



Marie Van Brittan Brown and her husband were responsible for the development of the first modern home security system. As a nurse, Brown and her husband often worked off-sync shifts, which meant Marie was often home by herself at night. The crime rate was high in their Queens neighborhood, and the police were often slow to respond to emergencies. These issues inspired Brown to create a security system that allowed her to tell who was outside their home. In 1966 the Browns requested a patent for their security system. (A patent is an official document that gives an inventor control over who may use the invention.) The security system consisted of four peepholes, a sliding camera, television monitors, and two-way microphones, a remote control that allowed her to unlock the door, and an emergency button that contacted the police or security. Brown's invention laid the foundation for later security systems that make use of its features such as video monitoring, remote-controlled door locks, push-button alarm triggers, instant messaging to security providers and police, as well as two-way voice communication. Her invention is still used by small businesses, large corporations, banks, small offices, single-family homes, multi-unit dwellings, etc.

Source: <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/brown-marie-van-brittan-1922-1999/#:~:text=Marie%20Van%20Brittan%20Brown%20was,%2C%20at%20age%20seventy%2Dsix>