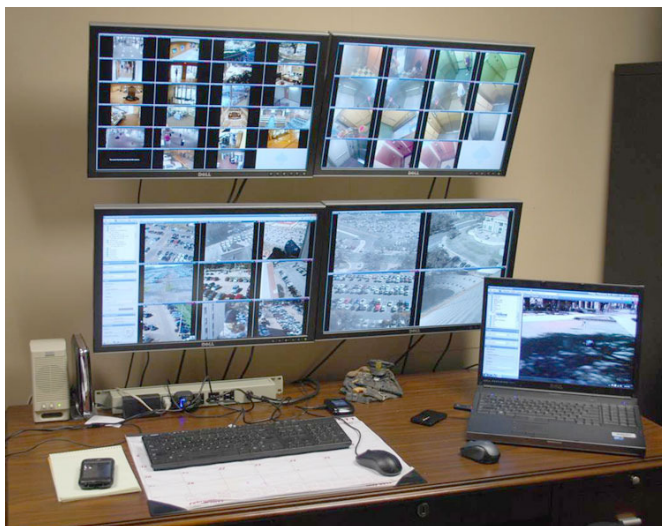


Louisiana State University (LSU) keeps watchful eye on flagship campus

BATON ROUGE, LA. — On a given weekend in spring, students on the campus of Louisiana State University could choose between attending a lecture and gallery viewing of Spanish artist Francisco Goya, an open air concert on the school's Parade Grounds, an LSU baseball game at Alex Box Stadium or an authentic soul food dinner at Silver Moon restaurant in nearby downtown Baton Rouge.

With such a plethora of cultural options to enjoy, it's clear that that life at Louisiana's flagship institution also embraces the legendary *joie de vivre*, or joy of living, that is a hallmark of life in the state's vibrant Mississippi Delta region. Bordered to the west by the winding Mississippi River, to the east by a smattering of small lakes, and within walking distance to downtown Baton Rouge, school officials overseeing LSU's 2,000-acre main campus have also made it part of their mission to ensure that students can immerse themselves in the diverse campus experience without worrying about their safety.



supreme situational awareness

Like most major universities, compelled to re-evaluate security and safety measures in the wake of such catastrophic events as the 2007 shooting rampage at Virginia Tech and a double homicide in a campus apartment building in late 2007, LSU recognized the need for a comprehensive surveillance camera strategy that would give campus police the tools necessary to respond to and deter incidents campus-wide.

In tandem with the 2010 completion of LSU's Flagship Agenda, a seven-year initiative to propel LSU to levels of academics, research, infrastructure and economic development competitive with the finest public universities in the country, security and safety officials

were also forming the basis of a surveillance camera deployment plan that would provide campus-wide coverage. Not only would the camera network need to encompass the majority of LSU's two-square mile campus; it would also take into account different stakeholders in the project and a variety of anticipated uses for the cameras.

LSU wasn't starting from scratch. In 2008 surveillance cameras already existed at some of the school's major facilities, such as the student union in the campus center, the 91,000-seat Tiger Stadium and the school's Middleton Library. These cameras were part of small, autonomous video systems that were in some cases proprietary and at times, non-functioning. Without replacing the school's existing 40 or so cameras already installed, security staff needed to find the best solution to reach their goal of approximately 250 cameras throughout the campus.



With constituents ranging from the campus' University Laboratory K-12 school, the Louisiana Museum of Natural History, Tiger Stadium, 17 different residence halls, a cluster of retail shops, parking lots and research laboratories conducting some 2,000 ongoing projects at any given time, security staff needed to find a solution that would prove flexible enough to be tailored for different types of users and schedules and scalable enough to build upon as surveillance needs grew.

In mid-2009, LSU's police department (PD), in conjunction with LSU's Computer Services and Facility Services department, deployed Milestone's XProtect® Corporate IP video management software. The installation was to serve the two-fold goals of the surveillance project – to provide thorough coverage of exterior areas of the campus and to ensure that the university's different facilities and users were also adequately protected based on the need of the particular department.



Dynamic layout control makes it easy to find and view any location on campus

Deploying XProtect® would also allow university police to monitor video from across campus at the police department's central dispatch center in the Public Safety Building. Here, police can harness the information brought by cameras to react to incidents, manage crowds, or easily review recorded video.

Last Saturday night, LSU police received a report of a burglary of a black truck in the North Agriculture Lot. I received the phone call and immediately started looking at playback of the video. I was able to see a male riding a bicycle in the lot. He hid his bike behind the truck and used something in his hands to break the driver's side window and climb into the vehicle. I saw him pulling the radio out of the dash, wrap it up into a t-shirt and ride his bike eastbound. I was able to identify his clothing, style and description of the bike, and direction of travel into and out of the lot. There had been several other burglaries with the same M.O. (modus operandi) for the last several weeks. On several of the other burglaries, the suspect cut himself climbing into the vehicle, and blood evidence was taken for DNA. Later that night a police officer saw someone on a bike with the same description looking into vehicles in a different area. Once the officer stopped the individual, he saw blood on his shirt and pants and burglary tools in his pockets. The video provided us with the information to identify the suspect. This is just one of many examples of how LSU police have achieved a return on investment for the video surveillance system.

- Joe Thompson, Project Manager for the camera system



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To take into account the different stakeholders, a committee was formed to assist in the rollout of camera network, as well as to serve as a central point for questions and requests about the project. Made up of LSU PD officials and representatives of the university's Computing Services and Facility Services departments, the committee's first decision was to create a standard on which all future surveillance purchases in any department needed to be based. The standard would not only encompass requests by different departments for new camera installations; it would also bring existing systems into compliance.

As part of the new standard, school security officials wanted to transition to the use of IP cameras. New installations would see IP cameras right away, and existing analog cameras would be swapped out depending on condition and the requirements of the location. Analog cameras that were relatively new, such as a small 10-camera network in the student union, received encoders and became part of a larger DVR system with the addition of several IP cameras.

To date, projects have been completed or begun in locations such as the LSU Law Center, the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Cox Communications Academic Center for Student Athletes, Tiger Stadium's sky boxes and the university's Frey Computing Services Center, where surveillance of core network areas is a requirement for regulatory compliance. Additionally, the Office of Parking, Traffic and Transportation are using pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras in several parking lots on a daily basis for security as well as workflow to see which lots are full and where traffic should be redirected.



"We needed a video management platform that could accommodate many different types of users, from deploying unique policies and procedures on different cameras to setting up the system for different recording times based on requirements," said LSU PD officer Joe Thompson, Project Manager for the camera system. "XProtect gives us the flexibility to set up specific views and user policies for each department, so the look and feel is unique to them."

An elevator camera captures some student shenanigans

Video feeds from a mixture of Sony fixed and PTZ, Axis high definition and Mobotix and Arecont Vision IP cameras are stored on a 7TB IBM SAN, with three recording servers and a fourth for functioning as an archive server. With police department resources devoted to patrols and other duties, the cameras are monitored live only during certain hours.

For much of the project, systems integrator MMR Communications in Baton Rouge was able to leverage the university's comprehensive Cisco wireless infrastructure already deployed on the campus, particularly for exterior and perimeter camera locations, as well as technology from Alvarion Wireless for some areas where point to multi-point was deployed.

MMR also had to contend with working around the campus' storied population of live oak trees and its original Northern Italian Renaissance style campus architecture, with signature tan stucco walls and red-tiled roofs.

One area where the wireless infrastructure posed no challenge was an old field house building no longer in use by the university. The facility was being broken into and vandalized with graffiti, but the Milestone system's analytic motion detection was able to capture several instances of the vandalism on video, said Billy Ridge of MMR. In all, the camera network has assisted in about 40 arrests on campus, including the arrest of a student using stolen credit cards to access cash at an on-campus ATM.

The university is also looking into integrating other technologies, such as access control, into the surveillance network. Campus security officials hope to tackle this project over the next twelve months.

About Milestone

Founded in 1998, Milestone Systems is the global industry leader in open platform IP video management software. The XProtect® platform delivers powerful surveillance that is easy to manage, reliable and proven in thousands of customer installations around the world. With support for the widest choice in network hardware and integration with other systems, XProtect provides best-in-class solutions to video enable organizations – managing risks, protecting people and assets, optimizing processes and reducing costs. Milestone software is sold through authorized and certified partners. For more information, visit www.milestonesys.com



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