

SECURITY DREAMER

DreamerGear Evaluation

Waterfall Solutions, WF ISE+



Exact Name and Version of Product	Waterfall IP Surveillance Enabler Plus - WF ISE+ Waterfall
Manufacturer and Website	Solutions www.waterfall-solutions.com
Type of Product	Video Camera Security
Uses	Protect IP infrastructure from hackers and malware
What We Loved	Easy setup and no-nonsense architecture
What We Didn't	The price
Price	Prices are not available for public distribution
Overall Rating	4 out of possible 5

Overview

Lior and Avner took the redeye to Chicago, so when they walked in I immediately started the coffee pot. One cup to set up the equipment, another to describe the overall architecture and functionality. By the third cup of coffee, I completely understood the Waterfall technology. A single pot of coffee is the entire investment I made to qualify as a systems engineer of this elegant and useful product.

I'm a big believer in the value that IP video surveillance cameras give to large organizations. Easier video sharing, analysis and data gathering are just a few of the benefits. Unfortunately, IP cameras have a serious drawback. Not cost - prices are dropping and functionality is rising quickly enough that price doesn't concern most buyers seeking flexibility and functionality. No, my concern is security. Security of the cameras and the network they share. Bad guys can turn a network camera into a network access point, shutting down or diverting video, or worse, connecting to internal systems and stealing corporate data. Think of the camera as a little, unprotected web server and you get the idea.

Network pros immediately think of standard IT security measures like firewalls, encryption, authentication, anti-malware software and the like. However, building that kind of infrastructure will take extensive involvement of IT professionals, and even then, the firewall may prove powerless against an internal Trojan horse.

Waterfall employs a networking concept called an air-gap to create a secure infrastructure for IP video surveillance. The IP connection from the camera is actually severed, then, reducing the payload to pure video stream in a non TCP/IP format, forwarded over a one-way optical connection to the receiver. The transmitter physically cannot receive, nor can the receiver send, so it is impossible to send any malware upstream or to divert video traffic. For those rare times when a PTZ command must be sent upstream, or when the camera needs a configuration change, the system opens a separate, firewalled, temporary connection that closes immediately after use.

This type of straightforward IT security, using standard technologies and best practices is just what the physical security industry needs to win the embrace of their IT brethren. We liked the easy setup and no-nonsense architecture. We didn't like the price. We think the product should be priced about the same as an IT firewall protecting an equivalent number of ports.

We recommend the Waterfall solution for any end user, distributor or integrator of large numbers of IP cameras.

Category	Rating
Architecture	
Performance	
Ease of Use	
Administration	
Value	
Overall Rating	

For detailed analysis, reprints, or to submit a product for evaluation, visit SecurityDreamer.com or contact Rachel.Cusick@HuntBI.com