Analog cameras

When do I need an analog camera?

Under certain conditions analog cameras will serve you better than digital cameras. If cables longer than 5 m are needed between the camera and recording equipment, for most digital cameras, you need an amplifier. Industrial analog cameras may be more suitable in these cases. Cable lengths of 30-50 meters are generally no problem.

An additional advantage of analog cameras is that their signals can easily be splitted by simply splitting the cable. To split a signal from a digital camera a video splitter or video splitting software is needed.

Install and setup

To convert the output of analog cameras into a digital format, a video capture card is needed. If you bought a complete solution from Noldus IT, the video capture card is present in the computer. If you bought your cameras, video capture card and MediaRecorder separately, you must do the installation and setup yourself.

See Set up analog cameras

Supported analog cameras

In theory, MediaRecorder works with output of every analog camera that is used with the Euresys Picolo Alert PCIe Video Capture Board. We specifically tested MediaRecorder with output of the following cameras with the Euresys Picolo Alert PCIe Video Capture Board with Multicam driver 6.15.13573:

- Ikegami B/W ICD-49 PAL
- Panasonic WV-CP504 NTSC
- Ikegami Analog PAL/CCIR
- Ikegami Analog NTSC/EIA

Maximum supported number of cameras

- Euresys Picolo Alert PCIe Video Capture Board - Four cameras or PhenoTyper Top Units.

Tested setups with EthoVision XT

The table below shows the maximum supported (1) resolution, (2) frame rate (fps), (3) color space, (4) number of devices and (5) recording time (hours). Tests were done on a Dell 3640 PC

	Device	Resolution	Frame rate	Color space	No of devices	Recording time
	Ikegami B/W ICD-49 PAL-Analog CCIR Euresys Picolo Alert PCIe	768 x 576	25	YUY2 RGB32	1	0.5

	Panasonic WV-CP504 NTSC - Analog EIA Euresys Picolo Alert PCIe	640 x 480	30	YUY2	1	0.5 18 60
	Analog PAL/CCIR	768 x 576	25	RGB24	4	24
	Analog NTSC/EIA	640 x 480	30	RGB24	4	24

IMPORTANT The file size of a 18, 24 and 60 hours recording is very large.

Note CCIR is the monochrome version of PAL and EIA is the monochrome version of NTSC.

Cable length

In theory, a length of 250 m should be possible, however we did not test that. We know that a length of 100 m can be used without problems.

Notes

PAL or NTSC

MediaRecorder automatically identifies the analog cameras as PAL / CCIR (=monochrome PAL), or NTSC / EIA (=monochrome NTSC). It selects the correct frame rate and resolution automatically.

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