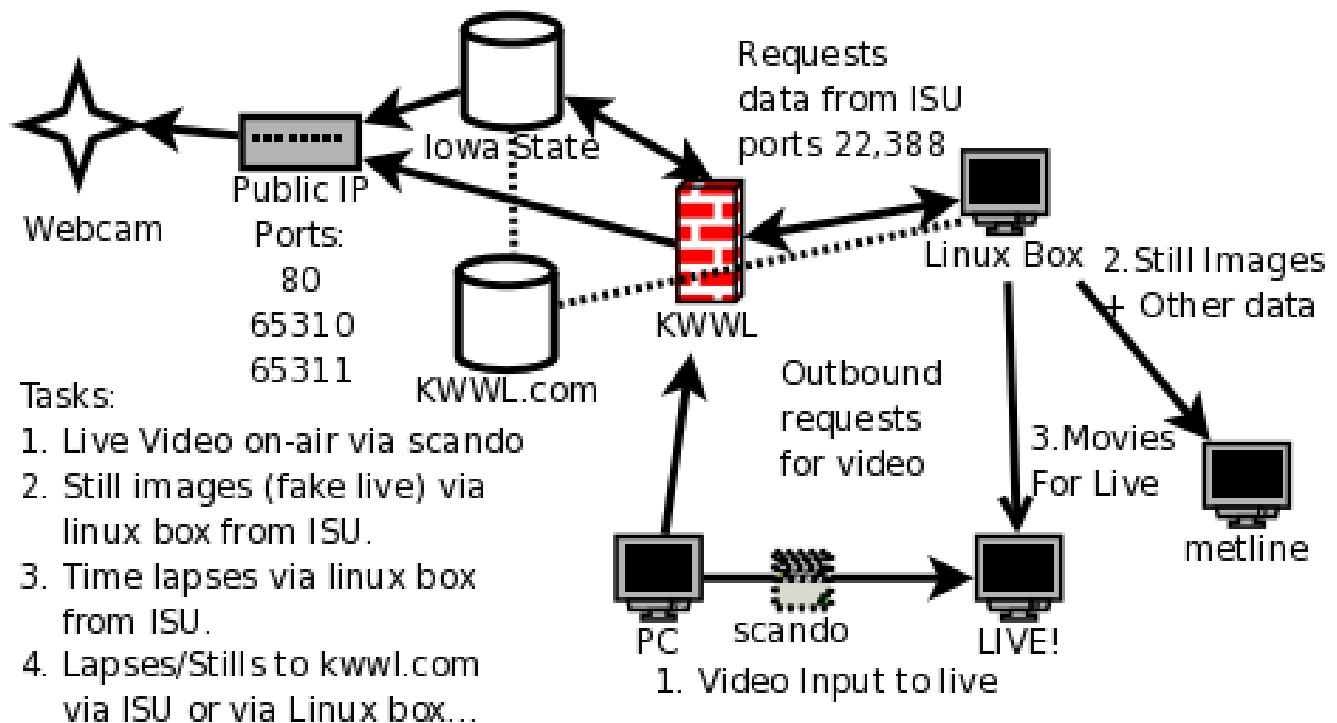


10,000 foot view of Webcam Project



(More or less, this is the same setup that is used at KCCI, KCRG, and KELO)

Talking points about the Canon VB-C50i webcam and its cold climate housing:

1. The webcam is autonomous, it does not need a local computer on site. It does REQUIRE a public Internet Address (preferred static IP). 256 kB/s (DSL) speed is workable minimum.
2. The webcam needs 1 power and 1 ethernet line run to it. Can do PoE.
3. The absolute most important consideration for mounting is STABILITY. Any shaking is a bad situation. Make sure the camera is LEVEL as well!!!
4. In general the problems the camera may have can be simply resolved by a power cycle, so it is good to have a means to repower the camera from somewhere low.
5. The dome lens on the mount does get dirty. A heavy rain shower will mostly clean it. The issue is having the webcam on-top a dusty grain elevator. It will get dirty quickly. It is workable...
6. I'd avoid placing the cameras at K-12 schools. It is a lot of hassle. (insert war stories here)

Workload concerns for KWWL folks?:

1. Somebody from KWWL should visit the site and check things out before placing a cam...
2. Competent (??) locals can generally handle the setup and install of the camera. I can certainly help via the telephone and answer any questions they have. Having somebody there from KWWL during the install wouldn't hurt.
3. Day to day, there really isn't much upkeep. Maybe call a site to reboot the cam, debug some network issues...

What about working with daryl ?

1. I'm in it for the data and improving real-time weather surveillance in Iowa. I don't like to do proprietary things.
2. If I were to get hit by a bus tomorrow, you folks could still make this work. There are some software packages that do similar things (one package I saw was 100 bucks a month).

I believe this content will be the cheapest you folks produce for your news shows. Filler material for WeatherPlus ! Thanks for the consideration. Daryl Herzmann akrherz@iastate.edu 515.294.5978 cell 515.451.9249