

SUCCESS STORY

Axis Video Servers Help Community Fight Crime

IP-Surveillance System Reduces Crime on Humberside

Mission

Blighted by crime, prostitution and drug abuse, the Goodwin Resource Center embarked upon an initiative to clean-up crime on a local housing estate.

Solution

Sponsored by ERDF and Local Council funding, Goodwin commissioned a network development company to evaluate different forms of surveillance technology.

C-Ways, the development company commissioned for the project, found no single solution that fulfilled Goodwin's requirements - but instead, embarked upon the development of a video server based IP broadband wireless system for monitoring the troubled area.

IoMM Software (subsidiary of Farsight) developed the E-Surveillance software for the central monitoring station.

Axis video products were selected for their reliability, performance and image quality.

Result

- Car crime down by 80%, Robbery down 68%
- Violence against the person down 30%
- Criminal damage down 59%
- £2.1 million saved against court and policing costs, insurance claims and personal loss.



Customer

" ... this broadband wireless approach utilizing Axis network video servers that plug directly onto the network, allow the connecting cameras to be moved anytime and anywhere within the estate."

John Marshall, Project Manager, Goodwin Resource Center

" ... the reductions in crime and anti-social activity are quite remarkable..."

Paul Cheeseman, Chief Superintendent, Humberside Police

Community initiative

The Goodwin project is an ongoing community initiative aimed at reducing crime on a local housing estate in Kingston-upon-Hull, England. The initiative, led by the local Goodwin Resource Centre, successfully won funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the UK Home Office to finance both the deployment of a neighborhood warden service into the area, and the development of the world's first IP-based community surveillance system – for remotely monitoring the troubled area. John Marshall was the project manager tasked with the delivery of the project service.

At an early stage of the project, John recruited the help of C-Ways – an IT and wireless integration specialist with several years of experience in the Surveillance/Security market.

Revolutionary system

Dissatisfied with the clear limitations of traditional surveillance systems, C-ways in partnership with local surveillance specialist, Sentry Alarms, designed a completely new and innovative surveillance system based on broadband microwave radio technology. The system included twenty-seven Axis video servers that connect traditional analog CCTV cameras to a mixed 10MB and 100MB broadband wireless system. The system consistently outperformed traditional ISDN solutions during early trialing and provided better management capabilities than any other traditional hard-wired “city centre” solution. The full system was finally implemented as part of the pilot project on the estate.

The open standards on which Axis video products are based proved key in allowing security software specialists, IoMM Software, to develop the E-Surveillance software that ultimately met the challenging cost and technical requirements for the project. The total turnkey solution, developed in association with several equipment and service suppliers including Axis' partners IoMM Software, C-Ways, and data archiving specialists ADIC, allowed VCL dome cameras and alarm devices to connect via Axis video servers to a central control room over the wireless network.

The system allows video surveillance material to be fed to a central control room over the wireless network, where the E-Surveillance software manages the incoming video feeds. With the Internet-friendly specification of the system, images can be recovered in astonishingly rapid time. The information can then be sent via e-mail, CD-ROM or floppy disk to the local police.

C>WAYS IoMM Software Ltd.



Because Axis video servers include a built-in Web server and can be assigned their own IP address, it was unnecessary to deploy a computer workstation where each of the cameras were physically located. This simplified the system design and reduced the overall hardware costs for the complete system.

- Traditional ISDN based surveillance systems connect via a complex network of physical coaxial cables that need to be dug under roads and public footpaths. The time and cost of this work is significant, but more importantly, the physical road works also serves criminals with advance warning of an imminent CCTV installation. In these instances, crime simply moves to the next street, out of range of any geographically fixed cameras.
- However, this wireless approach that utilizes broadband radio links and Axis network video servers that plug directly onto the network, allows connecting cameras to be moved anytime and anywhere within the estate, explained John.

Dramatic reduction in crime

With a five-month pilot test of the system completed, the social effects of the system were evaluated by an independent consultancy, whose findings were disclosed in a recent public report.

The report presented an array of statistics confirming the success of the project and the latest crime figures for the area showed that, since implementation of the system: car crime has reduced by 80%, robbery has decreased by 68%, violence is down by 30% and criminal damage has fallen by almost 60%. Moreover, the clear technological advantages of this system over traditional CCTV systems have been cited as fundamental to the success of the project.

Chief Superintendent Paul Cheeseman of the Humberside Police hailed the project as a complete success:

- The reductions in crime and anti-social activity are quite remarkable. This project demonstrates just what can be achieved when innovative technologies are used in the support of policing on our streets. There is no evidence that crime has been displaced, and no further movement of prostitution into other areas either.

Owing to the success of the project, Goodwin and C-Ways have pooled their expertise in surveillance and community safety to establish a new company called Goodwin Community Vision. This company is now available to provide similar services throughout the whole of Britain. Goodwin Community Vision plan to roll out the pilot system technology to all areas of Hull. This ambition became a step closer when the Hull Community Safety Partnership were shortlisted for £5 million of CCTV Challenge funding (Home Office Initiative). The extension of the system will include 300 cameras connecting over 200 video servers, making it the largest surveillance system of its kind.

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