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Security Solutions

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS AND
SECURING THE FUTURE.

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Criminals never stop looking for methods to gain unauthorized access to premises or steal an identity or perpetrate some type of fraud. Therefore security professionals can never stop looking for methods to counteract these attempts. One technology that is developing to the point of being able to be used commercially is Facial Recognition software. So our first article looks at **What is Facial Recognition Software**.

In the Caribbean we are always having events, whether those events are Carnival, Christmas, Jazz or otherwise related. Large events always require security personnel, but how do you know that you have hired the best personnel. The second article gives **5 Qualities to Look for when Hiring Crowd Control Personnel**.

DVR,s allow us to record a lot of information but they are not

limitless. Our third article therefore addresses how to **Save Space on a Surveillance DVR**.

The use of the Internet is now indispensable to most individuals. However many of us can get tricked because of our lack of knowledge. We have therefore included the article, **How to Spot URL Shortener Scams**.

Many women now travel alone and some criminals seek to prey on women who are alone. To help avoid that situation we have an article that provides **Safety Tips for Women Travelling Alone**.



No one wants to go through the trauma of having a fire at their home. Our sixth article gives some tips on **Stopping a Fire before it starts**.

Our final article gives information on various **Types of Modern Security Fence Panels**.

Is there anyone who you think would benefit from receiving this magazine? Just send their name and email address to newsletter@assl.com and we would be happy to add them to our mailing list.

Brian Ramsey
Editor

What Is Facial Recognition Software?

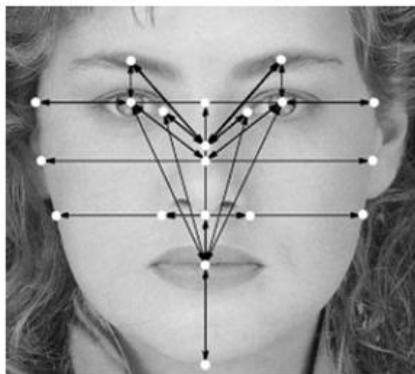
By Steve Mike Levy

Facial recognition software used to be fodder for sci-fi and futuristic type movies. No one thought that while watching these shows that the technology demonstrated within would be a reality in the not too distant future. However, its time has come with more mainstream businesses implementing this technology with its heightened security. Face recognition access control systems are the next step up in higher security.

What is face recognition? Face recognition software works by creating a digital representation of a person's facial image. It does this by closely analyzing the structure of the face using features such as nose, cheekbones, lips, and eyes. Essentially it builds a detailed map of the angles, lines and features of the face and then converts it to a file containing all of the information that was gathered during the verification process where the face was associated with the person being added for access. The face is mapped out in detail during this process so that an incorrect match or false denial is minimized.

Facial identification uses one of two methods to establish identity. The first is geometric where

distinguishable characters are compared. The second, which is photometric, uses an analytical way of converting the features of the face to a numeric value. This value is then compared to the templates stored within a database. The identity of a person is first established when they are entered into the system. Pictures are taken from several different angles to establish a clear map of the features of the face. This is then entered into the system. When the person then requests access, the system will compare the value it sees with the values that it knows are allowed to have access.



A large advantage to face recognition software is that it eliminates human error to a large degree. Someone can try and talk a security guard into allowing access, or reproduce an access card. However, for obvious reasons, it would be difficult to duplicate someone else's facial features. Even identical twins have subtle differences that are picked up by the software. These subtle differences are what make the software hard to trick or fool. When you consider the many nuances of someone's face, including their expressions, it becomes obvious why this would be so difficult to get past a facial

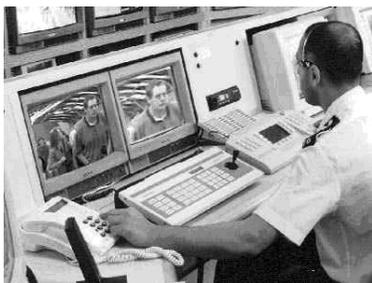
recognition access control system.

Facial recognition software is a bit more expensive up front but can offer savings over the long term. There's no need to maintain and replace access cards. Access cards can be lost or stolen which requires more administrative maintenance as well as the additional cost of replacing the cards. Without having to have someone to maintain the cards, or pay for new ones, it soon becomes evident that excess cost is being eliminated. Additionally, access will never fall into the wrong hands by theft or loss. When an employee leaves their employment, keys and access badges are not always turned in. Using a person's face to gain access means that business owners will never worry about where their access badge or keys ended up. This provides a much easier way for a business to maintain security.

Identity theft has become a major concern in the modern age. By simply gaining access to someone's pertinent information such as date of birth and social security number, thieves are then free to open lines of credit at will using this person's information. This can devastate an individual both professionally and financially and often takes quite a bit of time to resolve. With the use of face recognition software, would be thieves are going to find it increasingly difficult to assume someone's identity and credit rating. Many people are unaware that identity theft has occurred until they either begin to get the bills, or they apply for credit themselves and are

declined for excessive or bad credit. With facial identification, it would be difficult for someone other than the actual person to be able to use social security numbers or information that isn't legitimately theirs. Face recognition software has many promising uses for the future. Major credit card companies are experimenting with ways to use it to establish a card holder's identity before being allowed to purchase. This minimizes the substantial losses to both credit card companies and consumers that occur each year.

Biometric security is becoming more widely available to the general public. Limited to government agencies in recent years, it was simply too cost prohibitive for most businesses to implement. Much like DVD players, microwaves and other electronics that were very expensive in the beginning, the price of facial recognition software has begun to drop, allowing more people to implement this efficient security strategy.



A facial recognition access control system can provide any business with enhanced security and minimal operating costs. This new age technology has now taken its place as standard among preferred access security

systems and is sure to continue to be well into the future.

As a self proclaimed expert on all the newest technology with respect to Security Systems, I have posted many more articles at:

<http://SecuritySystemsNetwork.com>

I have also found this to be a wonderful resource for those in the market for a new Business Phone System. To read more on this subject or to find a local company to assist you with your Business Systems needs, I suggest you check out another one of my articles at: http://SecuritySystemsNetwork.com/choosing_an_access_control_system.php

Article Source:
EzineArticles.com

5 Qualities to Look for to Know You've Hired the Best Crowd Control Personnel

By Grant Heanes
Crowd control is critical to keeping people, equipment and property safe during large congregations such as conventions, concerts, rallies, demonstrations and conferences. It is also important for maintaining peace and order within establishments such as corporate buildings, malls and department stores. But how do you know you've hired the best crowd control personnel? Here are 5 key qualities to look for:

Training and license

Crowd control personnel work in a specialized industry. Before hiring one, always check what type of training he or she has undergone and what type of license he or she holds. To comply with existing laws and regulations, anyone working in security and has the ability to control the crowd is required to undergo a specified number of hours of training and practice in order to ensure that they know what their job entails.



Background and experience

Another key quality to look for is experience. The type of work these people do entails a lot of responsibilities. Very often, they need to perform several tasks at once, acting as security, contact persons and PR officers. The multi-layered responsibilities of controlling crowd requires someone who has a good understanding of their job and what they are supposed to do in certain situations, something that only an experienced individual will be able to successfully perform.

Ability to impose rules and regulations

Security guards are those who have strong leadership abilities. Very often, security personnel will have to implement strict rules and regulations in order to ensure crowd safety. As leaders,

they need to convince people that these rules should be followed in order to avoid problems and threats. Someone who is unable to make crowds believe in him or her will not be effective in ensuring that safety procedures are in place.



Excellent communication skills

They must be able to communicate well with people. Having good to excellent written and speaking skills is ideal because it helps them provide information in a clear and understandable manner. This skill is critical especially in tense situations where people tend to be nervous or excitable. If the process of communication is clear, people are less likely to react in a negative manner.

Calmness and ability to think straight in emergency situations

You'll know that you hired the best crowd control personnel if they are calm and capable of performing their duties in spite of the noise and chaos surrounding them. Calmness is also an important quality since it translates well to the crowd. If the security personnel can think straight, he or she is not likely to make costly mistakes.

Article Source:
EzineArticles.com

Save Space On Your Surveillance DVR

By Christian M Gillman

Being able to view surveillance footage from days, weeks, or even months past is sometimes a huge necessity. So the question is; what can you do to make sure that you're getting the most use and longevity out of your DVR's hard drive? There are a few different key settings that can be adjusted to extend and get the most recording time out of your DVR.

Motion Detection

Motion detection is exactly what it sounds like; and that is your DVR's ability to start recording its footage when it detects motion in front of your surveillance cameras. This is a huge space saving feature for your DVR in comparison to recording constantly, which can eat through a hard drive rather quickly depending on the number of security cameras you have.

Pre-Buffer

If you are using motion detection on your DVR, it will generally have a pre-buffer setting which will keep a constant 5 - 10 second recording that is cycling through the DVR. The reason for this is so when motion recording is activated it can record and store the lead up to the motion that started the recording. This is quite handy as it allows you to see the perpetrator as they come into the frame. The key here however is that you can sometimes adjust this pre-buffer so you are adding more or less to

your recording, and thus using more or less hard drive space.

Masking

Masking is a nifty tool that works in conjunction with your motion detection settings. This feature allows you to take certain portions of your screen out of the motion detection equation. For example let's say you have an American flag waving in the background rather constantly. You can use your masking feature to tag that portion of the screen and make sure that any movement within your selected section does not activate the motion record setting. This is very useful in saving your hard drive space as you won't have unnecessary motion recordings being stored.

Resolution

The higher the resolution that you record at, the more space your surveillance footage will take up on your hard drive. So depending on your applications; you can turn down your recording resolution in your DVR settings to help save on space as well.

Audio

If you are recording audio; then you are adding additional information that has to be stored on your DVR; so it may be best to limit audio recording to areas where it is critical.

Scheduled Recording

Depending on your applications; you may not need to record at all times during the day. This is where scheduled recording comes in. By scheduling when you have your DVR record you can save space by not recording

during all hours of the day. This option is usable with both constant recording and motion detection; which can make it quite the space saver.

Number Of Active Cameras

The more security cameras you have actively recording; be it motion recording or not, will determine the amount of space you use up. Obviously the more cameras that are recording; the more space you will use. So if there are certain times of the day where you don't need certain cameras to be recording; it can be wise to schedule them not to, to help save on space.

By implementing a few of these different features and settings on your surveillance DVR; you will better be able to record and maintain longer stretches of footage.

Christian M Gillman has worked in the surveillance industry for over 6 years. Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, learn more about surveillance, and find great products at <http://www.cu1.com>

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Article Source:
EzineArticles.com

Amalgamated Security provides a full range of security services, which include:

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Alarm Monitoring
Response Services**

How to Spot and Stop a URL Shortener Scam



Unless you're a "techie," you may not know what a "URL shortener" is, but most of us -- Internet surfers, users of social networks and even emailers -- use them all the time without knowing it.

If you're a crook, the fact that we use them without knowing is very useful because it means if they can tamper with them, they can load malware onto our PCs, also without us knowing.

So, what is a URL shortener?

Well, take a look at the address bar in your Internet browser. You may have typed in the web address you're visiting yourself -- like www.scambusters.org. That's a URL -- or Uniform Resource Locator -- and it's the very precise information the Internet needs to take you to the right place.

But sometimes the URL appears in the address bar after you've clicked a link in an email or on a web page. It tells you where you're at but oftentimes, looking at the gobbledygook that appears there, you're none the wiser. You might recognize the first bit of the address but, likely as not, the remainder is a long jumble of meaningless letters, numbers and slashes.



Now, what happens if you want to copy and paste that link into an email, other document or a social networking site?

It looks a mess, sometimes several lines long. And, if you're using Twitter, that URL is often too long to even fit in a "tweet."

Enter the URL shortener. This is a simple, free application you'll find on several sites that reads in that long line, stores it on a computer server, and returns to you a much shorter URL that links to the full address.

You can do this yourself by visiting one of those sites -- tinyurl.com and bitly.com are two of the better known ones -- and pasting in a long address. In a second you'll have your shortened version that you can send to others.

Here's one we set up for Scambusters:
<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EPyWa&m=JdKofWzP0GtWfo&b=3.Sz9caL6BH19VHSPkmVwg> (though in this case, of course, it's longer than scambusters.org!)

These days, some applications, especially those that support Twitter, automatically do the shortening for you.

It's a great space saver and super-

convenience, yes?

Well, up to a point it is, but according to Symantec, the Norton Internet Security firm, scammers are using the URL shortener technique to circulate massive amounts of malware. The attraction to the crooks is that people who receive shortened URLs can't see where they came from or where they're going to. Just like the genuine item, the recipient of a malicious shortened URL simply clicks on the link and goes to wherever the real web page is -- in this case a page that automatically tries to infect the victim's computer. Most recently this type of nasty link has cropped up in emails claiming to notify recipients of a canceled cash transfer, but clicking on it just leads to a malware infested page.

Most of the legitimate URL shortening services are onto the crooks and have implemented security measures to try to halt the abuse. For instance, the tinyurl.com service offers users who are trying to shorten URLs the ability to set up a preview that will show recipients what the true address is before they go there.

So, for our earlier example, visiting <http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EPyWa&m=JdKofWzP0GtWfo&b=KulbUMAQ0XgkJuXe5G6rYW> enables you to see our real address and visit us from that page.

Needless to say, the scammers get around these and other types of security measures by creating

their own URL shortening service.

To counter these, several other websites now offer a URL lengthening service, enabling you to paste in the link you got and see exactly where it leads to.

Again, there are several of these, including knowurl.com and longurl.com (try pasting in that <http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=EPyWa&m=JdKofWzP0GtWfo&b=3.Sz9caL6BH19VHSPkmVwg> link there to reveal Scambusters again).

As you can see, it's turning into something of a cat and mouse game but there's no doubt that URL shortener abuse is going to be with us for some time.

Symantec blogger Nick Johnston comments on the phony bank transfer cancellation notification: "We saw hundreds of unique shortened URLs being used to link to this malware, and expect to see malware authors using this technique in the future."

Foiling this URL shortener abuse is a matter of taking three simple steps:

1. Be wary of any link that appears to be the output of a URL shortener. Basically, if the address is very short, comes to you in an email or appears on a website yet doesn't use recognizable words, it has probably been shortened.
2. If you have any doubts about the origin, copy and paste the link into one of the URL lengthening sites. For a fuller list

than the ones we've provided, just initiate a web search for the words "URL lengthener."

3. Ensure your Internet security software is up-to-date. That way, if you do land on a malicious page, your software should alert you and block any attempts to upload malware.

In any case, you should always glance at the address bar when you arrive at a page via a link (rather than an address you keyed in), to make sure you know and understand exactly where you are.

And, of course, if you decide to use a URL shortener yourself to send a link to someone else, choose one of the well-known services (again you can do a search for these) and opt to generate a preview, so that those you send it to will be able to check it out for themselves.

That's all for today
Reprinted from Internet Scambusters

Safety Tips For Women Traveling Alone

By [Marina De Haan](#)

A lot of women travel solo nowadays and of course they want to return home safe. When traveling, either locally or abroad, women have to put their safety first. It is important to

keep safe at all times especially when traveling to unknown destinations. Life is very precious and should be protected. Traveling alone could feel very liberating, but just keep in mind that safety always comes first whenever traveling alone.



Traveling alone is a great experience, but it is also important to follow some safety tips that will surely keep a woman out of harm's way. Here are some great tips that would be of help:

1) Awareness is the key.

While sight-seeing, it helps to remember the street names or landmarks that would tell where the person is exactly at that moment. It is also a must to be aware of one's surroundings, and signs that someone might be tailing behind for some reason. Awareness is different from paranoia!

2) Use maps and guidebooks.

Big maps show that you are a tourist. If you want to avoid this, take a small guidebook instead. It

could be used while out in the streets. This will avoid attracting too much attention as being a tourist.

3) Dressing down is helpful.

Dressing down makes a person less conspicuous and is comfortable. It also helps to get rid of expensive jewelry as they may attract attention.

4) Walk along lighted and well-trafficked streets.

Avoid going into dark alleys because that's where opportunists usually lurk. Streets that have a steady stream of traffic are usually well-lighted and there are a lot of people as well.

5) Use covered luggage tags and locks for bags.

Covered luggage tags prevent prying eyes from seeing essential information. Don't use any address, just put your (mobile) phone number on the tag. Locked suitcases are secure and cannot be opened easily unless it is hacked off.

6) Remember the hotel's phone number as well as the police station's phone.

If a traveler happens to be lost, having the hotel's phone number (or the police) could help a person to go back to where he or she should be.

7) Divide money and credit cards: keep it in different places.

Do not keep all of the money in the wallet when you travel. Instead, divide it into smaller portions, and keep them in assorted places (some in the wallet, some in the pocket, some

in a money bag secured to the belt loop, etc). In case thieves come and get something, they will not get everything.

These are just some safety tips that could be very helpful when women travel solo. It helps to be safe when traveling so that one's life could be protected from harm. Following safety tips could go a long way and would help a person to protect one's valuables as well. But most of all, life is preserved.

<http://www.womentravelalone.com>

Article Source:
EzineArticles.com

If you are interested in having First Aid Training or Defensive Driving Training for your staff, contact Amalgamated Security

Five Tips to Stopping a Fire Before it Starts

Aug 22, 2011

Do a Smoke Alarm Audit

Do an audit of your home's smoke alarms. (If you don't have UL listed smoke alarms, make a plan to install them on each level of the home, especially near sleeping areas). Check placement: Smoke rises, so smoke alarms should be located on a ceiling or high on a wall. Alarms mounted on the ceiling

should be at least four inches away from the nearest wall and those mounted on walls should be four to twelve inches down from the ceiling. Test your alarms and be sure that they can be heard in bedrooms even when the doors are closed. If not, install smoke alarms in the bedrooms. Make sure that your kids know what the alarms sound like. Replace alarms that are older than 10 years and replace any alarm that has been painted over.

Make Extinguishers Handy

Be sure that you have at least one or more UL listed fire extinguishers in your home. An ABC-type extinguisher is a good all-purpose choice for fires in the home. Check the gauge located on the extinguisher to see if it needs to be replaced or recharged. Also be sure that the fire extinguisher is in an easily accessible location. Remember that fire extinguishers are not designed to fight large or spreading fires. Your number one priority is to have an escape plan and to get out safely. If the fire is small and contained and the room is not filled with smoke, get everyone out and call the fire department; then, you may use the fire extinguisher to control the fire.



Talk Prevention with Your Kids

Talk to your kids about how they can prevent fires. Children under age five are especially curious about fire and need to start learning about the tremendous danger. Take the mystery out of fire and make sure that your kids know the following safety tips:

- Never play with matches, lighters or candles.
- Never play with electrical cords and never put anything in a socket.
- Blankets or clothes should never be thrown on top of lamps.
- Don't turn up a heater without a grown-up's permission.
- If your clothes catch on fire, stop, drop and roll.

Look at Your Home From Your Child's Perspective

Think about how your child sees potential fire hazards in your home by getting down on your

hands and knees with them and taking a look around. See any dangling cords that could cause a problem if pulled? Enticing heaters or other appliances? Make adjustments to your home according to what you find.

Avoid Overloading Sockets and Cords

Do a walk-through of your home. If you see sockets with too many cords plugged in or even too many extension cords around the house, it may be time to have extra outlets installed by a professional. Always pay attention to the acceptable wattage for cords and lamps. Also look for extension cords that are "tacked up" or run under a rug as these could be a real fire hazard for kids and adults.

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Types of Modern Security Fence Panels

By [Ador Talukdar](#)

There are a number of different types of security fence panels to choose from. They come with a range of different features and solutions can be designed for almost any situation. It is a good idea to start by finding two or three companies that will do a free site survey. That way you can see for yourself what type will be best for your particular requirements. You will also then

have a few quotes you can choose from.

Wire mesh security fence panels are a standard choice that performs well. They are available with a variety of wire thicknesses and strengths and at various heights. All is flexible depending on the budget and level of security required. Typically they range in height from around one metre to three metres. Most companies offer these with a galvanised finish and charge extra for specialised or colour options. Wire mesh fence is seen in a wide range of security applications. It is often used as a border to railway lines for example. Wire mesh panels protect a boundary securely as well as providing good visibility through the fence. Mesh can be used of a size that makes it virtually impossible to climb. In addition to this the security mesh makes it extremely difficult to use the majority of cutting tools against it.

Steel palisade security fence panels are an option that also comes in a range of heights to suit your specific requirements. This type of fence is good because it is very strong and can blend in well with the environment where it is fitted. Like other security fences it can be topped with different levels of security features depending on need. Steel palisade fencing also has the advantage of being quick and easy to install.

Another type of effective security fencing is chain link. This has a very good security record as well as being a relatively low cost and flexible option. It is most often used as

perimeter fencing in private and commercial situations. The fence posts for these fence panels are often manufactured from reinforced concrete or steel which provides added strength and security.



Modern security fence panels can be adapted into smart detection fences by adding a vibration detection system. These systems can be added to mesh fences, chain link fences and steel palisade fences. If anyone attempts to climb, cut or tamper with the fence in any other way the vibrations made set off the detector. This is linked to a computer system that can record the time of the attack and start a CCTV camera. It will also record exactly what part of the fence was attacked. These systems can add a high level of security at night or in secluded areas.

Another aspect of all types of modern security fencing is the importance of a rigorous installation procedure. To be secure any fence needs to be installed to the highest possible standard. If there are any serious problems with the installation a good security fence company will never compromise on the quality installation of a security fence. The installers will refer back to the design and engineering team who if necessary will visit the site to

find a viable solution. When purchasing the fencing these are the minimum requirements you should really expect from the service.

Zaun offer high quality [security fence panels](#) that are government approved. Their [security fence panels](#) are constantly developed and updated to ensure they maintain the highest possible standards.

Article Source:

EzineArticles.com

Amalgamated Security has offices in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St Lucia and Grenada.

Amalgamated Security provides a full range of security services, which include:

**Cash Services
Electronic Security
Access Control
Data Storage
Courier Services
Guarding Services
Alarm Monitoring
Response Services**