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[Linksys WVC210 Review – Wireless-G PTZ Internet Camera with Audio \(Continued\)](#)

Posted in November 7th, 2008

[Linksys WVC210 includes the Linksys LBAVMS16](#)

The Linksys WVC210 Camera includes the LBAVMS16 software that acts like an expensive hardware DVR. You can record and review video from up to 16 cameras! The screenshot above shows the software interface with 4 cameras

Mobile Video Streaming – Using the WVC210 to stream mobile video to a cell phone or mobile device: This is no doubt our favorite feature of this camera next to the pan and tilt features. This mobile streaming feature (RTSP streaming) is relatively new, but can also be found in the consumer side WVC54GCA camera from Linksys.

Enabling the MOBILE STREAMING feature in the AUDIO/VIDEO menu of the WVC210 camera allows us to use our LG Voyager cell phone from Verizon to log into the live video stream from the camera from anywhere! RTSP by default uses port 554, so we forwarded port 554 into the static LAN IP of the WVC210 camera we setup. Once we did this, we could type in a the TZO domain name of the camera from our cell phone browser like rtsp://MyName.MyLinksysCamera.com/xxxxx (where xxxxx is the access code we set within the mobile streaming section – see screenshot below that shows mobile.sdp as the access code)

[Linksys WVC210 can stream mobile video to a cell phone that supports RTSP](#)The Linksys WVC210 Camera can stream live video to a mobile device such as a cell phone or mobile device using RTSP (Real Time Streaming Protocol)

Having the access code as part of the URL makes it secure yet easy to type and bookmark on a cell phone or mobile device without being prompted for a password each time. We loved the fact that we could stream live video to our cell phone, but we also wanted to be able to move the camera using the pan/tilt options. We loaded up the main camera viewing screen from our cell phone in an attempt to use the Pan and tilt buttons on the screen, but due to the fact that the code on this screen is wrapped in hidden forms

and javascript, our cell phone browser didn't want to play nice and we had trouble getting the pan and tilt to work. See the below section Using our Windows Home Server with the WVC210 camera for more detail on how we solved this pan/tilt from the cell phone by building and hosting our own webpage using our HP MediaSmart home server.

Keep in mind that some mobile devices and cell phones support RTSP, but at this time many do not. We have one of the latest cell phones offered by Verizon, the LG Voyager. The LG Voyager has one of the best HTML compliant browsers available and it also supports RTSP. Some phones like the iPhone and T-Mobile G1 do not support RTSP at this time. Check with your wireless carrier for more details if their network or wireless hardware supports the RTSP protocol or see the list below for some phones that we know support RTSP.

[The LG Voyager phone offered by Verizon supports RTSP Mobile Streaming Video](#)We setup a custom home page on our LG Voyager cell phone to have quick access to all our camera's, as well as our custom Pan and Tilt page for the WVC210

[The LG Voyager phone offered by Verizon supports RTSP Mobile Streaming Video](#)The LG Voyager cell phone connected to our Linksys WVC210 camera over RTSP for mobile video streaming

[The LG Voyager phone offered by Verizon supports RTSP Mobile Streaming Video](#)

Tapping the Voyager touch screen or up arrow will put the RTSP video stream in Landscape mode and fill the screen with your live video!

Interested in streaming your video to your cell phone from your WVC210?

Below is a list of RTSP compatible Cell Phones:

Nokia E50, and N95

Nokia 6630

Verizon Voyager

Blackberry Curve 8330, 8130, Storm

Pocket PC 5.0 and 6.0 mobile and smartphones with HTC Streaming Media Player

T-Mobile Wing

Motorola Q9m

Snapshot image and Mobile Snapshot: Another feature that we really appreciate is the ability to get a snapshot JPG image from the camera by going to a simple URL. This was something that was lacking in the older Linksys cameras and was one of the most common questions on the Linksys support forums. This is a feature that is very handy if you have a cell phone or mobile device that does not support streaming. We use a simple URL format <http://MyName.MyLinksysCamera.com/img/snapshot.cgi> that takes the current image and feeds that JPG image back to the browser. If the camera is set to 640×480, that's the size of the image it returns. For mobile use, <http://MyName.MyLinksysCamera.com/img/mobile.cgi> will return a fixed 160×120 image for quicker access from your cell phone. These options should allow you to view a current still image from the camera, no matter what browser or device you are using.

Pan and Tilt Options of the Linksys WVC210: The Pan and Tilt options really make this camera a great value since one of these WVC210 cameras can replaced 2-3 other fixed cameras – essentially saving money in the long run. The Pan and Tilt also allows “preset” locations to be defined and can also perform “patrol” and “preset” scanning so the camera moves back and forth between preset locations at intervals that you define...very cool!

[Linksys WVC210 Pan Tilt Camera View](#)

The Linksys WVC210 Camera allows you to set Pan and Tilt preset locations.

Here we set this view to “table” and when viewing you can move to these preset locations quickly.

Motion Detection and Motion Alerts: One of the main selling points of this camera is the ability to detect motion and send email alerts with a JPG or video attachment upon detection. We tested this feature by setting up motion detection on our porch, and sure enough we got an email with a video attached shortly after the FedEx delivery we were waiting for. The motion detection can be highly customized, allowing you to select the area of the screen to “watch” as well as the ability to raise and lower the sensitivity. One thing we didn’t particularly care for was the Internet Explorer browser requirement for adjusting the motion detection. This is due to an ActiveX control for setting up motion detection. In the screenshot below, we set a custom area and drew a motion box around the doorway to our office. We then adjusted the sensitivity to our desired level.

[Linksys WVC54GCA also offers Motion Detection](#) The Linksys WVC210 allows you to customize the Motion detection and specify sensitivity for certain areas

The motion detection works very well, but on a windy and cloudy day you can receive many false alarms from shadows and clouds causing “motion” within the monitored image. This false motion detection is something that even the most expensive DVR’s and Security cameras suffer from as well, so Linksys is not to blame. If you setup motion detection inside a room where there is no natural light that may suddenly brighten the room or wind that may move a curtain, the motion detection works excellent.

Quick Access URL’s for the WVC210 cameras using a browser:

Snapshot mode – Captures JPG from the camera at set size:

<http://YourDomain.MyLinksysCam.com/img/snapshot.cgi>

Mobile Snapshot mode – Captures JPG from the camera at mobile size (160×120):

<http://YourDomain.MyLinksysCam.com/img/mobile.cgi>

Mobile Video Streaming – Streams mobile video via RTSP:

<rtsp://YourDomain.MyLinksysCam.com/mobile.sdp>

Streaming Video in MJPEG format to Firefox (No Audio):

<http://YourDomain.MyLinksysCam.com/img/mjpeg.htm>

Streaming Video and Audio to Internet Explorer browser:

http://YourDomain.MyLinksysCam.com/img/main.cgi?next_file=main.htm

Reboot the camera remotely (Requires admin rights):

<http://YourDomain.MyLinksysCam.com/adm/reboot.cgi>

Some of the CGI commands we discovered to build our own Pan/Tilt webpage for our cell phone:

Pan Left: <http://YourName.Linksys-Cam.com/pt/ptctrl.cgi?mv=L,X> (Where X equals the “distance to move”)

Pan Right: <http://YourName.Linksys-Cam.com/pt/ptctrl.cgi?mv=R,X> (Where X equals the “distance to move”)

Pan Down: <http://YourName.Linksys-Cam.com/pt/ptctrl.cgi?mv=D,X> (Where X equals the “distance to move”)

Pan Up: <http://YourName.Linksys-Cam.com/pt/ptctrl.cgi?mv=U,X> (Where X equals the “distance to move”)

Move to Preset Location:

<http://YourName.Linksys-Cam.com/pt/ptctrl.cgi?preset=move,X> (where X is the preset Location)

The above commands are just some of the URL shortcuts and CGI commands you can use with the WVC210 camera and your browser. There are others that can be used with applications such as QuickTime, Windows Media Player, VLC. Please refer to the Linksys manual for more detail on using these applications with your camera.

Using our Windows Home Server with the WVC210 camera: In our last [review of the Linksys WVC54GCA camera](#), we attempted to use the Linksys camera monitoring software and had some trouble getting it to work properly. We were happy to see that the Linksys LBAVMS16 video monitoring/recording software worked fine on our Windows Home Server. Since the Windows Home Server is managed via remote desktop we couldn't see the live video without a monitor, but we were able to export a recorded video to an AVI or ASF file and view that video over the network share. We setup the LBAVMS16 to record 24/7 and keep the videos for a total of 14 days and then overwrite the oldest video. The MediaSmart home server makes a perfect home for the video recordings due to the massive available storage space server and it's always up and running and uses very little power. We did notice that adding more camera's into the setup of the LBAVMS16 software would probably push the Windows Home Server processor beyond it's limits and may not work, but for one camera it's the perfect platform and we have seen zero errors from our tests.

Please [see our prior review of the Linksys WVC54GCA](#) to see some cell phone RTSP streaming information and screenshots and other neat tricks you can do with the WVC54GCA and the WVC210 models of Linksys cameras. For those wondering if their cell phone may work with the Linksys series of cameras, we have compiled a small list at the time of publishing. At this time, the iPhone and T-Mobile G1 "google" phone do not support RTSP streaming. Your phone may have RTSP support, but your cell provider may not offer it, please check with them.

Custom Pan/Tilt Web Page: We also constructed a custom page for moving the camera from our cell phone. As stated earlier in this review, we attempted to control the pan/tilt from our cell using the main viewing page of the camera but due to the javascript and form input, the cell wouldn't work. So, we did a little digging in the code and discovered the CGI commands to pan and tilt the camera using a basic URL. We then took these commands and made a webpage that we can call from our cell phone that allows a simple way of controlling and viewing the camera from a single web page. If you don't have your own server, you can upload it to your web hosting provider or a free host like google pages, etc. [Download a ZIP copy of our index.html file and images](#) if you wish to control your camera from your cell phone. Once you download, all you need to do is edit the code with your domain name and preset locations

[Linksys WVC210 custom pan/tilt screen on our home server](#)

The custom Pan/Tilt webpage we made so we can pan and tilt the camera from our cell phone.

Overall Rating: Excellent! The Linksys WVC210 Wireless-G PTZ Camera is packed with features at a great price! – At just below \$300 the camera is a bargain since with it's pan/tilt features, it can cover the same viewing area as a 2-3 WVC54GCA cameras. We obviously love the ability to Pan/Tilt the camera from the web browser, and with our custom web page we built on our home server, we can also pan,tilt and view the camera using our cell phone! The motion detection works as advertised and can send an AVI video or JPEG snapshot when the camera detects movement. The camera's RTSP multicast and full-duplex audio capabilities make it a perfect camera for monitoring the front or back door of a business, with the ability to communicate with the person at the door. The included Linksys LBAVMS16 video monitoring software is a great option for those that do not want to invest in a dedicated hardware DVR. Another nice feature is the Dynamic DNS option which allows a domain name to be attached to the

camera, especially if you have a dynamic IP address that can change from time to time. The DDNS makes it simple and easy to connect for remote viewing and administration. Overall, the Linksys WVC210 camera is a fantastic option for anyone looking to secure their home or business. The extra cost for pan and tilt is no doubt worth it since just one of these WVC210 cameras can replace 2-3 other fixed cameras, yet cover the same area.

Linksys Wireless-G PTZ Internet Camera with Audio, Model WVC210

Suggested Retail Price: \$299.99

[Linksys WVC210 Product page](#)

[Linksys LBAVMS16 Product Page](#)

[BUY NOW from Amazon.com](#)

Interested in other Linksys Business Cameras?

(Both below can stream via RTSP and also work with the LBAVMS16 software)

[Linksys WVC2300 Wireless camera with Audio](#)

[Linksys PVC2300 with Audio](#)

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