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Digital video surveillance requires specialised hard drives

While companies are investing heavily in digital video surveillance systems, many of them are still using hard drives designed for desktop machines. Tyrone Gruner, Seagate product manager at technology distributor Ingram Micro South Africa, explains why this is a mistake.

With technology developing at a blistering pace, digital video surveillance recording systems are phasing out the closed-circuit television and non-technical surveillance and security systems of old.

IMS Research forecasts that the worldwide market for digital video surveillance systems will surpass \$3 billion by 2010. It also predicts that the mobile video surveillance market will reach almost \$500 million by 2011.

At its most basic, a digital video surveillance system allows a company to keep a visual record of an area under surveillance for a period of time. This can range from a few hours to a few weeks depending on the regulatory requirements of the industry in which the company operates.

Storage importance

In essence, the surveillance systems stream digital video continuously from the video cameras on to large capacity hard

drives. These systems also feature advanced software capabilities that can automatically preview and flag events in seconds where previously it took days or even months to locate similar information in manually reviewed image systems.

The hard drives therefore replace the cassettes of old and play a critical role in the digital video recording and the value of that content. High-resolution image capture also transforms the grainy quality of cassettes into crisp and detailed images.

By having access to these improved images at the push of a button, companies across a variety of industries can combat crime and improve business practices cost-effectively.

The emergence of the surveillance drive

Hard drives used in these systems therefore need to be reliable enough to be able to record video continuously for several hours or even weeks without failure. The form factor of these drives is also important as they need to be fairly robust and stable to work within the space constraints of digital video recording boxes and harsh working environments.

Naturally, large storage capacity is often required for drives that have to record continuously for several weeks before the video data can be written over. A digital video surveillance hard drive also needs to be able to cater for the way that the digital video recording processes the data feeds.



Getting a specialised system

While hard drives designed for desktop systems have become more robust and capacious in recent years, these drives cannot cater to the high demands of the digital video surveillance market.

As the first hard drive manufacturer to offer surveillance-optimised drives for a range of systems and applications, Seagate is continually enhancing its offerings. Its current range of surveillance drives includes the Seagate SV35 Series, the Seagate Barracuda ES, and the Seagate EE25 Series. These drives have been engineered for continuous use and provide the utmost reliability, ruggedness, and capacity.

ENDS

About Ingram Micro South Africa

Ingram Micro South Africa is a joint venture between Ingram Micro Europe, a division of Ingram Micro Inc, (NYSE: IM) and MB Technologies, established to market and distribute components and other technology products to VARs, system builders and integrators, and manufacturers throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

About Ingram Micro Inc.

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