



Security Insight: Analog vs. IP Cameras

What is the difference, and is it worth making an upgrade? This is a question that CustomVault hears often. Analog technology is the traditional method of transmitting a relatively low-resolution image over coaxial cable. The two most significant benefits of this technology are the low cost of the product and the cameras' ability to deal with difficult lighting situations. IP Megapixel technology is the digital alternative often associated with television and cell phone cameras. It ultimately facilitates the reduction of overall camera count because IP images are much higher resolution and cover a significantly wider field of view. In fact, the average Megapixel camera image has 10-20 times the resolution of a traditional analog camera depending upon the camera selected.

While the cost of IP Megapixel technology has historically been significantly higher than analog, dramatically increased demand has driven prices down over the last two years. The lower cost of cameras coupled with the reduced number of cameras required for each installation has now brought the cost of implementing megapixel technology within 15% of a traditional analog installation. Furthermore, IP continues to evolve at a rapid pace, offering 'sexy' features like high definition/resolution, high efficiency, faster frame rates, panoramic and wide dynamic range imaging and analytics. This, combined with increasing pixel density and subsequent resolution improvement, is making it the technology of choice for new facilities/projects.

So what if you are just looking to improve on your current video set-up? CustomVault will work with its sister company, BranchServ, to analyze your infrastructure to determine the most effective way to support cameras and communications in the context of operational constraints, and we will develop a hybrid solution that works for you. IP and analog CAN work together seamlessly with the right interface, experience and expertise. We offer multiple options within the construct of both technologies. Each solution we design is customized to meet the needs of your facility, with an eye to ROI, long-term storage limitations and band-width demands.