



Education Center Glossary of Surveillance Terms

About CCTV

: Closed circuit television also known as CCTV is the industry standard in surveillance.

Definition	CCTV Term
A/V	Audio / Video
AC Adaptor	Power Supply - All CCTV devices require power of some sort. Electricity in the form of AC is used to power most CCTV equipment.
Alarm Input	A connection from an alarm or sensor that triggers the CCTV unit to start recording.
Analog	Two main methods exist for representing data in electronics -- Analog, and Digital.
Analog System	Analog cameras are used most often in CCTV applications. Other examples include analog video recorders and analog video monitors.
Angle of View	Regarding CCTV security cameras, this term refers to the angular range in which the camera can see.
Armor Dome Camera	Armor Dome refers to a hi-impact reinforced polycarbonate dome casing covering the camera lens.
Auto Electronic Shutter	A CCTV camera feature that allows the camera to compensate for moderate to high speed motion.
Auto Iris Control	A lens which allows the Aperture to automatically open or close to maintain a constant level of light.
Auto Gain Control	An electronic circuit used by which the gain of a signal is automatically adjusted to maintain a constant level of light.
Auto White Balance	A feature on color cameras that constantly monitors the light and adjusts the color balance to maintain a constant level of light.
Bullet Camera	A type of camera with a bullet like shape. Can be used inside or out. Some are vandal resistant.
C-Mount Camera	C-Mount or Standard Body cameras are designed to accommodate custom lenses.
CAT5	Category 5 (cable) - type of cable most often used in networking applications.
CCD	Charge-Coupled Device - CCTV security cameras produce images using CCD sensors.
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
Cable	The wiring used to connect electronic devices. Cables transmit different kinds of signals.
Compression	Compression is the act of taking an incoming signal or image, which can be very large, and reducing its size.
Covert	A covert application refers to a situation where you don't want the person being monitored to know they are being monitored.

Day / Night Camera	Not to be confused with Infrared Cameras, "Day/Night Cameras" are regular cameras that can switch between day and night vision.
Digital	Two main methods exist for representing data in electronics, Analog and Digital.
Digital System	Digital CCTV security camera systems are only lately gaining popularity. Most are still analog.
Dome Camera	A type of camera with a dome-like shape. Most often used indoors. Some are used outdoors.
DNS	Dynamic Name Service is simply a database of IP addresses and Domain Names.
Duplex	A duplex grants the ability to transfer data in and out of the recorder at the same time.
DVR	Digital Video Recorder- A Digital Video Recorder, when applying to an CCTV system, is a device that records video from one or more cameras.
Field Of View	The visible area of a lens. With security cameras this area will vary depending on the lens.
Focal Length	Focal Length tells you the strength of the lens. The longer the Focal Length, the more zoomed in the image will be.
FPS	Frames Per Second - in digital video applications, refers to the number of frames captured per second.
Housing	Covering or container featured on some cameras designed to protect from weather and vandalism.
Infrared	Infrared radiation is electromagnetic radiation of a wavelength longer than visible light.
Infrared Camera	Infrared Security Cameras have special infrared lights installed around the camera to illuminate the scene at night.
IP	Internet Protocol Address is a unique address given to certain computer or network devices.
Iris	The Iris (on some lenses) controls how much light is let into the camera lens.
JPEG (or JPG)	Pronounced "jay-peg" and stands for "Joint Photographic Experts Group".
Lens	The lens of the camera determines the angle of view (Field of View) and the focus.
Low Light	Refers to very dim lighting, even 'normal' darkness. Complete darkness is not low light.
Lux	Refers to the amount of light required for a camera to capture a good image.
Micro Camera	Very small cameras designed to work in covert applications where you don't want the camera to be obvious.
Monitor	Security camera monitors are used to display the images captured by your cameras.
Motion Detection	A feature in some VCRs and DVRs to only begin recording video if something moves in the frame.
MPEG (or MPG)	Pronounced "em-peg" and stands for "Motion Picture Experts Group" who developed the format.

Multiplexer	A device that can accept a number of camera inputs and almost simultaneously
Outdoor Camera	Outdoor cameras come in special weatherproof housings that allow them
Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) Camera	PTZ cameras allow you to adjust the position ('pan' is side-to-side, 'tilt' is u
Pin-Hole Camera	Pin-hole cameras have a very small lens that can see through a small hole
Plug and Play Cable	A cable that makes wiring cameras easy. Each camera needs to have a p
POE	Power Over Ethernet - an adaptor that allows you to transmit power to a s
Post-record	This is a DVR's ability to record after a motion detection event has occurre
Power Supply	AC Adaptor - All CCTV devices require power of some sort. Electricity in t
Pre-record	Pre-record is a setting on DVR systems that applies to motion recording. M
PTZ	Pan-Tilt-Zoom - PTZ cameras allow you to adjust the position ('pan' is side
Quad	An analog device used to display 4 cameras simultaneously on a single m
RG59	An RG-59 is a common co-axial cable used in CCTV applications.
RG59 Siamese Cable	This type of cable combines the power wire with the video wire. You have
RCA	An electrical connector invented by Radio Corporation of America, from w
Real-Time Recording	In digital video applications, 30 frames per second per camera (see above
Remote Surveillance	The ability to view your cameras from a remote location. Information is tr
Resolution	Refers to how much detail can be captured on a camera or displayed on a
Smart Search	This is a feature of our digital video recorders that allows you to search for
Switch	A switch will take multiple camera inputs and will show them on the monito
Transformer	A device used to transfer electric energy from one circuit to another, espe
Varifocal Lens	A camera lens in which the focus is not fixed, it can be manually or autom
Video Capture Card - DVR card	Computer cards that you can install on the motherboard of your own comput

Video Gain	An increase in video signal power by an amplifier, expressed as the ratio of
Video Input	A connection in a video controller or recording device that you can plug a