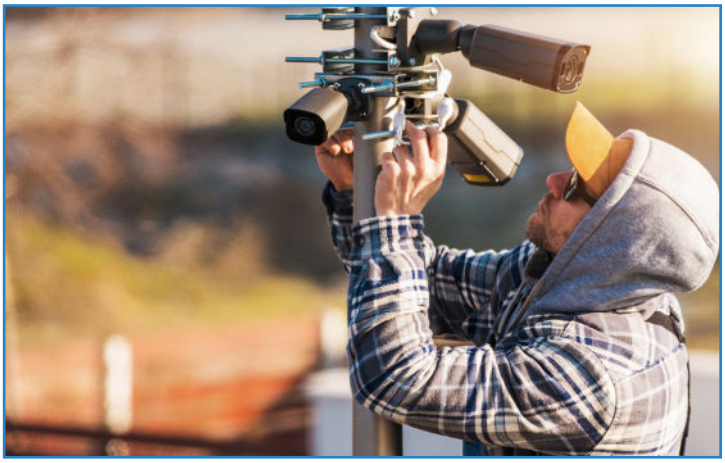
Tipsheet

6 Tips to Reduce Surveillance System Downtime

Preventing surveillance system downtime is of utmost importance due to the invaluable nature of the data captured by these systems. When incidents occur, video surveillance serves as a crucial source of evidence to prosecute crimes, defend against false claims, and safeguard an organization's reputation. Most importantly, surveillance systems play a pivotal role in protecting people, property, and assets. When these systems experience downtime, an organization is exposed to the very risks they were designed to prevent.

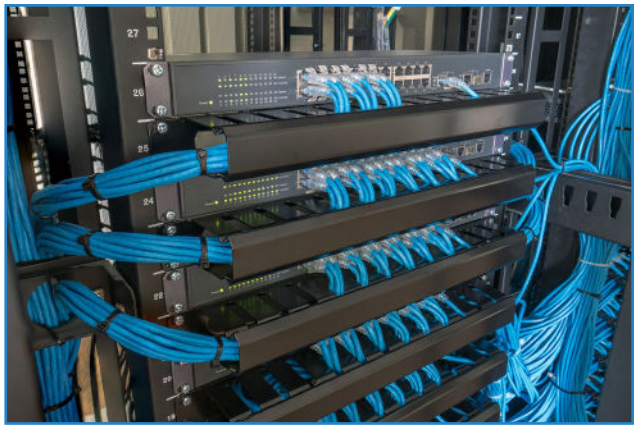
To mitigate the risks posed by surveillance system downtime, we present six essential tips that every security installer should consider. By implementing these tips, you can ensure your customers receive continuous surveillance coverage and preserve the integrity of the data collected by these systems. Taking the initiative to reduce surveillance system downtime showcases your dedication to providing reliable and comprehensive solutions, strengthening your reputation as a trusted and forward-thinking partner in the security industry.

1. **Invest in Surge Protection –** Uncontrolled power is one of the largest contributors to surveillance system downtime. Damaging power surges and spikes have the potential to take out an entire network of cameras and other interconnected equipment without warning. The idea that such damaging power events are only caused by lightning is a dangerous misconception that puts surveillance systems and other sensitive electronic equipment at risk. In reality, power surges happen much more frequently than storms. Deploying surge protection is your first line of defense, helping to ensure that surveillance systems are not impacted by these all-too-common power disruptions.



2. Know Your System – How your cameras are receiving their power has its own pros and cons and will dictate how surge protection is applied. For example, the ability for IP cameras to communicate over the primary data network and integrate with other systems offers faster, simpler connectivity and higher performance. Yet, this convenience also comes with higher risk. A surge event at an IP camera, especially those installed outdoors and exposed to weather, can propagate through the entire network, causing damage or destruction to other interconnected systems and devices. Conversely, analog cameras operate as standalone systems managed outside of the network, reducing the risk of surge transmission but still requiring individualized surge protection at the device level.

3. Install Surge Protection in Layers – Whether you are working with an analog or IP camera system, it is essential to deploy Surge Protective Devices (SPDs) in layers. The first layer of protection should be installed at the facility service entrance, effectively blocking damaging surges generated outdoors from entering the facility altogether. Surge protection should also be applied at network switches, especially when installing outdoor PoE/IP cameras, to halt surges in their tracks and prevent damage to other interconnected equipment. Lastly, install surge protection at the camera level for individual device protection. This is especially critical for cameras in higher risk areas or chokepoints, such as those overseeing an ATM or cash register.



4. Have a Backup System in Place – A damaging power event has the potential to permanently delete critical data without strong backup measures in place. Backup copies of the data can be used to restore systems if they are current and available, but recreating such data is often cost and time prohibitive. Protecting the data storage devices with surge protection gives these critical files a better chance of surviving common power surges without corruption or damage.

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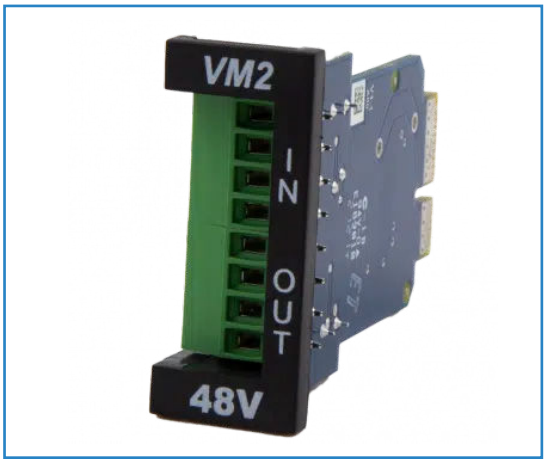
5. **Ensure Ongoing Protection –** Protecting surveillance systems, their connected equipment, and applicable data storage devices is the mission-critical function of surge protection. To do this job dutifully, however, they will self-sacrifice, often without notice, to protect their connected equipment. Whether succumbing all at once to a severe surge or gradually wearing down from smaller surges, surge protectors require routine inspections to identify any damage or deterioration. To facilitate this, innovative surge protection devices may feature advanced end-of-life indicators, such as visual indicators, audible alarms, or dry contact communications, signaling the need for replacement.

6. **Consider a Modular Surge Protector –** Given the self-sacrificing nature of surge protectors, a modular surge protector that is more efficiently replaced is a cost-effective choice for long-term surveillance system protection. Unlike traditional surge protectors, modular surge protectors offer greater capacity and allow for centralized surge protection, simplifying installations and module replacements. Installers can select rapid-replaceable modules that suit each device's voltage requirements, connection methods, and physical locations, ensuring optimum surge protection for the entire surveillance system.

For comprehensive and efficient surge protection for surveillance systems, the **DITEK Versa-Module 2** (DTK-VM2) modular surge protection system proves to be the best option. The DTK-VM2 series provides a versatile "build-your-own" surge protection system that allows security integrators to tailor the installation according to their specific needs. With 4, 8, and 24-channel enclosures available, the DTK-VM2 series can accommodate a wide range of rapid-replacement modules, offering protection for 5V up to 130V circuits. Deploying the DTK-VM2 is an easy way to boost customer confidence and position yourself as a reliable security partner.



To learn more about DITEK's DTK-VM2 and their range of SPD solutions for analog and IP camera systems, please visit **www.diteksurgeprotection.com.**

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