SURVEILLANCE WITH WIRELESS WI-FI WEBCAMs

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Web location for this presentation

http://aztcs.org

Click on "Meeting Notes"
SUMMARY

• You can use various models of wireless Wi-Fi Webcams to spy on your home(s), business(es), and pets. They can alert your cell phone and/or your computer when they detect motion.
TOPICS

• Wi-Fi Webcams
• Evaluating Wi-Fi Webcams
• Webcam Reviews:
  • Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A is the best
  • D-Link model DCS-1130 took second place
WI-FI WEBCAMS

- Wi-Fi Webcams communicate wirelessly with your computer and/or tablet and/or cell phone through your existing wireless Wi-Fi router (or the existing wireless Wi-Fi router inside your broadband modem)
Most Wi-Fi Webcams grab a dynamic private "Internet Protocol" address from your existing wireless Wi-Fi router.

Wi-Fi Webcams have a separate an AC power adapter which requires a 110-volt AC power outlet.
Existing Wireless Wi-Fi Router

wired or wireless network connection

wireless Wi-Fi connection

Your computer, tablet, or cell phone

Web Browser or provided app

Wi-Fi Webcam generates local Web page showing the video stream
• To use a Wi-Fi Webcam, you have to use a supported Web browser and you have to install the Webcam manufacturer's Adobe Flash-based browser add-on software to make the Webcam work with the supported Web browser.

• For most Wi-Fi Webcams, you can use the local Web page that they generate to set up motion detection, video recording, and e-mail alerts when motion is detected.
WI-FI WEBCAMS (continued)

- These highly-proprietary restrictions severely limit which Web browser and which operating system will work with a specific model of Wi-Fi Webcam.

- All Wi-Fi Webcams that we tested would only communicate with one of the Web browsers that we attempted to access them with.
WI-FI WEBCAMS (continued)

- Technical hurdles of Wi-Fi Webcams:
  - Rapid firmware obsolescence (often sold to you with old firmware)
  - Many browsers not supported by a specific Webcam
  - As new models are released, (initially) they usually lack software support by third-party software such as the free "Contacam"
EVALUATING WI-FI WEBCAMS

- Can it be set up with a "Windows.." computer?
- Can it be set up with a Mac "OS X" computer?
- In a "Windows.." computer, does it work with the "Internet Explorer 11" Web browser?
- In a "Windows.." computer, does it work with the "Google Chrome" Web browser?
EVALUATING WI-FI WEBCAMS (continued)

- In a "Windows.." computer, does it work with the "Mozilla Firefox" Web browser?
- On a Mac, does it work with the "Safari" Web browser?
- On a Mac, does it work with the "Chrome" Web browser?
EVALUATING WI-FI WEBCAMS (continued)

- Does the Webcam have night vision capability?
- Does the Webcam have a threaded tripod hole?
- Can the Webcam detect motion and then record video for a predetermined time period when motion is detected?
- After the Webcam detects motion, can it send an email alert?
- What is the quality of the video stream?
WI-FI WEBCAM REVIEWS

• We tested six Wi-Fi Webcams between May 2015 and February 2016. This list is ranked from best to worse with best on the top of the list:
  ✓ Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A
  ✓ D-Link model DCS-1130
  ✓ RF-Link model VMI-1201
  ✓ Trendnet model TV-IP562WI
  ✓ Y-cam model YCW004
  ✓ D-Link model DCS-932L
• Three of the cameras that we tested would not work with their manufacturer's bundled/downloadable configuration software programs until we updated their firmware with their manufacturer's downloadable firmware updater:

✓ Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A
✓ D-Link model DCS-932L
✓ D-Link model DCS-1130
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes:

• After a struggle to get it working, this Webcam took first place in our evaluation of various Wi-Fi Webcams.

• However, this model is now obsolete according to the trendnet.com Web site and the newer models that we tested were not acceptable.
TRENDNET TV-IP572WI / Wireless N Day Night Inet Cam
by TRENDnet
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- MPN: TV-IP572WI

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by TRENDnet

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Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

- Out of the retail box, this Webcam did not work until we used a "Windows 8.1" computer to download and install a firmware update from the Trendnet Web site.

- This firmware update was only available in a "Windows.." format so Mac OS X 10.10 and OS X 10.11 users would be unable to update the firmware of this "Webcam".
• Trendnet's setup program for this Webcam is only available for "Windows.." computers so Mac OS X 10.10 and 10.11 users are out of luck for a second "gotcha".

• This means that Mac computer users would have to run Windows 8.1 or Windows 10 in a "Boot Camp" partition or in a Parallels or VMware Fusion "Virtual Machine" in order to perform the initial setup of this Webcam.
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

- Once we struggled through the firmware and initial setup of the Web, it worked okay in both Macs and PCs.

- In a "Windows 7", "Windows 8.1", or "Windows 10", Mac OS X 10.10, or Mac OS X 10.11 computer, the video that is displayed in a Web browser or that is recorded is jerky and appears to be missing a lot of frames.
WI-FI WEBCAMS (continued)

Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

• Good infrared illumination for night vision up to 15 feet
• The threaded tripod hole on the back side is hard to use for most standard camera stands.
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

- In "Windows 8.1" and "Windows 10, the Internet Explorer 11 browser is able to display and record the video stream but the Chrome browser is unable to do so.
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

• In our Macs running OS X 10.10 Yosemite and OS X 10.11 El Capitan, both the Safari and Firefox browsers were able to display and record video streams. However, the Chrome browser was unable to do so.
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

- In our Mac running OS X 10.11 El Capitan, here is how it looks in the Safari browser:
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

- In our Mac running OS X 10.11 El Capitan, here is how it looks in the Firefox browser:
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

• In our Mac running OS X 10.11 El Capitan, all we got was error messages in the Chrome browser:
Click here to download NCSPlugin and install. And then re-open your browser is recommended!!
The Chrome browser does not support NPAPI plug-ins and therefore will not run all Java content. Switch to a different browser (Firefox, Internet Explorer or Safari on Mac) to run the Java plug-in. More info
WI-FI WEBCAMS (continued)

Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

• In a "Windows 8.1" or a "Windows 10" computer, the Web page that is accessed by "Internet Explorer 11" shows a video stream that looks like this:
Trendnet model TV-IP572WI_A notes (continued):

• In a "Windows 8.1" or a "Windows 10" computer, when we use the Chrome browser to access the Web page that is generated by this Webcam, we get repeated notices to download the "NCS Plugin" which failed to install:
Click here to download NCSPlugin and install. And then re-open your browser is recommended!!
Click here to download NCSPlugin and install.
The Chrome browser does not support NPAPI plug-ins and therefore will not run all Java content. Switch to a different browser (Firefox, Internet Explorer or Safari on Mac) to run the Java plug-in. More info
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes:

• After a struggle to get it working, this is Webcam took second place in our evaluation of Wi-Fi Webcams.
D-Link DCS-1130 mydlink enabled Wireless N Fixed IP Network Camera with Built-In Microphone
by D-Link

24 customer reviews

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- Easily view and manage your camera from mydlink.com
- Can capture video in low-light conditions
- Comes with a built-in microphone, you can hear that everything is well at home
- Comes with a feature to record directly from the camera to a local hard drive
- Trigger motion detection, set recording schedules, set e-mail alert
List Price: $179.99

Price: $118.95 + $5.49 shipping
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes (continued):

• Required a firmware update (that we downloaded from the D-Link Web site) before we were able to perform the initial configuration setup.

• Has a threaded tripod hole
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes (continued):

- After it's firmware was updated, the dcs-1130 worked well in the Chrome browser in "Windows 8.1" and "Windows 10". It never worked in "Internet Explorer 11" in "Windows 8.1" or "Windows 10".
- No night vision capability
After it's firmware was updated, DCS-932L worked in and the "Chrome browser" in "Windows 8.1" and "Windows 10": However, after you use the "Chrome browser" to view the full-motion video for a few hours, the video "hangs" and you have to click on the "Reload this page" button of the "Chrome browser" in order to view full-motion video again.
This section shows your camera's live video. You can control your settings using the buttons below.

Current resolution is 640 x 480
This site uses a plugin (Java(TM)) that is unsupported.
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes (continued):

• We never got the DCS-1130 to work in the "Internet Explorer 11" browser in "Windows 8.1" and "Windows 10":
  We got an "Application Blocked by Java Security" warning instead:
Application Blocked by Java Security

For security, applications must now meet the requirements for the High or Very High security settings, or be part of the Exception Site List, to be allowed to run.

Name: Audio
Location: http://192.168.0.11
Reason: Your security settings have blocked an untrusted application from running

More Information

OK
Application Blocked by Java Security

For security, applications must now meet the requirements for the High or Very High security settings, or be part of the Exception Site List, to be allowed to run.

More Information

Name: Audio

Location: http://192.168.0.11

Reason: Your security settings have blocked an untrusted application from running
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes (continued):

• in a Mac running OS X 10.10 Yosemite or OS X 10.11 El Capitan, we were unable to access this Webcam with either the Safari, Chrome, or Firefox browsers:
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes (continued):

• Error message in the Safari browser in Mac OS X 10.10:
Application Blocked by Java Security

For security, applications must now meet the requirements for the High or Very High security settings, or be part of the Exception Site List, to be allowed to run.

More Information

Name: EventApplet
Location: http://192.168.0.11
Reason: Your security settings have blocked an untrusted application from running

OK
Application Blocked by Java Security

For security, applications must now meet the requirements for the High or Very High security settings, or be part of the Exception Site List, to be allowed to run.

More Information

Name: EventApplet
Location: http://192.168.0.11
Reason: Your security settings have blocked an untrusted application from running
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes (continued):

- Error message in the Chrome browser in Mac OS X 10.10:
This browser doesn't support or disable Java JRE. Get the latest Java JRE [here](#) or enable Java JRE.

This browser doesn't support or disable QuickTime Player. Get the latest QuickTime Player [here](#) or enable QuickTime Player.
D-Link model DCS-1130 notes (continued):

- Error message in the Firefox browser in Mac OS X 10.10:
This browser doesn't support or disable Java JRE. Get the latest Java JRE [here](http://example.com) or enable Java JRE.

This browser doesn't support or disable QuickTime. Get the latest QuickTime Player [here](http://example.com) or enable QuickTime Player.
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes:

• This Webcam took a distant third place in our evaluation of various Webcams. We cannot recommend it for a variety of reasons.
RF LINK VMI-1201 HD Wi-Fi Smart i-Cam Camera (White)
by RF Link

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
  2 customer reviews

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- Support HD720p/VGA/QVGA video resolution
- Provide push message alert when motion/voice detected
- Allow multiple users to monitor simultaneously
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

- No night vision capability
- No threaded tripod hole
- Failed on November 6, 2015 after 2 months of use:
  On this date, we were unable to reset it with the reset button and it failed to communicate with "Smart iCAM" app in my Samsung Tab 4 "Android" tablet
• The initial configuration and setup of this Webcam cannot be done with a "Windows.." computer or a Mac running "OS X 10.n".

• The initial configuration and setup of this Webcam has to be done using the "Smart iCAM" app which is available either from the Apple App Store running inside an iPhone or iPad OR from the Google Play Store running inside an Android phone or Android tablet.
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

- After you use an iPhone, an iPad, an Android phone, or an Android tablet to configure this Webcam, you can then view and/or record the video stream by means of one of the following:
  - "Internet Explorer" inside a "Windows 8.1" or "Windows 10" computer
  - "Smart iCam" app inside an Android phone or tablet
  - "Smart iCam" app inside an iPhone or an iPad
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

• In a PC running Windows 8.1 or Windows 10, go to "http://videolan.org" and install the 32-bit version of "VLC Media Player."

• After you do so, "Internet Explorer.." will be able to access the video stream of this Webcam. For an unknown reason, the Chrome browser will still be unable to access the video stream of this Webcam.
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

- In a PC running Windows 8.1 or Windows 10, if you install or have already installed the default 64-bit version of the free "VLC Media Player" program, then the "Internet Explorer.." browser will be unable to access the video stream of this Webcam:
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

• If you find the 64-bit version of the "VLC Media Player" program inside the PC, remove it. Then go the the videolan.org Web site and download and install the 32-bit version of "VLC Media Player".
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

- In a Windows 8.1 computer or a Windows 10 computer (after using an Android tablet, or an Android cell phone, an iPhone, or an iPad to set up and configure the Webcam), we were able to get this Webcam working with the Internet Explorer browser but we were unable to get it working with the Chrome browser.
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

- When we used "Internet Explorer 11" in a Windows 8.1 or a Windows 10 computer, the video stream on this Webcam's Web page looked like this:
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

• When we used the Chrome browser in a Windows 8.1 or a Windows 10 computer, we got this:
Channel 1

if you see this message, please install VLC (http://www.videolan.org/vlc/) and restart the browser
This site uses a plugin (application/x-vlc-plugin) that is unsupported.
Channel 1

if you see this message, please install VLC(\url{http://www.videolan.org/vlc/}) and restart the browser
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

- In a Mac running OS X 10.10 or OS X 10.11 (after using an Android tablet or an Android cell phone or an iPhone or an iPad to set up and configure the Webcam), we were unable to access the video stream in the Web page that is generated by this Webcam.

We failed with the all three of the Web browsers that we tried: the Safari browser, the Chrome browser, and the Firefox browser:
Channel 1

if you see this message, please install VLC( http://www.videolan.org/vlc/) and restart the browser
Channel 1

if you see this message, please install VLC(https://www.videolan.org/vlc/) and restart the browser
Channel 1

if you see this message, please install VLC [http://www.videolan.org/vlc/](http://www.videolan.org/vlc/) and restart the browser
RF-Link model VMI-1201 notes (continued):

- After you use an iPhone, an iPad, an Android phone, or an Android tablet to set up and configure this Webcam and this Webcam is successfully connect to a specific Wireless Access Point on a specific wireless Wi-Fi router, connecting this Webcam to another Wireless Access Point (on the same or a different wireless Wi-Fi router) is an inconvenient procedure:
To connect the Webcam to a different Wireless Access Point:
Use a paper clip to hold down the Reset button of the Webcam for 20 seconds until the Webcam beeps.
Then use the "Smart iCAM" app inside an iPhone, an iPad, an Android phone, or an Android tablet to perform the entire configuration and setup procedure.
Trendnet model TV-IP562WI:

- Even though we ranked this Webcam in fourth place, we do not recommend it for you:
Trendnet model TV-IP562WI (continued):

• We purchased the TV-IP562WI because the Web page at http://www.trendnet.com/products/proddetail?prod=215_TV-IP572WI stated that the TV-IP562WI model was the replacement for the "obsolete" TV-IP572WI model which worked well for us.
TRENDnet Indoor/Outdoor (TV-IP562WI) Megapixel Indoor Wireless IP Camera with 1.3 Megapixel 720p HD Resolution, 4x Digital zoom, 16 feet Night Vision, ideal for monitoring your Home/Baby/Petcam, Samba or Micro SD Card slot, Digital WDR, Secu, Free App for Android, and iOS, ONVIF, IPv6 Compliant

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by TRENDnet

4 customer reviews

3 answered questions

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Price: $84.99 & FREE Shipping. Details
- Easily setup the WiFi camera to your home network for quick, live video.
- Stream live video feed in crisp high definition 720p HD resolution and at night with night vision up to 25 feet (7.5 meters)
- Record, remember, and share those unforgettable moments to the microSD card slot or a network storage device
- Receive motion and sound detection video clips via email
- TRENDnet’s Industry leading 3-Year warranty with unlimited 24/7 Technical support
Trendnet model TV-IP562WI (continued):

- Drops the Wi-Fi connection every 4 hours.
- Fails to find my main Linksys router during its initial setup scan.
- From "Windows.." computers and our Mac running OS X 10.11, Web browser access to the Webcam's local Web page is slow and often hangs up.
- We returned this Webcam to the retailer.
Y-cam model YC-W004:

- After trying out this Webcam, we ranked it in fifth place but we cannot recommend it either.
Y-cam model YC-W004 (continued):

- This Webcam is also called "White S". "Y-cam" also makes cloud-based Webcams but the model YC-W004 is part of their "IP camera" line of Webcams which generate a local Web page that can be viewed by computers, tablets, and cell phones that are attached to a local network:
Y-cam White S, Network Camera, WiFi (YCW004)
by Y-cam
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- High quality remote viewing via any computer or internet enabled smartphone
Y-cam White S, Network Camera, WiFi (YCW004)
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Quick and simple set-up on both PC & Mac
Quality Video Resolution: 640 x 480 at 30fps - supports MJPEG and MPEG4
Low light recording for 24 hour surveillance
Direct recording to NAS drive recording with Y-cam NAS-Ready
Y-cam model YC-W004 (continued):

- No video was displayed in low light even in when low light checkmark is checked in the "Settings" screen.
- Motion detection feature did not work for all sensitivity slider values.
Y-cam model YC-W004 (continued):

• This Webcam's tech support pages at http://y-cam.com were all "under construction" so that we were unable to download software and firmware upgrades, as recommended by the bundled paper documentation

• We returned this Webcam to the retailer.
D-Link model DCS-932L:

• We ranked this Webcam at the bottom in sixth place and we cannot recommend it to you.

• At $40, this Webcam was the cheapest one that we attempted to install and it was a total failure in our Windows 8.1, Windows 10, Mac OS X 10.10, and Mac OS X 10.11 computers:
D-Link Wireless Day/Night Network Surveillance Camera with mydlink-Enabled (DCS-932L)

by D-Link

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D-Link Wireless Day/Night Network Surveillance Camera with mydlink-Enabled (DCS-932L)

by D-Link

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#1 Best Seller in Surveillance Video Recorders

List Price: $139.99

Price: $39.99 & FREE Shipping. Details
D-Link model DCS-932L notes:

• We had to download and install a firmware update from the D-Link Web site before we were able to perform the initial configuration setup.
However, after the initial configuration of this Webcam in a "Windows.." computer, this Webcam failed to display video in both of "Windows.." PCs and it also failed to work in our Macs running OS X 10.10 and OS X 10.11.
D-Link model DCS-932L notes (continued):

- Has a threaded tripod hole
- No Mac OS X support:
- For OS X, configuration software link at the D-Link Web sites fails to download a configuration utility (= dead hyperlink at the dlink.com Web site)
D-Link model DCS-932L notes (continued):

- After we used a "Windows.." PC to configure this Webcam, the Safari and Chrome Web browsers in our Mac OS X 10.10 computer failed to display the video of this Webcam (and so did our "Windows" computers).
D-Link model DCS-932L notes (continued):

• For Windows 7 or 8.1 or 10, configuration software works but the resultant web page does not show live video.

• When you use IE10 or Chrome browsers in a Windows 7 or 8.1 or 10 computer to view the video stream since it locks up after the first frame.