



How to choose the right video management solution

A list of questions you and your team can go through to make a well-informed choice.

Site and device requirements

To set up your organization for success, it's important to build on a solid foundation that can scale as your business grows. Start by understanding the core needs of your sites and devices. Then you'll be able to decipher your system's architecture, camera specifications, deployment scale, and accessibility.

Basic requirements:

- ☐ How many cameras do we want?
- ☐ Should we use multiple camera models for various applications, or is standardizing on just one or a few models better?
- ☐ How many sites need cameras?
- ☐ Do we want all these sites to be interconnected and visualized from one central location?
- ☐ What is the size of our deployment? Is it a small or a more extensive deployment?
- ☐ How many users will access the system and use it simultaneously?
- ☐ Do we want to connect any other type of sensor (such as access control, intrusion, audio/communication, IIoT) to our deployment?
- ☐ Do we need to see all the data from our sensors? Will we need to create interactions from a unique interface?
- ☐ How will user groups be defined for our system?
- ☐ Should we opt for continuous recording or only during specific periods? What conditions will determine when to record?

Architecture:

- ☐ Is our existing hardware compatible with the new technology?
- ☐ Do we have space to install on-premises hardware?
- ☐ Do we need to support a wide range of camera types and brands?
- ☐ Where do we want to host our own system? Do we want to host on-premises, in the cloud, or a hybrid combination?
- ☐ Do we want a single system deployment managing all sites, or do we need multiple independent remote locations managed separately?
- ☐ Do we want complete control over how we manage the system and all its components?
- ☐ Do we want to rely on a cloud provider to manage the system and its components?
- ☐ Do we need to optimize bandwidth?
- ☐ Do we need to use specific codecs?
- ☐ Does our system need to support specific file formats?
- ☐ Do we want to store all video recordings on-premises or keep some of them or all of them in the cloud?
- ☐ Does the system offer scalability and support for our organization's growth and expansion?
- ☐ Does our deployment support integrations with existing security systems or third-party applications?
- ☐ Is our deployment compatible with different types of cameras and devices?

Operational requirements

Beyond supporting incident investigations, your video management solution should help speed up daily operations and incident response procedures. Evaluate your system's resiliency and the insights it provides so you can improve decision-making. Have you considered forensic search, real-time operations, automation, and analytics?

Forensic activity

- ☐ Do we need processes in place for investigations post-incident?
- ☐ How short does our investigation process need to be?
- ☐ Do we need to share relevant investigation information with external stakeholders?
- ☐ Do we need to comply with industry and government regulations regarding auditing and investigations?
- ☐ Do we need high-performance software to play back video for investigations? How many investigations are conducted every month?
- ☐ Do we need to preserve long-term backups of evidence related to investigations?

Real-time operations

- ☐ Does our deployment need live monitoring?
- ☐ Do we need processes in place for real-time incident response?
- ☐ How short does our incident response time need to be?
- ☐ Do we need a process in place to deal with critical incidents?
- ☐ Do we require seamless and instant communication between operators and staff exclusively within our VMS without utilizing external tools?
- ☐ Do operators and staff need access to a mobile app when moving around and addressing an incident?
- ☐ Does the team need to wear body-worn cameras and connect these to our video management system?
- ☐ Do operators need access to a web application?
- ☐ Does our deployment need dynamic maps for incident response and operations?
- ☐ Do operators need access to a video wall to monitor potential incidents?
- ☐ Do we require high-performance workstations to enhance response time, especially for a system with many entities from which data needs to be sourced?
- ☐ Do we need to be able to set up alarms and operational triggers for specific incidents?

Support

- ☐ What training or support is provided for system implementation and ongoing use?
- ☐ Is our interface intuitive and user-friendly for both administrators and security team members?
- ☐ What level of technical support is available (e.g. 24/7, response time)?
- ☐ Can our provider offer customer references or case studies demonstrating successful implementations?
- ☐ What is the reputation of our provider in terms of reliability and customer satisfaction?

System resiliency

- ☐ How many backups do we need for video recordings in case of failure?
- ☐ Do we need on-premises disaster recovery options (e.g., keeping recordings off-site, multiple local copies of our data)?
- ☐ Do we need on-premises archiver failover for video recordings (in case of primary archiver failure)?
- ☐ Do we need a process to ensure directory failover in case of a system failure?
- ☐ Do we need a backup process for user state and configurations?
- ☐ Do we need to complement or replace on-premises failover systems with cloud storage for video?
- ☐ Do we need to be able to extend local video recording capability with cloud storage (no additional footprint)?
- ☐ How reliable is our system in terms of uptime and performance?
- ☐ Do we have additional charges for support, bandwidth, or feature upgrades?

Automation and analytics

- ☐ Does our deployment need to include video analytics? Do we need analytics servers that can specifically support this?
- ☐ Do we need area protection to safeguard a specific zone or environment within a bigger one? Do we need perimeter protection?
- ☐ Do we need to track the position or direction of any objects?
- ☐ Do we need to detect any specific objects or conditions with video?
- ☐ Do we need the ability to count people or to detect tailgating at the door?
- ☐ Do we want to be notified if a camera image has been modified, altered, or tampered with?
- ☐ Do we need customizable dashboards and reports for site(s) activity based on video data analysis summaries and trends?
- ☐ Do we need to create automation (actions from specific events or condition detection) at sites?

Browse your deployment options

Discover the benefits of [video surveillance as a service \(VSaaS\)](#)
and an [on-prem video management system](#).

Cybersecurity and privacy

Cybersecurity and privacy can't be an afterthought. When evaluating video management systems, safeguarding sensitive data and maintaining system integrity should be top priorities. Read through industry best practices for vulnerability assessments, securing connected devices, and more.

Cybersecurity strategy and compliance

- ☐ Do we have a proper cybersecurity strategy in place? Is it based on best practices in the industry?
- ☐ Have we assessed cybersecurity in the scope of our security system?
- ☐ Did we conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify gaps that can be closed through the convergence of physical and cybersecurity?
- ☐ Did we perform a thorough vulnerability assessment of all connected physical security devices to identify models and manufacturers of concern?
- ☐ Are we only using genuine products and avoiding counterfeits and unlicensed products?
- ☐ Are there other things to consider besides the technical aspect to help mitigate risks?
- ☐ Do the solutions considered include the necessary certifications?
- ☐ Which data protection regulation or framework applies to our specific situation?
- ☐ Do we need a system that allows simple updates to sensor firmware, passwords, or security certificates?
- ☐ Have we assessed what to do to comply with privacy regulations in our region? (GDPR, PIPEDA, CCPA, etc.)
- ☐ What security measures are in place to protect video data (e.g. encryption, data storage policies)?

Do you have the latest cybersecurity best practices?

Make every step of your physical security deployment process secure with this [cybersecurity checklist](#).

Making an informed decision ensures that your VMS aligns seamlessly with your operational requirements, facilitates effective video monitoring, enhances incident response capabilities, and supports future growth and expansion.

By thoroughly assessing your requirements based on these key considerations, you can make an informed decision and ensure the successful implementation of your VMS.

Let's talk about your VMS requirements

Discuss your video management system needs with an expert.

[Our team is here to help](#)



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