

NVR or Hybrid-DVR?

Question:

I have all analog cameras and a DVR. I want to transition to an all-IP-based camera system. Why should I buy an NVR when I can buy a cheaper Hybrid-DVR instead and save some money?

Answer:

Hybrids are just a way for some companies to get you pay for the same thing twice. They got caught behind the technology curve and don't have an NVR to sell you now. Two years after you buy their Hybrid-DVR, they'll have an all-IP device to sell you all over again. It costs less in the long run to buy your NVR system now, replace your older analog cameras with IP cameras, keep your newer analog cameras and put them on inexpensive IP video servers that convert their analog signal to digital. Obsolete technology is always cheaper than the latest technology, and the longer you hold on to the obsolete technology, the more it will cost you to convert later on. As older analog cameras begin to fail, replace them with IP cameras. If your ultimate destination is an all-IP-based surveillance system, changing your head-end to an NVR now and cameras later will cost you less than changing your DVR to Hybrid-DVR now, changing your cameras, and then changing your head-end AGAIN, to an NVR.

Question:

What do I do with the analog video servers once I've converted to an all-IP-based camera system?

Answer:

Use them to expand your surveillance system to include short-term use with covert cameras, where standard IP cameras are too large for covert applications. Let other departments use them for teleconferencing or demonstrating their work over the internet. Use them with an analog camera in a remote location where the camera is at high risk for damage due to vandalism or environmental hazard. Put the server in a safe place and let the cheap analog camera take the risk. There are lots of ways to use video servers. They're not just for surveillance.

Question:

Our Network Administrator guards his network bandwidth like the U.S. Army guards the gold in Fort Knox. Aren't NVR's bandwidth hogs?

Answer:

That's another smokescreen put up by some people to get you to buy a Hybrid-DVR instead of an NVR. Good IP cameras, video servers, and NVR systems are all capable of scalable, limited frame rates from 1 to 30 frames per second, motion-detection-only recording, etc. The Boss can say "No" to the Security Director when he asks for a new camera system, and The Boss can say "No" to the Network Administrator when he asks to upgrade the computer network. But he can't say "No" when both of them ask to upgrade their computer network for better security! With bigger computer programs and faster computers, a network upgrade is inevitable, and an NVR is the perfect reason to do it now. So the Security Director and the Network Administrator both get what they need!

Question:

I have a large business with 7 locations, with cameras and a DVR in each of them. I can see all of my cameras now, over the network. If I want to change to an IP-camera system, wouldn't it be cheaper to buy Hybrid-DVR's instead of an NVR?

Answer:

Absolutely not! Why replace 7 obsolete boxes with 7 nearly-obsolete boxes when you can buy an NVR system of 2 or 3 boxes that do more, store more, and show more than those 7 boxes? And, you can put those 2 or 3 boxes anywhere on your network, not in every location. Per box, the NVR will be more expensive, but overall you'll need fewer of them, thus saving money.