

safety &  
security



Roy Alves, country manager,  
Axis Communications

Video surveillance



Electronic access control

# Electronic security options

*In this security feature Education Southern Africa takes a look at the various security systems available for schools, colleges and universities. The specific focus is on surveillance equipment and we bring you an article written by one of the leading industry experts.*

According to Roy Alves, Country Manager of Axis Communication in South Africa, at the height of school violence, South African schools are turning to technology, particularly Internet Protocol (IP) video surveillance to ensure the safety of students and staff. They are increasingly being used in schools and other educational establishments for security surveillance and the remote monitoring of playground areas, corridors, halls and classrooms.

Roy Alves explains that the reason why video surveillance solutions gained their appeal from schools because of their ability to deter unacceptable behaviour. People are less likely to act in an unbecoming manner when they know they are being monitored, and this applies to both adults and children.

## A new look at school security

by Roy Alves, country manager,  
Axis Communications

Whether you are choosing a surveillance system for a primary school, a high school or an institute of higher education, you'll find an Internet Protocol (IP) solution that fits the bill. IP cameras are increasingly being used in schools and other educational establishments for security surveillance and the remote monitoring of playground areas, corridors, halls and classrooms. Another common use is to offer surveillance as a

marketing tool that allows parents or guardians to check up on their children any time of the day.

Outside school hours, the same surveillance system can be used to remotely monitor school property and deter vandalism. A sophisticated, built-in motion detection system can generate an alarm, which automatically transmits images to your security operators giving them accurate, up-to-the-minute information upon which to base their decisions.

Students and teachers hampered by the threat of harassment or violence will be comforted by the presence of reliable network cameras in the school's public spaces. This includes external areas such as walkways between buildings as well as internal ones such as in restaurants and school corridors.

Another interesting area of application for this technology is remote learning. An IP video solution can be used to make attending lectures "at a distance" a viable option for students who are unable to attend lectures in person.

Digital surveillance systems have the advantage of being highly cost-effective: installation costs are low since the need for dedicated cables is vastly reduced and the system can be run on existing computers.

Besides budget, there are several other benefits that make IP surveillance systems suitable for use in schools. Some of these are explored below:

### Low maintenance costs

Slim network-run equipment has low maintenance costs and images are stored on computer hard disks, which is