

Hub of house is where you want it to be

By Judy Swanson
Staff Reporter

Today's techno-literate home buyers are demanding everything from home theatres to home automation, says Troy Gair of Raetech Communication.

Depending on how much control you need to exert over your home, you'll pay from \$700 to more than \$100,000.

"People are becoming more educated and home builders are responding by offering more high-tech options to purchasers," said Gair. "It's standard in custom homes today



Wayne Leidenfrost — The Province

Troy Gair with state-of-the-art integrated home network system housed in a closet of a new home.

but it is working it's way down to ordinary homes as well." Gair's Surrey company installs "structured wiring" in both single family and multi-family projects that brings all the lines connecting such things as home security systems, cable, telephone and high-speed Internet connections to enter the home at a central hub.

Gair said the basic systems allow you control over the telephone, cable and computer hook-up locations plus security.

This "integrated home network" means you can run up to 256 PCs from a single modem with a single fee.

"It's your own local area network, like in a large office," he said. "Your kids can play games between each other from their own PCs in their own rooms with this system."

The hub contains one feed from Telus, from which you

can have multiple lines.

"You decide which line rings in which location."

Media rooms and multi-room sound systems are separately wired.

Secondary wiring via the hub handles the alarm system, either monitored on un-monitored.

Hubs are frequently installed in the home's mechanical room or basement but they can be placed wherever the homeowner wants.

In multi-unit projects most builders decide what you get.

But if you're building and wondering should you put in all the toys, the expert advises at least roughing in the connections if only for re-sale.

"It's far cheaper than trying to retro-fit it later," he said.