



**Volume: One Number: Six**

**Date: October 15, 2018**

**Subject: CCTV Camera Replacement**

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VMS, API, SDK are all terms that most Owners are not necessarily familiar with, but they are important to know when dealing with changes to your facility's CCTV Camera System. As your camera system ages, it is inevitable that camera replacement will become necessary. Whether you have a program to replace cameras on a cyclic schedule, or just "as needed," it is imperative that you procure the correct replacements. Although replacement cameras for any of our customer's systems are available from Black Creek, some customers have opted to procure replacement cameras from 3<sup>rd</sup> party sources. If you decide to take this path, it is important that your camera vendor knows the requirements of your system in order to provide you with the correct cameras for your particular installation.

The Video Management System (VMS), Software Development Kit (SDK), and Application Program Interface (API) all play major roles in the successful operation of your CCTV System. Most 3<sup>rd</sup> party camera vendors will ask what manufacturer's VMS you have installed, and maybe even what VMS Version you are running at your facility, but that is only part of the 'big picture.' If replacement cameras are procured based simply on the VMS version, there is a distinct possibility that the replacement cameras will work with your video system, but you may not be successful in getting them to display on your touchscreen consoles. This is due to the SDK/API component that is overlooked in most 3<sup>rd</sup> party camera orders. While the VMS software is the controlling component of the Video System itself, the SDK/API (some systems use the SDK, some use an API) is the component that allows the camera video to be displayed on the Touchscreen monitors in your control console locations.

Whether your Black Creek video system is Vicon, Bosch, Genetec, DvTel or any other of many Video System manufacturers, it is important that you know not only the VMS version, but the version of the SDK/API component as well. This information must be passed along to your camera vendor, and you should ensure that they guarantee compatibility with not only the VMS, but with the SDK/API as well before you place your camera order. This is the only way to ensure uninterrupted operation of this vital component of your Black Creek Touchscreen Control System. If you need help determining your system's various software versions, your Black Creek Service Department is standing by to assist you.

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**The Takeaway – When considering replacement cameras from a third party, remember that you, as the Owner, are ultimately responsible for ensuring compatibility of the replacements with your existing Black Creek Touchscreen Control System. "A camera is a camera is a camera" just isn't the case anymore.**

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