

Eye in the sky (camera)

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The **eye in the sky** is a term given to casino and other commercial security closed circuit cameras. In casinos, they are positioned to monitor seats, tables, hallways, restaurants, and even elevators closely. The functional component is known as a pan-tilt-zoom camera, or a PTZ, an industry standard term.

The PTZ camera is covered by a semi-transparent plastic globe which makes it nearly impossible to see which direction the camera is facing from a distance. Retail stores often install empty globes, giving the appearance of additional cameras. The camera is mounted on a series of interconnected gears and levers, which usually allow two axes of rotation. This rotation can either be controlled manually by an operator using remote-control, or can be automated using motion sensing technology. In most commercial and civilian applications, both control methods are used simultaneously to allow automated surveillance of general movement, while allowing a manual over-ride mode to view specific subjects more closely.



"Eye in the sky" cameras in casinos observe players and prevent cheating.

These cameras often help casino officials judge whether the person is card counting, which is popular in blackjack, past posting and roulette. In case a crime or a cheat is detected after the fact, the casino employees can review the recorded tapes and find the culprit. The casino cameras are adjusted to focus on certain suspicious players by security workers in a separate casino room with banks of security monitors.^[1]

These types of cameras are also found in retail stores as well to monitor customers and employees, such as Walmart or target. They can also fool robbers thinking there is a camera watching them and being monitored by CCTV.

See also

- Casino security
- Closed-circuit television

References

1. "How Casinos Work - Casino Security". *HowStuffWorks.com*. Retrieved 2010-09-07.

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