

A Guide to Digital Audio and Digital Audio Recorders

Digital audio recorders and digital recording technology is a relatively new product on the emerging technology markets in the 21st century, this is mainly due to the fact that previous audio recorders of earlier years were severely constrained by the size, or rather a lack of available drive space per hard disk, thus rendering them as only usable within huge rack arrays of large companies located in monitored server rooms much like we remember them in science fiction films from the 1960s.

Towards the latter half of the last decade, drive space on physical drives has increased exponentially, now giving us terabytes of space in computers or rack mounted digital audio recorders, also software compression has come along in leaps and bounds complimenting the increase in available space equally.

We now find the latest state of the art digital audio recorders can come in just '1U' 19" that are capable of recording basic speech at variable bit and sample rates for up to 20 years continuously. This makes the whole world of digital audio recorders far more accessible to smaller companies wanting to monitor phone calls and conversations, as well as government departments wanting to be independent and hold their own records.

Digital recording can be either purpose built hardware models or made by some simple customization of a basic desktop PC, PCMCIA cards are commonly available on the market now to convert up to 4 channels of analogue audio per card into a digital format which is easily archived and stored either on-site or remotely via web uplink or FTP protocol.

Internal security policies can be easily adhered to when moving audio from digital audio recorders, either by moving the data physically or by secure Ports or VPN protocol to a remote site.

Digital audio recording and the technology surrounding them has exponentially increased, along with compression formats of formats such as MP3 and is widely available and accessible to most companies.