

PEAK Class 101:

How to set up your first PEAK IP Camera. (Part II)

Now you have the IP camera set up for local access, it is time to make the camera available externally. You will be able to access your IP camera anywhere around the world with a live internet connection. The setup process will be a lot easier if you have some degree of networking experience. If not, simply follow the procedures aside carefully.



Once you have the IP camera set up for local access, do the following:

- Access the configuration page of your router and click on "**port forwarding**" or "**special application**". Different manufacturers have different terms, but they all perform the same function --- that is, to allow special applications to pass through the firewall, and direct them to their destination (in our case, this would be your IP camera)
 - **Port forwarding** --- simply put, port forwarding will "forward" legitimate incoming internet traffic to your local computer while still providing firewall protection to the rest of the PC. Think of port forwarding as special "holes" in the firewall. These holes are man-made and only exist if you create them.
- On the port forwarding page, you'll be ask to enter the following:
 - IP address of the host device --- this would be the IP address of your IP camera
 - The "port" which you wish to open for this service. Technically speaking, you can use any port you wish. However, there are some common ports that are reserved for popular services, such as port 80 - http connection, port 21 - FTP service etc, and they should be avoided for IP camera use. To avoid conflicts, use port 8001.
 - Click on 'Save' to save the changes.
- Now you need to find out the IP address of your WAN port so you can access the camera externally. To obtain the WAN port IP address, access the router configuration page and click on "status" page. Some manufacture will refer WAN port as "Internet port". Make a note of its IP address.
 - **WAN port** --- Your router connects two network segments together: the LAN and the WAN. The LAN (local area network) is your local home / office network that is not normally accessible from the outside. The WAN (wide area network) is the Internet, or any external Internet traffic. Your router connects the LAN and the WAN and examines all incoming internet traffic, blocking any which is not permitted. With port forwarding enabled, the router can direct legitimate external traffic to its designated host device; in our case, this would be your IP camera.
- With your WAN port in mind, launch any web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc) and type <http://xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx:8001> in the address bar and hit Enter, where xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx represents your WAN IP address. If you want to use a port other than 8001, substitute 8001 with your custom port. If all goes well, you will be able to access your IP camera from any remote location.

As you can see, setting up your first IP camera is very straightforward. PEAK offers a wide range of wired / wireless IP cameras. For more information, please visit our website at www.peakhardware.com.

