Video Security System FAQ  
August 2014

1. What is a video security system? As part of the enhanced security systems, policies, and procedures being implemented this fall, a video security system has been installed in all undergraduate residence halls.* Tang Hall, and the Westgate and Eastgate Apartments, have also received enhanced video monitoring systems. These cameras provide a layer of security support to the desk staff and will be handled in strict accordance with MIT Security and Emergency Management Office (SEMO) video policy.

While this system may be new to your dorm, they are already in place across MIT, and are typical of what you find in most colleges, universities, and businesses in the US.

2. When will the video security systems be activated? The systems are active and in use.

3. What locations do the cameras capture? The cameras are fixed on building access doors and lobby entrances only. They do not zoom in or out and cannot be remotely redirected. Cameras cannot see into residence hall rooms.

Intercoms with cameras (AI phones) are installed at certain entrances in each building and are designed to allow professional desk attendants and Nightwatch staffs to see the person they are talking to on the intercom. These cameras are only active while the button at the desk or the intercom is pushed. Video from these cameras is not recorded or saved.

If cameras are new to your residence hall this fall, Residential Life & Dining will be arranging a meeting with your house government to go over the camera views and address concerns as needed.

4. Do the cameras record audio? No. In accordance with federal and state law, all audio capabilities have been disabled.

AI phones also do not record any audio.

5. Who monitors these cameras? Professional desk attendants monitor the cameras.

6. How will video information gathered by the security systems be treated? The data from these cameras will be handled in strict accordance with SEMO policy:
   http://web.mit.edu/semo/security/policies.html

7. How can I make a suggestion about the dorm security pilot programs? Please send comments or questions to dormsecurity@mit.edu.

*East Campus only has an AI phone installed.