

Title:

CCTV: An Introduction To CCTV

Word Count:

1070

Summary:

What is CCTV?

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is an installation of directly connected components creating

This is different to a terrestrial television broadcast system which anybody with an antenna a

Who needs a CCTV system?

CCTV systems can be found virtually everywhere in these days. They are no longer considered an

Keywords:

CCTV, Cameras, surveillance, closed circuit television, security

Article Body:

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CCTV systems can be found in both the private and commercial sector and are used for security/

You will have seen CCTV systems operating in town centres, football stadiums, high street shops

A CCTV system is a proven method of increasing the level of security of your premises. Its vis

CCTV solutions can be tailor made to suit individual requirements. They can be as simple as on

The Elements of a CCTV System

There are three basic elements to a CCTV system,

1. Camera
2. Lens
3. Monitor unit

The camera is the element which captures the image and transmits the picture back to a monitor

The monitor is the receiver unit which converts the captured image into a picture, allowing yo

Colour or Monochrome?

This is a very common question, but ultimately only you can decide.

A CCTV system should be designed to suit your needs, to fit into the environment on your prop

Recording

As circumstances don't normally permit the luxury of having a dedicated person to sit and watch the monitors 24 hours a day. Traditionally, this was done with a time lapse Video Cassette Recorder (VCR) which worked on the principle of recording a frame every few seconds. However, the VCR has now been superseded by the digital Hard Disk Recorder (HDR). Rather than having a dedicated person to sit and watch the monitors, you can have more than one camera?!

Most systems today comprise of more than one camera, but you don't need a monitor and recorder for each camera. Equipment is available that will split the monitor into four separate screens displaying four cameras. However, the most common way of controlling multiple cameras is via a multiplexer.

To keep it simple, a multiplexer incorporates the above facilities but also has the ability to control the cameras. Historically multiplexers and recording units were separate pieces of equipment, but recently they have become one unit. I want I need

These days, a CCTV system can be designed to fit any scenario you care to imagine, using optical fibre for long distances. For example, cameras can be internal, external, highly visible or covert. They can be static or pan/tilt/zoom. Get the picture??!!!

Quality Counts

Although an avid DIY-er can buy equipment that claims to be a CCTV system from their local store, it is often not what you need. Why?

In around 70% of cases, CCTV footage is found to be inadmissible as evidence in a Court of Law. Only a specialist company who are professional in their approach and can demonstrate experience will ensure the best value for money. A specialist company will also ensure the best value for money, for example by using a different camera for different areas.

Data protection

A CCTV system must be registered in order to comply with the data protection act of 1998. Since 24 October 2001, it has been a criminal offence to have an unregistered CCTV system that is used for monitoring people. The Code of Practice contains legally enforceable 'Standards' that must be met to ensure compliance with the act. There are also a further 30 points of good working practice which, when used in conjunction with the Code of Practice, will ensure compliance. The Code of Practice is available for you to view at www.dataprotection.gov.uk.