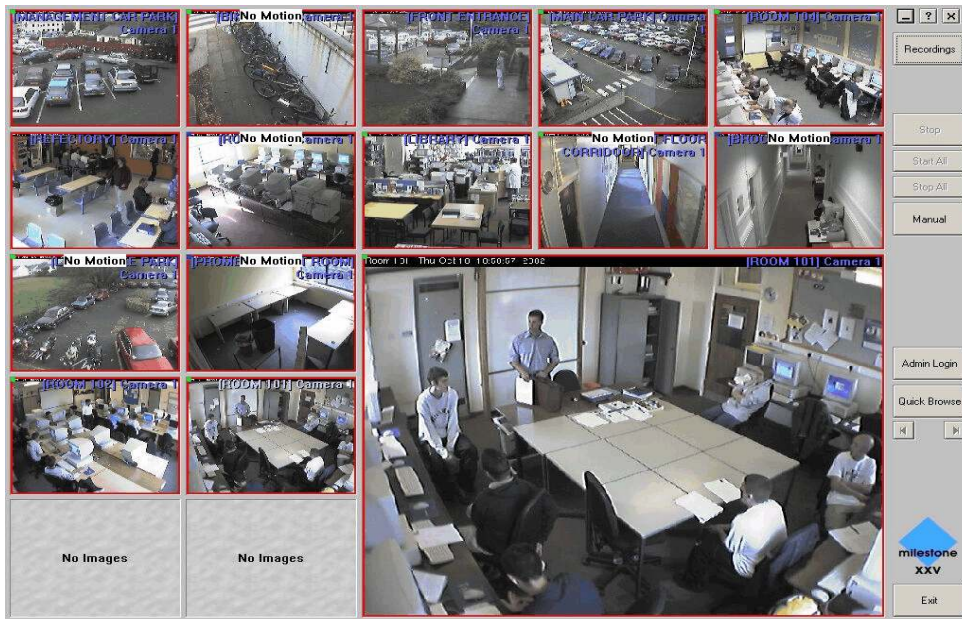


GUERNSEY COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION



Protecting open access buildings like schools or colleges is often a difficult task. Too much security seems like a hindrance while too little may make some people feel vulnerable. By installing new surveillance cameras and digital recording technology from Computer Network Limited, Guernsey College of Further Education has deterred crime, increased personal security and encouraged better student behaviour.

Guernsey College of Further Education provides a wide range of full, part-time and evening courses from introductory to post-graduate. Subjects include business studies, art, secretarial, tourism and Information Technology. Around 7,500 islanders are currently enrolled with 250 students attending full-time.

Although crime is not a serious problem in the Channel Islands, the College had used a CCTV system for several years. When Senior Technician Rod Tostevin first


joined, only the main site had four monochrome interior cameras. Time-stamped analogue images were relayed to a five-inch monitor in the reception area and recorded.

"The image quality was terrible with grainy and blurry pictures. Although the system was there for security, it never helped anyone," said Tostevin.

Regular bicycle thefts, motorbike thefts and car park vandalism simply added to the frustration. Another concern was late night working by female staff in the Library. If anything happened, finding any usable images on ageing analogue video tapes was hopeless. And having reached maximum capacity, extra cameras were impossible.

Tostevin says there was no defining moment that led to demands for an upgrade. The College wanted a reduction in petty and annoying crimes outside with greater personal security inside. Any new surveillance system had to

be totally reliable and scalable.



"We wanted to give everyone confidence that a new system was watching out for their interests. While that raised some 'big brother' issues, we only wished to review the images when necessary."

This lack of real-time monitoring meant good recording quality and fast retrieval were essential. Comparisons were then made between analogue systems versus computer and network-based solutions. Tests with digital image recording also showed the wisdom of using the College's networks to help monitor remote sites. Several potential suppliers were then approached.

"Computer Network Limited responded quickly and were the most helpful and knowledgeable of the companies contacted. They then proposed a cost-effective solution. We just seemed to hit it off with them," said Tostevin.

The order for a new digital surveillance system included Milestone Surveillance XXV software, six Axis 2110 network cameras, three Axis 2100 cameras, an Axis 2400 video server for existing analogue cameras and six weatherproof enclosures. Tostevin's installation work in early 2002 proved quick and easy with the added reassurance of telephone support. The old cameras were later

replaced with four digital models for their superior image quality.

New cameras and warning notices are installed in three of four College sites covering areas such as car parks, libraries, entrances, corridors and IT rooms. 10 high quality colour JPEG images per second from 14 positions are recorded into a ten-day archive on a central server. Staff only respond to viewing requests or incidents, looking at the images through a web browser locally or remotely.

Two recent occurrences have demonstrated the power of the new surveillance system. The College bans food in its student IT rooms so when lecturers noticed an odour of curry, they wanted quick answers.



By searching the image database, the reason was found and a student reprimanded. The second incident involved the reported theft of a bicycle.

"There's a camera in a weatherproof enclosure right above the bicycle park. We quickly found some excellent digital images of a young man looking at the bike, checking to see if anybody had noticed him and then riding off," said Tostevin.

Following practical advice from Computer Network Limited, the Police were shown the image database. As each frame is time-stamped, there was no confusion

about when the incident took place. Having successfully displayed this raw evidence, Tostevin went one step further.

"I then created an AVI file with a playable sequence of digital images of the bicycle theft. I copied this file onto a CD which the Police then took away."



Thanks to the superb image quality of the evidence, the offender was caught by the Police within two weeks. Taken overall, theft and vandalism have largely disappeared while lecturers claim students are better behaved and late working staff feel safer too. Keeping the system running is simple thanks to the automatic recording, archiving and erasure of old images. Tostevin says that



everything "works very reliably" and is an "obvious deterrent" to crime.

In supporting the move from analogue cameras to digital IP surveillance technology, Computer Network Limited's support has

proved "extremely helpful". The experience will now be invaluable in planning a new system for the College's future re-development on a single campus. By balancing the desire for open access with unintrusive security measures, Guernsey College of Further Education has the best of both worlds.

QUICK FACTS

"Computer Network Limited were most helpful and knowledgeable. We now find images quickly and efficiently if anything happens."

Rod Tostevin, Senior Technician, Guernsey College of Further Education

Business Profile

The Guernsey College of Further Education provides a wide range of vocational and academic courses for full, part-time and evening-only students.

Solution

Milestone Surveillance XXV software
Axis 2100 & 2110 Network Cameras
Weatherproof Enclosures

Benefits

Deters Theft & Vandalism
Enhances Personal Security
Improves Student Behaviour

Contact Details

Computer Network Limited
Unit 16, Lansbury Estate
Lower Guildford Road
Woking, Surrey, GU21 2EP

Tel: 01483 480088
Fax: 01483 489977
E-mail: sales@cniuk.com
Web: www.cniuk.com