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Masks

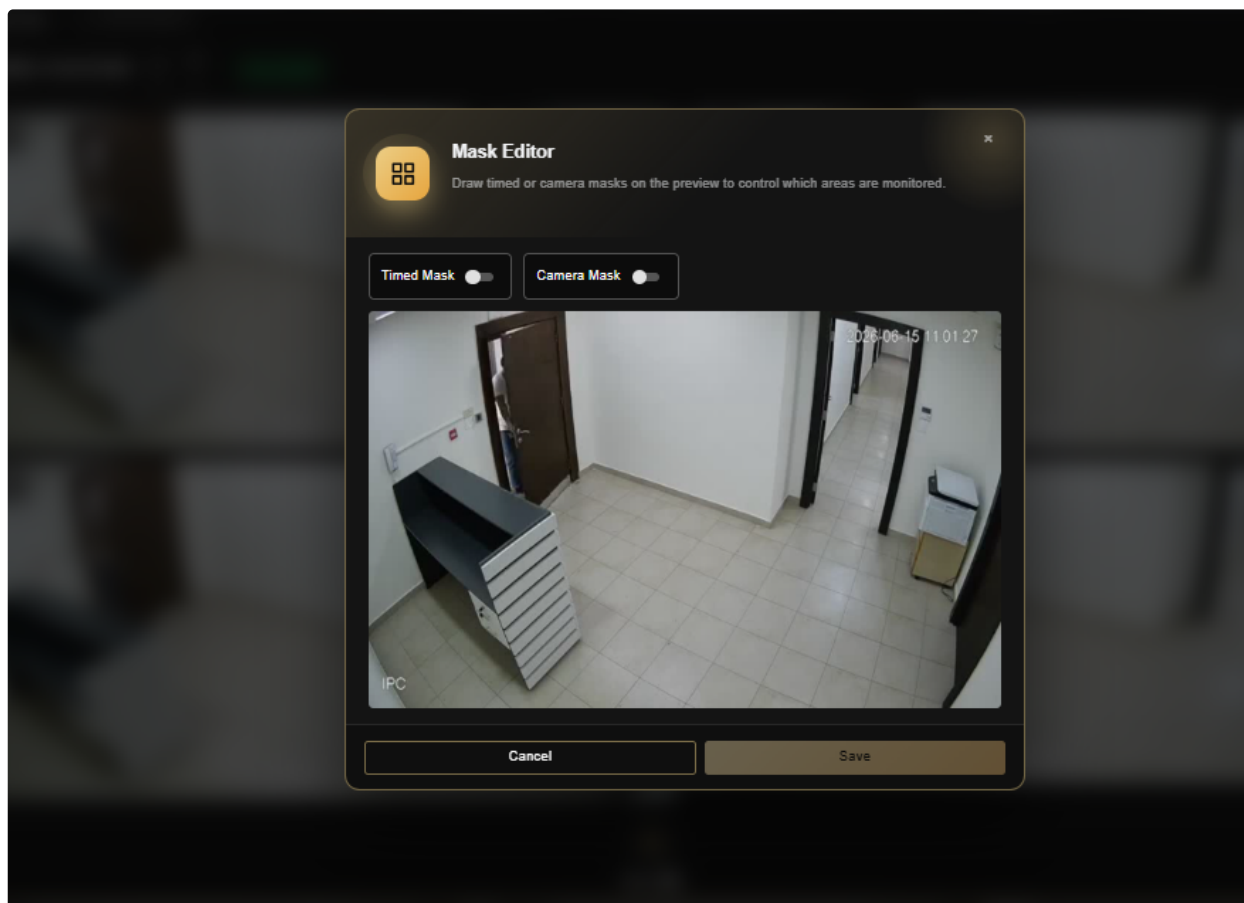
Updated 23 September 2026

A mask marks part of a camera view so that GC Surge stops watching it. The Mask Editor describes its own job as “Draw timed or camera masks on the preview to control which areas are monitored.” Use it when a fixed part of the frame keeps producing alarms you do not care about — a swaying tree, a neighbour’s driveway, a busy public pavement, a flickering light. Covers: Timed Mask and Camera Mask, Opening the Mask Editor, Drawing a Mask, Editing Shortcuts, Saving and Removing a Mask, Finding Masked Events.

Timed Mask and Camera Mask

The editor offers two kinds of mask, and turning one on turns the other off — a camera uses one or the other, never both at once. Camera Mask is the one enabled when the editor opens.

- **Timed Mask** — a temporary mask for a situation that will pass, such as contractors working in view for the afternoon. Turning it on reveals a Select Timer dropdown listing three durations, in this order: 1 Hour, 2 Hours, 30 Minutes. The mask lifts by itself when the timer runs out, so nobody has to remember to undo it.
- **Camera Mask** — a permanent mask for something that will always be in shot, such as a road at the edge of the frame. It stays until somebody clears it.



Screenshot 2026-07-20 104811-20260720-074812.png

Opening the Mask Editor

1. Open Video Search from the sidebar.
2. Open any event from the camera you want to mask.
3. Click Mask below the clips (represented by the globe/grid icon). The editor opens on a still from that event, so you are drawing against the exact scene that raised the alarm.

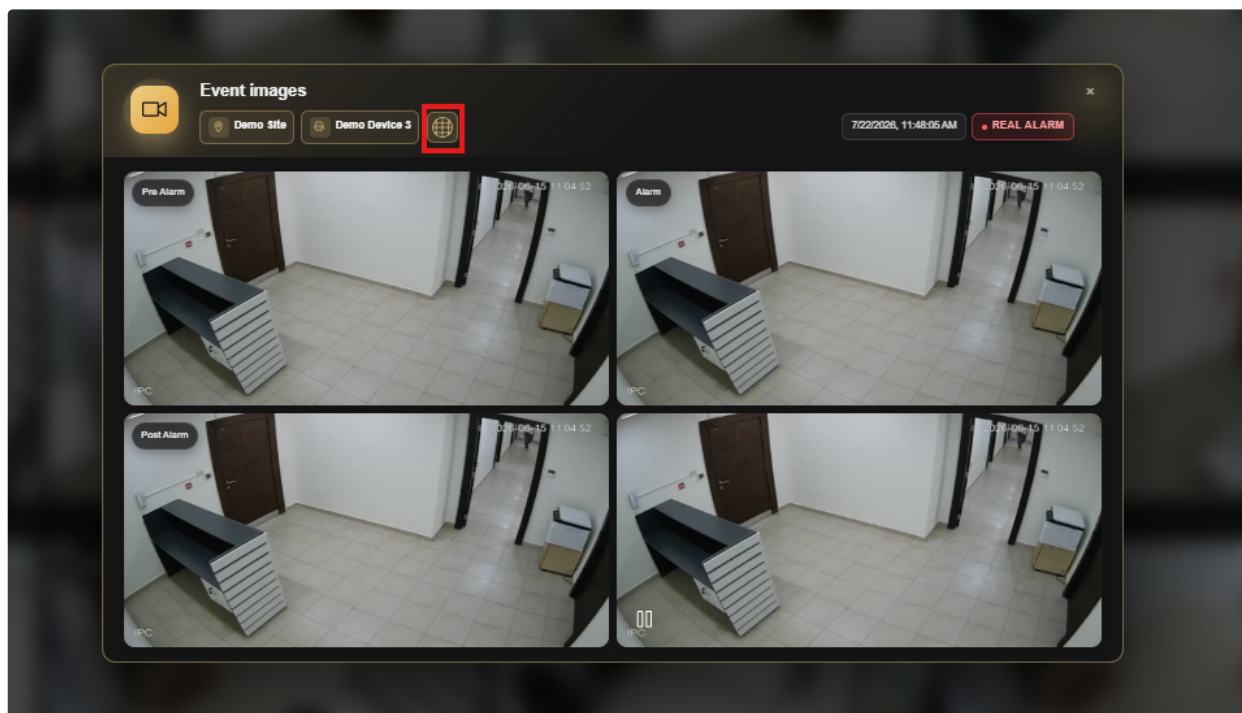


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Drawing a Mask

The editor has two drawing modes, and the button at the top left switches between them — it is labelled with the mode you will move to, so it reads Pixel View while you are drawing polygons and Polygon View once you are in the grid.

- Polygon view — draw free-form shapes that follow the thing you are covering. Each polygon appears in blue with a handle on every corner, so you can reshape it afterwards. Two extra tools appear in this mode: Undo steps back through your changes, and Smooth tidies a rough outline.
- Pixel view — a red grid covers the whole frame and you switch individual cells on and off. This is the quicker choice for a broad rectangular area such as a whole upper corner of the view.

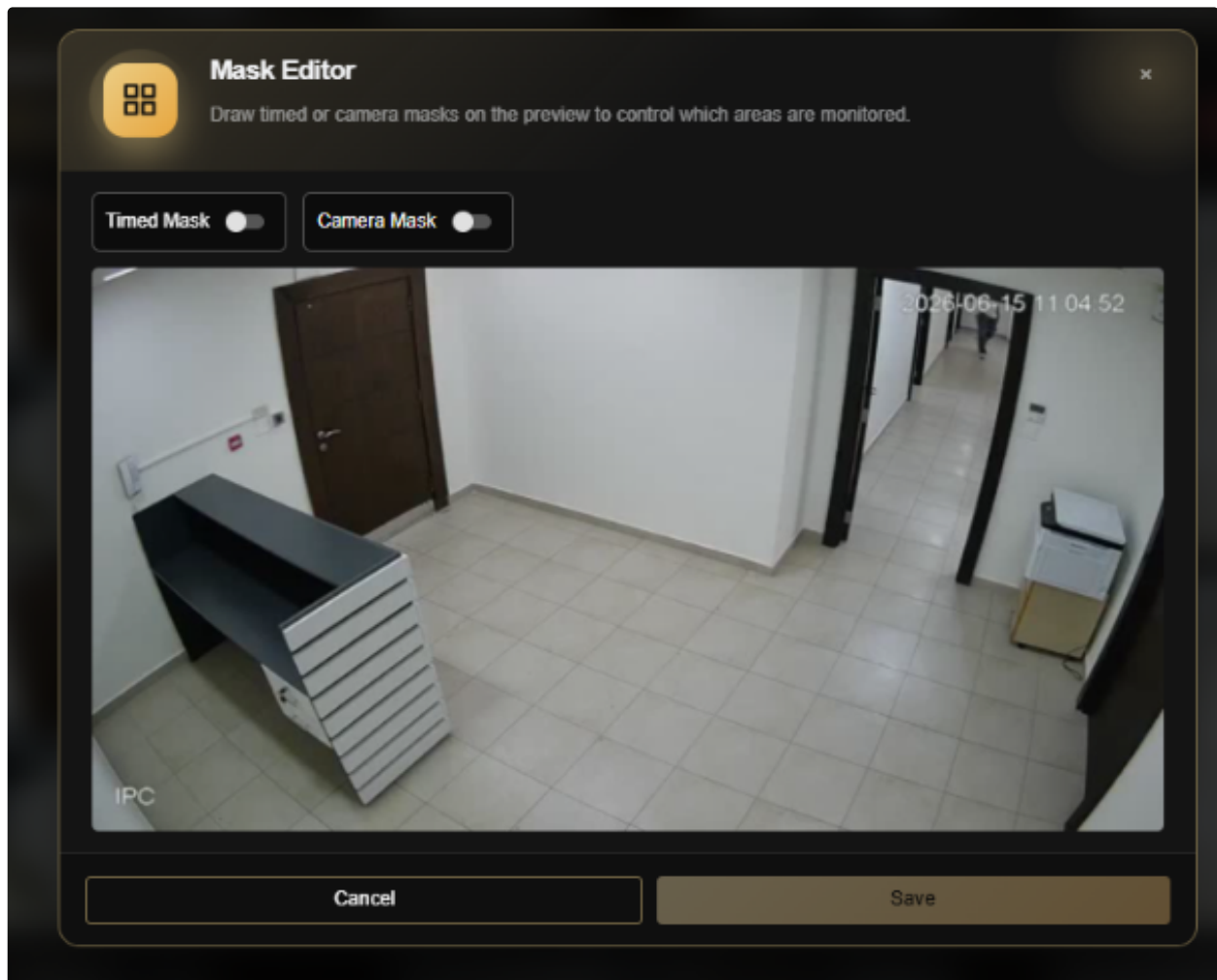


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Clear in the toolbar removes everything you have drawn and starts the mask again.

- Polygon view:
- Pixel view

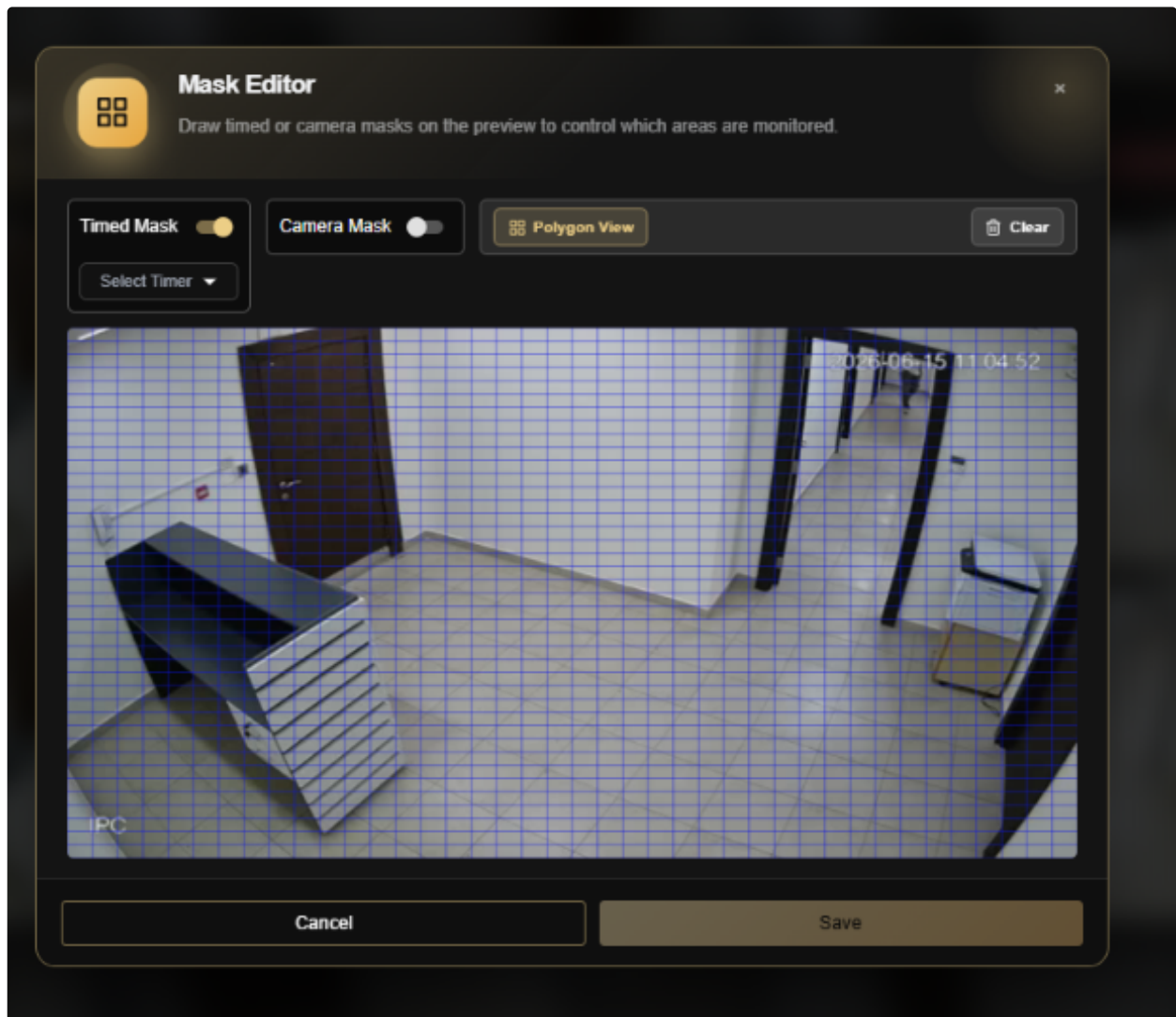


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Editing Shortcuts

The information icon in the toolbar opens a Shortcuts panel listing every action available while editing:

ACTION	SHORTCUT
Undo last change	Ctrl + Z
Delete selected polygons	Delete
Select all polygons	Ctrl + A
Invert selection	Ctrl + I
Add a new polygon	Click
Add a vertex on an edge	Double-click edge

Remove a vertex	Double-click vertex
Move polygons or vertices	Drag
Box-select polygons	Drag empty area
Add or remove from selection	Shift + click

Saving and Removing a Mask

Click **Save** to apply the mask to the camera. The button beside it depends on what is already there: it reads **Cancel** when the camera has no mask yet and closes the editor without changing anything, and **Clear** when a mask already exists, which removes it.

Mask a region only when you are sure nothing worth an alarm can happen there. A mask that covers a doorway or a boundary line will silence real intrusions as well as nuisance movement.

Finding Masked Events

In [Video Search](#), the **Overlay** filter in the **Additional filters** panel narrows the list to alarms carrying a particular visual analysis overlay — **Heatmap**, **Mask**, or **History Mask**. The **Mask** button in the event detail panel turns the overlay on and off while you review a clip, so you can see what the camera was ignoring at the time.

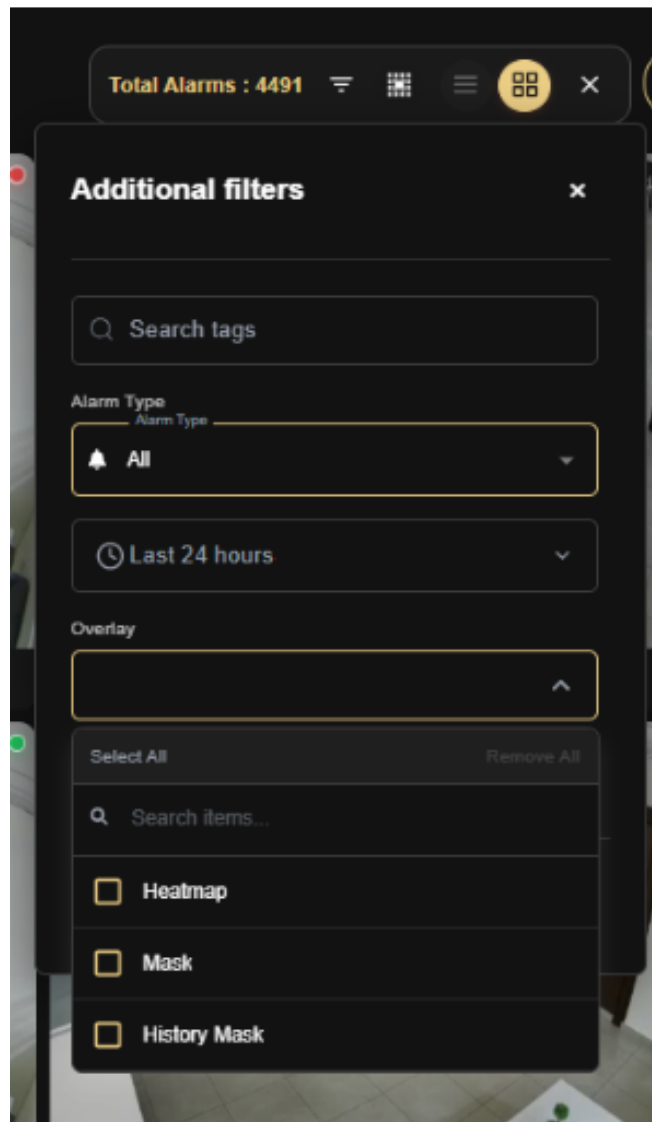


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