

General Guidelines in Choosing a CCTV System

There are so many types of systems you can choose from in our website and sometimes you might be confused which one is the right one for you.

Perhaps you might want to read through this guideline which might help you in choosing the correct system that suits your needs.

- 1. What is the purpose and environment of surveillance location?**
- 2. How many cameras do you intend to have?**
- 3. Which type of systems do you prefer?**
- 4. Do you prefer to use a wireless or wired system?**
- 5. Do you wish to view remotely via Internet?**
- 6. If you wish to view remotely, does your surveillance location have an Internet connection?**

Purpose and location of surveillance?

Different locations needs different type of cameras. For example if you are placing your camera outdoor, you can choose either the Infrared Red camera which are weatherproof or a box camera with a weatherproof casing. If it is an indoor area or office, you may wish to consider using the dome camera which looks more elegant.

Purpose of surveillance will determine the quality of camera you would like to have. For example, if you need a camera to overlook a cashier counter, you may wish to choose a higher quality CCD Box camera which can produce sharper images and richer color so that you can tell the notes color. If you need to have a general view, you may wish to ask for a wide angle view CCD camera so that you can see more in a channel.

However please note that with the choice of wide angle camera, small minor details of the picture will be loss as you need to 'squeeze' more information into a screen and objects in the picture will tend to get smaller.

How many cameras do you intend to have?

The numbers of camera will determine the number of channels of DVR machine or DVR cards you need to have. Usually they come in 4 channels, 8 channels, 9 channels (Machine based), 12 channels (PC based), 16 channels, 24 channels (PC based). So if you decided to have just 3 cameras, you will need a 4-channels machine. However please note that if you need 5 cameras, the next jump will be 8-channels machine. So in terms of cost effectiveness, it will not be so ideal.

SLS INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

170 Upper Bukit Timah Road #B1-K04
Bukit Timah Shopping Center Singapore 588179
Tel: +65 9614 2018

Website : www.recordcctv.com

Sales and General Enquiries : Jason Lee +65 82635275
Technical Enquiries : Stephen Lim +65 96142018
Emails : sales@recordcctv.com, jason@recordcctv.com

Last updated : 16th May 2008

Which type of system do you prefer?

Basically there are 2 types of system to choose from. Machine based CCTV system are simple to use, straightforward and less power consumption. However if you are an IT freak, you may find it not as powerful as the PC based CCTV system. However machine based CCTV system are less vulnerable to virus attack and proven to be very stable.

PC based CCTV system on the other side have more functions. They can even be assigned to different user with different rights. PC based CCTV just like any other PC runs on Windows OS which can have minimum risk of virus attack though you can easily overcome this by using anti-virus software. PC based CCTV system can be more cost effectively if you are using more than 4 channels. As the number of channels increase, a machine based CCTV will have great jump in pricing but for PC based CCTV, the jump will be only adding more PC cards. That's all. So as a simple rule, if you want something simple and stable, get a machine based CCTV system. If you need more complexity like different users logins with different rights, we recommend a PC based CCTV system.

Do you prefer to use a wireless or wired system?

Wireless system will be good for only single camera or maximum two. If more, you might face wavy lines on the images due to interference. You also need to check with your local authority of the frequency you are allowed to use and the power allowed. However sometimes if running wire is too costly for you, going wireless might be a better solution. If you are local in Singapore and you need to go wireless, you may want to consider using the latest **Mobile 3G Technology** to view wireless island-wide. However there will be monthly subscription cost incurred. For more information, please feel free to approach any of our technical support staff for more information.

Wired system allows you to go as many cameras as you wish to have as long as your systems are able to support. Wired system will definitely produce the best clear quality result directly from the camera with no compromise on security. Laying the cables is usually one-time cost and they can last for years if you choose a quality cable. Therefore you only need to change or upgrade the cameras when necessary while the cables remain.

Do you wish to view remotely via Internet?

If you wish to view remotely via Internet, you will need either a PC based CCTV system or machine CCTV system with network. All PC based CCTV system comes with network. All you need is some networking skills and you will be able to view remotely into your CCTV system from anywhere in the world. Machine based CCTV system with network works on the same concept. Machine based also allows you to view remotely from anywhere in the world except that you might need a good router to support DDNS.

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If you wish to view remotely, does your surveillance location have an Internet connection?

You definitely need an Internet connection at your surveillance location (the place where you placed your CCTV system) in order for the system to upload video images for you to view remotely. Of course the more number of channels would mean you need higher upload bandwidth (NOT download bandwidth) so that your images will be smoother. You may need to check with your ISP (Internet Service Provider) for the upload bandwidth they provide you according to the plans you subscribe. If you do not have an Internet point at your surveillance location, or you know that you are going to have difficulty in subscribing an Internet line, you may wish to **use Mobile 3G Technology** to hook up to your CCTV system and you will be able to view remotely too. Please feel free to approach our technical support staff for more information about this technology. We will be glad to help.

Need additional information or help?

Please feel free to call us at

Jason Lee +65 82635275 (Sales and General Enquiries)

Stephen Lim +65 96142018 (Technical Support Enquiries)

Or MSN us from overseas:

Stephen Lim (yamanha_ultraman@yahoo.com.sg) (Support video and voice conferencing)

Jason Lee (jason00_rvf@hotmail.com)