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Basic Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) Information

CCTV for Newbies: What Is It?

Oftentimes, people look for ways to improve their security around their home or business place. While there are many options, they are not all practical. It may be nice to hire a security guard for your business; however, this could surely be a costly affair to hire one for your home day in and day out. The same can be said about security dogs. The cost of care for the animal and the possibility of personality conflicts between the owners and animal, this could be a problem as well.

This is why many people look to invest in CCTV. This is a very sensible and cost efficient way to get the added security that you desire and not have to worry about costly maintenance on a monthly basis. CCTV is known as closed circuit television, and is a great security method for anyone that wants a no fuss solution to the security measures around their property.

CCTV is not solely used for office or business purposes these days, as many homeowners have found the distinct advantage that this video surveillance has to offer. You can find many different variants of CCTV in society today many places include:

- Hospitals
- Banks
- Police Stations
- Hotels
- Jails
- Government Buildings
- Street Interceptions
- Luxury Homes
- Nursing Homes

The need for closed circuit television in today's society is growing at an alarming rate, with the escalation of crime or dangerous situations. When CCTV first was introduced, it was primarily reserved for the law enforcement and the military. Now, the security industry has found that it can be a very useful tool in providing surveillance for the general public as well.

Large department stores, as well as large chain grocery stores, now use CCTV to monitor the practices of their customers. This is a great way to stop shoplifting and it also adds the police should something happen in the store that could be deemed dangerous to other customers and staff.

The closed circuit television system is usually routed to a monitor or two in the office of the business, and is also attached to a recording device should they need to look back on a particular day and see what happened if there was a problem. Oftentimes, the CCTV is also routed to the local police department's mainframe. This will allow the police to either look in

periodically on the location or look back for further review of a situation that has already happened prior.

Now people are incorporating these great security systems into their home as well. While this at one time may have been reserved for the wealthy, even middle class people are enjoying the benefits of CCTV. By placing a camera near your rooftop that looks at the entire area that it is located in, you will be able to have a clear picture of what is going on around your property at any given moment.

By placing it high enough, you will ensure that the camera will not be broken or removed by someone that is attempting to break into your home. You can place more than one camera on your property to allow for maximum security of the home and its land, this will cover many different vantage points all at the same time and they all can be viewed at the same time or individually.

There are certain companies out there today that specialize in security and they can have your CCTV from your home routed right to their headquarters. This is great, as they can dispatch someone right to your home should there be any problem that need to be addressed.

CCTV is now patrolling many streets. This is a great way to stop dangerous street racing or even manage busy and dangerous intersections that are known to produce many accidents. CCTV is a very useful tool indeed, when you look at what it can accomplish and monitor. Not only does it not require manpower, it is a very convenient and secure way to ensure that you have the security that you desire without all of the fuss. Look into the CCTV industry today and see what they can do for you and your personal security needs.

Elements of a CCTV System: Just the Basics

Closed-circuit television, or CCTV, technology offers businesses and venues the opportunity to have real time surveillance without interrupting the flow of business. More and more companies opt to install CCTV in order to prevent property crimes, deter the defacing of property by taggers and vandals, ensure employee compliance with rules and regulations, and also detect customer or client crimes, such as theft.

In order to do so, these venues will need to invest in an appropriate CCTV system, which will meet their needs. The elements of a CCTV system are quite simple – here are just the basics:

If you are ready to take a look at installing a CCTV system in your venue, you will need lenses. These lenses will be the eyes that take pictures on a continuous basis. Do you need to take surveillance only during daylight hours, or do you foresee operating your security system around the clock? If it is the latter, you will probably want to invest in infrared devices that will permit you to have night vision capabilities. Additionally, do you want a simple varifocal lens, or do you want to have the ability to zoom in on areas where action is taking place that you will want to take a closer look at? If the latter is the case, then a zoom lens is a definite “must.”

Once you have decided what kind of lenses you will want to use, you will need to decide if the cameras will be housed indoors or outdoors. If it is outdoors, you will need to consider purchasing housings that will protect your sensitive lenses from the elements. If your business is located in an area where the exposure to corrosive elements, such as saltwater or vapors, is constant, you will need to pay special attention to the protection of your camera lens.

Another element that will need to factor into your decision about which kind of housing to purchase is your need for discretion. Some companies wish to disguise their cameras and have them blend into the surrounding environment, while others value the idea of being obvious for the sake of deterrence. If you are planning on keeping your lenses primarily inside, you will probably want to install them inside domes, which will obscure the cameras, thereby not alerting potential thieves when the camera is turned away from them.

You will need to decide if you wish to employ the use of wall-mounted microphones. This is usually a useful idea if your cameras are stationary and trained on certain objects, but if your camera will be moving, then you will probably not need the microphone.

Monitors will be another consideration of your basic system. It is important to ensure that your monitors will be compatible with the kind of feed your cameras will send back, so make sure to very carefully research your choices. If at all possible, try to purchase them as a package deal, which will ensure that the lenses and the monitors will indeed be able to interact.

To make your surveillance system work on your computer you will probably need a converter that converts a PC serial port into the kind of serial connector used by the cameras themselves.

Consider your power supply. You want this power supply to be independent from your other power supplies to ensure that would-be thieves do not get the idea of disabling your surveillance system by cutting your power line. An independent power supply will also need to be large enough to supply power to the number of cameras you will most likely run.

These features are the very basic components of a CCTV system. There are most certainly more bells and whistles you will be able to purchase if you are so inclined. In addition to the foregoing, many security companies specialize in setting up equipment packages for companies so that you will not have to worry about piecing together your own system.

It might be a little more expensive, but it ensures that each piece of equipment will work with other piece of equipment. Of course, if your business is rather small, or if you are confident in your abilities to put together the system yourself, then it will save you quite a bit of money to do so on your own, especially since it will permit you to go bargain hunting for the various components of the system and you may be able to find some great close-out deals!

Eyes Are Everywhere: The Increasing Use of CCTV in Every Day Life

The next time you go to a store – any store – take a look at the ceiling. The odds are indeed very good that you will see some bubbles that are spaced in regular intervals along the ceiling.

What you are seeing are the "eyes in the sky." Such eyes are everywhere, there in indeed an increasing use of CCTV in every day life.

Closed-circuit television, or CCTV, is the technology used by more and more businesses and venues that employs television cameras that will record the goings on of an everyday business day and then transmit this data to a set of monitors. Usually this set of monitors is located of an onsite surveillance center where security officers will review the action displayed in front of them for signs of trouble, disturbances, or even potential disturbances.

Usually the number one goal cited for the increasing use of CCTV technology is crime prevention. After all, if a shoplifter knows that there are cameras trained on the very locations where she or he would normally ply her or his trade, it is likely that this shoplifter will move on with empty hands.

Add to this the footage that has made it to national television shows showing how shoplifters who disregarded this threat were later on nabbed by store security and held until law enforcement arrived, it is no small wonder that CCTV has become a force to be reckoned with for anyone who is contemplating theft or purse snatching in today's retail environment. Thus, the crime of shoplifting has been detected and prevented.

Other venues that more and more rely on the idea of CCTV to detect and prevent crimes are gas stations. In a time when gas station robberies have resulted in the installation of bullet proof glass in many gas stations to separate attendants from those who would assault them for access to the safe, it is important that the staff will not be lured outside by cries for help or emergencies they cannot immediately verify.

Surveillance cameras located on the perimeters of a gas station permit an attendant to keep track on an in-station monitor of whatever activity is going on outside. Sometimes the view from the attendant is obscured by columns or simply walls, giving therefore would-be robbers the edge by luring an unsuspecting attendant out of the safety of the locked and secured station. With this no longer being the case in a large number of cases, the crimes of robbery, physical assault, and perhaps even murder are being prevented on a daily basis.

One location that is famous for its use of CCTV technology is the casino. Casinos make no bones about the many eyes in the sky they have trained on employees and customers alike. In a venue where large sums of money change hands on an hourly basis, and where disgruntled customers may attempt to cheat at the games rather than play fairly and accept the house advantage, it is vital for the fiscal solvency of the casino industry to deter and detect theft, fraud, and dishonesty immediately and to deal with it decisively.

Television programs featuring casinos in Las Vegas and other locations will often devote some of their segments to the security measures the casinos employ to catch those bent on being dishonest. In a way, the casino's decision to be open and up front about their procedures has done a lot to alert the general public to this kind of surveillance, and it has helped casinos to put the general public and also its employees on alert that every move may be scrutinized.

Of course, some venues have gone too far in their use of surveillance equipment. Reports from Calgary, Alberta, Canada state that the Talisman Center, which is a sports complex that attracts

a large number of visitors every year, has indeed installed surveillance cameras in its changing rooms where men and women may be viewed and recorded in various stages of undress. Obviously, even supporters of the CCTV technology draw the line at this kind of surveillance and it is no small wonder that the technology receives a bad reputation when it is misused for these or similar purposes.

Importance of Portability in CCTV Wireless Systems

Closed-circuit television, also known as CCTV, is a necessity in a world that seeks to secure its borders, keep its travelers free from fear and anxiety, and also ensure that major financial institutions will be able to operate without threats. The technology is surprisingly simple: television cameras are used to record events in any given venue; yet instead of broadcasting the pictures taken to a wide range of receiving units, the signals are instead only transmitted to a select group of recipients – usually monitors located in a central surveillance center where they are monitored for any activity that is incongruous with the business at hand.

The advantage of this limited transmission is obvious to anyone who values his or her privacy and detests being in the public eye: while your actions may be monitored and even recorded, they will only be used insofar as it is necessary to do the business at hand of the organization you are frequenting. Additionally, from the point of view of the business or organization, which you are visiting, they are assured that only they themselves will be able to have access to otherwise sensitive data and therefore their trade secrets are being protected.

Yet in the age of the war on terror, a new aspect of closed-circuit television technology has come to the forefront: the importance of portability in CCTV wireless systems. At face value it might be an odd thought to have portability involving this technology. After all, would not some strategically placed television cameras make for a much more discrete surveillance? In addition to the foregoing, will it not upset customer or clients if they suddenly notice portable closed-circuit television units all around them being moved or installed?

The answer may surprise you, but it is a resounding “no!”

Portable CCTV wireless systems ensure that business operators will be able to respond quickly to disturbances or hints of disturbances even before they occur. This in turn assures customers and clients that the environment is indeed safe.

Those who might seek to disrupt the flow of business will be forewarned that their actions have been discovered and that surveillance teams are on the job to ensure that they will not succeed. This in itself will have a preventative effect on many disruptions before they will occur.

Businesses will be able to protect their assets and customers by moving portable CCTV equipment quickly and efficiently from one spot of their base of operations to another without any significant interruption in monitoring ability. This will help the business to show great strength and seriousness when dealing with potential threats to either customers or assets, and it will quite possibly prevent many problems.

In case of an actual problem or disturbance, the portable television cameras will provide important footage that will help the authorities who are amongst the first responders to ascertain the nature of any situation, its seriousness, and how to respond to it effectively and immediately rather than wait for more information to become available through different channels. This may save lives and also preserve assets, thus minimizing the damage a business may experience.

In a hospital setting, this kind of portable security will help to keep patients safe in case of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, since it will permit nurses and other personnel to attend to injured individuals while surveillance teams will help to monitor those patients who are in no immediate danger or have no immediate need for nursing help.

In the prison system it is an unfortunate reality that racial tensions are escalating to alarming heights, and that riots or even gang fights are becoming the norm rather than the exception. While the authorities in charge of administering the prison system are taking steps to diffuse the situations before they even arise, it is not possible to deflect fights and riots 100% of the time.

Rather than sending in guards into the middle of a melee that they might be ill equipped to handle with the equipment they have at the time, it is safer for both inmates as well as prison guards to get a good assessment of the nature of the conflict, the weapons involved, and the sheer number of participants before choosing to send in a number of guards to restore order.

Options and Accessories to Consider When Purchasing a CCTV System

CCTV systems, also known as closed-circuit television systems, essentially use television camera technology to capture images and then send them to waiting monitors where the images captured will be displayed. Sometimes these monitors are located in a centralized surveillance center, while other times they may be off-site or also on-site to be accessed by authorized personnel.

Some business owners are a bit awed at the large variety of options available, and so they may not quite sure how to proceed to purchase just the right system. If you find yourself in this situation, you may be sure that there is help! Here is a list of options and accessories to consider when purchasing a CCTV system.

Know your options for your needs. Do you know what your needs are? Granted, you might have in mind the somewhat amorphous notion that you want to protect your jewelry store from theft, but have you actually considered the need for surveillance that you have? For example, will you need one camera at the entrance door, or is your store arranged in such a manner that you will need two or three cameras to cover every angle of your merchandise?

If you are running a jewelry store, the merchandise will oftentimes be very small, such as individual precious stones – one accessory that you may be interested in is a zoom lens that will permit you to zoom in on any transaction that may appear a bit odd.

Similarly, know your uses. You will have a use for theft deterrence and detection, but are there are uses that perhaps a CCTV system can fulfill for you as well? For example, do you want to also have a camera installed that monitors the parking lots to ensure the safety of your customers as well as your employees and yourself as you leave the store in the evenings? Are you concerned about being robbed when carrying the daily deposit to your car?

If you anticipate the need for safety and robbery prevention, you will probably want to take a look at the many options of cameras that will provide for night-vision monitoring.

Consider next the placement of your cameras – will they be outdoors or indoors? If it is outdoors, they may be exposed to the elements, and you will need to use special enclosures for your lenses to ensure that moisture, sand, or other forces that are often found out of doors do not harm them. Similarly, you will want to make sure that your cables are up to handling the challenges of being outside versus inside where humidity will not be a problem.

Another option that is very important to consider is simply the placement of the monitors, after all, the data your cameras will pick up will have to be displayed somewhere to be useful. Do you want these images to be displayed on television monitors inside your own, on-site, security center? Will they be displayed off-site? Or will you want them displayed on a computer you can monitor via the Internet?

Accessories that you need to consider also at this juncture include storage devices for the data you are collecting. Will you need to purchase a DVR recorder? Will you need to purchase videotapes? If you use your computer, do you intend to burn CDs?

Once of the most important accessories that do not come in a box is customer service. Whom can you call when there is a problem with the system, when you need help setting it up, when you want to have it tested, and just to make sure you are using everything correctly and efficiently? Is there a telephone number that will deploy a representative who is nearby, or will you be calling an out of state customer service center that can only try to help you remotely?

As you can see, before you go ahead and purchase a CCTV system, make sure that you know exactly what your needs are, and do not buy something that you may or may not be able to use.

Similarly, unless you are certain about what it is that you are doing and you know exactly how to install the system, it might be best to purchase everything together in a box so that you know that the lenses and the monitors will be able to communicate with one another. Mixing and matching might save you some money, but this will only work if you are technologically well versed in the matters of CCTV technology.

Play Toys for Techies: The Latest Gadgets in the CCTV World

When perusing the list of play toys for techies – the latest gadgets in the CCTV (closed-circuit television) world must be ranking at the top of the list. Where else will you be able to combine

your love for technology with the wonder of ever more effective surveillance technology? For all those whose appetite is whetted at this point, here is a list of items to look forward to:

A 1/3 of an inch Sony CCD camera with 600 lines of resolution and a minimum illumination need of only 0.05 Lux, you will be able to take even better pictures than before!

If you are in the market for something that will even surpass this kind of technology, why not try the Color 1/3 of an inch Super HAD CCD camera. Granted, it only has 520 lines of resolution, but with a minimum light need of only 0.1 Lux as well as night infra-red sensitivity, you will indeed purchase a piece of equipment you can use anywhere!

If you already feel you have the latest and greatest cameras out there, how about a 16 channel DVR that also features a LAN access as well as a remote controller? You will be able to engage in remote playback as well as recording and you will be able to choose which kind of events will trigger the recording action, whether it is the tripping of a motion detector, an activated alarm, or simply a timer. Playback is also a cinch with this little gadget, since it lets you do the playback as well as the current display on the same screen!

If you are more in the market for things you can buy today rather than waiting for the gadgets that will be hitting the store shelves in the near future, here are some brand-new items you will be able to purchase today – but that are considered today's latest innovations!

A real time DVR system server that supports up to 16 cameras. Granted, it is a bit expensive, but it is state of the art technology, which allows for real time PC based DVR security. Additionally, you will be able to remote-view whatever is going on at your location from anywhere in the world via the Internet.

If you are in the security business, or if you have a fleet of vehicles – airborne or on wheels – to outfit, you will want to have the H.264 video compression mobile DVR unit. This unit is not stationary but instead can be mobile, even while you are changing locations.

This little gadget employs what it called "Mobile Ad Hoc Networking Technology" that permits users to transmit data wirelessly so that whatever is picked up in one location may be viewed even over extreme distances. It does not matter if the monitoring takes place in the air, on the ground, or somewhere in between, just as it does not matter where the originating data is coming from – whether it is in the air, on the ground, or in between!

If you want to be able to watch your business from anywhere in the world, you will want to make sure to invest in state of the art DVR software, so that your digital recordings will be able to make it to your personal computer and you can keep an eye on things even while you are on vacation!

As you can see, innovations in the field of CCTV technology abound and there is no telling when the techies will run out of ideas. As a matter of fact, whenever a new item hits the market, you can be certain that there is already somebody somewhere working on another one that will be smaller, better, and perform even more tasks.

Of course, in an industry where it pays to be on the cutting edge, it will not do to stay with the technology of yesteryear. Always remember that those whom you are watching with your security cameras will most likely also up the ante in an attempt to render the CCTV technology you are using harmless.

Granted, you will be able to spend large amounts of money if you go chasing the latest and greatest innovations in the field of CCTV, but remember that you will not always need all the latest upgrades – you just need to stay in step with the consensus of technology.

The Evolution of CCTV: Then Versus Now

CCTV or closed circuit television was first introduced in the 1960s and 1970s, primarily in the United Kingdom, but there were some in the United States as well. These original systems had their own monitors and were not as advanced as they are now. The technology at the present time has far advanced CCTV since it's basic camera and monitor days in the 1960s.

These systems were very simple with black and white, very poor resolution and coaxial cable in use as part of the system. Individual cameras had to be individually connected to a monitor of it's own, which were also black and white. This made it very difficult as the demand increased and demanded a more convenient type of surveillance, as well as a more compact size. With the introduction of the use of CCTV systems in subways, sports arenas, stores, shopping malls, parks and parking garages and lots, these old systems weren't cutting it.

Almost from its inception, CCTV began to evolve almost immediately. In the 1960s, the basics began to take on new forms. This involved the introduction of what was called a switch box. This box allowed a user to switch between the different cameras they were using, allowing them to streamline down to one monitor versus several. Even with this, only one camera could be viewed at a time however.

Then as the 1970s approached the evolution of CCTV technology continued. This included the introduction of what was called a multiplexer. A multiplexer let the user break up one screen with views of several different cameras at once on one monitor. Then, of course, came the VCR, which up until then hadn't been available. This type of technology back then allowed for much easier recording and distribution if needed.

As things began to progress in the 1980s, many problems were found with VCR based CCTV systems. Not only was the quality not that great, but also it wouldn't allow for simultaneous recording and reviewing, which a lot of people wanted. The poor quality of tapes and the easily damaged tapes didn't help very much in positively identifying criminals, at least not as much as was needed. In the 1980s, many CCTV companies began investing in fixing this problem and looking for solutions to it.

They also began investing in creating motion detection technology and remote viewing technology at this time. Of course, another problem with CCTV at this time was the cost. Because of the complex installation needed and the cumbersome equipment, along with the fact that it was such a new technology, the cost was a lot more at that time. In the 1980s,

there wasn't much progress in technology, but a lot of investing in finding it and developing it, the advances would come later.

In the mid-1990 is when the next main advancement came. This came in the form of what is called a digital video recorder or DVR. This solved the problem of poor resolution and didn't require videotape that could be damaged easily. This new technology also solved the problem of not being able to record new images while reviewing the previous recorded images at the same time.

DVRs also made it possible to save money in installation and space, because it was much more compact and easier to install. Another advantage not even considered that DVR offered is the fact that it time and date stamped the images and made them easier to look at and find. This new advancement also allowed for remote viewing from the Internet as well as remote access to the system too.

Cameras themselves have come a long way. The more modern cameras can pan, tilt and zoom unlike previous generations of cameras. The cameras themselves also have higher resolution, greatly improving the quality of the images that are captured and allowing for better identification of images. There are also many night vision types of cameras available, which are excellent for outdoors viewing or where there is very little light.

There is also the option of audio being available now, too. What is also great about newer CCTV systems is that many are compatible with the older systems, making it that much easier to integrate the newer technology and still save money.

As you can see, CCTV has greatly advanced in a very short amount of time. The improvement of quality has allowed for better image capturing and better identification. The invention of DVR has improved everything the most with so many advantages to it. It's definitely exciting to see where CCTV will go next considering where it has come from. Who knows where CCTV will advance to next? Just wait and see.

The Importance of Using CCTV Cameras

With the rise in crime rates and the prevalence of terrorism, CCTV cameras have become an important aspect in our modern world. They can also be used for traffic purposes as well and this can make having them around a great thing. Not only does the unfortunate increase in crime and terrorism demand more CCTV cameras, but the convenience it can offer is also an excellent benefit.

As far as property crime is involved, such as car theft, there has been found many times over a reduced rate when CCTV cameras are being used in the area. It can reduce property theft by deterring those who would otherwise commit these crimes when they see a CCTV there. This type of deterrent can also work well when it comes to shoplifting and vandalism.

In fact, it has shown to bring a decrease to both of these violations, making installing a CCTV in these types of situations invaluable. Many other crimes such as burglary and arson are also

deterred by the use of CCTV cameras. These kinds of crimes greatly benefit from the installation and use of CCTV cameras, but what about personal crime?

An interesting study has been done in regards to personal crime, such as an assault, and the effectiveness of a CCTV camera to prevent it. It includes the concept of rational choice theory, where a suspect decides whether or not to commit the crime, moments before hand, with the help of different kinds of cues from around them.

This means a criminal is less likely to carry out a personal crime such as assault on a victim that is near a CCTV camera or within range of one. The fact that the camera can pick up the suspects details and be caught later on will greatly deter someone from committing a crime within view of the CCTV camera.

This makes having CCTV cameras around a very important step in preventing many of these types of crimes. It also makes being aware if there are CCTVs around important as well, to help protect yourself in certain situations. Not only does it help prevent some of these personal crimes, it can also deter drug crime as well.

Some other important aspects to setting up CCTV cameras are that it can also help prevent crimes in the surrounding areas as well. Although the crime may move to another area that does not have a CCTV camera, it has actually shown that it helps reduce crime overall and this is very important. It can also help encourage areas and places that do not have CCTV cameras to start using them, as they begin to see the benefits gained by others who do use them.

There are also some conveniences that can be gained by the introduction of CCTV cameras. For example in a traffic situation, if there is any kind of back up or weather conditions that would make it unsafe to drive, this can be seen a head of time and reported to the proper place in order to prevent more hassle later on down the road.

It is also important to have CCTV cameras to catch traffic incidents early on, especially if there is an accident, if a CCTV camera is present it can help better locate the accident and get help there quicker.

Besides these obvious benefits, having CCTV cameras around is very important to peace of mind to the everyday citizen. Especially with terrorism as a new concern that many people have on their mind. With the increase of CCTV cameras around most people begin to feel more comfortable and have greater peace of mind. They feel that it is more likely that criminals and terrorists will be caught because of the presence of these cameras. Having peace of mind because of the presence of these CCTV cameras can be a very important reason to use them.

With all the great benefits and the reduction of crime rate there are many reasons why CCTV is important to the modern world. When you have a great reduction of crime rates and the peace of mind that comes with that, CCTV is very important in this aspect. No price can be put on the peace of mind that can come from knowing there is someone watching and keeping an eye out on your safety and well-being.

Things to Look for When Shopping for a CCTV Camera

If you decided to seriously consider buying a CCTV camera, then you should be aware of what exactly to look for and which options are best for you and your needs. There are many aspects that need to be considered and a lot of people don't always realize this when they go out looking for a CCTV camera.

The main things to consider when looking for a camera that works the best for you and your needs include where the camera will be located, the lighting in the area, the field of vision that is needed, the focal length, and the amount of money you are able to spend on it. These are all the very first steps in looking for a CCTV camera that is the best for your needs.

There are a few great tips that should be followed when looking for a CCTV. Among these includes knowing what kind of camera to use in entry areas. These entry areas include doors and gates as well. Windows are another important area that needs a good camera and if you are looking for a camera for one of these areas you need to make sure that you get one that is higher quality.

Higher quality can get you better resolution and these areas are the most likely place a burglar will be caught. Therefore, you must be able to have accurate and higher quality of cameras in these areas to better identify a suspect later on.

Besides entry areas, if you are looking for a camera to survey a larger area you will want to make sure you have wider-angle camera lens for these areas. This usually includes cameras that you have set up inside the building or buildings. Another good thing to look for when setting up a CCTV inside is one that records in color.

This is an excellent idea to identify the person better, by being able to actually see what colors someone is wearing and having the details made clearer. This advantage can help more accurately identify someone and make it more likely that they will be caught. When you combine this wide-angle lens inside and the one at the entryway you will have a better record of anyone trying to get into the area you are trying to protect.

There are also a few general things to consider when you are looking for a CCTV camera. One of the first things to do would be to accurately sketch out a general floor plan. This will help you get a better feel for the whole space that you are trying to survey. You will may want to check distances at this point, this can effect the type of CCTV you may want to use for a specific area.

Even with measurements you may want to place the camera as close as you can and then adjust later on, that way you will have a better idea how the zoom is needed. Something else that should be considered in this vain is taking photos of the area you want to cover. Make sure you take these photos from where you are planning to set up your CCTV system. This will give you a better idea of where you want them placed and how well they pick up what you want. Depending on what is picked up in the photos, you will then know better what kind of lens you may need.

You may also want to consider the type of resolution that you are looking for. The location of the camera is what determines how well of a resolution that you will need. It also depends on

what exactly you want to capture with your camera. Do you only want to be able to see someone's face or capture the complex lettering of a license plate? This can be a huge difference in the type of resolution you want and expect from your camera.

There are a few more things you should consider as well. First you may also want to take in consideration vandalism. Is your camera expected to be an area where it will be subject to vandals? This can be deterred if you get a damage resistant camera. Another thing to look at is the type of lighting you are looking at, in the area you are planning on using the CCTV.

This may mean you need an infrared camera, especially in poor lighting. One last thing to consider of course is your budget. You may have to spend more to get a better camera, but a cheaper one is better than no camera at all. Of course you may also want to consider a DVR based system over a VCR based system for a variety of reasons, including quality and space.

As you can see, there are many decisions to be made when choosing a CCTV and which one is right for you and your needs. If you carefully follow these tips when shopping for a CCTV camera you will be able to find a better camera for your needs. You will spend the least amount of money for the best deal if you are careful and shop around while thoroughly weighing all your options. Just follow these steps and you will be sure to find the best deal for your needs.

Thoughts to Ponder When Purchasing Your CCTV Cameras

Most people don't really consider what they want their CCTV cameras to do. If you think that just putting up a camera and all will be well, then you need to rethink what you want from your camera, too. What your camera can do, will depend on what you want to use it for. Read on to learn about a few tips that you need to consider for a CCTV camera in a business setting. It doesn't take a lot, and it could end up saving you hundreds of dollars, and a lot frustration and danger when a burglar hits your business. It's always best to be prepared.

Unless your business is in a known high crime area, you might want to look into other ways to deter crime; it's a lot less costly. Lighting is one way to drastically reduce crime outside and inside. Ask yourself if you can add more lighting for a reasonable cost in front of doors, or intensify the lighting within the store itself. If you find that parking is the place where most vandalism happens, and it's affecting the good customers coming in and buying items, then add lighting outside, so they'll be more comfortable.

You could even ask the local police department to make a few more rounds in the area too. If it's financially feasible, then consider hiring part time security to help patrol inside and outside the store. Along with additional lighting, this can be a short-term solution until you feel a need to change.

Prioritizing how you want to protect your business from any type of criminal activity is important. Again, if it's a high crime area you'll want to have in place cameras that will in the end apprehend the thief. Large chain stores usually buy cameras that are hidden, or ones that have an iris that is shield so shop lifters can't tell where the lens of the camera is pointed, or have them hidden in corners of the store behind racks in the wall.

Both of these types have a clear message of catching a shoplifter. If you're a small independent business owner, it might be best to buy cameras that are very visible to all that enter the store. It costs less than having installed an internal monitor and the cost for having to hire an operator for a large monitoring control panel for a lot of camera shots. There're installation costs that will drive up the price too.

You'll need to be clear on what you want to see, to be able to buy the equipment you really need to provide security for your business. Ask yourself questions like do you want to see all the people in your store, and as they enter or leave it. Also, look at the fact of the outside parking area. If it's limited is it necessary to film outside, if you have enough security inside the store.

Is it cost effective to have higher quality cameras inside, or cheaper ones with coverage outside? Know your budget and what you can afford, and have a clear idea before you ever go and talk to a sales person about placing cameras in your business. It's a fine balancing act for protection and finances, but an expert in the security field can help you narrow down and answer questions that you may have when you go to buy cameras.

Some people with very small businesses will buy just a black and white camera. They're getting harder to find since the resolution can be questionable, and if you're trying to identify anyone with a particular color of clothing or a color of merchandise it's impossible to do. How well your camera records depend on the rate at which information is transferred in frames.

Slower frames per second mean that the image will not be as clear, and the images will look like they hop around in a very jerky motion too. If you do buy this type of slower transfer of a camera, you won't spend as much though in tapes, or lots of room for a hard drive to record the images.

Finally, ponder a lot on what you need, and can afford. Don't skimp on protection though, even if it means that you've got to finance part of its installation through a loan. The safety of you and your customers is paramount, and should always be the first choice in business security. Talk with an expert in surveillance and have them evaluate your needs, and then protect your business from criminals.

A Basic History of CCTV and Upcoming Trends

First off, you may be asking yourself what exactly does CCTV stand for? CCTV stands for closed circuit television and has been in use primarily since the 1970s. They were first developed in the United Kingdom and that is also where they were first put into use. There have been many developments and improvements since that time with the advancement in technology.

Some of the major developments include easier installment, more reasonable prices and they are easier to configure. In the 1970s, all of these were harder and the price reflected that. The main reasons that they have been used and were developed in the first place include surveillance, traffic control, theft, shoplifting, employee theft, robbery deterrence and identification.

There are a few different choices that can be made when it comes to a CCTV system. This is because these systems can be in black and white or color and this is one of the first decisions you will want to make. This may depend primarily on what you are planning to use the system for. In cases of robbery and theft, identifying the suspect is crucial, and color could help immensely in these cases.

On the other hand if you were planning to use it for traffic purposes or just surveillance, then black and white would be the preferred option for you. This is because black and white tends to have better resolution and more nighttime abilities to better pick up details such as license plate numbers. Of course, there is the choice between wired or wireless to make as well.

There are several advantages to wireless, with the much easier installation being one, but it can be more expensive and not quite as reliable as a wired system. This is because with a wireless system you may encounter signal interruptions more often than with a hardwired system. So in this case, you must decide which option is best for you and your needs.

Some other things to consider in a CCTV system are how big of an area you are looking to use the camera for. You also need to know what kind of light is available for what you are using it for. This will help you choose the correct camera with the correct type of lens. Lately there have been some updates in the types of lenses that can be used in CCTV systems.

There has also been many developments in the use of DVR technology and can effect the type of recorder you choose to use. There are time-lapse recorders, computer DVRs and stand-alone DVR systems, as well. While there are still time-lapse recorders in use, they are not being used as often, since more and more things are gravitating towards DVDs and VCRs in general.

Time lapse recorders are just more cumbersome in general and harder to install and less effective in the long run. Besides, this storing the recorded tapes from this type of system can be problematic as well, with the lack of space and the potential towards damage. On the other hand, the more advanced technology of the DVR is a lot easier to just download onto a computer or to burn a CD and can be much more convenient for most people.

Another aspect of newer technology incorporated into the DVR is the switcher and multiplexer functions built into it, making it less equipment to be installed, once again making it much more convenient for most people. With prices coming down drastically in the last few years in this type of technology, getting better quality has never been easier or cheaper.

One of the other aspects of the CCTV system to look at is the monitor and the types that are available for you to choose from. Depending on where you are placing the CCTV, will determine what size of monitor you can get. With so many advances in nano-technology, it has become a lot easier to find smaller cameras with smaller everything, including monitors, to choose from. Of course with the more advanced technology of the internet and such you will be able to use your computer monitor to view your CCTV and what type of stuff is recorded.

Besides these basics, there are more and more people getting involved in the CCTV world and its development therefore causing more and more advances in it each day. The primary areas where advances are taking place are in storage, retrieval and video content analysis. One great thing that has helped in the area of CCTV is the camera.

This is because not only has it been advanced, but also it can be added to already existing CCTV systems. One of the most amazing features in this area is the smart camera that can actually track someone based on their behavior. Transmission itself has also advanced CCTV systems by the better cables that are available, including fiber optics. With these advances and the more common use of the DVR to record the images, CCTV has come a long way since the 1970s in the United Kingdom, that's for sure.

Discussing the Effectiveness of CCTV Wireless Technology in Deterring Crime

Wireless technology makes a big difference in catching criminals and in deterring crime from happening. The technology for making wireless CCTV easier to use has grown by leaps and bounds ever since the 911 attacks of September 2001. If you're thinking about a wireless camera to use for security on a CCTV, then you're not alone. Millions of people have starting using it in homes and businesses across the world to protect their family and property. Read on to learn the different ways that CCTV with wireless is used, and how effective it is on stopping crime.

It's a fact that if crooks know that a CCTV is installed in a business or your home, they won't take the chance of getting caught. They purposefully avoid it, and will go to easier picking somewhere else. Also, it's been found that if criminals even suspect that a store might have a system, they'll avoid committing a crime. You'll benefit by having it up and running too, because police can be told what is happening.

They will respond with the appropriate action and number of officers to the scene, when an operator is on hand monitoring the call in to the police department. Another factor to consider when wondering if a security CCTV wireless should be installed is to look at your customer's positive reaction to the extra security. Business usually picks up, and sales are made because they feel secure in your store.

Lots of different places use wireless technology for the safety of their customers, and in a lot of situations, too. In banks, viewing of the daily activity can be stored at a remote location, and multiple cameras can be hooked into one camera or several at once. Large hard drives can capture the video, and if a problem arises it can be burned on a CD burner. Another way to cut back on crime in public or private schools is to use wireless technology with a CCTV.

Wireless has the advantage in any setting to be placed anywhere, unlike the traditional wired settings of drilling through walls. School budgets are tight, and wiring costs can be very expensive. Know that if you need security for hallways, areas that connect one building outside to another wireless can do the job.

Industrial settings are turning toward CCTV with wireless at a fast pace. Not only can wireless connected to a main terminal reduce employee theft, but also it can make a work place environment a lot safer. If a machine malfunctions a trusty camera operator can shut down the machinery before anyone can get hurt. It's great too for claims against a company of injury or death of an employee.

Daycares are another area that can use a system to fight child abuse claims from customers. If you own a daycare, it is still a good idea to have a CCTV installed. You never know if someone might make a claim of child abuse against you and one of your employees.

Wireless technology has come a long way, but there're still some drawbacks of it. If you decide to buy a system with it, you'll have to contend with interference of it with things like phone lines, thickness of walls, and physical obstructions of buildings and trees. Of course you can buy high-powered transmitters and receivers to overcome most of these issues.

The most important fact is to realize that you'll need to spend a few extra dollars and have a professional install it. It might take some fine-tuning to get it right, but it can be done. Installing wireless as a do-it-yourself plan is not the wise way to go. Have it professionally installed, so you can rest easy knowing that it's done right.

Remember that lots of places use a wireless system and have success with using it, by stopping crime dead in its tracks, and you can too. Know the facts about crime in and around your business and home, and talk with an expert on what wireless system would be just right for you to use. Get ahead of the game and be safe, know what you need, and use it effectively for your peace of mind and the people around you. It's worth the price in more ways than one.

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