Axis helps Guernsey College to cut crime and increase safety.

Organization:
Guernsey College

Location:
United Kingdom

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Campus safety and
reduction of vandalism

Axis partners:
CNL and Milestone

Mission

Guernsey College of Further Education in the U.K. needed to find a way to reduce vandalism and theft on their campus and protect staff working late.

Solution

Guernsey College engaged Computer Network Limited (CNL) to provide a fully networked surveillance solution, which employed Axis network cameras to monitor various sites. Six AXIS 2110 and three AXIS 2100 Network Cameras were installed as part of a networked video surveillance solution. An AXIS 2400 Video Server was installed to distribute video images from the existing analogue cameras onto the network. The entire solution enabled the relaying of digital video images to a central server, where it is now stored and reviewed if an incident is reported.

Result

Installing new surveillance cameras and digital video recording technology has deterred crime and increased personal security. Incidences of vandalism and theft have markedly decreased saving the college thousands of pounds a year.

Video footage transmitted to a central monitoring centre has clearly identified individuals involved in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour on college property.

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS

30735/EN/E3/0804

"Theft and vandalism have largely disappeared while lecturers claim students are better behaved and staff working late feel safer. Keeping the system running is simple thanks to the automatic recording, archiving and erasure of old images. Everything works very reliably and is an obvious deterrent to crime."

Rod Tostevin, Senior Technician, Guernsey College of Further Education

The problems of criminal and anti-social behaviour

Guernsey College of Further Education currently has over 7,500 students enrolled on a wide range of courses. Regular bicycle, motorcycle theft and car park vandalism prompted the college to look at the shortcomings of its existing security provisions. The college was concerned about improving the personal security of female staff and students working late at night. The college had used an analogue-based CCTV system, but it was no longer suitable for its needs.

The main site had only four monochrome interior cameras. If an incident occurred, finding any relevant images was a laborious, time consuming and often fruitless process. It was not possible to increase the number of cameras attached to it without considerable investment in additional cabling and infrastructure.

Quality of output had become a real issue for the college. With the analogue-based system, time-stamped images were relayed to a five-inch monitor in the reception area of the main campus, where they were also recorded onto a VCR. The images recorded onto VHS tapes were grainy and blurred. Poor picture quality often meant that output could not be used as evidence in a court of law.

The reason for implementing an IP-Surveillance solution

Because the college did not want to use its system for continuous real-time monitoring, it was imperative to install a system with good recording quality, which facilitated the fast retrieval of images.

IP-based surveillance made it possible for the college to centrally monitor and record images from college buildings outside the main campus, transferring these images via the existing computer network that already linked buildings. Consequently the costs of extending the network of surveillance to all college buildings could be reduced considerably.

Several potential suppliers were then approached and CNL was chosen to integrate an IP-based surveillance solution. Axis' IP-Surveillance equipment formed an integral part of CNL's overall solution. The order for a new surveillance system included Milestone Xprotect business surveillance software, six AXIS 2110 Network Cameras, three AXIS 2100 Network Cameras, an AXIS 2400 Video Server for converting existing analogue camera output onto the network.

The effectiveness of the system in action

The new surveillance solution has already led to a successful prosecution for the theft of a bicycle. A camera in a weatherproof enclosure directly above the bicycle park on the campus made this possible. Once the theft was reported a member of staff was able to quickly search the system for digital video footage. They found excellent digital images of a young man looking at a bike, checking to see if anybody had noticed him and then riding off on it. As each frame is time stamped, there was no confusion about when the incident took place.

College technicians then created an AVI file with a playable sequence of digital images of the theft. This file was copied onto a CD for the Police. Thanks to the superb image quality of the evidence, the offender was caught within two weeks.

Guernsey College has successfully moved from an ineffective analogue-based system to one using the latest IP-Surveillance technology. With the help of Axis' equipment and CNL's experienced team, the college has been able to balance its desire for open access with unobtrusive security measures. The security solution has created a system which acts as a highly effective deterrent against costly and damaging crimes such as theft, arson, rape and vandalism.