

Fact Sheet

REAL-TIME DIGITAL IMAGES TO WEB PAGES

PROBLEM

Many project or field sites must be monitored or inspected at regular intervals (if not continuously) to keep track of progress, to assess evolving conditions, or to anticipate undesirable events. Physical monitoring of river ice conditions, construction or demonstration sites, machinery, hydrometeorological documentation, etc., can drain personnel and equipment resources, especially if the site is remote. Photographs are often needed to document site conditions, and may be requested by more than one person, office, or agency.

SOLUTION

A digital camera can be positioned to take suitable images of the site being monitored. Depending on the remoteness of the site, these images can be stored on a data disk in an on-site computer for later retrieval, or they can be transmitted via a modem over regular telephone lines, by cellular phone, or even by radio to one or more remote computers. (Note: Electrical power from power lines, batteries, a generator, or solar power is required.) If the site is equipped with an ISDN line, images can be transmitted directly via the Internet. If desired, the images can then be placed on a Web site for wide dissemination. The rate of image transmission depends on the equipment available, but can be as high as one image every fifteen minutes (possibly higher if directly transmitted via Internet).

Because this technology is rapidly evolving, it is likely that improvement in all needed equipment will continue to expand the area of application of digital cameras.

RESULTS

USACRREL has already established monitoring digital cameras at several remote experimental field sites. Images from these sites have complemented measurements and other data gathered and transmitted electronically to the Laboratory. Web pages that show images from these sites can be found at the addresses shown below.

<http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/cerd/hvs/realtime.htm>

<http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/cerd/berlin/>

<http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/ierd/hardwick/hardwick.html>

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