

## HOME AUTOMATION SYSTEM

NetMedia introduces **TABS** (Totally Automated Building System), an integrated home and office automation system that combines device control (security, lighting, appliance, irrigation, and audio/video), voice messaging, paging, scheduling, energy management, and climate control into a comprehensive system. TABS interacts with its environment and the homeowner through a wall-mounted panel called the **TABS Communicator**.

TABS Communicators are placed throughout the home. Each Communicator monitors and maintains its own local environment. A keypad on the TABS Communicator and an infrared remote control offer convenient choices for entering system commands. The homeowner can define actions that perform sequences of events, such as "lights down, stereo on, and spa bubbling," with a single keypress.

Voice and menus provide feedback and prompt for selections. For more complex functions, a TABS channel which visually represents all controlled systems is available on any TV in the home. A telephone interface offers world-wide access to the system. After verifying your password, TABS leads you through the options.

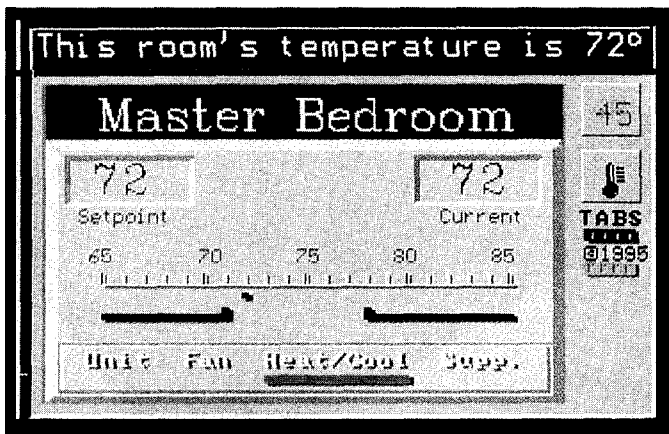
TABS Communicators are connected to a central computer system called the **TABS PC**. This is an IBM-compatible PC with specialized hardware designed by NetMedia. It includes the home control and communications hardware and software necessary to interact with multiple TABS Communicators. The PC makes sense of all the information collected from the Communicators and decides what should be done. The PC is dedicated to controlling the home and is not available for other purposes.

Wiring a home for TABS requires simple telephone-style wire. A complete system can be installed in typical homes under construction for \$5,000-7,500.

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# IN HOME AUTOMATION & BUILDING CONTROL

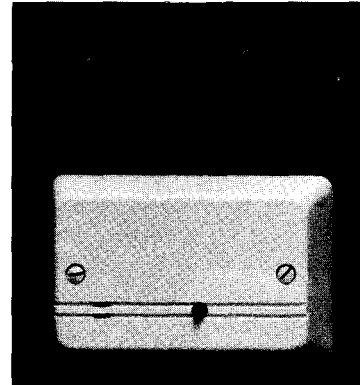
# InnoVations

edited by  
Harv Weiner

## HOME-SAFETY DEVICE

IRIS Electronics offers a low-cost solution to the problem of failing to turn off an appliance when leaving home. **StoveMinder** is an AC current sensor that connects to an existing home-alarm system and prevents it from being armed if a stove (or other appliance) is left on.

StoveMinder consists of a **PowerSensor** and display panel. The PowerSensor is tied to the appliance power cord or AC cable feed and detects the electrical field around the AC cable when the appliance is drawing power. It ignores features such as the stove clock or light. StoveMinder is then wired to the alarm system like any alarm sensor. The PowerSensor can also be used for any



other electrical device which, if left unattended, would pose a potential fire danger to the household.

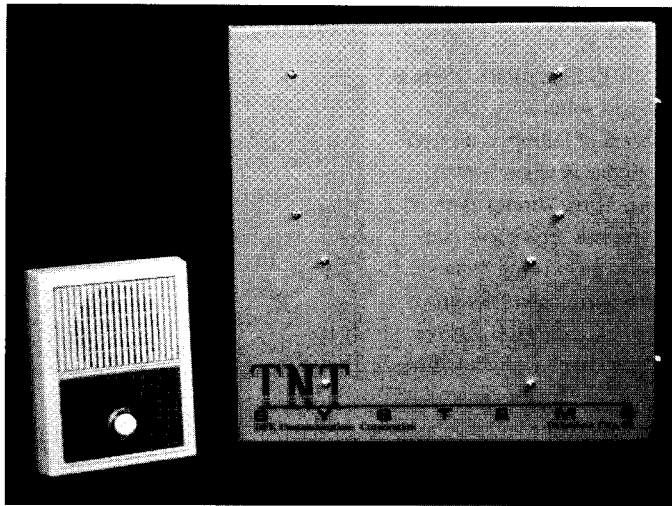
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# Home Variations

## IN HOME AUTOMATION & BUILDING CONTROL



### PHONE-TO-PHONE INTERCOM

The **Touch-N-Talk 8000** from DFE Communications provides users with a phone-to-phone intercom on a standard single-line home or business phone system. By dialing a two-digit code, the user may call any other phone on the system. When that phone is answered, a private intercom path is established between the two phones.

TNT-8000 has three all-call zones which can be customized to meet individual needs (e.g., zone 1 can ring all zones, while zone 2 rings the upstairs and zone 3, the downstairs). For larger applications, TNT-8000 can be expanded by eight stations, giving the user a total of 16 selectable stations/phones.

Two-way communication with an entrance from any of the connected phones can be achieved with the optional TNT-8210 Door Answer Module. This module also rings the telephones when the doorbell is pressed by a visitor at the entrance. By adding the TNT-8410 Control Module, the homeowner can have up to four relays control a wide variety of home-automation functions such as gates, door strikes, or various X-10 controllers.

TNT-8000 retails for \$589, TNT-8210 Door Answer Module for \$109, and TNT-8410 Four-Zone Relay Module for \$249.

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### PROGRAMMABLE SCHEDULER/ CONTROLLER

TimeCommander-Plus, a computer-programmable scheduler and controller, integrates scheduling and advanced control of X-10, infrared, and hard-wired input and output devices. Event Manager software simplifies programming and offers many advanced control features that can be customized for residential or commercial applications.

The unit integrates control of 256 X-10 addresses and 16 optoisolated digital inputs from motion detectors, security sensors, thermostats, and so on. Eight analog inputs accommodate hard-wired temperature and humidity sensors and eight relay outputs (expandable to 152 inputs or 72 outputs) are also

available. The unit can be programmed so ASCII text data triggers scheduled events. It can also send ASCII text data to trigger other computer programs or control an external modem.

The IR-Xpander Infrared Interface controls audio and video components directly from any X-10 compatible controller and/or automatically by preprogrammed schedule. Custom macros can turn on power, select source (AM/FM, TV, VCR), switch channels, set volume, close drapes, and dim lights.

The menu-driven Event Manager software (DOS or Windows) offers a host of advanced features such as macros, timers, counters, flags, and conditional programming. Sound files (.WAV) can be programmed to respond to any input condition. An interactive on-screen display monitors and logs all X-10 activity and offers direct control via mouse or keyboard. A modem can be connected for remote programming, control, and monitoring as well as advanced communication functions.

TimeCommander-Plus is available for \$595 and the IR-Xpander option for \$150.

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