

Top marks for heightening security with Axis Communications. Connetquot Central School System uses Axis network video technology to link campus security across Islip district.



Organization:
Connetquot Central
School District

Location:
Islip, New York, USA

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Student safety and
security, situational
awareness

Axis partners:
A+ Technology Solutions,
IPVideo Corporation

Mission

Having faced a serious security threat in the past, Connetquot Central School District of Islip in New York was determined to implement a district-wide surveillance system that would enable administrators and local law enforcement to respond quickly in future emergencies. They wanted to centrally monitor the surveillance cameras at all 11 schools around the clock. And in a 9-1-1 situation, the district also wanted to give the Suffolk County Police Department temporary access to the cameras.

Solution

A+ Technology Solutions, a Bay Shore, NY-based security integration firm and Axis partner, designed and installed an enterprise-class surveillance solution that network-enabled 64 existing analog cameras by attaching them to Axis video encoders. The integrator then added more than a dozen high-resolution Axis network cameras and an ISONAS IP-based access control system to the schools.

The entire system is centrally controlled by an intuitive DynaView video management system from IPVideo Corporation, an Axis application development partner. Custom software also allows mobile guard patrols and the police department to view cameras as needed.

Result

With live monitoring from the security command center at the high school, the district has become more proactive in detecting and responding to incidents as they unfold. District security staff can dispatch mobile patrols to a campus within minutes of an event, sometimes arriving before the local police. The district has since reduced the size of its after-hours foot patrols in school buildings, shortened investigations, and minimized resources tied up in disciplinary hearings. Officials have also reported a 60% reduction in vandalism throughout the district.

"The Axis network video technology lets us see what's going on live which has raised the security and safety of our students and the community to a whole new level."

Don Flynn, security consultant for the Connetquot Central School District of Islip, New York.

Graduating to network video surveillance

Superintendent Dr. Alan Groveman and the Board of Education believed that coordinated, district-wide surveillance was essential for effective emergency management. To protect and improve the district's existing investment in analog technology, A+ Technology Solutions devised a phased-in approach to network video surveillance beginning with a server infrastructure linking IPVideo's DynaView enterprise network video recorder to Axis network cameras. The integrator then linked the existing analog cameras to AXIS 241Q Video Encoders to digitize and send the video over a secure virtual private network to a central monitoring station. Professional security staff uses IPVideo's DynaView video management system to facilitate around-the-clock live monitoring, recording and storage of the video feeds.

School administrators have access to cameras in their own buildings, while the superintendent and assistant superintendent can remotely monitor any district camera from consoles in their respective offices. Custom software gives the Suffolk County Police Department temporary access to any of the schools' cameras in an emergency. The district's own security team uses handheld devices to view events in progress as they patrol the district and respond to dispatches.

To support the district's closed-campus policy, an ISONAS IP-at-the-Door Access Control System was integrated by A+ Technology into the surveillance network. All 11 schools are equipped with the card reader/door locking mechanisms to screen staff and visitors as they enter the buildings and keep entrances securely locked against unauthorized intruders. The devices are controlled by the DynaView system and operate in tandem with the surveillance cameras.

Expanding coverage to remote areas of the campus

The Axis network cameras have helped the district extend surveillance to areas it couldn't afford to reach before, such as the bus yard and various athletic fields. "Our athletic fields are about half a mile from the nearest

building," shares Flynn. "We never put analog cameras out there because the district couldn't afford the cost to trench the cables."

A+ Technology installed AXIS 233D and state-of-art, high-resolution AXIS Q6032-E PTZ Dome Network Cameras using a wireless mesh network. The wireless bridge gives Connetquot crystal-clear coverage of the football, baseball and soccer fields as well as the evacuation gates at the far end of the property for about a tenth of the price it would have cost to trench.

By leveraging H.264 video compression and Power over Ethernet (PoE) switches to connect the technology to the district's existing backbone, A+ Technology has helped the school system minimize bandwidth usage and reduce energy consumption while enhancing its emergency readiness.

The district will gradually replace the original analog cameras with newer, high-resolution Axis network cameras as the older technology wears out.

Bringing perpetrators to justice quickly

According to Flynn, network video surveillance has virtually eliminated prolonged investigations. It took administrators just seven minutes to identify and apprehend a student who pulled a fire alarm. It took just 30 minutes to identify the juvenile delinquent who set fire to construction equipment at one of the schools' renovation projects. In the past, that kind of incident would have monopolized the resources of both the Suffolk County Police Department and the school district's own security investigative team for an extended period of time.

"Whether we're spotting a student roaming the halls after hours or looking to stop the finger-pointing that oftentimes precedes a disciplinary action, our network video surveillance system is saving us time and manpower," shares Flynn. "When you've got a tight economy forcing you to have to do more with fewer resources, the payoff from this kind of solution is huge."

