

Tomorrow's Technology Today



Low Voltage Electronic Specialist

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is included in our basic Structured Wiring Package?

Most homeowners install our 8-Zone package, however we can easily expand it to include additional zones. We run what we affectionately call a **“six-pack”** to each zone, which includes 1 CAT5e cable with 4 telephone line capability, 1 CAT5e cable for computer and Internet access, 2 RG-6 Quad Shielded Coax cables, one bringing video into the zone and one taking video out of the zone. In addition, we run two multi-mode fiber optic cables for future applications. Normally we run the fiber optic cables in the walls **“cold”** without terminating them. Since fiber optic services are not presently available, it makes no sense to pay for expensive termination connections and labor. This is especially so since across America the industry has not settled on any one type of connector.

In this package we also install an electronic distribution panel. This panel comes standard with a Service Input Hub, an 11-zone Telephone Hub, and a 4-source **In** and 12-zone **Out** Video Distribution Hub. It is without question the finest panel of its type manufactured in America. Now you will be able to observe HBO, DVD movies, and/or video cameras on any television in your home plus enjoy **High Speed Internet** service in each room.

What additional electronic capabilities can one achieve with this system?

There are several electronic Hubs one may purchase, which are designed to install into additional expansion slots on the main distribution panel. The following is a laundry list of Hubs and their capability:

- 8-zone Whole-House Stereo Hub
- Modulator Hub/creates in-home television channels for DVD, Laser disk, VHS tapes & Cameras
- Cable Modem Hub / provides high speed Internet connection
- Web Safe Internet Router Hub / 4-zone stackable 100 mbps Ethernet switch, creates Firewall, content filtering, and hacker protection
- 4 location DBS Distribution Hub / provides distribution of one dual LNB DBS digital satellite dish to four zones
- Front door Intercom on any telephone in the home
- Integrated Facilities Management System Hub
- Touch Screen Control System (includes Audio/Video control)
- Security Hub

Can all our systems be installed retrofit into an existing home?

It depends on the home being retrofitted as to whether or not a particular system can be installed. As always it boils down to access in the attic, under the house, and/or between walls etc. Have one of our technology consultants look at your home.

Why is the Omni™ referred to as an Integrated Facilities Management System?

It is aptly named because it manages direct and automated control of the facilities (house) systems such as the security, air-conditioning, architectural lighting, A/V, and surveillance cameras. In addition, it extends this control and home surveillance remotely to any telephone or computer in the world.

Will the Omni™ system really and truly save money?

According to the **Association of Building Contractors**, the largest energy cost in a given home is the heating & air conditioning system, hot water heater, refrigerator, and of course lights and other appliances left on. The Omni™ System has direct control over three of the four culprits reducing energy cost. Reduce a light's illumination by 10% and save 19.7%...reduce the light by 20% and reduce the energy used by 28%.

What kind of savings might one expect utilizing integrated facilities management?

An expected savings of approximately 35.5% on an electrical bill of \$200 per month would amount to \$71 per month or \$852 annually. If money cost 8.5% per annum the system would pay for itself in about ten years and make money thereafter. In addition, the system already includes a high-tech security system.

What is meant by "high-tech security system?"

The Omni™ provides five levels of security:

- Motion detectors sense an intruder's presence before they ever reach the home, causing the computer to run a program designed to convince the burglar the family is home and they should burglarize some other house.
- When the homeowner is AWAY, the system runs a 24-hour program of turning radios and lights on and off at random making the home "**looked lived in**".
- When an intruder actually breaks-in, the system will go into the alarm phase then capture the individual's image as data on a hard drive. Then it will notify the homeowner immediately so they can observe from a computer at work.
- It will contact the police if you subscribe to the monthly monitoring service.
- The system will sense non-threatening violations of security zones like the temperature in the wine cellar heating up and contact the homeowner.

Are there any other features provided by the security system?

Yes, there are two very helpful features provided to the homeowner.

- Utilizing the "Status" remote call-in feature, the homeowner can be briefed on the entire status of the home including the inside temperature.
- Utilizing the "events" remote call-in feature, the homeowner can retrieve the days events such as who has activated or deactivated the system, by-passes a particular zone, and what time they did it. In other words, what time did the kids get home or what time did the maid or nanny check in with their distinctive code?
- Look into your home remotely from any computer in the world.

What is included with the GrafikTouch™ touch screen system?

- A 40Gig Dell™ computer with a 3-year on-site warranty.
- One flat screen touch screen installed in-wall or desk free standing.
- One Gefen™ transmitter & receiver set to amplify data from computer to screen.
- Custom designed programming for home theater, all electronic equipment, and integration with the Omni™ system.

Is there a limit on the number of touch screens that can be added to the system?

There may be a limit, however we have not come across it yet. We did install eleven touch screens in a very large house.

What are the features of the CCTV system and the remote viewing capability?

Here are some of the capabilities that are routinely attained with this system.

- When a visitor, mailman, or burglar walks up to the home, the area camera records streaming video as data on the computer for whatever time the homeowner desires (normally 1 minute) to be viewed later.
- The homeowner can look into the home from any computer in the world and can record streaming video on the remote computer. **Examples:** recording the maid, nanny, or kids (angels) doing homework or getting into mischief at home.
- With Grafik Touch™ as part of the system, the homeowner can activate the "**Zone Tracker**" feature. This feature pops up each particular zones camera image on the touch screens as a small child or elderly person travels around the home. As an example, it will even make an announcement to get Mom's attention if a child went through a gate headed for the swimming pool.

Should I upgrade my cameras to color?

Color cameras produce images that people are used to seeing. However, color cameras performance is subject to the available light within the surveillance area. Black & White cameras generally have a lower "Lux" rating meaning that they perform well under a variety of lighting conditions.

Can American Industries integrate a multi-audio source, multi zone stereo system?

Yes, we install one of the best systems available made by Kustom™ (of the Kustom™ guitars fame). It will integrate 6 sources of audio and deliver it to six zones (can double the system to service 12 zones. Each zone has it's own amplifier and volume control with IR window for remote control from bed.

How do different family members in different bedrooms utilize the system?

Picture these three scenarios taking place at the same time in a home. Mom and Dad are watching an HBO movie in their bedroom in stereo at the volume level they prefer. Jr. is watching a DVD movie in his room in stereo at a different volume level. The daughter is in her room with a friend listening to CD music at a volume level everyone would agree is *toooooo* loud.

Is the Home Theater room one of the five rooms included with your system?

No, this room requires at least one dedicated high-wattage amplifier and most often two because of the number of speakers involved and the demand for heavy bass.

Will American Industries provide the wiring for a Home Theater room?

Yes, dedicated high quality Monster™ stereo cable is run to the room a customer chooses as the Home Theater room.

Does American Industries sell and install Home Theater systems?

Absolutely! Please go to the **Home Theater** section of our website.