

Ipswich Council Case Study

Ipswich Council benefit from leading IP CCTV solutions and services provided by Controlware Communications and partners Elbex.

Centrally situated in the booming southeast region of Queensland Australia, Ipswich comprises an area of 1207 square kilometres and has a population of 150,000 people.

Ipswich Council pioneered public surveillance in Australia with an analogue CCTV solution that in its day gave law enforcement agencies unprecedented coverage of public spaces. Controlware Communications and partners Elbex have since upgraded this installation to a powerful new IP networked solution that improves operational performance and flexibility while saving costs.

The new IP solution incorporates 104 PTZ cameras spread across six separate suburban districts. In each district there is a hub site that connects back to the control room over wireless, multimode or single mode fibre connections at D1 (720 x 576 pixels) in real time (25 frames per second) for live viewing and storage of recorded video.



Controlling the solution

Once video arrives at the control room it is instantly recorded by an integral RAID-5 storage solution and viewed in real time by operators on workstations or displayed on the control room's video wall.

The 16-monitor video wall incorporates a 50-inch plasma screen. Every monitor is connected to a VIP 1000 decoder and there are three workstations running the Vidos video management system with a comprehensive and customized GUI to cater for the exact surveillance needs of Ipswich Council operators.

Integral to operation and management of the video is a VMT-4 virtual matrix switch connected to a pair of control keyboards. The VMT-4 supports any keyboard and converts control commands to IP, allowing full matrix operation using the keyboard to control the various VideoJet codecs deployed around the city.



"VMT-4 enables operators to customise and group cameras together, thereby automating procedures," says Controlware's Country Manager David Keidar. "At a click of a button titled "hotels" all the cameras move to a preset position to show live images of the hotels on the video wall in a pre configured layout – you can do this with banks, or with intersections."

A series of 16-bay Infortrend RAID-5 arrays is at the heart of the solution and records video for up to 14 days. Each RAID-5 provides an impressive 6.25TB supporting 14 cameras and delivering a total storage capacity of 31.25TB. This storage capacity demonstrates the seriousness with which Ipswich views its public surveillance infrastructure. Fully supported by UPS, this RAID-5 array is not only highly secure but represents a major investment in public safety and security.

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More power for the council

Ipswich Council's Stacey Kirmos says that operationally both control room staff and police love the new system – police can identify an event and come into the control room and search for an incident then burn their own evidential DVDs. "Operators get all the possible performance they could want," Kirmos says. "With the 31.25TB of RAID storage they're able to playback incidents in their original quality in real time even if those events occurred weeks before – that's a major advantage and it gives us real continuity when investigations are being carried out."

According to Kirmos, the changeover was straightforward and careful planning and implementation saw both old and new control rooms working side by side in a fully duplicated environment before the old control room was closed down.

"Dollars aside this conversion was very much about performance," Kirmos says. "This system is giving us real time at D1 resolution on all channels so we're very happy with the performance."



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