



IP SECURITY

Alarm Verification Made Simple

I've enjoyed watching the recent hearings where U.S. officials have grilled Wall Street executives on just how we managed to get ourselves into the economic meltdown. It seems that some of the more "creative" financial instruments developed by the bankers are so complex that even their creators didn't understand exactly how they worked.

This same problem exists in our industry as manufacturers continue to cram IP-based features into their products. Often these new options are difficult to understand and to program for maximum use. While these features might provide some customer benefits, additional installation and programming is needed, which increases the complexity of the project and saps profits.

With most of our clients now having DSL or cable modem broadband connections, it's tempting to leverage their existing Internet connections to allow many cool remote access features. But connecting physical security devices to the client's network, configuring firewalls, and setting router functions properly can turn what should be a quick installation job into something akin to a Congressional hearing — when will it end?

Two of the key factors for the growth of our industry are using the Internet and clients' LANs to their maximum capabilities — giving us new benefits to sell — and stopping false alarm dispatches with video verification.

I recently tested a new intrusion alarm kit from Visonic that delivers a simple installation, easy connection to the LAN

and Internet, and alarm verification via a Wi-Fi camera. Including the combination control panel/keypad, wireless PIR and two door transmitters, arm/disarm key fob, and backup battery, the PowerMax Express is the first system I've handled that uses common IP functions as the basis to provide quick and simple installation, connection to the cen-

PHOTO COURTESY OF VISONIC



Visonic's PowerMax Express "Quick Fit Kit" intrusion alarm/wireless video kit combines quick programming and installation with full utilization of your clients' Internet connection.

tral station, and video alarm verification via the LAN and Internet.

On the detection side, all will automatically connect to the PowerMax as they are each pre-enrolled to that particular panel at the factory. Any additional door transmitters, remote sirens, smoke detectors, and other devices can be added easily to complete a larger installation.

The key to the ease of network connection of this alarm system is the intelligence built in to the PowerLink II adapter board within the control. This adapter, once wired to an available LAN port on the client's network, will not only transmit alarm signals via the Internet to the central station, but it will also connect to the IP camera, so that when specific alarm signals are generated, five seconds of pre-alarm and 10 seconds of post-alarm video are transmitted to the central station. The PowerLink adapter

sets its own LAN IP address by working with the DHCP server that is typically turned on within the LAN's router/switch. A different address set is used in the background to communicate between the control panel and the camera(s).

To set up the wireless IP camera, all an installer needs to do is to access the client's Wi-Fi router or AP, gather the SSID, encryption type and encryption code. With the appropriate window open on the router, it's a simple matter to contact the control panel over the LAN and "copy and paste" the Wi-Fi security info into the PowerLink II screen.

The wireless camera is then temporarily connected to the network via a standard Cat5e jumper cable. When the control panel finds the camera, the PowerLink II will set the camera up for wireless operation. Then the camera can be disconnected from its wired network tether and be placed wherever it's needed, usually covering the same area as the wireless motion detector. If the panel is armed and the motion detector trips, the video is not only sent to the central station for immediate alarm verification but is also stored in the panel. End users can connect to the panel over the Internet or the LAN and view the "alarm" video themselves.

But wait, there's more. Up to 12 wired or wireless cameras can be connected to the PowerMax. End users can view live video from any or all of their cameras from anywhere over the Internet by connecting to the PowerMax control and entering their user name and password.

With a dealer cost of less than \$450, the Visonic PowerMax Express "Quick Fit Kit" intrusion alarm/wireless video kit is a breakthrough product that combines quick programming and installation with full utilization of your clients' existing Internet connections.

Information is available at www.visonic.com or at your local distribution center.