

Integrating Physical Security and Cybersecurity

With Cisco Meraki MV Security Cameras





Introduction

While cybersecurity has rightly become a priority for more businesses over the last several years, it's important not to become too narrowly focused on cyber issues at the expense of physical security. In fact, physical security and cybersecurity can often overlap, such as with the need to protect computers and other devices that contain confidential information from being stolen or accessed by unauthorized users.

Yet if cameras need to be managed on their own, like ones that only use physical videotapes to record and review footage, it can be hard for IT teams to make sure they have the same policies in place across both physical security and cybersecurity, while also keeping all their infrastructure up-to-date and finding links between these two aspects of security.

Instead, companies can benefit from using physical devices like security cameras that can be managed alongside other IT assets. Doing so can help businesses more easily ensure all of their security infrastructure operates properly and receives security patches and product updates. This also keeps the video and data generated from security cameras protected alongside other sensitive information.

The Cisco Meraki suite helps facilitate this type of integrated security. Meraki MV security cameras can be managed within a user-friendly, unified dashboard that can also be used to manage other Meraki products that tie into cybersecurity. With Meraki, companies oversee their whole security infrastructure from one centralized location.



How Meraki MV Security Cameras Promote Both Physical Security and Cybersecurity

Meraki MV security cameras record and stream high-definition video that can be easily viewed through an integrated, cloud-based Meraki dashboard. That means your IT team, facilities staff or authorized users can securely review live or recorded footage remotely, including on mobile devices. And unlike some other security cameras, Meraki MV devices do not automatically share footage with police, which can help protect your company's privacy and gives you more control over who can access footage.

In addition to video-recording features, Meraki MV security cameras also have physical security features, including the ability to detect motion and create heat maps based on activity in the area being recorded. By being connected to the cloud, the cameras can then send footage and alerts to your devices, so you can quickly respond to threats.

In addition to helping prevent theft and unauthorized access to devices, the cameras and Meraki dashboard include a number of cybersecurity features that help protect the additional information they generate. For example, the video and data associated with managing cameras automatically get encrypted, and you can use two-factor authentication to help ensure only designated users have access to camera controls.



Operational Benefits of Meraki MV Security Cameras

Beyond the more direct security features of Meraki MV security cameras, these devices also include a number of operational benefits that help make them easy to implement and manage, which can ultimately make overall security management easier.

For example, all of the cameras' updates, including new firmware releases and bug fixes, can be pushed out automatically, so you can stay up-to-date with new security and operational features. The cameras are also incredibly easy to set up and scale, as you can add devices and associated controls through your Meraki dashboard before you even receive the physical cameras.

Meraki MV security cameras also have integrated solid-state storage, which can be useful for times like a network outage, in which case the cameras can still operate and save footage, even if you temporarily can't access them through the cloud. That also means you do not need to deal with the complexity and potential security risks of using a network video recorder (NVR).

Other features, like the cameras' analytics capabilities, can also help companies easily gain important security and overall business insights. For example, through machine learning, the cameras can track data such as how many people or cars enter a given area. This data can be useful in a variety of cases, such as identifying customer traffic patterns. From there, retail companies, for instance, may decide to adjust staffing decisions, such as deploying more physical security guards and customer service employees during expected high-traffic times.



Recommended Types of Meraki MV Security Cameras

Meraki MV security cameras come in a variety of different models, each with slightly different designs and capabilities that suit different physical environments. Corporate Armor recommends the following models:



MV12

MV12 series cameras have a fixed lens, making them good options for indoor security in compact spaces, providing a 73° or 114° field of view horizontally, depending on the specific model. They also start at a lower price point than the other MV models listed below.



MV22

MV22 series cameras have a 3-9 mm varifocal lens, thereby enabling you to zoom in and out optically in indoor environments, rather than just using digital zoom.



MV32

MV32 series cameras use a fisheye lens to provide 180° of view both horizontally and vertically. These cameras have a sleek design that blends in well in indoor environments.



MV72

Like the MV22 series cameras, the MV72 series devices have varifocal lenses, yet they are designed for outdoor use. These cameras are rated IP67 for weather resistance and IK10+ for impact resistance.

Get Started

Choosing the right cameras can depend on the type of environment you're trying to secure, and you may need a mix of Meraki MV security cameras to suit different areas of your offices, stores, warehouses or other environments.

Whichever you choose, using these types of cameras can be a great way to start integrating your physical security and cybersecurity practices, particularly if you add additional Meraki products to your IT infrastructure so you can manage them all through the Meraki dashboard.

Get started by viewing our featured lineup of Cisco Meraki products to see how you can leverage these devices to improve your overall security.

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