



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
Alarm Input	A connection from an alarm or sensor that triggers the CCTV unit to start r
Analog	Two main methods exist for representing data in electronics -- Analog, and
Analog System	Analog cameras are used most often in CCTV applications. Other exampl
Angle of View	Regarding CCTV security cameras, this term refers to the angular range in
Armor Dome Camera	Armor Dome refers to a hi-impact reinforced polycarbonate dome casing c
Auto Electronic Shutter	A CCTV camera feature that allows the camera to compensate for moder
Auto Iris Control	A lens which allows the Aperture to automatically open or close to maintai
Auto Gain Control	An electronic circuit used by which the gain of a signal is automatically adj
Auto White Balance	A feature on color cameras that constantly monitors the light and adjusts i
Bullet Camera	A type of camera with a bullet like shape. Can be used inside or out. Some
C-Mount Camera	C-Mount or Standard Body cameras are designed to accommodate custom
CAT5	Category 5 (cable) - type of cable most often used in networking applicati
CCD	Charge-Coupled Device - CCTV security cameras produce images using
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
Cable	The wiring used to connect electronic devices. Cables transmit different ki
Compression	Compression is the act of taking an incoming signal or image, which can b
Covert	A covert application refers to a situation where you don't want the person

Day / Night Camera	Not to be confused with Infrared Cameras, "Day/Night Cameras" are regular
Digital	Two main methods exist for representing data in electronics, Analog and D
Digital System	Digital CCTV security camera systems are only lately gaining popularity. M
Dome Camera	A type of camera with a dome-like shape. Most often used indoors. Some
DNS	Dynamic Name Service is simply a database of IP addresses and Domain
Duplex	A duplex grants the ability to transfer data in and out of the recorder at the
DVR	Digital Video Recorder- A Digital Video Recorder, when applying to an C
Field Of View	The visible area of a lens. With security cameras this area will vary depen
Focal Length	Focal Length tells you the strength of the lens. The longer the Focal Leng
FPS	Frames Per Second - in digital video applications, refers to the number of
Housing	Covering or container featured on some cameras designed to protect from
Infrared	Infrared radiation is electromagnetic radiation of a wavelength longer than
Infrared Camera	Infrared Security Cameras have special infrared lights installed around t
IP	Internet Protocol Address is a unique address given to certain computer o
Iris	The Iris (on some lenses) controls how much light is let into the camera le
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 th
Low Light	Refers to very dim lighting, even 'normal' darkness. Complete darkness is
Lux	Refers to the amount of light required for a camera to capture a good ima
Micro Camera	Very small cameras designed to work in covert applications where you do
Monitor	Security camera monitors are used to display the images captured by you
Motion Detection	A feature in some VCRs and DVRs to only begin recording video if someth
MPEG (or MPG)	Pronounced "em-peg" and stands for "Motion Picture Experts Group" who

Multiplexer	A device that can accept a number of camera inputs and almost simultaneous
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 th
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 fo
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