

AxizWorkgroup puts safety first with IP video surveillance. Leading IT distributor chooses Axis network cameras for optimal security.



Organization:
AxizWorkgroup

Location:
Johannesburg, South
Africa

Industry segment:
IT industry

Application:
Safety and security

Axis partners:
The Surveillance Factory,
Milestone Systems

Mission

AxizWorkgroup, a leading South African IT infrastructure distributor, surpasses its competitors through its commitment to providing a comprehensive product range without compromising on quality. AxizWorkgroup supplies a wide variety of hardware and software including desktop PCs, servers, laptops, monitors, computer components and printers.

An outdated CCTV system was the sole line of defense against criminal activity and, extremely concerned after a traumatic robbery, senior management undertook to revolutionize their security with a high-tech solution.

Solution

With years of experience specializing in designing, implementing and managing video surveillance solutions, Axis Solution Gold Partner, and Axis Top Sales Partner of the year for 2010, The Surveillance Factory, recommended the complete replacement of the antiquated CCTV system with an Axis IP-based video surveillance solution.

AxizWorkgroup accepted the proposal, confident that the challenge of safe-guarding their staff and securing their high value stock could be met by the market leader in network video.

Result

The design of the surveillance solution at the AxizWorkgroup premises includes HDTV fixed and PTZ network cameras to provide comprehensive coverage from the perimeter, throughout the entire customer area, right through to the warehouse. The proactive monitoring provides peace of mind to personnel, customers and suppliers. Although the ensuing financial benefit of the installation is quantifiable and significant, it is almost exceeded by the elevated level of productivity that arises from a safe working environment.

"The live, proactively monitored system, with superb HDTV picture quality, allows a complete overview of our premises from a central point and the cost to manage it is minimal."

Louis Steenkamp, Security Manager, AxizWorkgroup.

From fairly fuzzy to crystal clear

"Reactive monitoring is outdated and dangerous," remarks The Surveillance Factory's Marnix de Lorm, describing the previous surveillance system. "We had to offer AxizWorkgroup a solution that enables an immediate response and allows operators to see exactly what security personnel will be faced with when responding to an incident."

AxizWorkgroup realized the shortcomings of poor quality CCTV footage after a robbery that left operators unable to identify the faces of the culprits. The low resolution of the cameras and the grainy images that they offered were inadequate for security monitoring purposes.

"We were blown away by the image quality when The Surveillance Factory demonstrated the Axis network cameras," enthuses Louis Steenkamp, AxizWorkgroup Security Manager, "and we decided to opt for megapixel cameras for higher resolution of video images. Identification of individuals is critical in any surveillance solution."

Going hi-res

For maximum clarity, The Surveillance Factory opted for HDTV Axis network cameras. It was also a prerequisite that all of the deployed cameras support H.264 compression in order to minimize bandwidth usage and the required amount of data storage.

Outdoor, vandal-resistant AXIS P3344-VE as well as AXIS Q1755 Network Cameras secure all external access points as well as the warehouses. The HDTV image quality, remote focus and zoom of AXIS Q1755 ensure that admission is strictly limited to legitimate business participants. AXIS Q1755 is designed for securing areas requiring high-quality identification and offers video motion detection.

Monitoring of the loading bays and parking areas is accomplished via AXIS P5534 PTZ Dome Network Cameras. AXIS P5534 provides full frame rate HDTV 720p video with 18x optical zoom enabling coverage of these large areas in minute detail. Day and night functionality guarantees around-the-clock surveillance. In addition, the PTZs have been set up to automatically observe specific zones on the perimeter electric fence in the event of the fence being activated. This enhances the overall effectiveness of the system. The electric gates are linked to Milestone via an AXIS P8221 Network I/O Audio Module. This allows off-site operators to control the gate, eliminating the possibility of the guards onsite being bribed or subdued to gain access to the premises after hours.

"AxizWorkgroup's investment in a high-end IP system, using the best quality HDTV Axis cameras, has already yielded excellent results for AxizWorkgroup," comments de Lorm.

Control room simplicity

An AXIS T8310 Video Surveillance Control Board provides the monitoring operators a joystick, PTZ keypad and jog dial unit for responsive and accurate operation of the PTZ cameras in the control room environment. The system is integrated into an Milestone XProtect® Enterprise NVR which allows for simple view and control of the surveillance system.

Reaping the rewards

In addition to the anticipated drastic reduction of criminal activity, there have been a few other pleasantly surprising results. These include improved people management, optimization of health and safety standards and an overall enrichment of the general work environment.

This solution will be soon be mimicked at other AxizWorkgroup sites around the country and into Africa. Milestone XProtect® Enterprise will allow the management of these systems to remain centralized at the original control room.







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