You’ve invested time and money in analog cameras for your video surveillance system. The analogs provide a “good enough” image and they still have a lot of life left in them, but you can’t help but pay attention to the migration of the video surveillance market to IP video and those crisp, megapixel images.

You don’t have to purchase all new IP video cameras to experience IP video technology. Using video encoders you can achieve megapixel IP video quality with your existing analog cameras. And it’s a lot more affordable than you’d think — with some options ringing up at less than $100 per camera.

The diagram above shows how you can use video encoders in conjunction with additional IP cameras to create a low cost hybrid solution.

**How do encoders work?**

Analog cameras send images as native analog video — video that cannot directly connect to your IP network. An IP video camera, however, can directly connect to an IP network (just like computers do).

Using video encoders, you connect your existing analog cameras to an encoder, which then takes the native analog video and outputs it as digital video which can then be sent over an IP network.
Most analog cameras/DVRs capture images at 320x240 at 6 frames per second (FPS). Using a video encoder, however, de-interlaces the images, resulting in a capture at 720x480 at 30 FPS. The result is a superior megapixel image.

**Encoders Offer More Than Just a Pretty Picture, Especially Coupled With a Strong VMS**

In addition to achieving better image quality through megapixel resolution, using video encoders to obtain IP video maximizes your network infrastructure – allowing you the capability to centralize your system if you desire. Consolidate the DVRs strung around your facility with up to 160 encoder ports on one server, for example. If a DVR fails, replace it with an encoder at a much lower cost.

Migrating to IP video from analog using video encoders sets the foundation for a video management system (VMS) where you can easily add existing and new cameras – analog or IP – to your network. Would you like to add megapixel images to the parking lot, for example, in order to increase coverage and, perhaps, get a discernible image of a license plate on a suspicious looking vehicle?

Just because Video Insight is easy to use, however, doesn’t mean it isn’t sophisticated. The straight-forward user interface for Video Insight Monitor Station immediately gives users a clear idea of how to add cameras, view cameras, retrieve recorded video and make video clips, among many other features. You can easily configure your cameras to integrate with building and campus facility maps which can also be layered.
Cameras can be viewed from the Monitor Station or from the internet via the Web Client or smartphone and tablet applications (including iPad/iPhone and Android).

On a more technical level, Video Insight provides Active Directory Support including LDAP integration which minimizes the need for employees to toggle various usernames and passwords while also reducing the amount of technical support needed to create user names and assign camera permissions for each video user. The powerful web client doesn’t require ActiveX plug-ins and the system provides integrated failover. Video Insight also integrates seamlessly with access control and analytics programs. If any technical or user issues do arise when using Video Insight, the U.S.-based technical support team offers a wealth of knowledge and a one-hour callback guarantee.

One of the most attractive features of Video Insight, which operates on an open architecture platform, is its scalability which can achieve several hundred cameras per server. And you aren’t limited to camera selection as you improve upon your analog-to-IP system because Video Insight supports more than 1,300 cameras from 60 manufacturers, giving you the ultimate in choice when adding or replacing cameras.

Despite the fact that IP video sounds more complicated than analog – it’s actually an easier system to manage, if you have the right software. Award winning Video Insight VMS software is an excellent choice to manage your analog cameras and encoders – and any new IP cameras you will add – because it is easy to use and requires virtually no training.

The Video Insight VP-16 Encoder Will Help You Make the Move From Analog to IP
After you’ve made the decision to convert from analog to IP, the next step is choosing the right encoder and the best software. The Video Insight VP-16 is a 16-port video encoder bundled with Video Insight software that will help you achieve the perfect analog-to-IP video migration and at a dramatically lower cost – less than $100 per channel. This simple, per camera pricing is all inclusive and requires no additional fees.

The VP-16 includes the complete suite of Video Insight enterprise software, and:

- All channels H.264 compression, D1 Resolution at 30 FPS
- Encoder based motion detection
- Deinterlaced image
- 16 video loopouts to power existing analog monitors and video walls
- 1U Rackmount case
- Single 100/1000 Network Port
- Single 110v internal power supply

The Price is Right (No Matter the Implementation Size)
Unlike many IP VMS systems, Video Insight is affordable, and there are no hidden fees for site licenses or remote viewing. Video Insight has more than 25,000 customers including 4,500 schools and universities (with hundreds of buildings managed by one system) to smaller firms seeking an initial transition from existing analog to IP.

There’s no argument that IP video is superior to analog. But investing money into new camera hardware when you have existing hardware that’s operational doesn’t make much budget sense. Making what could amount to a nominal investment to upgrade your images from analog to IP, however, makes perfect sense. Choosing a trusted VMS software provider such as Video Insight bundled with a solid encoder, the VP-16 – at an amazingly affordable price – is one of the best ways for your firm to make your analog surveillance cameras go further with video encoders.

To learn more visit www.video-insight.com

Video Insight offers intelligent and user-friendly state-of-the-art IP video surveillance systems. Headquartered in Houston, Texas,

Video Insight software is used in thousands of businesses including schools, universities, hospitals, banks, hotels, restaurants, retail businesses, and government facilities. Visit our website or call 713.621.9779 for more information.