

Fullarton school rolls out “perfect” network audio solution from Axis Communications.

Axis speakers provide new features in the upgrade to a new network audio system, fulfilling the school’s current and future needs.



Organization:
Sunrise Christian School

Location:
Fullarton, Australia

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Safety and security, audio communications

Axis partners:
SUDO IT, Building Security Technologies (BST)

Mission

Working with trusted service providers Building Security Technologies (BST), and integration partner SUDO IT, Sunrise Christian School Fullarton were looking for an upgraded public announcement and school bell system. The solution needed to be user-friendly, sensitive to the residential area around the school and capable of zoning to different areas of the campus.

Ultimately, the new audio system would need to offer far greater functionality than the old analogue solution and provide a platform that future-proofs Sunrise Christian School for future digital integrations.

Solution

Following a trial of AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker, staff found they could operate the system quickly and efficiently via the web-based user interface, creating specific alerts and messages for their individual class needs. School bells could be zoned in a manner that did not disrupt the school's Early Learning Centre, while major, school-wide announcements could be sent right across campus on demand.

Result

SUDO IT found the deployment to be easy and effective to integrate, and AXIS C2005 now provides users at Sunrise Christian School with a simple, very functional system that meets the needs of both individual classroom teachers and the broader school community.



Founded in 1978, Sunrise Christian School Fullarton is administered by Adelaide Christian Schools and caters from Early Learning through to grade 6. The school exists to provide a welcoming, family-oriented, and Christian-centric learning environment with a strong emphasis on family and community. From the initial base in Fullarton, the school has expanded to six other sites around the Adelaide area.

Upgraded audio solution to meet needs of the entire school

Schools are inherently sensitive environments, and changes require special consideration. When Sunrise Christian School began to search for a new Public Announcement (PA) system, it was necessary to consider aspects of the deployment such as external noise, different zones within the campus grounds, and special needs requirements.

Adelaide-based managed service providers SUDO IT, who work closely with a group of schools across the greater Adelaide area, were charged with finding and provisioning a replacement system for Sunrise. The team at BST were included in the process, having a close working relationship with a wide range of relevant security products.

The school had recently built an Early Learning Centre (ELC) within the existing grounds, which would need certain functions in common with the rest of the school, but ideally not the frequent ringing of school bells to signal the end of each period over at the main campus, as these would disturb the learning environment for the younger children. The system would need to support shared announcements and alarms such as evacuations however, to adhere to the school's safety mission.

SUDO IT were also looking for a product that could be rolled out consistently across the other schools they support, including five that currently have major building and extension work in progress.

"We figured, why bother putting in a legacy analogue system like the one already deployed at Sunrise Christian School, when we could use something modern with far greater functionality."

"We also looked at the deployment as a platform for the wider group of schools we support," said Kris Kopicki, Systems Engineer at SUDO IT.

Upon speaking to local members of the Axis Communications team and working in conjunction with BST to research products, Kris was loaned an AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker to trial. As part of the demonstration, the SUDO IT team had the opportunity to sit down with staff at Sunrise Christian School and show them how the web interface works, how the technology would be driven from a central location, how different zones would work, and how easy it is to make changes within the system once deployed.

Simple, user-friendly audio solution

When Sunrise Christian School began to search for a replacement for their older analogue system, they discovered that an AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker ticked a lot of boxes – more than they had originally considered. The network-attached speaker comes equipped with a built-in amplifier and is Power-over-Ethernet (PoE), so does not require hard-wiring to mains or a power point in order to function.

"Staff found the speakers to be simple and intuitive and were quickly able to manage the system themselves with no intervention from us. They were able to schedule alarms and announcements quickly and easily, and found the system to be agile and flexible," said Kris.

The simplicity of the speaker allows it to function easily and efficiently within a school environment. Once deployed, it becomes a network attached device that can be managed by a simple web-browser interface. The cabling system is also fundamentally simple, requiring just one CAT.5 cable which delivers both data and power, as well as adhering to IEEE networking standards for Power over Ethernet (PoE).





Sunrise Christian School agreed to purchase and deploy the AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker, with BST installing the hardware and SUDO IT integrating it with other components of the school's security and audio mission. SUDO IT integrated the solution with a view to also rolling it out to other schools across South Australia.

Easy zoning

Sunrise has four distinct zones, so the team at SUDO IT started by discussing the individual requirements of various stakeholders, and working through the issues that they raised. Among these was the fact that Sunrise Christian School is based in Fullarton, a residential area, and the school is therefore conscious of neighbourhood noise levels.

In an effort to be sensitive to their neighbours the new system is less invasive than the previous 'old school' bell. It can also direct PA announcements internally where applicable, rather than blasting them across the campus. As another benefit of the zoned system, the ELC can play music and other learning tools such as audio books to their children, and not disrupt the rest of the school.

"We were looking for an outcome that delivered to as many stakeholders as possible, as well as fitting many of the criteria that we were looking at from an IT perspective," continues Kris.

Strong, effective security protocols

One such requirement is the strict security protocols that SUDO IT places on all their deployments. The MSP has a criteria that all sites use 802.1X protocols, which restrict individuals from disturbing a local network, either accidentally or on purpose. Axis has speakers that adhere to 802.1X, and which come with a range of support tools for easy administration.

"With .1X protocols, a lot of vendors say that they do it, but they don't do it properly. Axis adheres to this highly secure protocol, and does it well. The tools that they include with their devices make deployments a breeze. Things like that make life easier and more secure for everyone," said Kris.

Also of importance to SUDO IT is the continuity provided by the system from Axis. The audio solution does not solely rely on an internet connection, so if the WAN does go down, scheduled bells will continue to operate as normal with minimal disruption to the school routine.

The outcome

The new audio system at Sunrise Christian School Fullarton is simple and much more functional than the previous system. Whereas few people engaged with the old solution and almost nobody knew how to operate it and change times, staff at Sunrise find the new AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker very easy to interact with via the simple web interface, and are able to customise times and scheduling, chimes, music routed to the ELC and so forth.

"The outcome is well above and beyond what they expected. Everyone is familiar with the new system, and staff feel confident using it and making their desired changes," said Kris.

AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker was easy to set up for SUDO IT, meeting all network security goals. Kris and his team have found that the solution is highly functional within the broader school ecosystem and compatible with associated devices. It is also easy to scale and roll out in different schools around the region.

SUDO IT relies on the physical server infrastructure at Sunrise Christian School, and will be rolling out AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker at other affiliated schools across the state using these server resources.

"The system is self-sufficient, and it just works. It is exactly what we wanted," said Kris. "Everything lined up perfectly for this, we met up with Basil and the Axis team at just the right time as they were beta-testing new software for AXIS C2005, and they offered us a chance to trial it. The features were perfectly suited to our new platform, and we found that Axis were really flexible in giving us exactly what we needed. We now have a platform that we can deploy to any site around the state."

"We scrutinised the AXIS C2005 Network Ceiling Speaker very thoroughly like we always do for any deployment and found that it suited our needs perfectly."

Kris Kopicki, Systems Engineer, SUDO IT.

About Axis Communications

Axis enables a smarter and safer world by creating network solutions that provide insights for improving security and new ways of doing business. As the industry leader in network video, Axis offers products and services for video surveillance and analytics, access control, intercom and audio systems. Axis has more than 3,800 dedicated employees in over 50 countries and collaborates with partners worldwide to deliver customer solutions. Axis was founded in 1984 and has its headquarters in Lund, Sweden.

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