

Car cameras display security camera footage



SECURITY TRENDS

BY JESSICA RAPP
Managing Editor

Big brother isn't watching, but the guy with the vehicle back-up camera is.

Images transmitted to the screens of wireless vehicle back-up cameras can be a source of surprise and confusion for consumers. The devices can display the inside of apartment buildings, schools and convenience stores with compatible security camera technology as an individual drives past them.

Mike Kunz, vice president of Kunz and Associates, an electronics outsourcing sales company, said hardwired security cameras might still contain transmitters that send signals to either receivers or locally-networked recorders, which operate on a wireless 2.4 gigahertz range, meaning that another analog system on the same range can pick up what's being transmitted, such as the video feed from a security camera.

He said consumers who use local security technology companies tend to purchase lower-end, cheaper security cameras and might overlook that they're not fully hardwired. Most security-conscious consumers such as school administrations currently tend

to take the hardwired route, operating on an internal network that would only be accessible with knowledge of the IP address.

The Kirksville R-3 school district uses a similar hardwired system, but will be undergoing security technology updates for all the schools, beginning with the Early Childhood Center and ending with the high school. They expect to complete the project within the next three to five years, assuming they receive stimulus funding, Schaper said.

Superintendent Patrick Williams said one of the Kirksville schools has a camera in the parking lot that is wireless because of the remote location.

"If this is a new challenge to safety and security as we develop our security plan, ... we want to be sure to address that with our vendors," he said. "If you have a large number of remote cameras, it could potentially jeopardize your security efforts."

Kirksville residents also have discovered that vehicle back-up cameras pick up their wireless video monitoring system's images. Phillip Biston, owner of Jefferson Apartments, said he installed a wireless system in his children's playroom next to his office. He and his wife use this to watch their

children when they're not in the room with them.

"It's probably a rare occurrence that somebody would be driving by with one of those cameras and happen to look in," he said. "It's just our kids playing, and if they looked in the window, they'd probably see the same thing."

Larry Sharp, chief engineer for Roadmaster, said Roadmaster's VR-3 back-up cameras operate on a frequency of 2.4 gigahertz and use the fourth channel on that band. Any other wireless device that operates on this same frequency can transmit a signal to the receiver in the cameras, he said.

Roadmaster uses an analog transmission system instead of digital, and Federal Communications Commission regulations state that analog receivers must receive any signal transmitted on the same frequency as the receiver.

"On a car radio, if you tune it to a specific frequency, and you're listening to a radio station, and you drive 200 miles or 300 miles to another town, but you leave the radio set on that same frequency, you won't pick up the channel or the radio station you were listening to," he said. "You may pick up a local station in that area."

Sharp said digital security de-

Some school districts now install completely digital camera systems that save money on copper wire, said Mike Kunz, vice president of Kunz and Associates. With a digital system, 15 cameras placed throughout a school wouldn't need wires connecting each of them.

Most elementary schools in St. Louis have installed lock down systems as extra insurance for protection, he said.

"They're locking down schools everywhere," he said. "... The only way you can get in is go up to the front door or whatever the designated door is, press the button, let them look at you through the camera, and let you in that way."

vices usually have an access code or a pairing code that prevents signals from transmitting away from the unit, similar to pairing a phone with a Bluetooth device.

Hardwired systems do not contain a transmitter but instead use a cable that connects the camera to the video monitor. Those who set up a security camera system can sometimes mount a transmitter at a separate location from the camera. He said this is usually the case if, for instance, a steel wall separated the camera and the video monitor.

"If you're picking up signals from what you assume is a hardwired system, it really is not," he said. "Somewhere along the way it has a transmitter that's sending out a signal on the 2.4 gigahertz band."

The VR-3 camera by Roadmaster has sat on store shelves for four years, but only recently has the company received complaints from the discovery of the transmitting images. Good Morning America gave out the product on the show about a year and a half ago, causing Roadmaster's phone lines to flood, Sharp said.

He said people can heighten privacy from the eyes of a back-up camera consumer by paying attention to the labels on video monitor packaging. Labels that indicate the device cannot transmit to other systems will save the worry but also can jack up the cost.

"It's one thing for people to say, 'I don't think my monitor should pick up images,'" he said. "... But the truth of the matter is, that's just the way physics works."

Swine flu scares become reality for some

BY JANE KRIENKE
Staff Reporter

News of the spread of swine influenza in Mexico reached Truman via an e-mail released by the Student Health Center on April 27.

Junior Kelly Schute, a former Index columnist who studied abroad this semester, already was aware of the problem. Schute returned to the U.S. around midnight April 28, after her school in Puebla, Mexico, was canceled at noon Monday. She left her semester study abroad program two weeks early to avoid potential problems in getting back into the U.S.

"I was supposed to come back on May 11, but when all the news about the swine flu started happening, I figured it would be difficult to leave the country," Schute said. "I was worried about them closing the borders or restricting passengers from Mexico, so I decided to bump my trip up to this coming Saturday, which would have been May 2."

On the following Monday they made a nationwide announcement that they were canceling classes, numerous offices and museums until further notice, she said.

Schute said she called the airlines to schedule a flight, and the fee for changing her ticket was waived in an effort to help people wanting to leave Mexico City. Schute said her experience in the airport was not as chaotic as she

would have imagined.

"I got there five hours early because I was worried that there would be health screenings or something," Schute said. "All they had was, before you go through security, they had a little piece of paper you had to fill out. You had to check 'yes' or 'no' to whether you felt certain symptoms like headache, joint aches, just the main symptoms of the flu. ... If you checked 'no' to everything, they let you through. I don't know what would have happened if you checked 'yes.'"

Schute said news of the spread of the swine flu did not make big news in Mexico until a week ago.

"Last Thursday is when people were starting to get concerned, but the only news I really heard about it was from American news sources," Schute said. "... This weekend was when we started hearing about not only the deaths, but about it spreading to other countries, and this weekend was when I decided I wanted to come home early whether classes were cancelled or not."

No deaths were reported at the university Schute attended that she knew of. She said she did hear speculation about nearby deaths, however.

"I did hear a girl talking ... [who] said that she knows two people within the area had died," Schute said. "I'm studying in Puebla, which is the ... closest big city [to Mexico City], so I don't know why the problem wasn't bigger there. But it wasn't one of the first states

to report problems."

Patrick Lecaque, Truman's director for the Center for International Education Abroad, said he has been receiving daily e-mails from the Center for Disease Control and the State Department with advice about the swine flu. Lecaque also said the network of colleges involved in study abroad experiences have been e-mailing back and forth, clarifying all of the facts about swine flu and debating whether future programs to Mexico should be cancelled for this coming summer.

"This issue is very complicated, and basically we follow instructions from the CDC and from the State Department on absolutely every issue that relates to safety and security," Lecaque said. "Right now, the State Department has indicated that all nonessential travel should be postponed, so if that remains in effect, we will have to cancel all travel to Mexico."

The Health Center's April 27 e-mail provided an explanation of swine flu symptoms and tips to prevent its spread and assurances that it cannot be spread by the consumption of pork.

Professor of agriculture Tom Marshall specializes in working with swine. He said the spread of swine flu happens every year in pigs, and its effects are not nearly as detrimental as they are in humans.

"Generally in pigs there's two flu seasons," Marshall said. "The death rates are typically

not high in pigs. There are certain strains that have a higher mortality rate but generally it goes through [the] whole herd pretty rapidly."

Marshall said problems arise when the strains of swine flu recombine and spread to humans. This makes it more difficult to vaccinate against.

"[Pigs] can actually get the virus from avian, or birds, and then they can get a different strain of the human virus," Marshall said. "Then in the pig they can recombine, or they can mix genes of the different viral strains, so then you can get all these different viral strains being mixed in the vessel of the pig. Now those that are in the pig, some of them can be acquired by humans. It's the mutated one, or the one where you mix different viral strains. Now pigs or humans may not have a resistance to it. We vaccinate pigs for certain strains of the influenza virus. Due to this mixing process, once you develop a new, unique strain, those vaccines may or may not be effective at preventing them."

As for Schute, the problem of swine flu is not as close as it was only a few days ago.

"I'm so happy to be back," Schute said. "Honestly, I wasn't scared of getting sick. I was more scared of not being able to leave. As it gets worse and worse, I think the restrictions are going to be more severe, so I was very happy to be out."

JujiTSU team receives no funding from FAC

BY KELLY KIESEL
Staff Reporter

In an 8-1-0 vote Sunday, the Funds Allotment Council decided not to fund JujiTSU.

During the April 26 Student Senate meeting, the Senate passed a motion suspending the standing rules of the FAC and allowing them to spend from the FAC's rollover funds or reserve account to fund JujiTSU if the FAC decided to.

The Senate's final decision was made after forming a Grievance Committee to take care of the issue.

Senior Lizz Esfeld, student Senator at and large co-chair of the Grievance Committee, said they had a short timeline to come up with a decision. Esfeld said the committee first met April 20 to go through all of the information and

then hosted a hearing April 21 to ask FAC and JujiTSU questions to ensure their information was correct. Esfeld said the committee's next meeting was April 23, when each member wrote down what they thought should happen. Esfeld said the committee's 5-2 decision to give the FAC the ability to use their reserve funds or rollover account was made April 26.

"I wasn't convinced that the best thing for us was to come to a complete consensus," Esfeld said. "The constitution and standing rules of FAC and Student Senate didn't very clearly outline what we were supposed to do or what FAC was supposed to do in allotting money."

Esfeld said it was a hard decision to make.

"I think that in the future, should grievances be filed, clarification and all

of the documentation and consistency across the board would make it so much easier," Esfeld said.

Senior Jacob Thomeczek, incoming treasurer of the FAC, said FAC's reserve fund is 5 percent of the money for each semester and is about \$2,500 on average. Thomeczek said FAC's rollover account is the money not used during the semester. Thomeczek said the other option in FAC's decision would have been to reduce the amount of money given to other ICA teams so FAC could balance the budget.

Senior Austin Underhill, FAC's new chair, said he didn't think the Council was going to approve the funding. Underhill said if FAC was to give JujiTSU money, it would come out of the money FAC didn't use to fund the other groups, which is about \$157.

"We appreciate the time the commit-

tee put in their decision," Underhill said prior to Wednesday's meeting. "I don't necessarily feel they understand fully our process, and I don't necessarily think all the recommendations were well-founded. But they will be considered, and I understand they put a lot of hard work into it."

Underhill said this was not a personal feeling toward the JujiTSU and that the team will be given a fair chance in the future.

JujiTSU captain junior Caleb Stanek said he thought everything was fair and that there were faults on both sides.

"We will probably lose recruitment due to money issues because we pay a lot in dues and tournament fees, and some people don't have the money," Stanek said. "Also, some veterans won't be able to play as many tournaments."

Stanek said the team will work differ-

ently concerning funding in the future.

"One of our problems was we came expecting them to ask us questions," Stanek said. "So next time we will come with it all laid out for them, filling in the 15 minutes with what we've done."

Stanek said the team plans on continuing with the same fundraisers as before as well as others. Some of JujiTSU's past fundraisers included a photo fundraiser with Wal-Mart and a Kraft fundraiser where they worked a carnival for the Kraft plant.

Jackie Blume, outgoing chair of the FAC, said that plans for the future include having the Senate at hearings and taping the hearings.

"We are also going to put a page in our application that says all the questions we will be asking the groups so that way they have the opportunity to be more prepared for the hearing," Blume said.

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