

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

Streaming Surveillance Videos to Your TV and Other Devices

The Internet/television marriage hasn't changed much since I covered it in my April 2011 column titled *Internet Based TV*. (http://www.technologytoday.us/columnPDF/Internet Based TV.pdf). What I discovered at this year's CES event in NYC is that your television set, with the help of a new set-top-box, can become your own home surveillance viewing channel.

This channel could stream video from your child's nursery, your office, or even your second home thousands of miles away. You also don't have to watch your surveillance channel on your TV because D-Link apps exist that allow viewing on your computer, iPhone, iPad, or Android device.

As I checked these systems the ABC TV show *Revenge* kept popping into my head. The action of the show was often predicated on video that was picked up by a spying wireless camera encased in a small metal ornament.

The D-Link system was the only system that I saw that could feed your camera's surveillance to your television set.

They stuffed a small fraction of the functionality of their Boxee Box product into their new (DSM-310) MovieNite Streaming Media Player. This \$48.00 set-top box is a weak competitor (has less channels) than the



\$49.99 Roku LT set-top-box. In my opinion the MovieNite player saving grace is its mydlink™ surveillance channel.

The mydlink™ channel allows you to view streaming video from one or more D-Link networked cameras. I tested the full functionality of the system by using the MovieNite Player in combination with D-Link's DCS-932L and DCS-942L cameras. Both cameras had remote viewing, night vision, needed to be plugged into an electric outlet for power, and could wirelessly transmit what they viewed to your network.

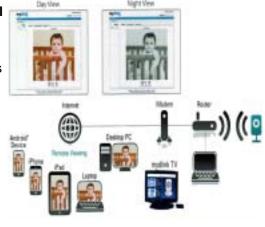
The first step to creating your surveillance system is to connect your camera to your network. This connection can be wired or wireless. The process is performed on your computer by following the step by step procedure that is found on the camera installation CD.

The DCS-932L camera has a live video streaming feed but can't record video. You can snap still pictures from its online feed, schedule when it should take photos, or have it email you snapshots when it detects motion. The DCS-942L camera is enhanced so it can do all of the above and also record video at scheduled times or when it detects motion. You can tell it to archive what it records to your cloud storage location, computer, a micro SD card in the camera, or even have it email you the video it records to your Smartphone, tablet, or computer. You can log into the mydlink website (http://mydlink.com) or use a D-Link app to view your camera feeds on an iPad, IPhone, or Android device. You can schedule these cameras to report in at specific days and times or when they observe motion.

Reasons to Drool

In this age
when both parents
have to work, the
ability to peek at
home using your

Smartphone or tablet is a priceless convenience. The ability to use your



TV as an impromptu baby monitor is also priceless.

Not So Cool

MovieNite Streaming Media Player (DSM-310) just doesn't do enough. D-Link is already manufacturing its enhanced (DSM-312) MovieNite Streaming Media Player that will sell for \$80.00 and at least on paper it is worth the wait. The DCS-932L only takes snapshots and the unit that I tested seemed to get an inordinate amount of false alarms when it was told to email me when it detected motion. The advanced setup mode on both cameras was buggy when you tried to do it online at the mydlink website. When I directly accessed the cameras in my network, they did program properly. You will find links at http:// www.technologytoday.us/page13.html that will clarify many of the points made in this review. The goal here is to make you aware of the products and if you are contemplating purchasing a surveillance system to help you determine if the D-Link hardware and apps are the correct surveillance system for you.

Alan is co-author of Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010 and a TechDirections Magazine Columnist. Visit www.technologytoday.us for past columns, reviews, and resources.