Lake Camera Setup Overview

This is a high level overview of installing a camera to serve live images on a web page.

www.LakesOnline.com

Install YAWCAM on your PC

YAWCAM
- Yet Another Webcam Software -

www.yawcam.com
FREE!

Ethernet Cable

Network Router

Ethernet Cable

Cable/DSL Modem

Internet

Router Configuration
Forward ports to serving PC

USB Cable
1-20 ft

OR

Camera Decision:
The decision of what camera to use depends on the distance it will be from the PC. The easiest camera to setup is by-far the USB web cam. However there is a technical limit on distance a USB camera will work with USB extension cables. USB cameras should work within 20ft of cable length, but if it doesn't work at longer distances, then don't be surprised. USB Cameras were designed and intended to use near your PC.

If you have reached the USB technical limit, then your best bet (with the most reliability) is to use a CCD camera. However getting the NTSC signal (same as standard TV) into the computer will require a video capture card. The method of getting the signal to the capture card will also depend on the distance. If the distance is 20 feet to 40 feet then an RCA video cable should work but you may find long runs of these cables to be expensive. If you are running a cable more than 40 feet we recommend an RF signal modulator and run the long length with high quality RG6 coaxial cable.
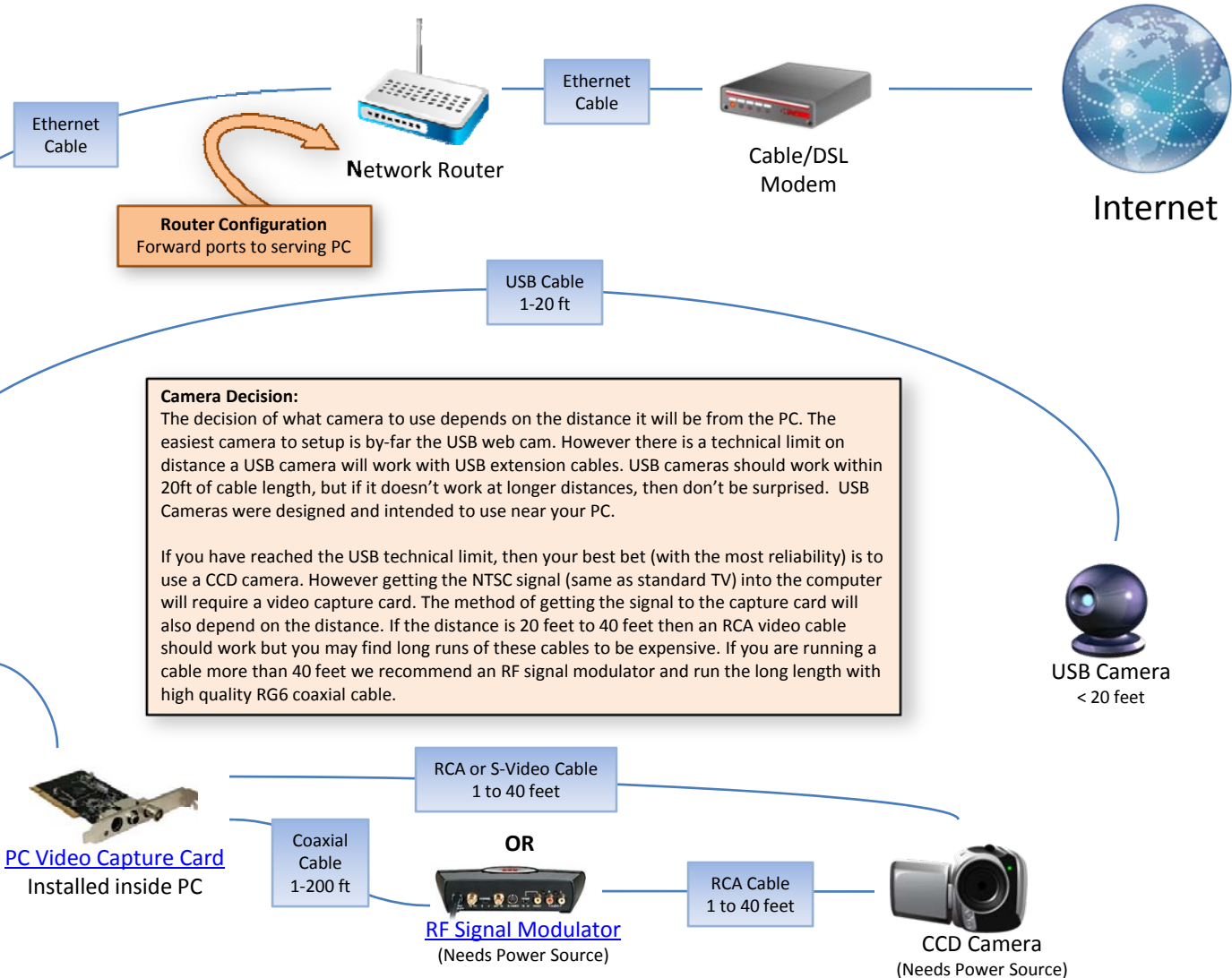
PC runs YAWCAM software 24/7
We suggest that you configure your PC network card to a static IP address in the DHCP allocated range. Use an IP in the upper end of the range not to conflict with other PCs acquiring new IP addresses.

USB Camera
< 20 feet

RCA or S-Video Cable
1 to 40 feet

PC Video Capture Card
Installed inside PC

Coaxial Cable
1-200 ft

OR

RCA Cable
1 to 40 feet

RF Signal Modulator
(Needs Power Source)

CCD Camera
(Needs Power Source)

Lake Camera Setup Tips

The challenge will be finding how to appropriately connect all the necessary components given your unique lake environment. Everyone's setup is different so installation will depend on where you want your camera and where you have available network connections and power plugs for the equipment. Below are some general tips from users that you may want to consider for this project:

- Use a back-up power supply for the PC, router and modem to reduce outages to the web cam when the power goes out.

- If you have one, an old laptop PC makes a great dedicated camera server because they have batteries built-in and are quiet.

- PCs do not operate well under heat and humidity so be mindful of this if putting it in a boathouse. It works best if you put the PC in a temperature controlled environment.

- There are many ways to configure the software so all we can say is experiment with the settings until you get desired results.

- If you are not knowledgeable about basic computer networks and hit a snag, we suggest that you obtain help from someone that is knowledgeable and can help check things out. With all the connections, it is easy for a pro to get confused.