Network Video Solution

Warrington Collegiate

Case Study

The new surveillance solution is easy to use, delivers high quality video and reduces costs.

Mission

When Warrington Collegiate built a new £27 million campus, it wanted to make sure that its communications network was future-proofed. The college needed a converged infrastructure that included comprehensive CCTV surveillance to help reduce the threat of crime and provide a safe learning environment for teachers, staff and visitors.

Solution

Warrington Collegiate turned to Controlware solution partners ntl:Telewest Business for a high-capacity Next Generation Network and integrated surveillance solution. Based around Controlware's own Cware management platform the advanced solution allowed for the integration of existing cameras and new IP PTZ domes to produce a video surveillance and recording solution for 50 cameras across campus.

Nick Smeltzer, Deputy Director of Information & IT is more than impressed with the solution delivered by ntl:Telewest Business and Controlware saying " I am impressed with the professionalism, dedication and technical competence of the ntl:Telewest Business and Controlware teams who have delivered the college more than we anticipated at the outset of this project"

Nick Smeltzer, Deputy Director of Information & IT at Warrington Collegiate explains that "the IP CCTV system is flexible, easy to use and delivers exceptional image quality. CCTV can now be monitored from multiple locations both on and off campus. The system can also easily be extended by adding new cameras or storage hardware because Cware is an open management platform, this also means we are not tied into a single video manufacturer".

The college is now able to easily accommodate new technologies and applications such as H.264, Megapixel cameras, Video Analytics, Facial Recognition and ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) as requirements develop in the future.

Technology

Cware enables college operators to view and control any camera as well as transmit video to CCTV monitors, initiate high-resolution on-demand recordings and manage all alarms. Operators can also quickly search recorded video to review and bookmark key events. For evidential purposes watermarked video can be exported from the system to an external source such as a CD, DVD or external hard drive.

The cameras all support Dual Encoding that streams video output at two different frame rates and resolutions. This allows one video stream to be used for live viewing through Cware at 25 FPS (Frames Per Second) 4 CIF (Common Interchange Format) while the other video stream connects to an iSCSI (Internet Small Computer System Interface) RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Disks) storage device for recording at 6 FPS 4 CIF.

The recording system is highly scalable and resilient. Two SCSI recording servers with 10 TB of storage per server allow for constant recording of digital video for up to 31 days. SCSI recording servers can sit anywhere on the IP network and connect via MPEG-4 streams to cameras. Recordings are stored on hard drives that are configured for RAID5 storage. RAID5 protects stored data without loss even if a number of hard drives fail, delivering greater resilience for recordings. If as anticipated future storage requirements increase more servers can easily be added to the system to support new cameras as the network evolves.

Result

Warrington Collegiate now has an advanced, highly flexible IP CCTV system that helps make campus surveillance more effective. Improved image quality makes identification of suspects more likely and fast review and retrieval of recorded video is easy with time and date based archive searches. Incidents of vandalism and theft have decreased

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saving the college thousands of pounds while further costs are saved because the system can be maintained in house by the college's IT department. One unanticipated benefit was the cost savings that came from using PoE (Power over Ethernet) technology which required fewer cables to be run to cameras than traditional cabling. The network is also protected against power failure by UPS's (Uninterruptable Power Supplies) that deliver increased resilience over analogue or hybrid based systems where each camera would rely on its own power supply.

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