

# How To Secure Your Home With Smart Video Cameras

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A REPORT



## Home Security Video Surveillance Systems

Home security, and home video surveillance in particular, is an important part of protecting what matters to you. A home, and all it contains, needs to be secured from intruders, accidents, and unforeseen incidents.

Home security systems have evolved over time. While traditional systems still depend on manual response, modern video technology has made it possible to automatically monitor your home from networked wireless cameras, viewing footage on any computer or web-enabled cell phone.

These Internet-based video camera systems, which we call “smart” cameras, can significantly enhance or actually replace traditional home security systems.

This report goes into more depth about smart camera systems. The report examines the many advantages these cameras offer over traditional security systems, and offers guidance on how to setup your own smart camera system.

*“A house is a home  
when it shelters the  
body and comforts  
the soul”*

*-- Phillip Moffitt*

## The Advantage of Intelligent Video Surveillance

Traditional home security systems depend on elements such as alarms and police intervention, but take the direct power of monitoring away from the home owner. Traditional video surveillance systems, those without recording (CCTV) or those without precise recording (VCR), put too much of a burden on the homeowner.

As a result of these shortcomings, and as a result of the high costs to install and maintain these traditional systems, neither has grown to widespread use in the majority of residential households.

Smart video cameras, which record digitally and can be viewed on any computer or web enabled device, present a new option. These intelligent cameras -- which capture only the action you specify -- empower home owners to watch all the things that matter to them, without burdening them with everything else.

The advantages of Internet-based smart camera systems, compared to traditional home security and video surveillance systems, include:

### **I. Better video management**

Video taken by smart cameras is stored on a digital video recorder (DVR), and made available for viewing wherever, whenever. Additionally, digital video can be compressed for easier storage, as well as encrypted for added security, concepts impossible in the days of video cassettes.

## **II. Pinpoint playback**

One of the hassles of videotape, as anyone who's rented one can attest, is that it's difficult to pinpoint and navigate to a specific spot in the footage. With digital recordings, it's easier to catalog and navigate to specific dates and times, as well as easily jump back to live footage.

## **III. Hassle-Free Installation**

Traditional home security systems require extensive manual setup, which presents both a logistical and financial cost. Digital, wireless cameras fit anywhere you want, saving you time, money, and space. Additionally, it's simple to move a wireless camera from one location to another, without having to redo your entire system.

## **IV. A single viewing website**

Smart cameras eliminate the need for a home security box, a CCTV security room, or a video cassette storage closet. All digital video recordings are viewable from a single website that you can access anywhere in the world, at any time. You can even check in on your feeds on-the-go, using your web-enabled mobile device.



## **V. No decrease in recording quality with repeated replays**

Most original videotape versions of Star Wars are at this point unwatchable, rendered useless by repeated plays. The advantage of digital is that the high-quality images stay clear for years, independent of how many times they've been viewed.

## **VI. Easy updates and add-ons**

Camera updates and add-ons are relatively inexpensive through software packages and Internet networking, allowing you to keep easily keep your system running smoothly over time. Also,

while adding a new camera to an existing system used to be a huge hassle, adding one to your Internet-based system is simple and easy.

## VII. Motion detection/triggering

With advancements in motion detection technology, new smart cameras can more effectively catch just the action you specify, triggering recording when they detect activity. Linked to the Internet and your mobile devices, the intelligent system can also notify you when it senses movement, allowing you to monitor your home without having to watch 24/7.

## VIII. Night resolution and weatherproofing

Modern cameras are both more durable and flexible than traditional models. While traditional videotape surveillance systems often need good lighting and weather protection, smart cameras are more flexible in where (and how) they can be placed.

## Choosing The Best Internet-based Video Camera System

If you're convinced by the advantages of the new "smart" camera systems, and are interested to make an investment in improving or replacing your existing home security protections, the best first step is to find a equipment and software provider.

A knowledgeable video surveillance provider can help you select the options that are best for your needs, and guide you through the purchasing, installation, and activation of your new system.

Though the process of choosing a provider may well be different for each household, there are still some main criteria to keep in mind:

### I. Price

Price is always usually king. The cost of purchasing smart cameras, and installing your network, should be part of the process selecting a service provider. Just be sure not to sell yourself short, and end up with an inferior (or useless) product.

### II. Technology



Smart cameras, and the Internet-based systems that support them, are on the cutting edge of home surveillance technology. Ensure the company you work with offers advanced camera technology, and has the technological know-how to keep up with future releases and modifications.

### **III. Experience**

As in any industry, years of experience developing and working with a certain technology breeds authority. By selecting a company with experience in home surveillance technology, and one that makes their experience clear, you improve your chances of finding a good partner.

### **IV. Expertise**

Like any growth industry, Internet-based video cameras have drawn their share of fly-by-night businesses, looking to cash in a quick buck. Look for signs of expertise, rather than salesmanship, when selecting a service provider.

### **V. Service**

Some Internet businesses forego the concept of service, mistakenly equating a less-personal buying process with having a less-attentive ongoing relationship. A good service provider stands behind their product -- not only today, but years into the future.

## **Setting Up Your Smart Camera System**

Once you've identified a good company to work with, the rest is pretty much a snap. Installation is simple, and it's just a matter of minutes until you can start viewing your recordings.

### **I. Installing cameras**

Cameras are most often wireless, or come with a hard-wiring option, and can be installed wherever you'd like around the property (within range). Being small -- only slightly larger than a regular digital camera -- they're easily mounted in out of the way places. They come with custom-made mounting brackets, so they're simple to hang.

### **II. Setting up your network**

With custom-developed software designed precisely for intelligent surveillance systems, it's easy to link your installed cameras together, and make the feed ready to view. Most industry software offers a one-click activation.



### III. Setting up your web interface

With the cameras transmitting, the last step is to create an account in your web interface, and setup your viewing preferences. By doing this, you're ensured that you receive a consistent and error-free experience each time you try to access your footage. You can use the web interface from any computer or web enabled cell phone.

## About iWatchLife

iWatchLife is a world-leading surveillance equipment and software provider, helping residences and small organizations leverage the power of self-monitoring software to deploy low-cost, flexible, and robust surveillance solutions.

Through advanced video analytics, our cameras and software enables home owners and businesses to organize vast amounts of dynamic, streaming video into searchable widgets. We help our customers make faster and better life management and security decisions every day.

If you'd like more information about what's contained in this report, feel free to visit our website at <http://www.iwatchlife.com>, or call us at 1-415-230-0614.