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○ ISSUE
6

○ VOLUME
1

○ June 2009

Security Solutions

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS AND
SECURING THE FUTURE.

Helping secure your world

In an organisation, one cannot reduce crime, whether from external or internal sources, unless you control access. This fact is now well recognised by all business persons.

Technology advancements now enable biometric methods to be used for access control. To help our readers understand this technology, our first article gives a brief overview of **What is Biometrics**.

One of the first weapons in office security and one of the most beneficial, is the camera surveillance system. The question often arises however, **Where do I put the Cameras** for maximum benefit? So our second article address this question.

Video Analytics takes CCTV one step further by actually analysing what is going on, rather than just recording it. So

our third article looks at **how Video Analytics can help a Business**.

All business training emphasizes that there is a Risk Reward tradeoff. The question though is **How Much Risk is Tolerable** and our fourth article provides a method for determining this.

We know that our readers are not only interested in improving security in their workplace but also in their personal lives. Hence each issue of this magazine also addresses personal security matters. In this vein we look at a common **Driver's License scam**.

How to make the surroundings of your home secure is addressed in the article **Lawn Security**.

It is accepted that having a safe will allow you to secure your valuables. Most of us however tend to think of safes as bulky solid steel objects. Our article, **Diversion Safes**, show you how you can hide items in plain sight.

Recognising that we are entering the major holiday season, our final article looks at **Protecting your home when you are on Vacation**.

Brian Ramsey
Editor



What is Biometrics?

By [M James](#)

Biometrics is the term used for using an aspect of the human body for identification purposes. This can be physiological, such as a part of the body like the face or a fingerprint, or behavioral, such as the way a person walks or talks. The most well known of all the biometrics is surely fingerprints. But what are some of the other types?

Face Recognition works by analysing the image of a person, in terms of their facial features such as the distance between the eyes, and the shape of the cheekbones and other features. These features can then be added to a database, and then matched when the person is seen by the camera. Face recognition can be used for both static images and moving video. Face recognition can be used for crowd detection, and to enhance CCTV effectiveness.

Using fingerprints is one of the oldest forms of identity control, and has been used for many years. Modern fingerprint technology records each individual detail of the fingerprint, and then uses complex mathematical algorithms to encrypt it.



Iris recognition was originally proposed in 1936, but it took until 1987 for it to be developed properly. The iris is a good choice as a biometric, as the pattern is stable throughout life, and there are over 200 points of reference that can be used in the recognition process.



Hand recognition data is easier to collect than other methods, and is a much simpler process. But, the human hand isn't necessarily unique, so hand recognition is often used as a supplementary identification system rather than a sole recognition system. Hand recognition can be combined with other identification methods such as an identification number for a more accurate security method.

Vein recognition is a relatively new technology and has yet to be fully tested on a large scale, but is currently successfully in use in various small and medium sized applications. It works by using the vascular pattern of the palm, finger or back of the hand, which matches a previously captured image of the vein patterns. As the veins do not change over time, vein recognition is a good long term identity solution. There is no contact involved either, so this method of biometric access control is hygienic compared to some of the other methods.

Biometrics can be used to control access in many situations and scenarios, such as in airports, stations, buildings, shopping centres, prisons, schools and many more. Now you know a bit more about Biometrics, how could they benefit you and your company?

Article Source:

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=M_James

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

Office Surveillance – Where to put Cameras

By [Michael Bunch](#)

A business isn't open long before it has to start addressing security concerns. Often, this is as a result of theft or a data breach, costing the company time, money and resources. One of the first weapons in office security, and one of the most beneficial, is the camera surveillance system. It is easy to see value in such a system, but the question often arises during purchase - where do I put the cameras for maximum benefit?



Here we will outline a few areas common to most business which could benefit from camera surveillance. It might be that the funds are not there to cover all of these areas initially, but they should be included in a broader comprehensive surveillance plan.

Outdoor Surveillance

Often the first area one will want to cover with video surveillance will be outside the building. This will comprise your external protection from intruders or vandals.



Parking Lots

The parking lots are a great target for your security cameras, as they will capture movement toward and heading away from the building, as well as give you imagery of the vehicles involved. This may lead to faster recovery of stolen items, particularly if a face could be identified or a license plate was visible during the theft.

Gates

Focusing cameras on the gates may also be advisable, as it is necessary to traverse the gates if using a vehicle for any illicit activity. Also, since the gates are locked at times when the

business is closed, it would require the subject to linger for the time it would take to overcome the locking mechanism or ram the gate. This may prove invaluable if positive identification could be made of the assailant from that footage.

Entrances: Doors and Windows

Another outdoor surveillance target would be the doors and windows leading into the building. It is likely that an intruder will attempt to access the building from the most vulnerable location. Windows and doors are much easier to penetrate than the roof or the external walls of the building. These are also the areas most likely to be used as exits, which may give valuable insight into what was stolen.

Indoor Surveillance

Much attention is often given to external surveillance, but the interior of the building is as important as the outdoor areas when mapping a comprehensive surveillance strategy.

Sensitive Equipment

The first location to target with security cameras are areas with sensitive equipment. This could be proprietary equipment, equipment with a high monetary value, or equipment with sensitive or vital company data. The server rooms or any location with a high concentration of technology should be monitored.

Financial Centers

The financial centers should be next on the list of inner office

surveillance. This would be your accounting department, or any location with cash boxes, blank checks, or bank account numbers. If a thief is not after equipment, they will likely be after money.



Conference Areas

The last location you might want to consider for surveillance cameras are the conference areas. This may seem an odd addition to the list, but it is often a necessary one, as many companies find out after some incident. Having the ability to record conference sessions where employees are reprimanded, hired, fired, or debriefed can be important in proving proper handling if an issue ever arises. This may not prevent theft, but it may prevent hours of litigation.

Article Source:

Michael offers tips, information, and advice on [Home and Office Surveillance](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Michael_Bunch) at his website: [Surveillance Systems Site](http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Michael_Bunch).

:
http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Michael_Bunch

How Could Video Analytics help your business?

By [M James](#)

Video Analytics takes CCTV one step further by actually analysing what is going on, rather than just recording it. Everybody knows how effective and efficient CCTV can be, such as for monitoring crowds in a shopping centre, those acting suspiciously in a car park, or safeguarding a building out of office hours.

The CCTV footage is analysed using computer software, rather than a human, and then this data is checked against a series of rules, so that if certain criteria are met, then an alert is triggered. For example, if there is somebody entering a building during the night, or a known criminal is seen in a crowd, security staff can be alerted.

Rules can be set up for incidents such as people being somewhere they shouldn't be, leaving a bag or object behind, a person loitering, or passing an item between people in a queue. In addition, the software can interpret aggressive behaviour, or behaviour or actions that could lead up to a situation escalating and becoming a cause for concern. For somebody looking at CCTV footage from a street camera, somebody getting into a taxi, or bumping into somebody, might not normally be a notable incident, but if it's outside a nightclub, or a pub, this could become a more serious scenario in a matter of seconds. The video analytics software can alert security staff to events like this,

rather than the security staff having to meticulously study the footage in order to try and work out what's going on.

For airport security systems, shopping centres, construction site management and other areas with lots of traffic and secure areas, video analytics used with face recognition and rules can help to identify people, situations, and recurring events. The software can even tell the difference between somebody forgetting to pick up a bag of shopping rather than leaving a suspicious package.

Thanks to face recognition, the CCTV data can be properly tagged with names, times and locations. This makes it very useful, so that if a target, such as a known shoplifter appears on camera in a shopping centre, a rule is triggered which alerts the shopping centre security staff. In an airport, the software could be used to trigger an alert if somebody is seen trying to get into another passenger's bag, or looks nervous, or is trying to gain access to a restricted part of the airport, or is wearing unusual clothes for the time of year, or other activity that security personnel are looking for.

As the data is tagged, it can be searched so that footage can be found that meets the search criteria. This can be the activities of a known person, using face recognition technology, all events for a certain timescale, or location, or all specific events such as attempted break ins at a building.

Now you know how useful Video Analytics can be, how

could this technology help your business?

Article Source:

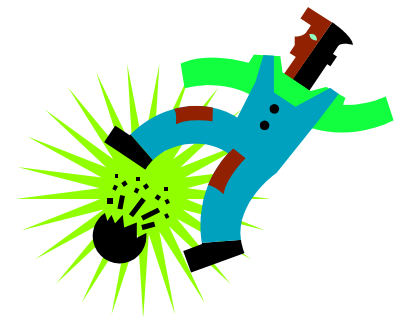
Find out more about how [Airport Security Systems](#) and [Video Analytics](#) work, and how this technology can help improve security and safety, with [HRSLtd.com](#).

Article Source:

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=M_James

How Tolerable is Tolerable Risk

By [Carl Marx](#)



Introduction

The introduction of the principles of risk assessment into occupational health, safety and environmental legislation by the introduction of the duty of care principle into these laws worldwide caused that the managing of these factors required a new paradigm. These principles imply that a certain level of self-regulation will be possible under the new legislative regime.

For any level of self-regulation to be effective all the stakeholders must have a clear understanding of what is expected of them in

order to comply with their individual statutory obligations. Residual risk can be defined as the risk that remains after taking into account the controls that have been applied. Residual risk differs from tolerable risk in that the controls that have been applied may not be suitable and sufficient to reduce the risk to tolerable levels.

Tolerable risk

Tolerable risk is the risk remaining after suitable and sufficient controls have been applied to significant hazards that have been identified, assessed, communicated to the appropriate stakeholders and sanctioned after proper evaluation. The concept of reducing the residual risk to tolerable levels is nothing new, the fact that, for all practical purposes, the products, processes or services we utilize are not risk-free is tolerated by all of us.

Determining tolerability

In business and financial management determining the level of tolerability is a matter of calculating the internal rate of return (IRR) or the net present value (NPV) and evaluating this against the probability of achieving these returns. The dilemma for occupational health, safety and environmental professionals is to establish the magnitude of what will be a tolerable risk level in the particular working environment that we work in.

The company responsible and accountable for managing the risk or controlling the hazard must define at what level

tolerable risk will be tolerable. The determination that the risk is at a tolerable level should be made in light of an adequate assessment of the potential frequency of occurrence and an understanding of the potential severity of the outcome associated with the frequency, as well as the exposure levels anticipated. This assessment should not only consider the normal operating conditions, but should take cognizance of any abnormal and emergency situations that may arise.

It is also important to ensure that the very low frequency disasters be considered when determining the residual risk levels. These residual risk levels should then be clearly and unambiguously be communicated to all stakeholders that may be affected by it. In addition, the relevant Government agency expectations and the public perception should typically serve to reduce the tolerance levels for risk in any particular company.

During the determination of the tolerability or not of a particular risk, financial as well as non-financial issues should be considered by the representative team. Tolerable in this instance does not mean acceptable, it only refers to the willingness to live with a risk so as to secure certain benefits in the confidence that the risk is being properly controlled.

Legislative standards establish minimum levels of performance, often leaving some level of risk remaining. If this residual risk is high (relative to the affected company risk tolerance levels) after applying controls

established by legislation, the affected company should implement controls beyond the requirements of the legislation to further decrease the frequency and/or resulting severity of an adverse occurrence. All companies should establish company specific occupational health and safety and environmental standards, complying with at least the established legislative standards. The legislative standards for health, safety and environment normally reflect the general expectations of society pertaining to the specific industry and therefore it would not be justifiable to relate for example tolerable risk in the transport industry to tolerable risk in the mining industry.

It is a known fact that the environment we live in is not risk-free. A number of individuals tend to use the term acceptable risk for this state of affairs. This term must be rejected from the philosophical point of view that no negative risk is acceptable, although the individual or society may choose to live with a certain level of risk because of the perceived benefits. In practice mankind are always seeking to reduce the risks and what would be tolerable to one generation may become unacceptable to the next.

Conclusion

A widely expressed fear is that the tolerable risks once established would fix the level of risk forever and would not encourage innovation and further risk reduction on a continuous improvement spiral. This is not the case, and the current tolerable

risk level should be seen as a benchmark against which the level of risk is judged for future improvements. International experience has shown that by using the risk-based approach, many of the problems of setting the tolerable level of risk can be overcome by meeting the expectations of employer, employee, the society and the legislator. However, the risk-based approach alone will not produce sound standards.

There is the need to plan tasks carefully, making certain that the objectives is clear and that all the necessary inputs into the working group are readily available. The introduction of risk assessment as a means to determine the priority of dealing with risks in the workplace is seen by some to be the magic wand that will remove all risks and responsibilities. The truth of the matter is that if this tool is utilized incorrectly by inappropriately trained people it may cause more negative outcomes than without it.

About the Author

Dr. Carl Marx completed his Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA). He was awarded the best financial student award at the completion of his MBA. He has extensive experience in providing multi cultural clients with business solutions.

He is widely published in the printed and electronic media in fields as diverse as Financial Management, Risk Management, Safety Management and the Law.

Dr Marx have extensive experience in providing successful solutions to clients in more than 14 Countries, including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papa new Guinea, Australia, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Mexico the US and the UK.

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Article Source:

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Carl_Marx

Amalgamated Security provides a GPS Tracking service with the most detailed maps of Trinidad

International Driving License Scam



Planning a holiday abroad and wanting to rent a car? You may think you need an International Driving License -- but you'd be wrong.

What you, in fact, may need if you're traveling to many

countries is something called an International Driving Permit (IDP), which is simply a document that translates the information on your driver's license into 11 languages (including English).

IDPs are optional for some countries and mandatory for others. For example, they are currently optional for France and Italy, and mandatory for Austria, Greece and Japan.

IDPs are available for about \$12 from the American Automobile Association (AAA) and the National Automobile Club -- but NOWHERE else.

==> <http://www.aaa.com/>

==> <http://www.nationalautoclub.com>

Email or websites offering an International Driver's License are a scam -- there is no such thing as an International Driver's License.

When you travel internationally, you need to have an IDP and a valid driver's license, both issued by your country of residence. So for example, if you are a Austrian citizen living in the US and holding a US driver's license, you will need an American IDP).

The IDP must be accompanied by a valid driver's license at all times -- it has no value on its own and is not a substitute for a driver's license.

Action: Avoid getting an International Driver's License. If you travel abroad to a country that requires it, get an

International Driving Permit from the AAA or National Automobile Club.

Reprinted from
www.scambusters.org

Your Lawn as a Security Perimeter

By [Levi Mortenson](#)

When it comes to home security, you can never be too careful, and that means being smart, keeping your wits about you. You have to realize that criminals aren't the sorts of dastardly masterminds you see so often in the movies. Burglars are opportunists; they see an opportunity to commit a crime and they take it. There's no rocket science involved. Imagine yourself in the criminal's shoes, if you will, for a moment. Who are you going to pick to mug - a three hundred pound bouncer, a young, scrawny kid, or a somewhat frail looking old lady? Chances are you'd go for the old lady or even the kid. You wouldn't run up to the guy that looks like he just got out of WWF match, now would you? Didn't think so.

The same principle goes for your house. The appearance of security is key. Of course, no property is 100% thief proof; but you do want to make it seem like it's impossible to get into your home sweet home.

Here are some home security tips pertaining to the perimeter surrounding your house, i.e. your lawn or yard, garden and garage.

First off, think about multiple levels of security. Home security is not simply about any one

thing; think about it, even if you have the most high tech home alarm on the market it won't work if you forget to turn it on. So when it comes to your yard, there are several things you need to tackle. Keep in mind that robbers are looking for a place that's easy to break into and easy to escape from. Your job is to make this as difficult as possible.



Fences are a great place to start. Fences keep bad things out, while keeping everything else in its place, such as your dog. A 20 foot, steel fence will do wonders, but if that's not so much your style, think about more modest affairs. A shorter, more aesthetic stone fence or even the traditional white picket fence are both functional barriers. You might even want to consider a hedge or row of bushes. This will keep your property cordoned off from the street and make it more intimidating for burglars.

Trees can actually aid thieves. If your house has more than one floor, trees can make the perfect ladder. Make sure to keep

branches trimmed and also consider putting home alarm sensors in all your windows. Also, those lovely little trellises so favored by gardeners and house wives can also work remarkably well as a step ladder.

Instead of a trellis, plant a couple of rose bushes underneath your windows. The thorns are a perfect welcome gift for any uninvited guest.

Do put down gravel on any pathways outside your house, especially near windows and doors; this makes a lot of noise, and can act as an early warning system.

Always lock any house doors, gates, shed doors and garage doors. It's a simple thing but many people forget.

Finally, consider getting a home alarm system with outdoor sensors. Home security systems are great deterrents, which will keep you and your family safe and sound.

About the Author

Don't be a victim! Help protect the people and things you care most about with an [ADT home security](#) is the leading provider of security systems in the U.S. Trust [ADT security](#) to help keep you safe.

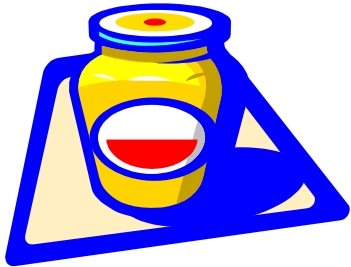
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http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Levi_Mortenson

Diversion Safes – A Unique Home Security Product

By [Lee H Johnson](#)

There are a wide variety of decoy safes offered for sale to protect your valuables. Most go under the name of Diversion Safes. Many look like drink cans, food products, cleaning supplies and other items that you find around the house. There is even a flower pot and a book!

These Diversion Safes look like the real McCoy. They use existing product brands so that they don't look out of place in your home. Depending on the diversion safe, either the top or bottom is removable in order to place your items inside. You then replace the lid and put the safe in a location that the product belongs in.



The average burglar only spends around 10 minutes in your home. He is looking for items that won't take him long to find. He does not look at the Ajax can that is in with the cleaning products under the sink. He spends his time looking in bedrooms, dens and going through drawers and closets.

Some of the things you can do with the safes include placing car keys inside the cans so that if someone gets into your home they do not have any wheels to leave with. You can place money and other valuables inside these cans as well as important papers if folded correctly.

Remember, that these unique products are just what they say they are, a Diversion Safe. For example if you place valuables into an Ajax Diversion Safe and then place it in your computer room next to your laptop, it's not going to work. There is no diversion. However, if you place the same can under your sink along with your other cleaning products you have a much better chance of it still being there and untouched when you return.

Remember, some of the best places to hide things are in plain sight.

About the Author

Lee H. Johnson is a 20 year veteran of Law Enforcement, a past owner of a Security Company and now owner of a Self Defense Products Company. He is well versed and up to speed on what's new in the market so he can meet the needs of you the customer. <http://www.unique-self-defense-products.com/diversion-safes.html>

Article Source:
http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Lee_H_Johnson

Protecting your home when on Vacation

By [Ben Crenshaw](#)



While on vacation, the last thing we want to worry about is the safety of our homes. The point of going away from it all is to relax. While these following tips and precautions cannot guarantee the security of your home, they will certainly provide additional support to the home security system you have.

Enlist your neighbors, friends, and family:

- Let a few of your trusted neighbors know how long you will be gone, though do not inform too many people.
- Leave a spare key along with information regarding where you can be reached with nearby family or a neighbor, but never leave an outgoing message on your answering machine or home email account about your trip.
- Ask a neighbor to check on things while you're gone, e.g. large kitchen appliances, washer and dryer machines in the basement.

To insure further home security and to create the feel that the house is occupied while you and your family are away:

- Have the post office hold your mail for the duration of the trip, and have a neighbor pick up any newspapers and deliveries you may have.
- If it is an extended trip, arrange to have the front/backyard mowed. Or depending, of course, on the season, shoveled. Have someone come water the plants, inside and outside.
- Adjust the electrical timers to your usual routine and have them switch on the lights, televisions, stereos, etc. - or better yet, with certain electrical timers, at random, so potential burglars cannot figure the pattern.
- Leave your motion detector lights on; the light in the driveway will help deter intruders.
- Ask a few neighbors to park their cars in your driveway once in a while.
- Ask your neighbors to put a bag of their garbage on the curb in front of your house.
- If you own dogs and have friends or family caring for them, have them swing by, sit outside for a while, walk around the neighborhood.

Inside the house, be sure to check and double-check the following before you leave:

- Unplug both large and small appliances.
- To further prevent electrical fires, turn off the breakers for all nonessential electrical circuits.
- Check that all faucets are securely off.
- Shut off the water heater.
- Don't leave in sight any valuables.
- Leave the curtains and shades at the position in which you usually leave them. Don't pull them shut all the way if you don't

normally do so.

- Remove any keys you may have hidden outside the house.
- Turn off and disconnect the computer.
- Turn off the phone ringer, as an unanswered phone is a clear sign that no one is home.
- Set your home alarm system before leaving.
- Close and lock all doors and windows, especially those in the back as they are most often forgotten. Put a solid stick in the tracks of sliding doors and windows for extra security.

Home security is important, especially when you're away from home. The next time you and your family take a vacation, follow these tips and you're sure to feel more at ease, as you should.

About the Author

ADT alarms from America's number-one home security company are your best bet in home protection. An **ADT alarm system** can help provide peace of mind and protection for your loved ones and valuable possessions.

Article Source:

http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Ben_Crenshaw

**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**