

Security Cameras – Electronic Access Control – Alarm Systems – Key Control Systems - Locksmithing
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Comlock Quick Facts

- Operates a locksmithing trade school!
- Forty full time employees!
- Three retail locations to serve you!
- Family owned business since 1961!
- Operates a vendor network of over 300 locksmiths within the Western U.S.!

Introduction to Closed Circuit TV

Jeremy Sacco
BuyerZone.com Editorial Staff

From a single camera and monitor to complex video surveillance systems with hundreds of cameras, multiple operators, and digital recorders, closed circuit television (CCTV) systems can provide security for a wide range of businesses.

A good closed circuit TV system can make your business safer, more efficient, and less prone to theft and accidents



While the most basic closed circuit TV setup - a single camera connected directly to a monitor and recorder - could help security in some cases, it is unlikely to be enough for most businesses. Most situations call for multiple cameras. In some cases, you may even want a movable camera to cover a large area. Before starting to compare systems or choose potential vendors, sit down and consider your video surveillance needs carefully.

First, consider what you want to monitor. General comings and goings? Vehicles? Do you want to see faces, merchandise, crowds? Once you decide what you want to see, choosing components will become easier.

Next, decide what picture quality you need. Quality can refer to both how detailed the image is and how fast the frame rate is. Lower resolution and slower frame rates mean blockier, jerkier images, but let you record for much longer periods of time. Higher resolution closed circuit TV cameras and recorders are more expensive, but give you more detail.

Close Circuit TV –Buying Tips

- **Avoid Dummy Cameras** – While they may deter some problems, they also can create a legal liability by creating an expectation of safety when none exist.
- **Put Up Signs.** Highly visible signage that lets customers and employees know that they are being filmed can greatly increase the deterrent effect.
- **Choose A Reputable Vendor.** Working with a top-notch closed circuit TV supplier can improve your results and save you money.

One decision that's easier than it used to be is color or black and white: go with color. There's very little price difference any more, and color pictures can make identification much easier. Even the advantage that B&W cameras used to have - that they function better in very low-light situations - has been eclipsed by newer color cameras that switch to B&W mode under low light.

The price of your system will vary considerably, depending on the lenses, housings, and installation options you choose. A very rough rule of thumb to use for pricing a complete, installed system is \$500 to \$1000 per camera, plus the cost of your recording device.

Recording

Recording is essential to the effectiveness of any closed circuit television system. Without recording, you need to have an employee watching a monitor at all times - hardly a cost-effective solution. And even if you spot suspicious activity, without a recording, you have nothing to use in court.

Only a few years ago, the universal solution was the familiar VCR. However, the introduction of digital video recorders (DVRs), which record onto hard drives instead of tape, has dramatically changed the situation. DVRs offer so many advantages over VCRs that they have rapidly taken over as the closed circuit TV recording solution of choice.

- Save images last longer on DVR
- DVRs can instantly jump to any point in the recording
- DVRs can play and record at the same time
- You can set the DVR to automatically increase the recording quality when it detects motion

For businesses that do not want to constantly change tapes, DVRs are definitely the way to go. While security VCRs usually offer a time-lapse mode that lets them record for long periods of time, the resulting images are not a good record of events - they record only one snapshot every eight seconds. To get higher quality, you need to change tapes every day or more often. DVRs, on the other hand, can record for weeks or even months.

Not sure what's happening at work!
View your property over the
Internet...*from anywhere in the world!*

DVRs are considerably more expensive than VCRs, which is their only major drawback. DVRs generally start at \$800 to \$1500 and get more expensive the more memory and inputs you add. Good time-lapse VCRs designed for security use start at \$300 to \$400 and go up to \$600 or more. (Regular household VCRs can't stand up to the constant use that security VCRs get.)

Ready to get started? Call 714 633-1499 for more information on security cameras systems.

Alarm System: Smoke and Heat Detectors

Smoke & Heat Detectors- Smoke detectors are available that will interface with your security system. The smoke detectors that are already in your home can't be tied into your security system. The device that the builder put in your home is either electrical, battery operated, or in some instances both, if you have the better quality detectors. Lifesaving smoke detectors should be in every home. If you elect to add some to your system, your existing detectors should be left in place, as they are still able to help give early warning in case of a fire.



If you add a smoke detector to your system it should be placed in the highest point of your home as possible, as smoke will rise no matter where it originates. Some homeowners elect to place one in the basement and top floor, and some want one added to every floor.

The technology that makes most of these devices work is "photoelectric technology." This means that the detector basically takes a snapshot of the density of smoke that enters its chamber, and wants to see a density increase as it samples every few milliseconds. This technology makes the detector much more discriminating than its inexpensive counterparts.

Many of these devices also detect temperature change with their built in heat detectors. This means that the device will go into an alarm condition, if the temperature in its area of coverage is rising rapidly, even if there is no smoke yet. Independent heat detectors are also available, if you would like an added degree of protection in areas such as kitchens, furnace rooms, attics and fireplaces. (Required to meet code, in some municipalities)

There are many advantages to adding fire devices to your security system. Some of them are:

- * Your detector is on all the time, even if your alarm is disarmed.
- * The devices work off the power from your alarm system and use its backup power supplies should power fail.
- * The siren will emit a tone that is audibly different than a burglary siren, so that you can differentiate.
- * Your dispatch is being made without you having to call for help yourself. This gives you more time to gather your loved ones and pets for immediate exit.
- * A dispatch will take place even if you are not home. Typically flames will be coming through your roof, by the time your neighbors see them, and call for help. This early response may save your pets and a good portion of your home.
- * Insurance companies often give an additional discount, off your homeowners insurance, for having a fire system. These devices could effectively pay for themselves, after a few years.

(INSIDE SCOOP!) Some municipalities will not dispatch their limited resources to an automatic fire alarm, unless it is designed completely to local code. This is a very expensive endeavor that, many homeowners in those areas can't justify. Businesses will have to do this, in order to get an occupancy permit. Check with your local fire authority before investing in smoke or heat detectors that will not get a response.

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22 year veteran of the alarm industry Installer, salesman, licensed alarm company owner, monitoring station designer, promotions and marketing director with one of the worlds largest security dealers. He now works as a consumer advocate, teaching consumers how to buy or get systems for free (without being taken). He is committed to being unbiased. His web site is

Source: <http://www.websition.com/>

Popular Trends in Home Technology

As a former home automation installer and a former manufactures rep, I have observed many trends. The following items are certainly the hottest trends this year in home technology.



VoIP (pronounced Voice over IP) refers to making telephone calls using your high-speed Internet connection. This technology is gaining ground very fast, as new users are discovering it is 50-75% cheaper than the comparable standard telephone service and congress is standing behind the technology for now, no taxes or legislation to mess it up – yet... The catch? Several more

variables in losing your dial tone: Power outages, Internet downtime, and equipment failures are just a few problems you may encounter using VoIP. Also, if you are dropping the standard phone line, and you have a security system you will need a cellular or radio back up for safety reasons.

Retrofit home theaters. With the cost of movie tickets approaching \$10, it makes it quite expensive for families to enjoy movies and snacks at the theater. There are new techniques and processes to install a home theater in your existing home. Many of the processes are for noise reduction, so you don't have harmonic vibrations in the home, or annoy your neighbors. Living in a townhouse, row house, or other multiplex homes, you can now "pump up the volume" with bothering others!

Security Cameras. Many cities now require visual verification prior to dispatching emergency services. Approximately 9 out of 10 alarms are false. Cameras in the home can quickly verify that the alarm is actually triggered by a burglary. In addition, many new parents are now installing cameras to check in on their children while they are away to ensure safety.

Home Offices. Today more and more people telecommute. The reasons may vary— but the fact is home offices are now becoming a necessity for many homeowners. Proper planning can provide you with all the technology you need in either a new home or a remodel. If you are ready to start thinking about your custom workspace, keep the following in mind: your personal work style; essential services such as Internet & telephone; and office needs such as printing, wireless networks, file storage and audio distribution.

Lighting Controls. Reliable lighting control used to be reserved for the wealthy. The rest of us were reduced to live without lighting control or the unreliable X-10 technology. In the last few years two new technologies arose. UPB (Universal power line bus) and RF (Z-Wave). These new products have provided us with more selection, more reliability, and the best part—they cost about the same as the major branded X-10 products.



Energy Savings. Recent energy cost have us all looking for ways to reduce the utilities budget in the home. Home Automation is stepping up to the plate. Home automation can manage the thermostat (typically the largest load in the home) based on actual occupancy rather than when you think you will be home. Lighting is the second largest load, home automation will turn off the extra lights when they are not needed. Using motion sensing, occupancy sensing, and other types of lighting controls, home automation can shut the lights off behind you!

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Source: <http://www.websition.com/>

Ten Amazing Facts You Didn't Know About Television

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By the time the normal American teen has become eighteen years of age they would have spent about 25000 hours watching television. This means they would have actually spent more time watching television than learning in the class.

The 1st TV add in history lasted twenty seconds and was for a timepiece made by a corporation called Bulova. This company also mass produced the first watch that went into space. The commercial was aired in July 1941 and went out during a game being played by the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Philadelphia Phillies.

The well known spinning globe that is utilized by the NBC evening news program spent many years spinning in the incorrect direction. In 1984 this was eventually found and on January 2nd this was rectified and now the globe is spinning as it should be.

Way back in 1950 only 10 percent of US households had a television in their possession. By 1960 this had changed to a staggering 90 percent whilst in today's world it is 99 percent with fifty four percent of American children having one in their bedroom. Now more of us own televisions than we do a phone.

The highest known annual earnings for a TV actor were given to U.S sit com actor Jerry Seinfeld. He was given an unbelievable \$1,000,000 for each episode. The program lasted eight years and although this fee came into play in about 1997 this still makes Jerry the highest paid TV star so far.



The highest ever fee paid to show a television advert was \$2,000,000 per 30 seconds of time. This was paid by advertisers to show their ads during the very last U.S screening of the well loved comedy series friends. The show was aired by American TV Company NBC on May 6 2004 and lasted for a whole hour.

The worlds largest television set was unveiled in the Japanese city of Tsukuba and measured 24.3m by 45.7m [80ft by 150ft]. It was utilized in the 1985 Japanese International Exposition and displayed a series of specially created videos containing various artistic and cultural productions.

The largest number of ads featuring a corporations president were made for Wendy's Hamburger restaurants in the United States and starred Dave Thomas the companies owner. In all he has starred in 652 commercials with the shortest being five seconds and the longest being sixty seconds. These commercials have won thirty-six important advertising awards and have made Dave as famous as his Burgers.

Whilst viewing an episode of the well known Japanese kids show Pokemon over seven hundred Japanese children were rushed to hospital with severe convulsions and trauma. This was caused by a ten second scene in which the cartoons star Pikachu flashed his big red eyes to the sound of a big booming explosion.

Some early experimental Television transmissions started way back in 1928 by station W2XBS and featured a test model of the well loved Felix the cat. Although these transmissions were only showing a model Felix the cat he will always be able to maintain his place in the Television hall of fame as the first ever genuine TV superstar.

In the USA the largest section of the TV audience consists of pre-school children. On average their weekly viewing turns out to be around 30.4 hours which means by the age of 17 they would have amassed about 15,000 hours of television watching. Astonishingly this adds up to a staggering two years of solid viewing.

Source: <http://www.websition.com/>



HUMOR

- A man and his wife were sitting in the living room discussing a "Living Will"
"Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all the beer.
- Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.
"Yes, sir," the clerk replied.
"That's good," the boss said. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you."
- Computers are like air conditioners. They work fine until you start opening windows
- Smith goes to see his supervisor in the front office. "Boss," he says, "we're doing some heavy house-cleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and the garage, moving and hauling stuff."
"We're short-handed, Smith," the boss replies. "I can't give you the day off."
"Thanks, boss," says Smith, "I knew I could count on you!"

