

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

~ Security Systems

**COMING NEXT MONTH:**

~ UTM appliances

# READY NET GO ... NEWS

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## Tips of the Month

### A) Netscape Ending Support

The Netscape browser ended support and updates on Feb 1, 2008. To ensure that you are browsing safely, stop using this browser and switch to Firefox or Internet Explorer.

### B) HD Format War is Over!

HD (High Definition) technology is booming. From TV and radio broadcasts to DVD players and camcorders, watching and listening to digital content is becoming the norm. For the past 2 years, Sony and Toshiba have been in a format war for High-Def DVD players and media and **Sony's Blu-ray** technology has **won**.

Toshiba will no longer produce or sell HD-DVD players (for TVs or PCs). They will, however, continue to support existing HD players and will also continue to sell standard DVD players and recorders. Since HD-DVD media cannot be viewed on a Blu-ray player, one source of relief to HD-DVD owners is that standard DVDs can still be viewed on the units and due to the upconverting features of the players, standard DVDs look better than on a conventional player.

### Another perk to HD-DVD owners?

Some retailers are offering incentives to those who purchased an HD-DVD player to migrate to the Blu-ray platform. Best Buy, in particular, is offering a gift card and/or trade-in program for those who qualify. See the site for more details:  
<http://www.bestbuy.com>

## Securing Your Business & Home

Security is on everyone's mind these days. Reports of identity theft and company network breaches occur daily and serve as a reminder that we all must be vigilant in monitoring our property both from a business and personal standpoint.

All businesses should have security software and/or security hardware installed to monitor network activity as well as usage policies for all employees. While these measures assist in keeping the network functioning properly, it's only one half of the problem. The other side of the security equation deals with physical security so for this newsletter, we'll focus on how to monitor your property.

### Reasons to use a surveillance system

- 1) Prevent losses from internal theft
- 2) Deter and/or track inappropriate behavior, crime and vandalism
- 3) Serves as a monitoring system for deliveries or appointments
- 4) Promotes safety for patrons, employees and residences

Nearly all businesses and homeowners can benefit from a surveillance system based on one or more of the reasons listed above. Security concerns are growing and so are the products and services associated with surveillance systems. While analog Closed Captioned Television (CCTV) systems are still available, they are being replaced by IP systems which capture digital images, can be wired or wireless, and can allow you to remotely monitor and track images from any Internet connected PC or device.

Although many people still have visions of green wavy monitors, VCR tapes, and heavy pieces of equipment when they think of security systems, today's surveillance systems

## WWW (Websites Worth Watching)

1. [www.nyphilkids.org](http://www.nyphilkids.org) – Interactive site created by the NY Philharmonic to entice kids to learn about music.
2. [www.livescience.com](http://www.livescience.com) – News and views on science, technology, environment, health, space, and more. Excellent photos and videos.

are sleek, compact and modern providing convenience and peace of mind. There are many options to choose from and many configurations so you can go as simple or robust as you want. Since the camera is at the heart of all surveillance systems, let's go over a few key definitions.

## Types of Cameras

- 1) IP (Network) camera – video camera that captures digital images. Remote access; networkable. Options – Pan/Tilt/Zoom, infrared, audio, image stabilization, weatherproof & more
- 2) Web camera – small digital camera directly attached to a PC allowing you to view images on a single computer – no remote access or network connectivity.
- 3) CCTV camera – classic, analog-style camera requiring coax cables. Closed circuit (no remote access). Options – Pan/Tilt/Zoom, infrared, audio, image stabilization, weatherproof & more

For a simple surveillance system, all you need is a PC or laptop, webcam and monitoring software. On the more robust side, there are four types of video surveillance systems available:

- 1) PC-based DVR – video camera(s), dedicated PC with at least 120GB hard drive, monitor, software and hardware for video surveillance (e.g., video capture board), cables. PC based DVR systems can accommodate up to 40 cameras and can be less expensive to setup since you can use a PC, mouse and keyboard that you already own (it should be dedicated just for video surveillance though). Requires skill in setting this system up to ensure compatibility of components. Pre-configured systems are available for purchase.
- 2) Embedded DVR – video camera(s), DVR, PC monitor or television, cables. Embedded DVR systems can accommodate up to 16 cameras although some systems can be linked together for greater capacity. The embedded DVR system is a hardware device that includes the necessary components built-in. It is most similar to a VCR where you interact with the unit using buttons on the faceplate or a remote. Images are stored on the internal hard drive.
- 3) Video Server – video cameras, video server, cables. This system allows you to transmit, monitor and record video over a network (wired or wireless LAN). Best system if you already have analog cameras and want to upgrade to an IP system. Can accommodate up to 4 cameras.
- 4) IP (Network) Cameras – Described above, IP cameras are standalone devices that allow you to transmit live video over a network without a dedicated PC or DVR. Can be wired or wireless.

Here's a typical example of an embedded DVR system with remote capabilities:



There are also Mobile DVRs which are used predominantly in vehicles and Mini or Pocket DVRs which are portable and can be carried easily by individuals.