

Network video equals safer schools.

Axis network cameras keep a watchful eye on students, faculty and staff.



Organization:
Eastchester Union Free
School District

Location:
New York, USA

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Campus safety and
security

Axis partner:
Select Telecom Inc.

Mission

The Eastchester Union Free School District wanted to improve security on all five of its school campuses by replacing its analog camera system with a network-based system. The analog system often did not properly record video and provided only grainy, black-and-white images, which made it difficult to identify people.

Solution

Eastchester worked with Select Telecom Inc., an Axis Communications partner, to install approximately 100 Axis network cameras throughout the campuses. Select Telecom set up the network camera system on the district's existing voice over IP (VoIP) network, which enabled the district to better utilize the extra bandwidth.

Result

Using the Axis network cameras, authorized users such as principals and members of the IT Department can access live or recorded video of hallways, doorways, stairways, lunchrooms, computer labs and libraries at any school via the Internet. This enables them to better track activity on each campus and improve security for the students, faculty and staff.

"By piggybacking the video network onto the voice network, we were able to save significant amounts of time and money. The Axis network cameras are so bandwidth efficient that the video does not slow down or degrade the voice network."

Anita Better, Director of Information Technology for the Eastchester Union Free School District.

Safe campuses

The Eastchester Union Free School District is located in Westchester, N.Y., approximately 20 miles north of New York City. The district's mission is to provide an environment that fosters mutual respect, promotes the uniqueness of the individual, provides opportunities for student successes, and guides all students intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially.

To fulfill this mission, Eastchester wanted to provide a safe educational environment in which every student is able to learn. The district's existing analog security system was outdated and no longer provided the level of security and surveillance the district desired. Students could easily knock the cameras out of place, and the video was not regularly recorded. Even with a recording, the black-and-white images were so grainy that it was not possible to identify people in the video.

"We needed an affordable security and surveillance solution that provided high-quality video and remote monitoring capabilities," said Anita Better, director of information technology for the Eastchester Union Free School District. "We found that a network-based system offered the functionality for the best price."

Building an efficient system

Eastchester chose an Axis network video system because the district wanted to utilize the extra bandwidth on its existing VoIP network. Select Telecom worked with the district to set up virtual local area networks (VLANs) for the video traffic, which use standard routers and switches to separate the voice network from the video network.

"By piggybacking the video network onto the voice network, we were able to save significant amounts of time and money," Ms. Better said. "The Axis network cameras are so bandwidth efficient that the video does not slow down or degrade the voice network."

Unlike the previous analog system, the Axis network video system is configured so that it constantly records the video. The district's authorized users can view live or recorded video at any time via the Internet. The video is password protected to give different users various levels of access to the video, and specific video sequences are searchable by time and date using video management software from Milestone.

The Axis network video system is primarily used by Eastchester's principals and IT officers to identify unauthorized people on the district's campuses. Although student safety was the primary purpose for the system, the schools have also noticed a decline in theft and vandalism. In fact, Eastchester estimates that it has saved thousands of dollars worth of equipment damage and loss within the first year that the cameras were operational.

The Axis network video system has worked so well that the district plans to add more network cameras to the perimeter of all the school buildings. The outdoor cameras will be AXIS 211, which are equipped with Power over Ethernet (PoE). This will enable the school district to power the cameras from the network connection, rather than a separate power supply. The district also has the option to open up the network to the local police force so that law enforcement officers can view video from police stations or wireless laptops in police cars.

"Because it is based on IP technology, the Axis network video system provides us with many more options than any analog system," Ms. Better said. "We can easily upgrade and expand the system as the district grows, and we can improve security by sharing access with other local agencies, should the need arise."



Select Telecom Inc.