Weekly Newsletter Issue 49

**Energy Saver**

# Building Automation

The building automation field has made significant   
advancements because of technology.

Building automation systems are devices that can control various building components, such as complex air conditioning systems and lighting systems.

A building automation system can adjust a variety of components to provide a comfortable, safe working environment without wasting energy. For example, in an office building where employees work from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the building automation system could be set up to prompt the air conditioner to start one or two hours before the first employees arrive. After the employees leave for the day, the air conditioner either may turn off for the evening or maintain a higher temperature to conserve energy. Some systems used in hotel rooms include motion sensors that turn off the air conditioner if they sense no motion or noise in the room. Cruise ship cabins and hotel rooms with doors to a balcony may automatically shut down the air conditioner if the door is left open. Air conditioning systems often are one of the largest consumers of energy, and money spent toward automating these systems often can be recovered in smaller electricity bills.

In addition to controlling air conditioning systems, building automation systems also can control and monitor lighting. Many newer buildings include motion and sound sensors in each room and automatically turn off lights when the rooms are unoccupied. Lighting in common areas of buildings might turn off after hours when a building is unoccupied. Or, if the building has plenty of natural light coming in, sensors can automatically can turn off lights when sufficient sunlight is available, or turn on the lights when the sunlight decreases.

The building automation field has made significant advancements because of technology. Businesses not only are able to lower their energy costs, but they also are able to conserve energy at the same time.