REMOTE INTERCOM FEB 1991

This is easily feasible in 2009 but I don't think the market ever really happened, and am not aware of anyone actually selling this. They probably are, but this idea obviously was never going to make a fortune:
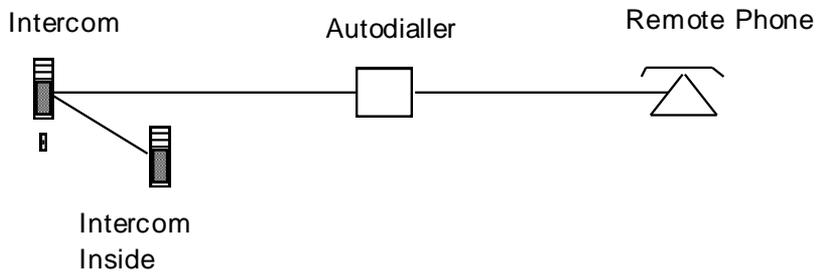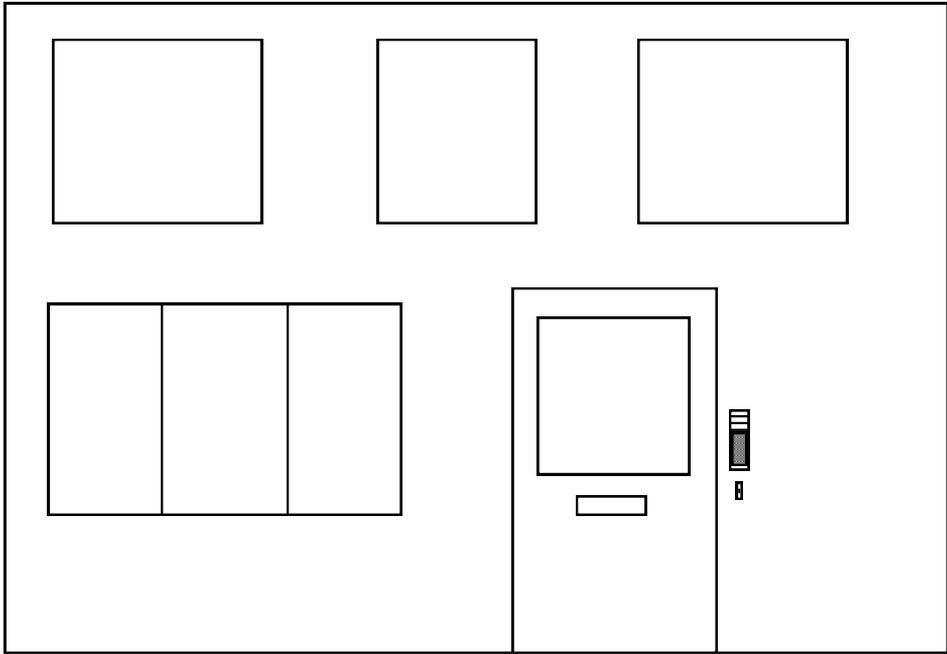

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Ian D. Pearson 22/2/91

Many blocks of flats have intercom systems between individual flats and the front door. When someone calls, a bell rings in the flat and the occupier talks to the caller.

There is no reason in principle why this concept cannot be extended by adding an autodialler to move the effective end to a remote location. Imagine how useful it would be if the gas man calls at your home and pushes the intercom button. The intercom automatically dials your office and speaks to you, so that you can arrange to come home, or tell him where to get a key or whatever. Autodiallers can be made cheaply, and the rest of the system is old technology and could be made cheaply. It should therefore be cheap to manufacture the system and so could be sold cheaply. I expect that such systems would be very popular, given the number of homes that do not have anyone at home during the day.

Useful additions might be to add a second intercom inside the house, perhaps even just on the inside of the door to give enhanced security before opening the door to a stranger. The system could also be used as a granny alarm, dialling the office with a single button push. There are probably many other potential uses.

Intercom   Autodialler   Remote Phone

Intercom
Inside

Ian D. Pearson 22/2/91