Jeff Davis Schools

Challenge

Jeff Davis Schools wanted to replace their aging analog system with a new updated IP security system. Their main goals for the new system were to have better quality video and an easier management system to search for relevant video.

Prior to the selection, Jeff Davis County Schools assembled a team of administrators, technologists and local law enforcement to survey and conduct a comparison analysis of surveillance products. Nathan Miller, network engineer at Jeff Davis and project lead, requested the top three manufacturers install samples of their equipment to do a head-to-head comparison of the three products at once. At each school, three cameras were mounted in the hallway and parking lot for a side-by-side analysis. Throughout this period, Miller and the district team evaluated the quality of video from the cameras and ease of use of the software. A team of local law enforcement officers, school principals, parents and community leaders also evaluated the video surveillance results and provided input. After the evaluation period, the exacqVision solution with Samsung cameras was the selected solution at all schools and district campuses.

Solution

Progressive Communications installed one exacqVision A-Series IP network video recorder (NVR) in each of the schools as well as in the central office building and Annex. The exacqVision A-Series recorders allowed up to 64 IP cameras in each school to be connected. The performance and versatility of the A-Series

Jeff Davis Schools educates nearly 3,000 students throughout the school district.

The exacqVision client displays views from cameras placed throughout all 4 schools, parking lots and athletic facilities.

allows Jeff Davis Schools to store up to 32 terabytes on each recorder and continuously record up to 550 Mbps of video at 20 frames per second. These NVRs require little to no maintenance.

Progressive Communications placed cameras strategically around the exterior of the building to cover parking lots, play grounds, athletic fields and all outdoor areas where students may gather. Cameras were also installed in computer labs and main school hallways. The quality of the video from the high definition Samsung IP cameras provided the clarity required by school administrators.

The new high resolution Samsung IP cameras have a vandal resistant form factor to protect against the most demanding weather conditions as well as tampering. This prevents students

School network engineer, Nathan Miller, utilizes the exacqVIsion solution to ensure school safety.

from damaging the cameras. "In the high school, we need cameras with durability to last. The Samsung cameras provided us comfort," said Miller.

Additionally, the Samsung cameras capture high quality images that provide enhanced clarity to more easily identify incidents and students involved. Video from each camera is managed through the exacqVision VMS software. Superintendents, principals, technology officers and teachers view live and recorded video simultaneously using the exacqVision client.

exacqVision Enterprise VMS software proved to be the easiest system to use but also deliver a strong feature set. School administrators felt comfortable using the software on their own. With a few simple clicks, they could navigate and have the video they wanted. "The biggest differentiator that set exacqVision apart from the competitors was its intuitive and user friendly interface," said Miller.

The school principals rely heavily on having the ability to search recorded video for certain incidents. The exacqVision Smart Search feature allows principals to select specific areas and set motion grids for faster search results. Principals can easily find the Smart Search videos, each with an orange label, in the Smart Search bar. That way they instantly know when there is an incident needing review. "Our principals feel comfortable searching the video and making their own video clips for evidence," said Miller. With a few incidents happening every week, this intuitive feature greatly decreases the time they spend finding video evidence. The exacqVision bookmarking and case management functionality has greatly helped with organizing evidence. Case management gives principals the opportunity to bookmark all related video and retain the video all under one case, which can be named for quick identification. The exacqVision video evidence is then used to better understand the incident, find the students responsible and more quickly take the appropriate action. Should a parent visit be required, the principal can initially pull up the video clip to prove what happened and that his or her child was involved. "exacqVision removes the hearsay element," Miller said. "Our school administrators can rely on the exacqVision video to prove what actually happened."

The exacqVision Enterprise software also provided them the opportunity to add multi-level maps. Cameras at each school are depicted on the map with an icon to make it easy for everyone to locate the appropriate camera. "The mapping functionality within exacqVision provides a pictorial view of the entire security system in each building," said Miller.

School administrators and staff download the free Exacq mobile app to use on the smartphones and tablets when away from their offices. Miller uses the Exacq mobile app while installing and positioning cameras in the field. "It's so easy for me to pull up the Exacq app on my iPhone and ensure the camera is positioned properly."

Result

Together, exacqVision and Samsung presented a security solution that met the district's goals of better image quality and improved functionality for managing video evidence. exacqVision's ease of use improved school operations and minimized time compiling evidence.

Nearly 300 cameras are strategically placed around the schools to closely monitor activity.

One exacqVIsion A-Series IP recorder was installed at each of the schools as well as in the central office building and annex.

Equipment-At-A-Glance

Software:
- exacqVision Enterprise VMS software
- Exacq Mobile App

Hardware:
- 5 exacqVision A-Series IP recorders
- 272 Samsung IP cameras
- 19 Arecont Vision 180 degree IP cameras

Purpose/Benefits:
- Better image quality to identify students
- Saves time searching for video evidence
- Increased school safety
- Improved student behavior and reduced school incidents

Meet the Integrator

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Progressive Communications designs sophisticated, turnkey security solutions for a range of businesses in the following industries including financial, retail and education. Since 1991, Progressive Communications has developed innovative end-to-end surveillance systems for the Georgia area.

"The biggest differentiator that set exacqVision apart from the competitors was its intuitive and user friendly interface. Our school administrators rely on exacqVision to prove what actually happened in incidents and remove the hearsay element."

Nathan Miller
Network Engineer
Jeff Davis Schools