

An Evolving Technology

Traditional CCTV Video Surveillance systems have been around for years incorporating dedicated cabling to each camera location and a centralized point where all the cabling collapses back to and where monitors, recording devices, and other equipment is located. IP-enabled CCTV is here allowing more flexibility, better image quality, and the ability to share the existing cabling infrastructure with other network devices.

I.T. and Security

In the past, corporate I.T. and Security functions were separate groups which rarely communicated. According to Information Week magazine, up to 40% of all corporate security departments are currently reporting through the Information Technology department, and this trend is expected to accelerate^[1]. It is becoming more and more common to have the I.T. department handling security for an organization as more and more security solutions are IP enabled. CCTV is no exception. Camera's are now IP addressable devices sending their images over the corporate network. Recording devices are digital allowing anyone in the organization (with proper authority) to view and control security systems from any location. The result is better protection with coordinated physical and information security plan, and cost savings by eliminating redundant functions.

Lack of CCTV Standards

As an industry, there are no guidelines for traditional CCTV installation or performance. IP-enabled CCTV follows the same EIA/TIA guidelines for structured cabling ensuring that the solution will work as designed. IP-enabled CCTV used the same Category 6 UTP cable as the rest of the data network, and in many cases, the camera's can be powered over the same UTP cable eliminating the need to install separate power at each camera location.

All the Features of CCTV

By installing an IP-enabled CCTV system, you will not be losing any functionality. Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) control signals are sent over the same UTP cable. At the headend, Digital Video Recorders (DVR) can record multiple camera inputs simultaneously. Unlike traditional VHS recording devices, DVR technology allows you to view a video sequence without stopping recording. Because the images are in digital format, they can be viewed across the network from a user's web browser on their desktop. Archiving can now be done on a variety of media including CD-ROM, Hard Disk, SAN eliminating the need to store large libraries of videotapes.

Other Security Applications

The IP-enabling of security applications does not stop with CCTV. Card Access systems (including Biometrics), Single Sign-On, Emergency Notification systems, and many more can all be IP-enabled. IP-enabling physical security systems will provide a comprehensive, manageable security solution for your organization.

¹ "Impact Player" Mary Hayes, Information Week, issue 877, pgs 34-41, February 25, 2002.