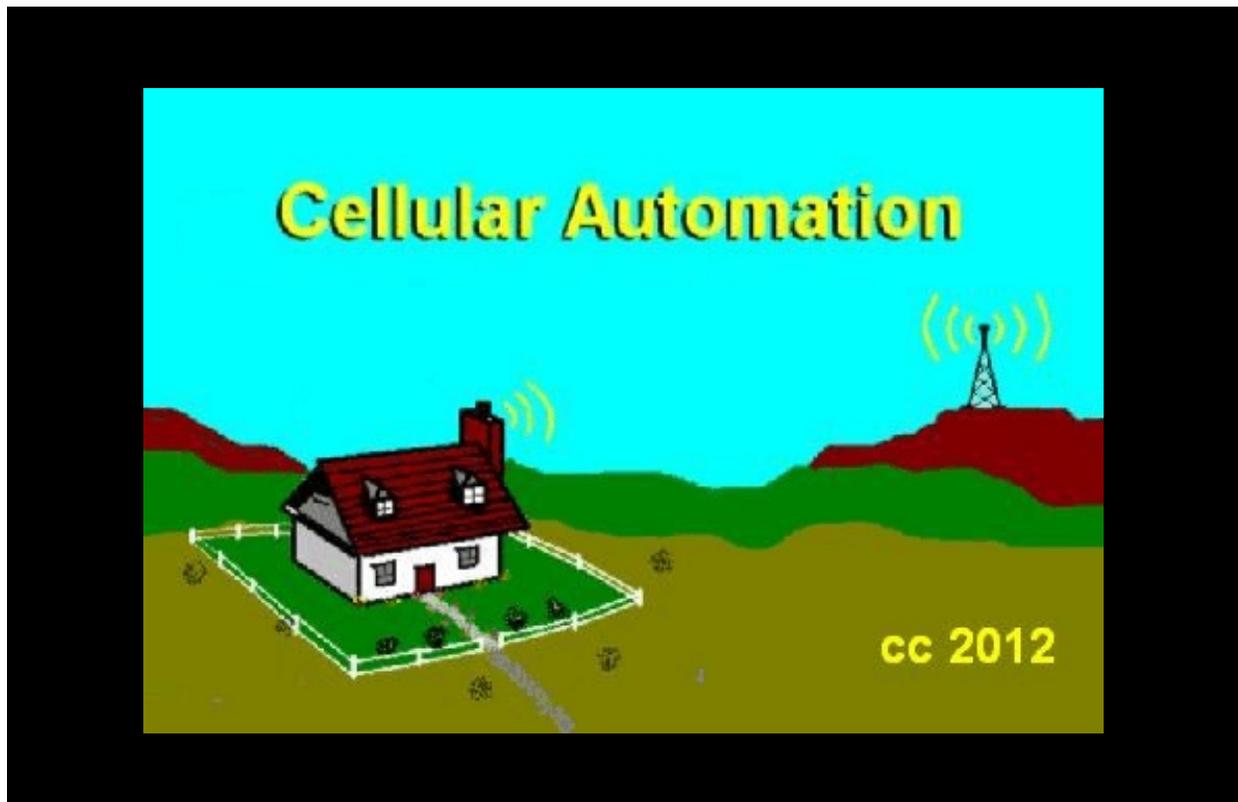




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*Cellular Automation - Guide To Re-Animation & Re-Connecting Your Home Security System*



If you own a home security system, and are being monitored by a private company, friends, or a professional call center; then you already have that comfortable feeling. This online info is for those wanting to re-connect cheaply or are just curious about dropping the land-line and turning to cellular connectivity for automation which; is the next best upgrade you can give your home.



In 2011 [Cobra Electronics Corp.](#) got a New Product Choice Award for its [Cobra PhoneLynx](#). This thing is not new, in fact; its just a simple Bluetooth Gateway. These gateways as they are called; are activated by a cell phone somewhere near by, and come in many different styles and cost. Cobra's award was for the best simplicity and consumer use plus the cost is quite affordable when you look around. There are two versions of this little device, and both work great.



The Cobra PhoneLynx BT215a  $\leftarrow$  ("a" is for android) model (about \$70) lets you setup and monitor the device with your android phone. The BT215 version without android control just acts as a simple connection. You can get the regular BT215 for under \$50 bucks on the net or you can get it at most popular retail stores like; Sears, Fry's, Kmart, and some phone or hardware stores. The android version is about \$20 bucks more and the most popular which; could make it hard to find.

As mentioned; this is not exactly a new device to make your home phone-line (and all the other stuff) work again. There have been several different manufactured gateway devices which do the same thing as the PhoneLynx, but do a lot more. Some may contain battery backup, home networking with wifi, internet security, and even caller ID with answering system.



For several friends and myself, I chose the PhoneLynx as a fast and simple way to connect my home security system and drop the land-line. If you dropped your land-line already, this is one of the best upgrades or additions you can do. *All you need is; a basic cell phone with bluetooth.* As mentioned earlier; shop around for the new phone and its uses. I found an LG [TracFone](#) with camera, messaging, and bluetooth on sale \$19.99 with a year of service for \$99 at my local pharmacy (CVS/RiteAid). These little phones are easy to use and keep, with No contract, No credit check, and No questions.

In the past few years there have been a couple long/short term cell phones available for the elderly or disabled, and they are FREE! These "welfare" phones can be paid for by insurance or even the state or government. If you are on Medicaid, Disability, or even food stamps, you might be eligible for one of these simple "limited use" phones from LifeLine Assurance Wireless, [SafeLink](#), or a few others that provide free airtime service. (watch-out for scams). Examine the contract or agreement before you do anything, and make sure it has the Bluetooth headset feature.



Only if you know what you are doing should you modify or change these devices. Here is the basic change I did for my own system. All you need is; a car charger that is 9vDC at 200-400ml Amp (about a 3rd of an amp) and use it as the power for the PhoneLynx. In case power failure, the system will still work for weeks, even months (mine went about 120 days on fully charged 12vDC 5Ah Alarm Battery (about \$40-\$45) from my local battery store.

Emergency power is part of the home security system, so if your current battery is good; it should handle the extra draw from the PhoneLynx with no probs, but if your battery is old or you don't have one; get a NEW one. They are usually lead/acid type and quite heavy. They can last about 1-3 years with good charging habits. The basic cigarette lighter/car charger from most popular retail stores will work for the BT215 or BT215a; just be sure to use a rating of 9VDC and it has to be about 200-400mA, it should be under 500mA or (half an amp) anything more and you run the risk of burning-out the device alot quicker than designed.



For devices that require a little more kick, I found a car charger at [Walmart](#) for about \$24 and it is the new(er) kind. It has a (5VDC@500mA) USB port for charging my phone, tablet, and other devices. It has a selectable power switch, so you can choose the voltage you want (its got almost 2 full amps!). I bought several of these for myself and friends, they make a great gift.



There really is no such thing as "long distance" anymore, but if you live outside of town or are up in the hills; then maybe look into a cell booster or some kinda amplifier. Some of the amplifiers out there are rather expensive, but only if you go over 5 watts. Right now, the average amount of power your phone has...is just under 1. The price of these extra or sometimes needed amps vary too much to list here. I suggest you look around on ebay, amazon, and all the other places for awhile before deciding on what you need.(check [zBoost](#) out first, they have many models available, and have been around for sometime).

If you decide on using an amplifier for your new phone, be sure to have enough backup power for your needs. If you decided you need extra cell range or power, then maybe using a motorcycle battery or car battery might be your best bet for backup power. Plus it will handle the power needs of some of the larger amps out there.

When using a motorcycle or vehicle battery, make sure you have it in a well-ventilated area and protected from the weather or from kids and animals. An old computer cabinet will work, and it also has a power supply that can charge the battery now and then when it needs it. Never place a batter on steel table, counters, concrete, rocks/dirt, or any surface that can conduct electricity or be damaged by leakage. Try to keep it on a piece of wood or plastic blocks at all times. Even though they are proven safe, you should never actually handle these batteries with your bare hands, especially if it may be several years old.



With the new phone line in your house; you can now hookup your old devices and things that made it cool like... *Automation*. The times have changed but the needs are still the same; automatic control of your house from anywhere in the world! Its not new; in fact its been around for nearly 50years. So, if you own an **X10 security system** or use stuff like the X10 Phone Responder or the 'ol Active Home System, then you'll be totally charged to know; you can now call your house again!

**This setup is not just for your 'ol system, it can also be used with some of the new inexpensive wireless security systems found online for less than \$100 bucks!**

**NOTE:** You can also use the new DIY (do it yourself) Home Security Systems being sold on [eBay](#), [Amazon](#), or at your local retail or online store (Walmart, Kmart, [Sears](#) etc..) For only \$99 bucks these new wireless systems can be installed anywhere such as; your car, truck, boat, office, guest house or anywhere you need security. Just make sure it has a DIALER built-in. If a break-in occurs, you can "listen" to what's happening in your house or car before you call the police. Plus you can ARM or DISARM it with a phone call, All the good (LED) sets come ready to protect right out of the box, and should include a couple keychain remotes.

Shop around for the system you want, there are hundreds to choose from, and not all are created equal. The more expensive systems can run into the hundreds, and may require you to have a SIM card to get started..

Some of the products listed below are limited, and maynot be immediately available. Shop around and be patient, especially if you are looking for a certain model...good luck & stay safe!

-cc2012

## **BLUETOOTH PHONE/GATEWAYS**(this is just a few of the best available)

Cobra BT215/BT215a

Grace Digital Cell2Tel

CellFusion Xtreme's XLink BT/BTTN (bttn=telephone device options)

IntelliTouch XLink BT

GE/Siemens Gigaset One (G1)

## ***Cell Amplifiers, Boosters, and Repeaters***

(As of 2010 - all new amps, boosters, or repeaters should be Dual Channel- 800MHz/1900MHz compatible. Take your time when shopping for this equipment; there hundreds of choices, and check with your phone company when you buy your new phone, they will be happy to tell you what channel it uses)

**zBoost Cell Amplifier** (newest standard model is: YX545 dual)

**Wilson Electronics Cell Booster**( kinda expensive but has lots of stuff)

**Dr. Tech Signal Booster** (more high-power, high-price devices)

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