Choosing the Right Camera

This guide helps you understand the different factors to consider when choosing a video security camera. A thorough assessment of your security needs will determine the number and type(s) of cameras that will provide the best coverage, quality of video and storage capacity required.

Choose a Platform: IP versus HD-TVI

Why Choose HD-TVI

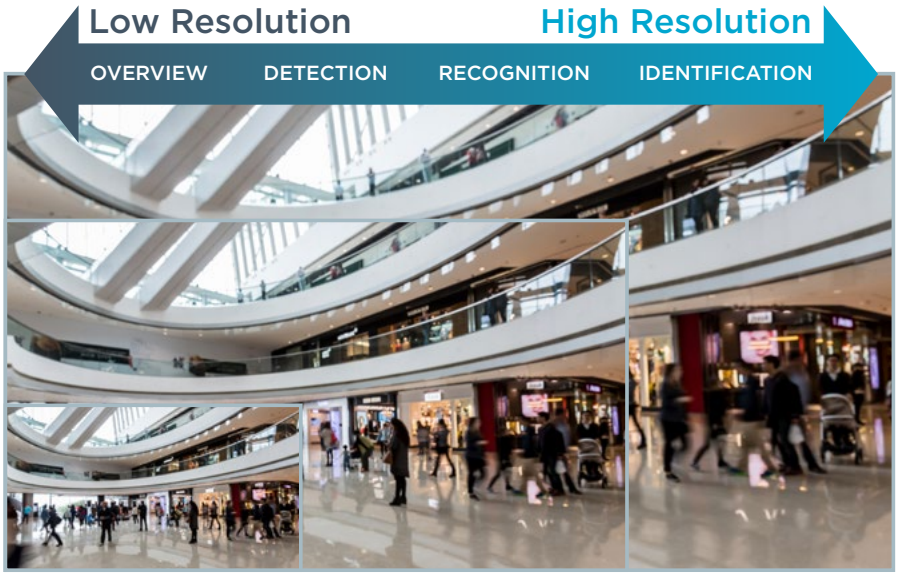
- Retrofitting an old analog system with higher resolution cameras.
- Budget constraints – HD-TVI cameras typically cost less than IP

Why Choose IP

- Highest resolution cameras for best forensic detail
- Running new network wiring

Resolution

The more forensic detail you need and the larger you want to be able to blow up the image, the higher resolution camera you need.



1.3 MP
1280 x 720

4.0 MP
2048 x 1536

8.0 MP
3840 x 2160

Form Factor: What style of camera do you need?

Bullet Cameras
More conspicuous security and longer IR ranges

Dome Cameras
Indoor/outdoor use; more discreet and vandal-proof options

Turret Cameras
Indoor/outdoor use; typically lower IR bounceback for better night viewing

Infrared (IR) Capabilities: Do you need to see at night?

Need cameras to capture nighttime footage? Then choose a camera with infrared. Always choose 2x the IR range than you think you need. For example, if you want great detail at 65′—choose a camera with 130′ IR.

Field of View (FOV)

Choose a larger FOV to cover a wider area. Choose a narrower FOV to cover a specific target area with more detail.

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