

LHC@FNAL: Web Camera at CERN

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The D-Link web camera delivered to CERN by me last week to Peter Limon works. But there are some idiosyncrasies of the web cam that one must know in order to use it. They are:

1. It has to have a decent wireless connection. The worse the connection, the lower the frame rate.
2. The name of the wireless network has to be "CERN" (which is the case everywhere at CERN, they tell me).
3. The CERN wireless network resets every 60 minutes (I am told). It seems that the webcam cannot span this reset very well. If it is plugged in for more than an hour and you cannot connect to it, power cycle it and wait for it to reestablish its connection. This worked for me.
4. You can also plug this camera into a wired Ethernet port at CERN that is labeled as "DHCP".
5. It is possible to use the webcam in the tunnel if (a) you are in an experimental cavern with wireless or (b) you get a "DSL Modem" from the IT folks (Olaf Van Der Vossen was very helpful to me and has this hardware). Olaf can explain how to us the DSL modem in the tunnel.
6. The camera appears on the wireless network as fnalcam01.cern.ch. This name is resolved only at CERN. You cannot find this name at Fermilab. Type this into your browser "Address" box.
7. It only works with Internet Explorer. A virgin version of IE will require a plug-in (for MPEG-4).

I would like to experiment with looking at the webcam from Fermilab.

Clearly, this camera is not perfect. It sends nice pictures and all, but it is a PITA to use.