



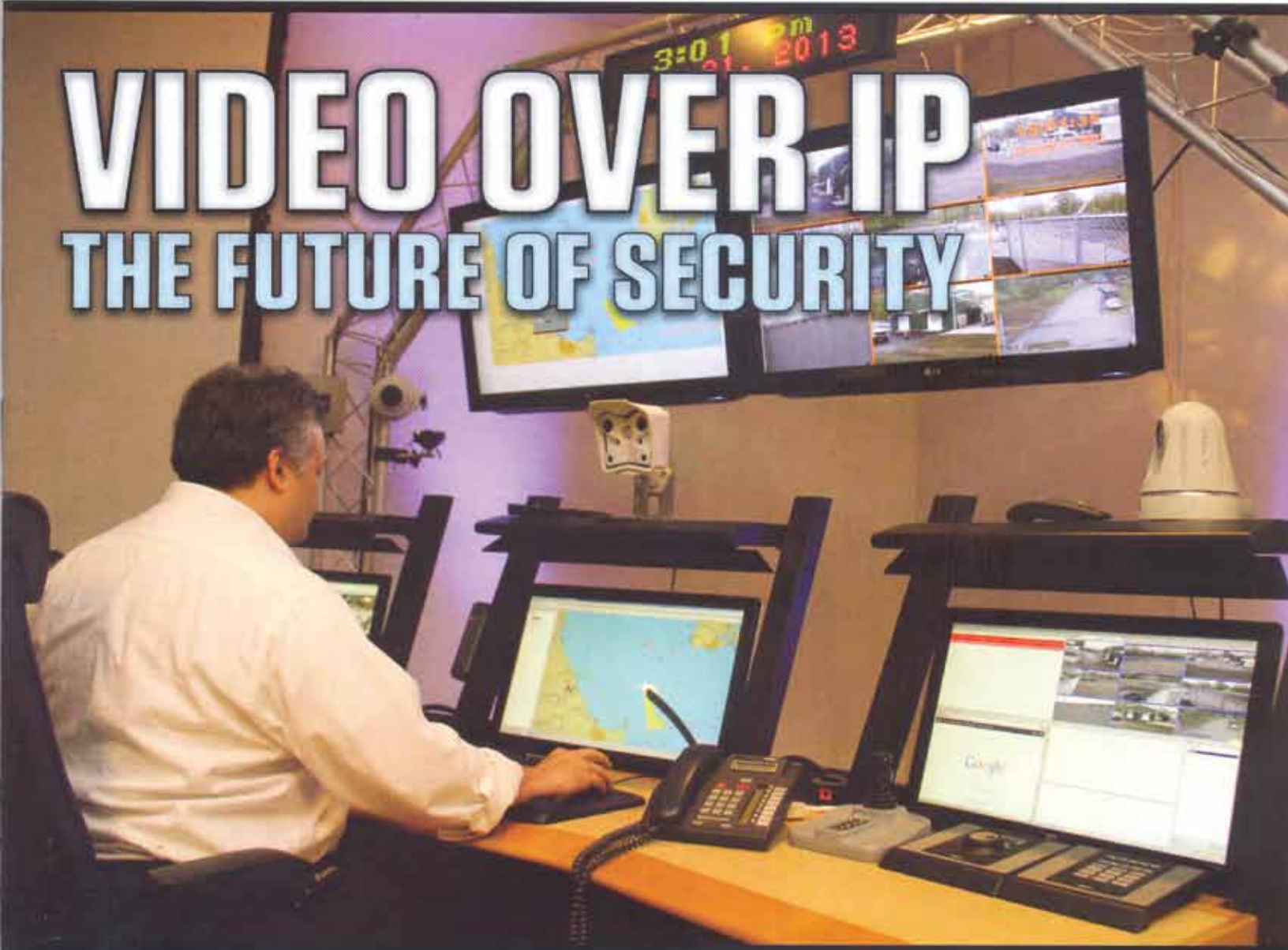
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VIDEO OVER IP THE FUTURE OF SECURITY



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Video Over IP Is 'The Future of Security'

BY J.J. SMITH

Surveillance systems today not only produce video but can also provide analytics, storage and access intrusion alerts. IP support of such sophisticated systems is a vital component for the future of physical security, the leader of a video standards organization told *Government Video*.

Centralizing surveillance systems so better data is provided by the cameras "can be very valuable for security directors," said David Bunzel, executive director of the Physical Security Interoperability Alliance. It has developed standards for video devices, cameras and CDRs, enabling communication among the devices over the Internet.

PSIA's IP media device specifications are designed to "create a common language" that will express alerts between devices, Bunzel said. PSIA seeks to provide security command centers with interoperability standards that will process and store security information, including video. The organization has used public events to demonstrate that its IP media device specifications work on various devices, he added.

Offering an example of how the standards would work with security systems, Bunzel describes the common action of an employee running an access card across a control reader. If the card is genuine, the intrusion alert is disabled; but it might also activate a camera to record who has the card.

If a camera does make a record of the employee entering the facility, the video will be fed to a storage device and the system will time code the footage so that it can be accessed later if needed, he said. Those functions are interoperable because the commands are communicated automatically across a system, he said.

Bunzel compares a security surveillance system with PSIA standards to "the old way," which likely involves "file folders with five or six sets of information that are not integrated. So unless the user gets ahold of all those files, looks at the data and compares it, they aren't going to be able to have a clean and efficient way to analyze a situation."

Helping security directors obtain information assists them in making cost-effective decisions on how to manage security.

Cost is a concern for educators who want to make schools as safe as possible, and if there is trouble at a school, surveillance video over IP might provide school administrators the time needed to keep students and staff safe, said Howard Koenig, superintendent of South Country Central School District located in Brookhaven, N.Y.

The entire school system has been outfitted with 850 IP cameras inside and outside its buildings, Koenig said. "We're trying to push the perimeter out and push any trouble that might occur further away from the building," he said.



The IP cameras—about the size of half a grapefruit, and positioned unobtrusively on the ceiling—provide South Country with the ability to have all the camera feeds sent to the school's command center where they can be monitored "with the click of a mouse," Koenig said. In addition, the system enables any area in the school system to be viewed from Koenig's office.

The system's cameras are constantly recording, and the video remains in the system for about a week, so if an incident occurs after school that was not observed at the command center, the school system can sign onto that camera and go back and view the time period when the incident occurred, Koenig said. However, there are so many cameras they cannot all be monitored, especially after hours, which is why the school district is considering contracting IPVideo Corp. to monitor its surveillance video at one of the company's C3Fusion centers.

IPVIDEO CORP.

IPVideo Corp.'s C3Fusion Center is a physical security information management system that enables users to tie in disparate sources of information into a common operating "picture," said David Antar, its president.

With a common operating picture, a facility's devices are linked; for instance, a building's fire alarms or its door access systems might have security cameras deployed in, or near them, he said.

Alerts could originate from the video, motion detection, burglar alarm systems or even building management systems that control heat and air conditioning, or any other sensors that trigger alarms or alerts, Antar said. The C3Fusion center over-

seeing that system would access cameras aimed at the location where an event is occurring.

In addition, each of those IP cameras is "like a computer," he said. IP cameras have "intelligence enabling features such as video analytics to HD recording, and each camera can become a recorder on its own."

C3fusion
by IPVideo Corporation

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