

IP TRANSFORMS

Video Monitoring

Offering remote access and 'light' DVRs linked to homeowners' portable devices is easier today.

by Gilles Prefontaine

If a client wants to know if his child has arrived home safely from school, recent technological advancements in the video monitoring market are making that easier. In fact, the advancements are transforming a host of offerings by providing highly evolved, accurate and cost-effective visual security solutions.

Accessing the latest key capabilities of a video surveillance recording system for security purposes has become easier over the past two years. The most recent video monitoring platform technologies provide homeowners with cost-effective solutions without requiring the advanced analytics of a dedicated digital video recorder (DVR). They are also sparing the integrator the headache of a complex installation and maintenance.

With the price of IP network cameras dropping and the cameras themselves becoming easier to use, the price point of a video security solution has dramatically decreased. This, in turn, has enabled more people to access the technology. As a result, video security services are fast becoming a popular home service offering. Video security services are now being readily bundled with cable, telephone



Video security will be bundled with triple play services more frequently in 2008.

verify what is taking place as it is occurring. Dispatchers themselves know firsthand the high rate of false alarms and

Linking 'Light' DVRs

In the past few years, two trends have emerged in video security systems, borne out of the commercial environment.

The first trend is the continued development and use of DVR systems with their enhanced sophistication and functionality. These are highly effective security tools for large-scale applications, such as larger retail-type settings. A challenge of using them, however, is that security dealers and business owners have to become technology experts. With more DVR providers out there than ever, learning more features and systems makes becoming an expert increasingly complicated. DVRs can also be prone to hard drive failure, potentially resulting in the loss of video if the unit fails. The units also require frequent updates to their operating systems.

The second trend, more attuned for residential, is the development of a hosted "light DVR" concept whereby a networked video device is installed on an IP network and managed on a central server off-site. It may not offer the analytics of a