Video Glossary

What is CCTV?
Closed Circuit Television is a group of cameras, monitors and accessory equipme nt that wor k together as a system and are interconnected by various types of cable.

What is the Purpose of CCTV?
It is a tool used to protect people, property, enhance safety, and improve productivity.

Are CCTV Systems Complicated?
For the most part, today"s modern equipment is self-adjusting and has a long trouble-free lifespan. Packaged cameras (such as a bullet camera) are self-contained units that include the lens, mounting bracket, housing and power supply in a single box.CCTV has become a "plug & play" market.

Types of CCTV Cameras:
All are available in B?W and Color as well as normal and low light configurations.

Board Camera:
Fully funtional camera with a built-in lens on a Printed Circuit Board. These cameras are not in a housing. Useful for concealing and building into custom applications.

C/CS Cameras:
Refers to conventional type camera bodies that require the separate purchase of all options inc housing, power supply, and heater/blower.

Dome Cameras:
Low profile, ceiling mounted self-contained camera package including lens, and power supply. Camera is adjustable within housing for perfect aiming. Plug and play ease of installation.

Exview Camera:
Any camera using the Sony Exview Hyper-HAD CCD for improved sensitivity and higher resolution.

Pinhole Camera:
Bullet or Board camera using a special lens that allows it to see out of a small (1/16th of an inch) opening. Useful for discreet and hidden applications as well as when a large depth of field is required.

Varifocal Camera:
A camera whose lens allows for the adjustment of the field of view. This camera can zoom in and out.

Waterproof Camera:
Bullet camera that can be placed underwater or in extremely damp/wet conditions where a normal weatherproof camera might leak. Applications include pipe inspection, refrigerated rooms, restaurant kitchens, marinas, etc.

Common CCTV Terms:

Automatic Light Compensation:
(ALC): The cameras built-in ability to compensate for changes in scene lighting

Aperature: The opening in a lens that allows available light to enter the camera.

Auto White Balance (AWB):
Circuitry in a color camera that allows it to yield perfect color pictures in a different types of lighting.

Automatic Gain Control (AGC):
Circuitry in a camera that allows it to improve performance in low light conditions.

Automatic Iris Lens (AI):
Type of lens where the aperture physically opens and closes to adjust the amount of light entering the camera. Available in "DC" and "Video" configurations to match your camera. Not required on cameras with electronic shutter systems.

Back Light Compensation (BLC):
Ability of a camera to balance the lighting in a scene with an extremely bright background such as sunlight.

Balun:
An impedance matching device that allows you to send video signals over UTP.

BNC:
A type of video connector.

C/CS Mount Lenses:
Type of lens used on a standard CCTV Camera.

CRT:
The picture tube in a monitor

CCD:
The device in a camera that "takes" the picture and converts it to electrical signals.

Coaxial Cable:
Normally RG-59U or RG-6 in CCTV systems. This cable should have a copper center conductor and 95% copper shield for best performance.

Day/Night Camera:
A camera that displays color pictures in good lighting conditions, and automatically switches to B/W in low light conditions.

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Format:
The size of the CCD in a camera.
Common sizes are 1/4",1/3" and 1/2".

F-Stop:
Measurement of how much light a lens will let in.
The smaller the number the more light
that can enter.

IP Address:
A string of numbers that identifies
a camera or DVR on a network.

Iris:
Allows you to physically change the
F-stop of a lens

LCD MONITOR:
Flat screen monitor used when
space is at a premium. Only 2" deep.

Looping:
The ability to pass your video signal through
a device and continue it on to another.
Normally used in monitors.

Lux:
Measure of light equaling 1/10 of a foot candle.

Monitor:
Displays the video signal.
Does not have a turner like a TV set.

Multiplexer:
Takes multiple cameras (up to16) and combines
them onto a single cable or screen for
viewing or recording.

Observstion Systems:
Complete packages that include camera,
monitor, mounting bracket, cable, power supplies, etc.

Quad Splitter:
Combines four cameras onto one screen
for viewing or recording.

Resolution:
Measure of a camera's ability to reproduce details.
Higher numbers are better.

Sensitivity:
Measured in Lux. Camera's ability to operate in low
light situations. Lower numbers are better.

Depth of Field:
The portion od a video picture that is in focus

Field of View:
Area covered by the camera.

Focal Length:
The rated coverage of the lens in mm;
Smaller numbers give a wider angle of coverage.

Sequential Switcher:
Displays cameras, one at a time upon a monitor or into
a VCR. The time spent on each camera before
moving on to the next is adjustable.

Telephoto:
When a lens can see a long distance with great detail.

Termination:
75-ohm load placed at the end of a video line.

Time Lapse VCR:
Recorder that runs for extended periods of time (up to
40 days) on a single cassette of tape. Usually has
a built-in time/date generator.

Varifocal Lens:
A lens that can be set for various focus lengths
to achieve select coverage.