

IDC Frontier achieves efficient video surveillance with Axis. Migration from analog to network video helps IDC Frontier enhance data center security and improve customer service.



Organization:
IDC Frontier Inc.

Location:
Tokyo, Japan

Application:
Data center security

Axis partners:
TriWorks Corporation,
Net One Systems Co., Ltd.

Mission

IDC Frontier Inc. has data centers at eight locations nationwide. Providing the best possible environment through a large-scale, high-capacity backbone infrastructure, its data centers support the businesses of many enterprises. IDC Frontier had been considering the implementation of a new camera system for its Shinjuku Data Center in Tokyo. Its existing system based on analog cameras and tape recorders, was beset with problems including the trouble involved with exchanging tapes, searching for specific recorded tapes and video footage, and with securing storage space for the tapes. The company needed to build a more scalable and flexible system, capable to adapt to future system expansion and needs.

Solution

From the initial stages of the system selection process, IDC Frontier had been considering adopting an IP-based system using network cameras and video management software. Another requirement was the ability of the cameras to support PoE (Power over Ethernet), in order to

save costs associated with power supply and wiring. Emphasis was also placed on selecting network cameras based on industry standards to ensure easy integration with video management software and other systems.

While investigating possible cameras, the fact emerged that the network cameras offered by Axis Communications met all of these criteria. The ArobaView® network camera management software from TriWorks Corp. was selected, and Net One Systems Co., Ltd. was chosen for system deployment, completing the installation in one month. At present, 60 AXIS 210A Network Cameras have been installed and are being operated throughout the data center.

Result

The network video system has eliminated labor-intensive tasks such as tape swapping and removed the need for tape storage space. In addition, since recorded video can be easily searched and played back, the practical uses of

"The work involved in camera system operation has been dramatically reduced, and the easy-to-read monitors have made controlling the system easy. What's more, the practical uses for recorded footage have also been broadened."

Mr. Sasaki, Manager, Facility Dept., Technology Division, IDC Frontier.

the data have been broadened. For example, the system can also be used to easily search through video for footage of who left something behind when a lost item is discovered. The system has also proved effective in monitoring the activities of visitors within the data center.

Full adoption and installation completed in just one month

IDC Frontier carefully considered its selection of a camera system while engaging in discussions with a number of businesses which included security equipment vendors as well as electrical equipment makers and SI vendors dealing with surveillance cameras. Special attention was given to the selection of cameras. Since securing additional wiring space for the coaxial cable required by analog cameras would have proven difficult, cost-effective IP-based cameras were made a prerequisite. Selection began by looking at PoE-compatible network cameras in light of costs associated with powering the cameras, with IDC Frontier finally selecting the AXIS 210A Network Camera and the ArobaView® network camera management software from Tri Works Corp. Thanks to Axis network cameras' extensive system compatibility and easy integration, and Net One Systems' advanced expertise in building network systems, installation was completed in just one month.

The new IP-based system has proven very easy to use and features motion-triggered recordings, saving much hard disk space as only video based on specific events is recorded. With the previous analog system, video was recorded using eight tape recorders, and on a daily basis, each recorder required labor-intensive maintenance that included swapping out tapes, rewinding them, setting new tapes to record and storing the used tapes. Stored tapes had become so numerous that finding specific tapes from the cabinets in which they were stored was an extremely complicated task. Moreover, operating the analog system required specialized expertise and familiarization which, according to personnel accustomed to operating PCs, made the system difficult to handle.

On the other hand, since the new network video system saves footage to hard disk, it does not require any tape swapping. Footage from the 60 Axis network cameras is divided into 16 segments and displayed on monitors using the ArobaView® software from Tri Works. Operators can zoom in on any portion of the footage with a simple click, modify the number of windows and change the way in which information is displayed, making for extremely simple operation. This has created a user-friendly video system which operates in the same way as a personal computer. The cameras' motion detection function is used to only record when motion is being detected within the cameras' visible range, saving hard disk space while allowing simple search and playback of any footage.

Efforts towards utilizing centralized monitoring

"We conduct centralized monitoring of our data center network through an integrated monitoring room. In the same way, by installing network cameras in all of our data centers nationwide, we hope to build a centralized monitoring system that allows us to verify the conditions on server floors at any time and from any place," says Mr. Sasaki. At present, a variety of camera systems are in use at each of the data centers. IDC Frontier is planning to harmonize the system with a sequential migration to use network cameras across all sites. The company is also planning on integrating its surveillance camera systems with access control systems utilizing technologies such as facial recognition and RFID tags.

"We've received requests from the customers who use our data centers for a way for them to monitor the conditions on server floors. Moving forward, we hope to cater for these types of requests as a part of our efforts to provide enhanced services," says Mr. Sasaki. Supporting the stability and security of data centers from video surveillance to customer service, while delivering highly dependable service, Axis network video systems are expected to enable an increasingly broad range of uses.



 SoftBank IDC

IDC Frontier Inc.*
www.idcf.jp

*The company changed its name to
IDC Frontier Inc. on April 1, 2009

 ArobaView

TriWorks Corporation
www.arobaview.com

 Net One Systems

Net One Systems Co., Ltd.
www.netone.co.jp