

FEATURES

IMAGETIME PRODUCT 'IDEAL' FOR MARKET

CCTV, or closed circuit television for security purposes, is by no means a new phenomenon where gaming machines are concerned.

Both arcades and casinos depend on cameras as a constant security measure, but Simon Carr's Imagetime throws in a great many new features. He took the system to the Irish show after approaches from a number of Irish arcade owners, keen to utilise some of the advantages of the Management Cam which Imagetime offers. "The product is just about ideal for this market," said Carr. "The system is internet-based and the primary use is for multiple site owners, giving them the ability to monitor their sites on the move."

He said that operators are using it for management as well as security. An arcade owner can keep an eye on staff and it is so easy to use that they use it more. Back-up cameras mean that operators can view live and recorded video from a mobile telephone. It will retain images for set periods to recover later and it will give a montage of images, reviewing them every 10 minutes to see how busy the location is.

Carr sees the unit being used in arcades, family entertainment centres, bingo clubs and casinos. "We can create detection zones for any time of day and it will even email you with a snapshot at any time if there is any movement." Another feature is that it will burn a CD as evidence for future use.

Imagetime carries out the installations - and has already completed one in Dublin - and is working with a chain of bookmakers in Ireland. Using network utilities to monitor hardware on site, the company has carried out installations with some arcade chains in the UK.



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TAB TO AMEX

BENEFIT IS INTERNET CONNECTION

BRENDAN Murphy's Superleague Ireland built up its name in the pool tables business - but he took jukeboxes from TAB of Austria to the Dublin show.

The company has been using the Superleague name for 30 years and continues to use it with the pool competitions it runs. The company remains a major operator of pool tables but has added jukeboxes and touchscreen games, which brought in TAB, which is one of the world's top names in touchscreen, which in turn gives Murphy the opportunity to use the Maxfire jukebox from the same company. "It's the only one we use in our operation and we also sell it to other operators in Ireland."

The company has been appointed a distributor by TAB for all of Ireland. The benefit from TAB products is that every jukebox also connects to the internet, which makes it a very useful piece of equipment in hotels. "After all," said Murphy, "you wouldn't buy a PC without an internet facility, so it makes no sense to buy a jukebox without it too."

That means that every box can update with the UK top 75 tracks at any time, updated by the server daily. "The entire process of updating has been revolutionised by TAB; it means that as the operator I don't decide what the people hear. The players know what they want to play, so they make the decisions."

The jukebox market in Ireland, he said, is generally a marginal business because of the cost of the box and its installation. "It's a long-term investment with a steady return. If you are setting up an operation then you have to have a jukebox somewhere in it, so you want the best return from the best equipment."

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