Valdosta State University Deploys Benefits of IP VMS

Upgrade to Pelco Endura system provides needed reliability, flexibility, video analytics

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Valdosta State University, a large, open, university campus in southern Georgia, with more than 11,500 students spread across nearly 50 buildings, wanted to upgrade and expand their existing analog video surveillance system. Campus management needed to cover new building additions to their facility, as well as begin the migration toward a substantial IP-based, integrated camera system. Located equal distance from Atlanta and Orlando, the Valdosta State University campus boasts beautiful Spanish Mission architecture nestled among pines and palms. Its campus lies at the heart of metropolitan Valdosta, a city with true southern charm.

A long time proponent of video security, Valdosta State University began their deployment in 2005 with 76 Pelco analog cameras and several DX Series digital video recorders (DVRs), with the purpose of increasing the safety and security of the university's students, employees and visitors. A few years later, the university's video system became the responsibility of VSU's Information Security Department, where the system has grown almost 700%. In late 2008, VSU began using Digital Sentry DVR systems to cover the university's two parking decks with more than 125 cameras.

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Last year, VSU began the transition to a Pelco Endura IP VMS platform in order to allow for greater flexibility, ease of camera deployment across geographical and network locations, and mission-critical reliability and stability. Additionally, university management wanted to take advantage of the Endura system's advanced video analytics for future facility planning. According to William C. Moore, former Chief Information Security Officer for Valdosta State University, the 2013 deployment of the Endura system replaced 67% of the DVR and Digital Sentry-based video surveillance systems, and increased the overall number of cameras by 70%. The number of cameras and the scope of video coverage have grown at an outstanding pace since the transition to the Endura platform and its ease of deployment.

"A few of our initiatives include using video analytics to provide strategic data such as pedestrian traffic flow patterns, which will allow administrators to make better decisions

in meeting campus needs," said Moore. "The same traffic flow data can also be used by University Police to better ensure the safety of our students, employees and visitors. Looking forward, we plan to use Pelco video analytics to identify anomalies, and help us become even more proactive in providing for the safety and security of people and property."

"Also, a critical issue we needed to overcome was finding cameras to cover driveway/parking entrances to the campus which have ever-changing lighting conditions," added Moore. "Sarix WDR cameras were specifically purchased and configured to decrease the headlight bloom and windshield glare so that the video could capture both the license plate information and be able to see the driver of the vehicle through the glare."

Beyond live and recorded video surveillance, VSU management has implemented a system that documents and alerts staff of entry into restricted areas where confidential data and resources are stored. The new alert system captures and emails short video clips of the person entering the area to responsible parties. The university anticipates using similar and more robust access-alerting in their future video and traffic planning.

This year, the Information Security Department began researching the ability to separate video storage based on purpose and data classification such as safety/security and classroom instruction. After verifying that the Endura system could store video on separate NSMs based on separate data classifications, officials began deploying Pelco cameras along with other recording equipment within the mock nursing clinical areas of VSU's 140,000-square-foot Health Sciences and Business Administration building.

"These recordings will be used to better critique and assess nursing students and possibly allow the students to provide future employers a video portfolio of their clinical procedures in a mock environment," said Moore. "This innovative use of existing technology is a project that while still underway has great promise at a fraction of the cost of the originally proposed system."

The Integration and Installation Team

"Our integrator for the Endura system was Jason O'Brien and Jammie Stalvey with Ace Technologies. They have been a great partner in the overall transition and have been a key element for our pilot Nursing clinical cameras for instructional use," added Moore. "David Kolodkin with our Pelco distributor, SpecPoint, has been great to work with as we transitioned from analog to IP cameras." VSU has sent a technician to Pelco Endura training and will be sending a second employee this year. Haugabrook

explained that the Endura training provided an excellent cornerstone for many of their designs and management processes for the Endura system, which has saved the university a good deal of time and money.

IP VMS for Mission Critical Surveillance

Endura is the ideal video management system (VMS) for mission-critical surveillance operations requiring around-the-clock monitoring and unwavering reliability. It provides the tools security and IT professionals need to effectively safeguard people and property. With the ability to scale thousands of cameras, Endura is designed to fit a wide range of applications - including prisons, airports, casinos, and city surveillance - where unmatched fault tolerance and system integrity are mandatory. Customizable permission settings and unlimited user profiles enable access for multiple stakeholders, driving greater return on security investment across your enterprise.

Sarix with SureVision Technology

Traditionally, when a scene contains both brightly lit and shaded areas as well as intense light sources, image quality has been known to suffer. But SureVision technology, exclusive to Sarix cameras, combines Wide Dynamic Range along with Low Light and Anti-Bloom capabilities into one highly intelligent technology. Sarix cameras with SureVision automatically deliver the best possible image in the most complex lighting conditions. And with new features allowing for ease of setup, convenient functions, and more control – Sarix is the ideal solution for every possible environment and demand. Sarix cameras with SureVision technology are currently available in both box and mini dome models, with ground-breaking new features available for all models of Sarix and Sarix Thermal Imaging.

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