

Dear Friend,

Together with food and water, security is up there on the top 3 most important aspects of our survival plans.

And it doesn't even have to be about a disaster scenario, as we hear daily reports on new burglaries plaguing every corner of the country.

And now with the holiday season approaching, this type of activities is only bound to increase, as people tend to have more cash on hand, focus on festivities rather than security, and even get out of town and announcing it all on Facebook, just to make it easier for the criminals.

That's why now's the perfect time to assess your security needs and start working on your plan, using all that technology offers you, without having to give up on your privacy.

We laid out the check list to get you started and everything you need to know in order to make the best decision for your home and your family!

P.S.: Remember that sharing is caring, so share this info with your friends that might benefit from this experience!

alec Deacon

Survivopedia.com

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Why to Use a Security System for Your Home?

First of all, I'll just get this out of the way: what kind of man would entrust the safety of his family to a corporation? Certainly not the self-reliant sort.

For the prepared, a security alarm system is one countermeasure in a comprehensive plan. That plan should also include physical and psychological barriers, written SOP, communications infrastructure, recurring training and most importantly ... people with guns. Otherwise, the fact that a home is equipped with a security alarm system, may actually decreases its readiness.

Don't be the homeowner who buys into the sales pitch that all you have to do is pay your bill and wait for the police to show up and protect your family because that is not what will happen. The police will arrive long after the deed has been done and look for evidence of crimes in order to charge people, including you.

You may be charged for trying to defend your loved ones or your property or trying to defraud your insurance company, so you'd better have your ducks in a row anytime you or anybody else dials 911.

Second, let's be realistic about your goal here. You can invest obscene amounts of money and effort to protect an asset and never be absolutely certain it is safe against all threats.

I see the goal as adding a layer of security for the average security-conscious person interested in preparedness. Done properly, installing an alarm system will help make

your home a harder target than the next one, encouraging criminals to move along to easier prey.

In the event that they do not, it will alert you to intrusion. The objective being to buy you the time you need to secure your loved ones and either mount a defense or displace.

That is in good times. In bad times, the forewarning will enable you to mount a defense or secure your family, muster your team, and recover your property. The wise armed citizen separates from his family before bearing arms because he understands that the moment he picks up a weapon, he becomes a bullet magnet. When he does, he does not want to be standing next to someone he loves. He also knows when to break that rule.



The 16 Steps to Diagnosing Your Security Needs

The first step in any needs analysis is to **diagnose before you prescribe**. Here are some questions to answer and ideas to consider:

- 1. **What is your budget?** Shopping high-end systems to see what features are available is fun, but if you can't afford them, you are wasting your time.
- 2. Do you want to pay for monitoring? Do you work on property? If so, you might want to skip the monitoring and save some money. Who is going to show up and in how long? Would you want to notify a neighbor? If you do, make sure you have given them and theirs written permission to carry concealed weapons in defense of your property in jurisdictions where this is necessary. I have owned businesses for almost 25 years now and, before physical security measures,

averaged a smash and grab break-in every 6 months for several years. One time the responding officer was right next to the property when he got the call. Monitoring never once bagged the criminal. Police arrive after the crime, secure the scene and call the paramedics if you were home and call you to come secure the property and sweep up the glass if you were not. Sometimes they save lives ... by calling the paramedics. After installing roll-down shutters over all glass and upgrading physical security, I never again experienced a successful break-in. One facility even withstood an attack on the rear door by a cutting torch ... but these options are not realistic for most homeowners.

- 3. **Will you be moving some day?** Do you want to be able to take your system with you or do you want it to be hardwired in place?
- 4. What reporting mechanisms do you want? Who do you want them to notify?

 Are you opposed to receiving updates on your mobile phone via an app? Email?

 SMS? Other options are telephone calls and radio alerts.
- 5. What types of sensor tech do you want? Are cameras with motion detection enough? Or do you want IR motion detection that are not triggered by motion in the camera frame?
- 6. **Do you own pets?** If so, you will want to make sure that the motion detectors you buy will not be activated by your pets.
- 7. **Do you want cameras?** Are you OK with cameras filming you and your family all the time? Does your need to be able to watch and listen and interact with your household in real time trump you desire to not be recorded?
- 8. **Do you want night vision?** HD? Color night vision? You may want to check current standard of admissible evidence in your jurisdiction if that is a concern for you.

- 9. Do you want the system to be indoors or indoor/outdoor? Do you want to protect your home after someone makes entry or before? Where do you want to place your perimeter?
- 10. How long do you want the system to run if the power goes out?
- 11. **Do you want it to work even if the grid goes down?** This is very important to some survivalists. By using equipment that uses internal batteries, very large battery backups or solar technology, this is easier to achieve than in times past.
- 12. **Do you want it to work even in the event of an EMP?** This will not be easily achieved by many, but if you want to know what it takes, read my articles on protecting solar gear from EMP as the principles can be used to protect everything in a shielded structure.
- 13. What past incidents have occurred at this property or in this area? What exactly are you hoping to defend against.
- 14. **Do you plan to install home automation technology in the next 5 years?**Home security and home automation markets are merging. Do you want the security equipment you buy to work with any home automation technology you buy?
- 15. The more complex a system is engineered, the more fragile it becomes. From the point of view of a survivalist, keep in mind that the more technology you add, the more things there are to break down, bringing down the system with them.
- 16. **Red Team your residence.** Look at your home through the eyes of your enemy. Physically case your residence, considering how you would attack it. Then have a qualified friend do the same. If you can afford it, employ a security professional who provides red teaming services to do it.



What to Ask from a Security System

Security alarm systems are changing. You need to understand the basics before you shell out your hard-earned cash on one. Security alarm systems have the following parts, even though some or all of them are now sometimes integrated into a single device:

Reporting Mechanisms

Whether it alerts you by flashing lights, sirens, phone calls or smoke signals you need to choose reporting mechanisms that make sense for you and your lifestyle.

Reporting mechanisms are how an alarm system notifies people and apparatus of a possible intrusion so they can call for reinforcements and respond as they deem necessary. They can do this through email, text messaging, radio

transmissions, telephone calls, radio signals, electrical signals, audible alarms, even live audio/video feed via the Internet, giving you the opportunity to interact with the intruder.

Many systems also incorporate a panic button or silent alarm button that will set them to the task of notifying the police, an alarm monitoring company or whoever the system is programmed to notify.

<u>Sensors</u>

Sensors are technology that detects intrusions or predetermined incidents that you want to be made aware of.

Door sensors, window, cameras, doorbell, motion detectors, microphones, magnetic sensors (for large ferrous objects such as automobiles), pressure pads, accelerometers, thermometers, gas sniffers, carbon monoxide detectors, moisture detectors, lasers are all sensor technology and the list is constantly growing.

Interested in improving your safety? CLICK HERE to find out more!

Alarm Panels

Panels used to mean a wall-mounted keypad with a few LEDs and perhaps a small text display. Nowadays manufacturers often call them control modules and they may be essentially a microcomputer with a touchscreen display and some newer alarm systems have more than one of them.

<u>Connectivity</u>

Connectivity used to mean copper wiring in the form of cables run on the property and to a telephone company patch panel. These days, connectivity also includes wireless

networking technology and other radio frequency transmissions, such as: cellular capability, various types of radio transmitters or transceivers, WiFi, Bluetooth and NFC.

Power Supply

This is how the system is powered. It may be connected to your electrical wiring or have batteries in each piece of equipment. If batteries are employed, it is important to know how often they need to be changed.

Battery Backup

How long do you want the system to stay up if the power is cut to it? Some newer systems use batteries distributed into wireless sensors that can last as long as a year or two and alert you when they are low.

Software

Some systems already run on home automation and security software. I would suggest third-party software such as Wink as opposed to jumping on the bandwagon with software integrated into operating systems such as Siri or Cortana.

Unfortunately, Microsoft and Apple are more than happy to track every aspect of your life and feed the data to corporations and governments. Some third-party software will too, but it is always in this realm that companies emerge which cater to the privacy-conscious ... those of us who are more than sheeple.

Why you might consider waiting or researching home automation in depth

It seldom pays to be an early adopter. Within a couple of years, features which require separate products and services today, will be standard features on systems tomorrow.

Features that you should be able to access without having to use yet another app or pay one more monthly fee. You will be able to access all of your home automation and security devices through a single program.



A few such programs already exist, such as **Wink**, which can control hardware from many manufacturers: not just security, but light bulbs, water heaters, window treatments, irrigation systems, appliances, thermostats, smoke detectors and many other products.

Siri and Cortana are positioning to become major players by integrating this functionality into you operating systems.

But they will track everything

you ever do or click on to a degree that will make the NSA's past abuses of our privacy seem trivial and amateurish by comparison. In the end, you will have to decide how much freedom and privacy you are willing to trade for convenience.

Apple and Microsoft are betting that it's a trade you are willing to make. If you are patient, you will get the best of both worlds as the niche develops for consumers who care about their privacy and pay for home automation.



11 Solutions to Take into Account

For those looking to buy now, thankfully, a reasonable level of security is easier than ever to achieve in our increasingly connected world.

In order to make an intelligent decision, here are the key features of some of the options at this time. Look at the end of this report to find useful links to providers' websites.

1. Arlo

These cameras integrated with motion detectors send feeds to a base station.

- 720p indoor/outdoor day/night 100% wireless cameras
- Motion detectors

- Up to 6 months on a set of batteries.
- Free app allows you to receive updates and monitor your home from your phone.
- Cloud storage.
- Starting at \$180.



Arlo Wire-Free Security System with 2 HD Cameras (VMS3230)

Includes

- (2) HD, 100% wire-free, indoor/outdoor cameras with night vision
- (1) Smart home base station with power adapter
- (1) Ethernet cable
- (2) Magnetic camera mounts
- (2) Mounting screws
- (8) Batteries
- (1) Quick start guide
- (1) Window decal
- · (7) Days of FREE cloud recordings





Arlo Wire-Free Security System with 1 HD Camera (VMS3130)

Includes

- (1) HD, 100% wire-free, indoor/outdoor camera with night vision
- (1) Smart home base station with power adapter
- (1) Ethernet cable
- (1) Magnetic camera mounts
- (1) Mounting screws
- (4) Batteries
- (1) Quick start guide
- (1) Window decal
- . (7) Days of FREE cloud recordings





Arlo Wire-Free Security System with 3 HD Cameras (VMS3330C)

Includes

- (3) HD, 100% wire-free, indoor/outdoor cameras with night vision
- (1) Smart home base station with power adapter
- (1) Ethernet cable
- (4) Magnetic camera mounts
- (2) Adjustable camera mounts
- (10) Mounting screws
- (12) Batteries
- (1) Quick start guide
- (1) Window decal
- (7) Days of FREE cloud recordings



STARTING AT \$ \$449.99

2. Point

Self-contained Internet-based solution coupled with an app. No cameras, Point is based in the philosophy that homes are private and that cameras make the home environment uncomfortable and have to be monitored. Notifies you of events you care about via

your smart phone. If members of your household install the app, you can know who comes and goes and when.

- Microphone
- Thermometer
- Light sensor
- Starting at \$90

Interested in improving your safety? CLICK HERE to find out more!

3. Simplisafe

Doesn't integrate cameras or rely on landlines thanks to integrated cell technology and offers tremendous flexibility if you spring for their monitoring.

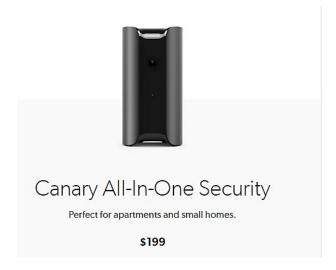


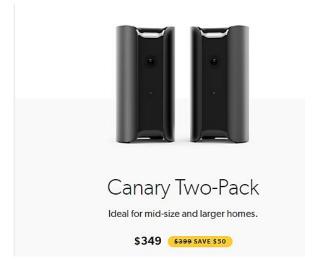
Combining elements of Internet-based and traditional systems, Simplisafe's sensors are not all integrated and allows the user to decide which sensors go where.

- Secret alert feature lets you know someone is getting into things they shouldn't without calling the cops.
- SMS
- Email
- App
- Batteries last 5 years.
- Systems range from \$230 to \$540.
- No annual contract.
- Monitoring is \$15 per month for standard, 25 for interactive.
- If you don't get the interactive monitoring, the home automation, SMS, email and secret alert features will not work.

4. Canary

A single device integrates cameras and sensors. Like most integrated products with cameras, Canary sends notifications to your phone and gives you the option to watch live.

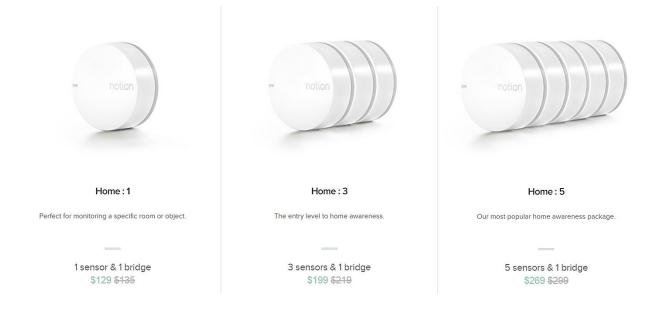




- Night vision
- HD video
- Audio
- Siren
- Motion
- Air quality
- Temperature
- Humidity
- 30 day cloud storage.
- \$199 for one, \$379 for two. Plans range from \$5 to \$30 a month.

5. Notion

Notion is in the pre-order phase. You plug a bridge into a wall, stick sensors where you want them and install and configure the app to detect any number of events and control notifications.



- Configure Notion to:
 - o Detect when doors or windows open and close.
 - Act as a thermostat.
 - Detect water leak.
 - Detect a smoke alarm.
- \$129-\$269 depending on number of sensors ordered.

6. Nest

Nest is best known for their intelligent, learning thermostat. Other home automation products include a smoke & CO detector, a camera and a key-less lock coming in 2016.



Nest is growing very fast. They are like the Apple of home automation and their camera product is putting the hurt on traditional alarm companies, but Nest works with lights, appliances, garage door openers, charge point for electric cars and ADT security systems.

- Camera
- Video History

- NestAware App
- \$200 per camera, save \$100 if you buy 3.

7. Cocoon

Integrated devices sense activity ... even in other rooms using what Cocoon calls Subsound technology.

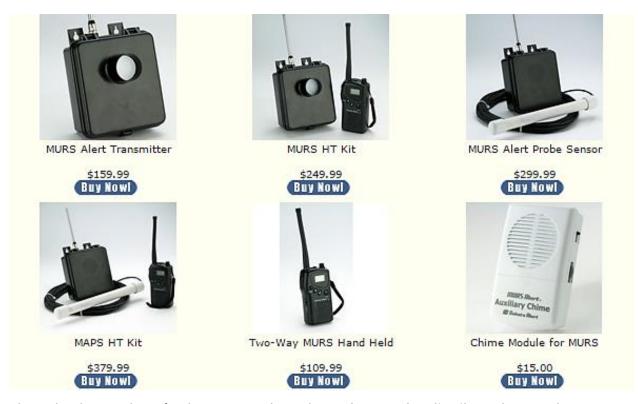
This is an IndieGogo project.

- Multi-sensor
- Pet-friendly motion detector.
- Audio
- Wide angle night vision-capable HD cameras.
- Subsound technology
- The twin packs were \$700 and are sold out at the moment.
- Three packs are still available for \$999.



8. Dakota Alert

This company has product that is a great system for homesteads and ranches because it can alert the owner to an intruder in a particular zone via MURS Radio. Think of it as an old-school alarm system connected to MURS radio.



They also have a lot of solar-powered products that can be distributed around a property without the worry of how you will power them if the grid goes down.

- Sensors connected to you and a base station via MURS radio
- Zoned
- Magnetic Car Detection
- Wireless Doorbells
- Mailbox Alert
- Wireless Floor Mats

• Presented as three series of products

9. Vivint

Integrated home security and home automation.



- Video Doorbell
- Remote Door Access
- HD Video Recording
- Cellular
- Space Monkey Cloud Storage
- App
- Outdoor Video Cameras
- Smart Temperature Control
- Garage Door Controller
- Control Panel with Video Display
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Key Fob and Panic Pendant
- Door, Window, Glass Break Sensors
- Tilt, Flood/Freeze Sensors
- Small Appliance Control

- Monitoring
- See site for pricing

Interested in improving your safety? CLICK HERE to find out more!

10. Ring, Skybell, Doorbird, August Doorbell Cam

All of these and other video doorbells enable you to answer your door from anywhere you have Internet access, see who is there and interact with them. Why is this important? Because most home robberies occur during the day, when the residents are at work.

Some criminals study their victims' POL (Pattern of Life) to learn their schedule. Others just steal some mail or look at the shipping label of a package left on your porch to get your name and then look you up on social media where many people volunteer all kinds of information, such as where they work, that they own firearms and other portable wealth and all kinds of things criminals like to know.

These tactics can be thwarted by ordering packages under a different name and having them shipped to PO Box, by not receiving any mail at your home address and by using social media under some name other than your real one, but most people don't integrate these precautions into their SOP, making them easy pickings.

Another reason to use a camera at your front door is that they are safer than peep holes which can be used against you using a lens called a peep hole reverser, which I understand every thug automatically receives upon being paroled.

The better models even enable you to take photos through them. Video doorbells are pretty effective at preventing break-ins and Ring has a bunch of videos of thwarted attempts on their site that show the product in action.

Skybell already works with Nest and I'm sure Ring will work with a system sooner or later too.

Ring

- HD Night Vision Camera, Microphone, Speakers
- Motion Detector Works even if they don't ring the bell
- Ding
- Cloud-based Recording Option
- LED Ring
- Multiple Faceplate Finishes
- Dual Power Can run off doorbell wiring or off a built-in battery
- iOS or Android
- \$199

Skybell

- Works with Nest When you answer a video feed from Skybell, you can activate streaming on your Nest cam. If Nest detects motion or sound in away mode, it will start Skybell recording at the front door.
- HD Color Night Vision Camera or IR Night Vision
 Camera



- Motion Detector Works even if they don't ring the bell
- Skybell HD is iOS Only, Skybell 2.0 works with "select" iOS and Android devices
- Variety of mounting adapters and hardware to adjust viewing angles and solve common problems in real world installation & use
- Skybell HD \$199, Skybell 2.0 \$149

Vivint

- Remote Doorlock
- Thermostat
- Doorbell Cam
- Also provides complete systems

August

- Doorlock uses your smartphone as a virtual key
- Connect lets you control Doorlock over your smartphone
- Supports Siri voice commands
- Track who comes and goes
- Doorbell Cam lets you see and speak to visitors
- Smart Keypad



Vtech

If you don't need to be able to answer the door from off site, you can use less expensive video doorbells like those offered by **Vtech**. They let you see video, control the camera

and speak over an intercom. Some have night vision, snap images of everyone who comes to the door. Whether you use an app-enabled video doorbell product or not, it does feel empowering to review video of everyone who comes to your door.

11. Traditional Alarm Installation and Monitoring Companies

Some examples are ADT, Safe-Tech or Reliance Protection. Buy a system and pay for monitoring or buy a bundled package. These usually start around \$30 a month and go up from there.

When it comes to protecting your house from intruders, there's never too much precautions you can take. But it all narrows down to make sure your needs are met within your budget.

As you can see in this report, there are a lot of options out there, tailored for all sort of needs, you just have to figure out what suits yours best and to make sure you take into consideration all the factors we laid out for you, in order to be sure that your family and your home are protected from intruders.

Other Resources

Survivopedia Articles on Home Defense

Home Defense On A Budget: 20 Inexpensive Tips

DOs and DON'Ts for Your Home Defense

Is Your Home Safe? 10 Ways to Defend Your Apartment

Home Invasions: The Biggest Mistakes Victims Make

Sneaky Tricks to Scare the Looters

7 Ways To Upgrade Your Home Defense Using Booby Traps

Off-Grid Defense: Spooky Pets For Home Protection

Protecting Your Home With Defensive Bushes

Property Protection: Smart Fencing on a Budget

How To Defend Your Farm From Intruders

Useful Links – Security Systems Providers

https://www.arlo.com

http://www.pointsecured.com/

http://simplisafe.com/

http://store.canary.is/

http://getnotion.com/

https://nest.com/

https://cocoon.life/

https://www.dakotaalert.com/

http://www.vivint.com/