.

For the Home

Environmental Control: Turn ON/OFF the heating and/or air conditioning, by pre-timed event, by voice command or manually.

Open or close windows, control ventilation fans, open or close shades and/or draperies.

Monitor and record temperature and humidity conditions in various areas.

Energy Usage & Cost: Monitor and record complete energy usage for home including cost projections based on cost of electricity.

Control environmental equipment within an energy budget.

Monitor and control a solar water heating system or a solar electricity generating system.

Security: Monitor entire house status including exterior grounds, swimming pool, driveways, patios, interior rooms, and initiated measures to confuse, trap or scare an intruder.

Inform the owner of the number of persons in the house or on the grounds.

Automatically notify the owner of any type of security, fire, or other emergency, including medical. Automatically take the necessary measures to call for help.

Monitor the condition of the phone lines to sense if line has been tapped, cut or altered in any way & notify owner.

Control a closed circuit television system & start video tape system to record intrusion.

Safety: The system can alert the owner to special weather alerts.

Can sound an alarm if person or pet falls in pool.

Can alert occupants & fire department of a first-stage smoke condition.

Entertainment: The computer system can control the music and sound throughout the house and gardens.

The television and video tape systems can be controlled.

Pre-planned taping of special television channels can be arranged.

The computer system can host a number of enter-

tainment activities including voice actuated adventure games and standard computer games.

Voice Control: The computer system has the ability to understand the voice commands of persons authorized to command the system. A user can control all of the lights in and around the house (ON/OFF/DIM/BRIGHTEN) by simply saying same. The house will reply via speech synthesis through a wireless microphone or through the house speaker system. The user can control certain devices such as swimming pool, spa, jacuzzi, sauna, air conditioning, heat, fans, telephone, television, radio, appliances, etc.

For Business

Business and Industrial Uses: All of the home applications can be adapted to business and industrial uses. It is possible to monitor and control process systems in a manufacturing plant, keep inventory, automatically prepare reports and purchase orders for ordering raw materials. Log energy usage for different processes used in different manufacturing processes. Log labor costs and efficiency, etc.

A computer system can

be used to record the running time of a machine, automatically notify management of a service interval and even print a report stating just what is to be done, by whom, and the parts, tools, time & material required.

Aid for People with Disabilities: A computer system that is voice actuated can be an aid to persons who are severely disabled. The writing of letters or other documents can be accomplished by loading a word processing program and using a phonetic alphabet.

This will allow a person to write letters without touching the computer keyboard. Written documents can be stored on disk for future work, printed on paper or even transferred to other computers or other persons using computers via the telephone lines.

The other applications in home and work settings are also of great benefit to people with disabilities.

For more information concerning the "TALKING COMPUTER HOUSE" contact: Andrew Allocco, Jr., Better Homes Construction Services, Inc., Computer House Division, Post Office Box 561045, Miami, Florida 33156; phone (305) 667-0003 or (305) 666-0003.

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