

## MAKE IT EASY SHEET

### **DIGITAL STORAGE**

**What is meant by 'Digital Storage'?** Digital storage is a means by which data in the form of text, images or voice is stored on a magnetic disk for retrieval at a later date.

**Is a DVR a Digital Storage device?** Yes, a DVR (Digital Video Recorder) stores images from analogue CCTV cameras in a digital format on a hard disk unit. (DVR's have replaced VHS based tape systems in the majority of CCTV installations over the last five years). Some manufacturers have designed DVR's to not only connect analogue cameras but also IP cameras concurrently e.g. Excel Guardian 'Crystal' DVR.

**What is an NVR?** An NVR (Network Video Recorder) is specifically designed to store images from 'IP' based cameras via a single Ethernet port (10/100/1000-T). It usually runs a version of Linux and has installed as part of the system a software application for managing the attached cameras.

**What is a NAS box?** A NAS 'box' (Networked Attached Storage) is a digital storage device that extends storage capacity on the LAN instead of installing larger disks inside existing network servers. A typical NAS 'box' will have a 1 or 2 Terabyte hard disk capacity, although this can be scaled to suit any application. An Ethernet port (10/100/1000-T) and run Linux as the operating system. For users on the network it looks like an additional drive available (S:shared\_drive) for storing shared documents/images etc.,

Depending on the software employed, a NAS 'box' can be a very cost effective method of storing images from 'IP' cameras.

**Why have the manufacturers of digital storage devices decided on Linux?** Linux is open-source operating system, based on Unix, which is regarded as more secure and offers higher performance than Microsoft Windows. It also doesn't incur additional costs associated with licenses for the number of devices attached.

As an example to install a network of 40 'IP' cameras, an end user running a Windows system would require a Windows 2003 server license plus a license for each IP camera attached and run regular virus checking routines daily. With a Linux NAS server there are no licenses required and no requirement to check for viruses.