Webinar Q&A:

The IP Rundown, with Dick Koharik

Q: When all the analog inputs are being used in a Kollector Elite and the IP inputs are also used, is the IP input recorded?

A: Absolutely. When using an IP camera, the "encoding" is happening within the camera instead of within the Kollector Elite. So, the input from the IP cameras is going directly to the hard drive and the unit is serving as just a storage device for the IP inputs. Everything is recorded, from both the analog and IP cameras.

Q: How many inputs and outputs does the KRX-3 decoder have?

A: The KRX-3 has three outputs, available as composite, S-Video and VGA. Each output has the ability to provide a quad view, providing a total of 12 outputs that can be displayed across three monitors. The KRX-3 can be racked, similar to our KTX-4 encoder, so that it may be used in high-density solutions where many channels require decoding within a small physical space. As for the number of inputs, there really is no limit. The KRX-3 can display video from any camera connected to the network. However, there are some limitations to the Virtual Matrix Controller, in terms of how many cameras it can accommodate. However, if that limit needs to be exceeded, another Virtual Matrix Controller just needs to be added to the network.

Q: Will the new IP products be available for use with both ViconNet 3.0 and 4.0?

A: Yes. For example, the I-ONYX camera may be ordered for use with either version. And, any products out there that are currently running Version 3.0 can be upgraded to 4.0. The nice thing about 4.0 is that everything can be upgraded from the head-end, so there's no need to be out in the field upgrading each unit.

Q: How do I explain to customers how to compare the costs of an IP system with a traditional analog system?

A: Digital technology has made great strides in recent years. In just the past few years, the standard network bandwidth has increased to 1 GB/sec and we are seeing 10 GB/sec networks. At the same time, the MPEG 4 file sizes transmitted in an IP-based system like ViconNet are now relatively small and can easily be transmitted over an existing network. It's true that IP cameras are still a bit more expensive than analog cameras, but if you factor in the savings of not having to pull any cable, plus you eliminate the need for power supplies by making use of power over Ethernet, the price is actually quite competitive. By the way, Vicon offers both a bandwidth calculator and a file size calculator that can help you evaluate potential system requirements. Just ask your Vicon representative for a copy of these tools.

Q: Will Vicon be offering any other cameras besides the I-ONYX that offers power over Ethernet (PoE)?

A: The KTX-4 encoder and the KRX-3 decoder are both PoE. However, many customers want to know when we will offer a mini dome camera with PoE. The answer is very soon. We are currently working on a PoE version of our popular 910 IP dome. Stop by our booth at ASIS and see it.

Q: What is the power limit over Ethernet?

A: The power limit is based on IEEE standards; it's 48 volts. Voltage adjustments are made inside the camera. However, when you're dealing with PoE, as long as you follow IEEE rules and are running the camera no more than around 300 feet, power limits for PoE aren't really anything you need to be concerned about. Obviously we sometimes need to run cameras farther, like 1000 feet, and in these cases there are devices called power injectors, or mid-line devices, that assist in these applications.

Q: Will the I-ONYX camera offer analog inputs and encoding like the 755 does?

A: No. The I-ONYX may look like the 755, but it is a stand alone camera. However, it is a really powerful camera, offering good resolution and stability, and will be available in high-resolution, WDR and day/night versions. This is all very exciting, making it an IP camera that offers many of the features and performance that has typically been limited to analog cameras.

Q: With the release of ViconNet 4.0, is it necessary to use the Virtual Matrix Controller, or is an "option?"

A: It's an option. There are many users who will find the normal ViconNet 4.0 PC interface is just fine, but for those situations where you want to distribute video without a computer, or places like command centers or areas with public view monitors, the Virtual Matrix is going to fill a pretty big need.