

Hands On: VideoIQ iCVR D1 Dome Camera

Integrator: Security camera eliminates need for costly and complicated centralized storage.

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With its iCVR D1 Dome Camera (and its recently released iCVR-HD high definition camera), VideoIQ says it eliminates some headaches for commercial integrators.

It allows CIs to eliminate the need to supply their clients with expensive centralized storage and complex networks because each Dome Camera has up to a half TB of onboard NVR storage.

Rather than take the manufacturer's word for it, here are thoughts from one of your colleagues on the product:

Reviewer: Scott Sebastian, Omni Data, LLC, Woodbridge, Conn.

VideoIQ's Suggested Selling Price: Varies. Contact manufacturer.

Tell us about a project in which you used the VideoIQ iCVR D1 Dome Camera.

We were approached by a Connecticut police department. They have an impound lot in a remote area at their DPW building, a fenced in area adjacent to the building with two light poles.

Specifications

- Advanced video analytics, distinguishing people, vehicles and boats from other objects, animals and scene movement
- Self-calibration
- Security breach email notification
- Two-way audio with recording capability
- Includes software for video management, analytic alarm and search and decentralized storage
- "Head and shoulders" analytic detection (for obscured body movement) - Indoor and IP66 rated outdoor domes

The lot was getting broken into and people were stealing parts, mostly radios. The police wanted a way to know when it was happening but not alert them so they could catch them in the act.



We set up a Firetide wireless mesh on the two light poles and installed two VideoIQ cameras and utilized the virtual fence feature. Once the cameras detected an alert, it would transmit the video feed wirelessly to the DPW building and then use their cable modem to pop a screen at the police department.

Last I heard, they had two arrests.

Which features or specs were instrumental in your decision to use this product versus another solution?

There were three distinct reasons:

- The analytics are some of the best in the industry. The cameras seem to learn and adapt to their surroundings. Other products we tested fell short.
- Wireless presents a bandwidth problem. The VideoIQ cameras record to themselves and only send video traffic once a predesigned alert is triggered.
- VideoIQ as a company is one of the best in the industry. We had one job early on that was challenging and made one phone call to VideoIQ and within two days their engineer was on site working with our engineers to solve the problem. That is not typical of a camera manufacturer, and it goes a long way with us.

For what types of applications do you recommend this product to other CIs?

The applications are endless. Just think of the saving when instead of watching 100 cameras, you are being alerted to only actions that you predefine. It is 100 percent more cost effective.

A good example is Omni Data set these cameras up in a Connecticut park. The park is closed from dusk to dawn. The cameras alert the local police department if someone drives in after dark or if people are loitering. Once again, they only have to dispatch an officer if there is an alert.

Explain how difficult or easy the installation was and anything unique you think other installers would want to know.

It depends on the skill set of the installer. VideoIQ is an IP network device. If a network tech that is also certified in the VideoIQ line is installing it, it is not bad at all.

There is some trial and error configuring the analytics, but it is pretty straight forward.

If you have never installed an IP camera, put it back in the box and call someone who has. Like many advanced and full featured IP cameras, this is not a device one should learn IP basics on.



What are the three biggest benefits—“pros”—for an installer using this product?

- Bandwidth savings.
- Built-in analytics on the edge. What I mean by “on the edge” is that some analytics companies use analytics on the server from the camera. Our testing found it less taxing and more efficient to do this at the camera level.
- Built in hard drive. This allows us to save on storage as we only pull the data we want.

What are the three biggest negatives—“cons”—for an installer using this product?

- You need to take the certified course.
- You need to understand networking and bandwidth.
- Like other advanced IP cameras, you’ll fail if you don’t understand networking and bandwidth considerations.

What else should CIs know about the product?

This is a great camera line and a really good partner to have. I was called in to help in two failed VideoIQ installations in the past. It had nothing to do with the camera and everything to do with the installation.

My advice is if you do get stuck, do not blame the camera. Call VideoIQ or your manufacturer rep. I have never known them not to step up to the plate. These folks are a partner, not just a manufacturer of cameras.