

The J Brand Monthly Technology Update

From V2 Rockets to a Digital CCTV Solution

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Boot up your PC , send an email, bid on eBay, obtain cash from an ATM, make a long distance phone call, pay a restaurant bill and 'IP' makes it all happen.

This is in contrast to the established security industry which, since the early days, has relied on proprietary methods of communication between devices. If we take CCTV for example, the technology used in 90% of current installations in the UK to transmit and view images is analogue – basically 500 line television.

A truly 'digital' system, being able to take advantage of 'IP' connectivity, comprises the following: -

“An 'IP' based camera with integral web server, a powerful CPU and software able to scan the camera's MegaPixel image sensor progressively. The image is fully digitized at this point and doesn't have to be converted from analogue to digital. The image, or image stream, is then recorded onto a hard disk device on the network and retains its original clarity and definition”.

With a history of IP integration, J Brand is ideally placed to manage the introduction of a digital security solution.

[Click here for more info on the J Brand Security offering](#)



Despite the obvious business advantages of an IP solution, the pricing today is often no more than installing an analogue system.

Did you know.....

The analogue technology used today in the security industry (basically 500 line television) hasn't significantly changed since the first use of CCTV at Peenemünde, a small fishing village in Germany, to monitor the launch of V2 rockets during WWII!

“Migration to Digital”; more than just changing to a DVR



“It is the lack of IP integration skills in the traditional security contractors that is behind many organisations installing analogue technology. Companies such as J Brand are driving the migration across to digital solutions.”

Ray Heppell, Mayflex Security Consultant

Often organisations that say they have “switched to digital” mean they have replaced an old video cassette recorder with a DVR. This allows the management and retrieval of stored images to be conducted in a matter of seconds rather than an operator having to trawl through a batch of tapes - but is it really a digital solution?

Any organisation thinking of just replacing tapes with DVRs should think again. As mentioned earlier, the technology used in the majority of CCTV installations is derived from TV using a method of interlacing the scanned lines from the camera's image sensor at an interleave ratio of 2:1. This can often result in the stored image being blurred when retrieved from a tape or a DVR. So even though the system can be classed as being digital, via the DVR, in reality the image quality from the cameras hasn't improved and it is still a 'closed' system.

Only by considering all elements of the solution can a system deliver true digital images.

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