

Going Digital

Thin Air Technology's Mobile Digital Recording

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The concept of security includes minimizing the risk of loss. One way to do this is by locking up your possessions, but another is safeguarding those possessions through surveillance. We lock our homes and our cars, but even alarms can only do so much. While surveillance systems can help prevent theft and loss, sometimes just being able to keep an eye on something of value can provide you comfort and security.

We live in a time when security is important. Luckily, the technology that can give us that security is both impressive and affordable. Cameras can be placed around our homes and businesses, digitally recording all activity in full color. Computerized systems organize, process, and store these images with an efficiency far beyond that of VHS tape recorders. The exciting news is that this technology can now be applied to our vehicles: Buses, taxis, and your 16-year-old's 1998 Neon.

Thin Air Technology, a company with local ties, specializes in Digital Video Recording equipment for both real estate and vehicles. Besides providing a variety of fixed cameras to oversee the activity inside or outside of any home or business, they offer an in-vehicle application that can monitor the driver and passengers of the vehicle. Up to four cameras may be either discretely mounted or completely hidden from view. Images are recorded on a hard drive or made available to any PC or laptop computer by using General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) technology.

Another application of this technology will appeal to weekend racers and driver's school

participants. Imagine one camera pointing forward as you circle the track, another pointing out the back, and one focused on your instruments. These cameras are all permanently mounted and connected to a digital recorder tucked out of the way. Leave your Sony video camera at home where it's safe. One Thin Air Technology customer has even installed the system in his motorcycle.

You may not be a racer, but maybe you have a teenager who will someday borrow the keys to the BMW. You could know who is driving the car and with what degree of safety they are doing so. Also, imagine the usefulness of full color video if an unauthorized person were to help themselves to your vehicle. In either case, the optional Global Positioning System (GPS) will inform you as to the vehicle's location at all times. In an emergency, SMS messages could even be sent to a mobile phone.

Surveillance systems can help to protect lives and property from loss or litigation, but a sense of security also comes from being able to keep an eye on the day-to-day activities of your business, your child's day-care center, an elderly relative, horses and livestock, or anything else that you care about. The technology is now in place, and it is affordable.

Bimmers-R-U's in St. Louis, Missouri has signed on to become a distributor of this technology. In addition, they will help distribute another product of Thin Air Technology: a digital media display system to allow businesses to show their customers information and advertising. For more information visit the Thin Air Technology website at



TVM Mobile Digital Video Recording system

320x240 resolution

10-15 frames per second

State of the art data compression

Accommodates up to four cameras

Audio input and output

Optional GPS input

Optional GPRS module to transmit video

SMS messaging to cellular phones

Storage to hard drive

Backup via USB or CF card

Low power consumption

Continuous, scheduled, or alarm-based recording