Finnish Municipality saves 50,000 Euros a year thanks to Milestone

The Finnish municipality of Kontiolahti is using Milestone XProtect® to fight crime and reduce vandalism. Thanks to Milestone, the municipality is now saving 50,000 Euros every year.

"Installing Milestone XProtect has done the trick. We have reduced the cost of vandalism by approximately €50.000 per year. Now we have practically no cost in regards to vandalism. What originated as a need for general security has evolved. One of the main benefits of our solution is the broad usage of it." - Eero Pölönen, Technical Manager, Kontiolahti Municipality.

The Challenge: Before installing Milestone XProtect software, Kontiolahti Municipality was subjected to extensive vandalism at schools and in the harbor. The harbor was especially plagued by theft of boat motors and oil, littering and other destructive activities that the old security system was not equipped to handle.

The Advantages: The Milestone XProtect solution has provided Kontiolahti with increased safety and has led to a significant reduction in vandalism saving €50.000 a year. The municipality can easily expand their security solution to more uses with the Milestone open platform.

The Solution: Installing partner Hällström designed and implemented an efficient solution with Milestone XProtect® Professional and XProtect® Essential to manage 200 AXIS, Sony, Vivotec and Mobotix cameras. The cameras are installed throughout the entire municipality at hospitals, sports fields, harbors and schools. Hällström integrated Blackbox Light Control System, which has enabled the municipality to use XProtect® Smart Client and Milestone Mobile to control not only cameras, but also all public lighting systems. Hällström set up the users with the XProtect® Smart Client Finnish language interface, which significantly eases day-to-day operations for Kontiolahti Municipality.

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Large yearly savings by reduced vandalism thanks to Milestone

The Milestone surveillance solution is installed all over Kontiolahti Municipality for many purposes, including keeping the citizens of Kontiolahti safe in public:"The general opinion in the population is that security has increased after we have installed the new solution," states Eero Pölönen, Technical Manager at Kontiolahti Municipality. The estimated savings are € 50.000 a year due to reduced vandalism.

The harbor at Kontiolahti Municipality is now free from vandals.

"Before we installed Milestone XProtect we were experiencing a lot of vandalism at schools in our area and at the harbor, where fuel and motors from the boats were frequently being stolen. That was the reason why we decided to install a new security system: to reduce the destruction of our facilities and further increase safety for our population," states Eero Pölönen.

A new security system was badly needed since the previous one was both outdated and lacked user-friendliness tells Eero Pölönen.

To find a better solution to secure the municipality, Eero Pölönen teamed up with Milestone Partner through seven years, Hällström LTD Partnership. Hällström is a Finnish expert in the fields of ICT and security, and is one of the leading suppliers of IP-based surveillance solutions in Finland. Their effective solution with Milestone XProtect® Professional and XProtect® Essential has significantly made a difference in helping the municipality with their problems.

"We chose Milestone XProtect because the product is reliable and stable, which is very important for us. Moreover, the Milestone solution is scalable, so it can be used in everything from small systems to very large systems. That is a big advantage," says Eero Pölönen,

Kontiolahti gets additional benefits from using open platform software.

Besides helping the municipality reduce vandalism, the video monitoring solution is also being used to secure the personal safety of the citizens living at elderly homes and for checking up on conditions at sports venues: "With Milestone Mobile we can remotely check the condition of a sports field in order to plan maintenance, for example," says Eero Pölönen. The solution has also proven to be beneficial during the long cold winters: "In winter times staff can remotely check how much snow falls and then decide how often they have to plow ice away from roads and parking places," states Eero Pölönen.

Jyrki Hällström is showing how to remotely monitor a soccer field with Milestone Mobile.

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The integration benefits of open platform

Kontiolahti Municipality has seen the advantage of the Milestone open platform that makes it easy to integrate with third-party systems.

"Hällström has integrated XProtect with Blackbox Light Control System. That allows us to control the lights at different locations directly from the XProtect Smart Client interface," says Eero Pölönen and continues: "A big plus in regards to the XProtect Smart Client is that it has been translated to Finnish. That contributes to making the clients easy to use. In general, I think the XProtect Smart Client is very intuitive and easy to manage. That we can use the same client for all platforms is another extra plus."

Eero Pölönen is demonstrating how to control the lights at different locations directly from the XProtect® Smart Client interface.

It was the system integrator Hällström who recommended Kontiolahti municipality to go with the Milestone solution, and Hällström has thoroughly trained each of the users in how to use the solution. "We have received very good support from Hällström who has quickly responded to our questions and inquiries throughout the purchasing, installation and support process," concludes Eero Pölönen and adds that the municipality is planning on expanding the solution to cover even more institutions.

FACT BOX

SOFTWARE	XProtect® Professional and XProtect® Essential
CLIENTS	XProtect® Smart Client and Milestone Mobile
NUMBER OF CAMERAS	200
CAMERA MODELS	15 AXIS P1357E cameras, 20 Mobotix D14 cameras and 60 Vivotek MD7650 cameras. Moreover, a few Sony and Vivotek PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) cameras are installed
TYPE OF NETWORK	3G network, wireless LAN and the municipality's intranet
CENTRAL/LOCAL MANAGEMENT	Local
INTEGRATION	Blackbox Light Control System

For more information visit http://www.hallstrom.fi/, http://www.kontiolahti.fi and www.milestonesys.com

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