

Video Home Security, 10 June 1993

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The idea is to use cheap video cameras with proximity detectors to monitor the near house environment and transmit pictures of visitors (friendly or criminal) to a remote recorder). In essence, a low budget form of standard video surveillance already used industrially.

Many houses have external courtesy lights with proximity detectors, switching the lights on if someone comes near the house.

Video cameras and encoders are becoming very cheap (£10 in bulk).

Combining these, it should be relatively cheap to manufacture video surveillance devices which switch on when someone comes near the house. These could be placed anywhere around the house perimeter. The signal from the camera could be transmitted to the owner's video and to a 'neighbourhood watch' recorder kept at the local police station. In the event of someone calling, there would be a video record. This would be distressing to the burglar who has just stolen the video, knowing that a duplicate has been sent to the police with date and time.

This idea could be integrated well with the videophone intercom idea.

Ian Pearson, Chris Winter, 10/6/93