IP cameras, sometimes called webcams or netcams, let you capture and broadcast live video over the Internet. They’re often used for video surveillance and security. This article describes how connect an IP camera and send the feed over RTSP to the Wowza Streaming Cloud™ service for transcoding and playback.

You can set up the camera first, or set up the live stream in Wowza Streaming Cloud first. Either way, when you start the live stream in Wowza Streaming Cloud, it will periodically try to connect to the camera until the camera comes online.

Video tutorial: Stream an IP camera to your website

Create a live stream that uses an IP camera as the video source

1. Sign in to Wowza Streaming Cloud.
2. Click the Live Streams menu, and then click Add Live Stream.
3. On the **Live Stream Setup** page, enter a **Live Stream Name**, choose a **Broadcast Location**, and then click **Next**.

4. On the **Video Source and Transcoder Settings** page, select **IP Camera** as the camera or encoder you want to use to connect to Wowza Streaming Cloud.

5. Enter the camera’s **Source URL**. See the camera’s user guide to get its address. The hostname or IP address must be publicly accessible. If authentication information, such as username and password, is included in the source URL, it can only contain alphanumeric, period (.), underscore (_), and hyphen (-) characters.

6. Specify other video source settings, and make sure to select the same **Aspect Ratio** that you use in your camera settings.

7. Click **Next**, and complete the steps to finish creating the live stream.

**Note**: For more information about live stream settings, see the **Help** panel on the right side of each page.

Wowza Streaming Cloud creates the live stream and displays the **Overview** tab of the live stream detail page.

**Set up the camera**

Make sure you have the latest firmware for your camera installed. See the camera’s user guide for details about how to update firmware as well as how to operate the camera and how to adjust settings such as resolution, bitrate, and frame rate.

When streaming from an IP camera to Wowza Streaming Cloud, set the camera’s keyframe interval to 60 fps for NTSC or 50 fps for PAL.

**Test the connection**

1. In Wowza Streaming Cloud, select the live stream that uses the IP camera as its video source.
2. Click **Start Live Stream** at the top of the live stream detail page.
3. Click **Start** to confirm that you want to start the stream.

   Wowza Streaming Cloud opens the stream and connects with the camera.

4. Start the camera.
5. In Wowza Streaming Cloud, confirm that the stream is working by looking at the **Video Thumbnail** on the **Overview** tab of the live stream detail page.

The **Video Thumbnail** displays a frame from the live stream every five seconds. The started date and time appear at the bottom of the thumbnail. Connection, transcoding, and delivery metrics begin to update in the **Statistics** panel.

6. Click **Stop Live Stream** at the top of the live stream detail page to end your test stream, and then stop the camera.

**More resources**

- Get started with Wowza Streaming Cloud
- Wowza Streaming Cloud user guide
- Encoding best practices for Wowza Streaming Cloud