case study

University of District of Columbia Uses Honeywell Technology to Streamline Operations

As the only urban land-grant institution in the United States, the University of the District of Columbia supports a broad mission of education, research and community service across all member colleges and schools, which include the Community College, College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Business and Public Administration, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the David A. Clarke School of Law. The university has approximately 6,000 students enrolled at four locations throughout the DC Metropolitan area.

Honeywell

The Situation

The mission of UDC is to provide education and training for all residents of the District. Classes are offered early in the morning, late at night, and on weekends. In addition to students of conventional college age, some are 60 or 70 years old. University officials must address the different learning styles and lifestyle needs of the students, so technology-enhanced security is essential. And with a student population made up of 65% women, personal safety is paramount, especially since many use public transportation. "The new president is expanding the footprint of the university with satellite campuses across the city," said Larry Volz, chief of police and director of public safety at UDC. "Our challenge is maintaining the same safety and security at those locations that we provide on the main campus."

In addition to ensuring the physical and personal safety of students 24/7, administrators must view safety in terms of protecting electronic data and other records. They reached out to Advantech, a mid-Atlantic region systems integrator, for an integrated solution that fulfills their immediate needs, but also lays a firm groundwork for expansion in the future.

The Solution

The university installed Honeywell's Pro-Watch® security management system five years ago, which meant they were well prepared for expansion over the years. The first phase of the security upgrade included adding a new command and control and dispatch operations center, and also involved integrating the existing access control doors with existing analog cameras and new IP cameras. UDC officials wanted to increase the coverage across the main campus and satellites, but they wanted to manage the data through one graphical user interface. By adding MAXPRO® VMS, they were able to pull everything together on one screen.

"MAXPRO VMS was a great solution because it integrates directly with Pro-Watch," said Eric Schaeffer, president of Advantech. "The cameras at the satellite locations can all be monitored from the main campus." In addition to supporting an unlimited number of card readers and users managed with Pro-Watch, MAXPRO VMS also supports the third-party cameras across campus, allowing the university to leverage their investment in existing analog technology. "The deciding factor for this upgrade was the fact that all of our systems were separate," said Lt. Ron Culmer, safety and security specialist at UDC. "Nothing communicated or worked together. With MAXPRO VMS, we're able to view our cameras where and when we need them based on the situation."

> " We want to streamline operations as much as possible with technology. The Honeywell solution meets our needs now and will continue to do so far into the future. "
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> — Larry Volz, chief of police and director of public safety at UDC

The Benefits

According to Culmer, one of the main benefits of the integrated Honeywell solution is how easy it is to use. He says some of his operators are very technology-oriented, while others are highly customer-service focused. But whatever technical skills and comfort level they possess, they're able to operate efficiently—in fact, many have been able to log in to the video management system and set up some of the minor functionality before they receive any type of formal training on the system.

As UDC adopts a new system for student accounts and HR, the next phase will be to integrate that with Pro-Watch to automatically populate the cardholder database with records of students and staff for badging and ID management. The university's intent is to have one card that can be used for anything from parking access to vending, bookstore purchases and dining services—in addition to access control and security purposes.

They're confident the Honeywell technology will support that goal because of its scalability. Schaeffer agrees. "We're not only able to meet the overall needs of the university but we're also able to customize it to the requirements of each entity on campus."

The Products

Pro-Watch® security management system

MAXPRO® VMS video management system

For more information:

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