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Cameras catch the liars

BY BRAD WORRALL

SMILE, the next time you rent a movie — you may have been snapped by a security camera.

The latest bid to curb an alarming rise in people avoiding late fees or simply not returning movies or games will be webcams.

Video Defaulters managing director Andrew Wall said by the end of the year 90 per cent of all stores would have cameras.

"The webcam will photograph the person joining the store and time and date stamp the picture," he said.

"This will ensure the customer who signed up is the person hiring.

"The image of the person who joined the video store appears on their membership.

"For every rental, an image is also captured and computer time and date stamped."

Video Defaulters has links with 14 stores on the Border.

Network Video Lavington's Amanda Duncan Strelec said the cameras would catch out the liars.

"The number of excuses we get, such as 'that it wasn't me', or 'I lost my card' are unbelievable," she said.

"This will help expose the frauds and help those with a legitimate excuse.

"We had a case of a fight between a couple that led to the girlfriend taking the video card, hiring the maximum amount possible and never returning any of it.

"A week later and we are \$700 out of pocket, the boyfriend's card has been abused and we have no chance of recovering the goods."