Security surveillance equipment, more commonly referred to as CCTV (closed circuit television) equipment, is not just for large corporations and municipalities anymore. Changes in technology and the market have made CCTV more affordable than ever allowing consumers and small businesses to benefit from the additional layer of security provided by being able to record activities in their buildings and properties. This tutorial will provide an overview of the most common options available and how to choose what is best for you.

**Camera Styles**
The style of a camera refers to the shape and mounting options of a CCTV camera. The most common camera styles are dome, bullet, box, PTZ, and covert.

**DOME CAMERAS**
Dome cameras are becoming increasingly popular due to their ability to blend in with their surroundings. These cameras are used in residential applications as well as public places such as convenience stores, offices, and lobbies. Though they can be mounted to a wall, they are usually mounted on the ceiling.

**BULLET CAMERAS**
Bullet cameras are encased in cylindrical usually weather resistant housings. Their size, cost and integrated design make them a great choice for home and outdoor installations.

**BOX CAMERAS**
Box cameras can be used with or without a housing. In most instances, they are used with a housing and bracket unit for outdoor areas such as parking lots and entry gates. Lenses are purchased separately offering greater flexibility.

**PTZ CAMERAS**
PTZ cameras are more expensive but offer the operator more control with remote pan/tilt/zoom. These cameras are used primarily when an operator is actively monitoring an area and needs to manipulate the camera. They are popular in department stores, casinos and government buildings.

**COVERT/SPY CAMERAS**
Covert or Spy cameras are designed for discreet installations. They are commonly referred to as a nanny cam. Used frequently by private investigators, or concerned parents they effectively capture video without others being aware.

**Wired vs Wireless**
A wired CCTV system requires the cameras to be physically connected to your monitor, computer or DVR via a cable. The optimal choice for a camera security system is wired. Wired systems are more cost effective, provide the highest quality video, and no signal interruption. L-com currently offers both IP Based Cat5e (or better) Standalone cameras as well as DVR all in one kits that utilize coax cabling.

**Wireless IP Surveillance**
A wireless CCTV system typically uses the 2.4GHz frequency to transmit the signal through your LAN (Local Area Network) to your computer. Most wireless CCTV cameras have some range limitations with clear line of sight transmission requirements. Wall thickness and other interference may decrease this distance. Wireless IP cameras offer greater flexibility when placing your camera, and require no long cable runs. However most still require the use of an AC adapter.