

High School District Enhances Campus Security

Deployment of Cisco’s Video Surveillance Manager protects student and faculty, as well as helping to prevent vandalism and theft.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
<p>GRANT JOINT UNION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban-suburban school district—Sacramento, California • 5 junior high schools • 4 high schools • 2 adult education centers • 2 continuation high schools • 7 community charter schools • 1 independent study school • 1 community day center • 1 special education center • 12,000 + 7th-12th grade students • Over 400 Video Cameras
<p>BUSINESS CHALLENGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflexible legacy analog system • Limited storage capability • Lack of remote access
<p>VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SOLUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network-centric video surveillance • Flexible and scalable system for future expansion • Redundant archives in local and remote locations • Role-based video access to mobile or remote users • Leverage current IT infrastructure
<p>BUSINESS RESULTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quickly resolve confrontations • Help ensure student safety • Reduce theft after school hours

Business Challenge

Like many school districts, Sacramento’s Grant Joint Union High School District has concerns regarding student safety and the financial impact of property destruction. Video surveillance offers a unique solution to both concerns. Not only is video surveillance a known deterrent to property theft and destruction, it also significantly enhances student and faculty safety by enabling faster response. This latter concern is the key priority for the district’s chief of police, school administrators, and the district’s IT group.

The district had previously deployed video surveillance cameras throughout school campuses to address the problems of break-ins, vandalism, and the liability of kids entering areas such as swimming pools after school hours. Unfortunately, these legacy analog video systems proved to be of limited value – it took hours to search for video on the disparate systems and the video quality was not always adequate for the identification of perpetrators. Furthermore, the systems were unable to provide video access to mobile users, or to store recorded video in both local and remote locations.

Under the US Department of Justice’s Securing Our Schools program, Grant’s Chief of Police, Bill

Roberts, submitted a proposal and received a grant to upgrade the video system to support higher video-quality IP cameras.

Joni Jones, Sr. Network Engineer at Grant Joint Union High School District recognized that the district’s IP network, which had already improved and enhanced productivity, communications and collaboration among faculty, school district police, and students, could be extended to support the district’s video surveillance application. It was determined that an easy to use web-browser-based software would work best. Additionally the software would run on reliable Linux-based, IT-caliber network servers, not single-vendor specific hardware.

Working together, Chief Roberts, the IT department, the facilities department and school administrators such as Allen Dosty, the team recognized that if authorized district personnel could access and manage live and recorded video from wherever they might be, it would not only permit additional cost-savings, but would also enable faster event response and faster investigation / event resolution.

“We evaluated more than eight video management solutions and determined that Cisco best met or exceeded our selection criteria. Cisco Video Surveillance Manager’s open platform allows the video surveillance system to be a complementary component in our overall IT infrastructure. We now have a powerful and scalable video solution which works effectively in our networked IT environment.”

—Joni Jones, Sr. Network Engineer, Grant Joint Union



Video Surveillance Solution

As part of the thorough evaluation and testing period, the Cisco® Video Surveillance Manager (VSM) was deployed in one of the high schools. The key criteria on which the team focused include ease of use, flexibility, scalability, and vendor support capabilities. Based on its successful trial, the team chose Cisco Video Surveillance Manager (VSM) software to control and monitor Axis IP cameras.

The Media Server, a core component in Cisco VSM, enables distribution, archiving, and management of video feeds. It is complemented by other Cisco VSM software modules that provide Web-based user interface for system configuration and viewing live and recorded video (Operations Manager), video display control and distribution to video display walls (Virtual Matrix), as well as supporting IT-caliber storage.

Cisco VSM features a customizable user interface that allows school administrators, police and others to quickly access live and recorded video, including easy control and management of Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras. Additionally, Joni Jones and Chief Roberts were able to ensure that the appropriate people had the proper degree of control and access to video using Cisco’s user-based rights capabilities.

Cisco VSM is being deployed throughout the district’s schools and will eventually feature up to 700 cameras in 19 schools. Scalability is a key factor because the district is constantly expanding. VSM enables a highly scalable and flexible video solution that can easily meet Grant’s expansion needs. The video systems can be scaled to meet the district’s growth by adding cameras, servers, storage, and users as needed.

Business Results

Grant District personnel can now view live video from cameras at different campuses simultaneously with high quality images. When an event occurs on campus, authorized school administrators and school police can access video locally as well as remotely. Additionally, archived video can be quickly retrieved and used to provide evidence in disciplinary situations. During school hours, counselors and administrators can use the video system to quickly resolve confrontations and other events. As a result altercations between students have decreased, thereby creating a more conducive learning environment.

VSM has also helped maximize human resources, allowing a campus to be remotely monitored after school hours or during summer vacations. The PTZ cameras are directed to focus on certain locations automatically via the Cisco software. The new video surveillance system will enable school security personnel to simultaneously monitor the campus and parking lots in all school sites, as well as their other facilities, allowing them to be alerted in real-time of security or safety threats.

“We are pleased with the Cisco Video Surveillance Manager,” said Joni Jones. “It allows us to leverage our IT infrastructure and extend our vigilance over threats to safety and property damage in the geographically dispersed school district.”

Next Steps

Grant District is in the second phase of deployment and has already benefited from the Cisco system, which allows administrators and law enforcement to respond more quickly to events and reduce theft or property damage. Since Cisco Video Surveillance Manager is an open platform that interoperates with a wide range of third-party vendor devices and software, GJU can mix and match products from multiple vendors, allowing them to build a best-of-breed video surveillance system.

As a software-based solution, Cisco VSM will also allow Grant District to upgrade and enhance the system capabilities over time. The school district is currently evaluating various video analytics applications. The integration of video analytics with Cisco VSM would help to detect unauthorized entry after school or abnormal behavior during school hours. In summary, Cisco VSM has helped to make Grant personnel more responsive, and increased security personnel productivity and effectiveness.

Why Cisco

Cisco technologies and convergence expertise help businesses and organizations improve their return on investment and lower the total cost of ownership. With vast experience in digital video, including video surveillance, Cisco engineers understand how to use the power of an IP network to deliver new, innovative capabilities in a highly scalable and secure manner. As a trusted advisor and networked physical security user, Cisco has helped forward-thinking organizations maximize the value of their systems, personnel, and applications for more than 20 years. With deployments in transportation, airports, military, education, municipalities, retail, and more, the Cisco Video Surveillance Manager products meets the uncompromising needs of today's safety and security professionals. Contact your Cisco account team or Cisco Physical Security Authorized Technology Provider today for a personal demonstration, and to learn more about how Cisco can help you ensure the safety and security of people and assets while unlocking the true value of your video system.

PRODUCT LIST

- Cisco Video Surveillance Media Server
- Cisco Video Surveillance Operations Manager
- Cisco Video Surveillance Virtual Matrix

For more information

For more information see:

<http://www.cisco.com/go/videosurveillance>

or call 1-877-235-5477



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