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Huntington Independent School District Streamlines Security Management with Arteco Solutions

Facing a number of challenges, the Texas school district aims to combat these with intelligent, intuitive tools that streamline events

THE CUSTOMER

The Huntington Independent School District in Texas is built upon a desire to prepare its students to become citizens who are empowered to make informed and intelligent choices. In collaboration with parents and community, Huntington ISD helps students develop a desire to learn the skills to become contributing members of society.

A 4-A rural district nestled within 226 square miles of Angelina County, the district provides educational facilities and resources to meet the needs of more than 1,732 students on five campuses.

THE CHALLENGE

Huntington had invested in a video surveillance network to help enhance security across its campuses but the system was designed around legacy DVRs and couldn't support the growing number of cameras and the district's desire to be able to access high resolution video feeds.

"As a school district focused on safety, it was critical for us to enhance our video network that would allow us to leverage IP cameras that would deliver high-resolution footage," said Jeff Baird, Huntington ISD. "We wanted to move away from older analog devices and begin the next evolution of our security efforts to ensure a safe environment for our students and faculty."

Baird noted that the project was a "huge transition" that required the school board's support. "Technology is expensive," he said. "But the investment is worth it to help ensure our district is safe and secure."

With the help of Scott Broekmeier, Principle at CNC Solutions, Baird researched new technologies, including advanced IP cameras and a host of video management software solutions. After evaluating the benefits of various technologies and approaches, Baird presented to the board an IP

BENEFITS

INTELLIGENT VIDEO MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

STRONGER VIDEO RESOLUTION TO ENHANCE SECURITY

ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE INFRASTRUCTURE BOOSTS SAFETY

WORLD-CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUPPORT

surveillance solution that consisted of D-Link video surveillance cameras and an Arteco Video Event Management Solution. Due to the system's expected efficiency, crisp video capture and budget-friendly pricing, the board quickly approved the deployment of the updated solutions.

The Arteco Video Event Management Software (VEMS) is designed to help organizations gain the most relevant video and security information at any given time. The focus is on identifying critical events and areas of interest, rather than sifting through hours of non-critical video footage. The VEMS interface unifies alarms and notifications from multiple devices and systems into a single, intuitive interface and its open architecture eases integration with third-party solutions.

THE RESULTS

The Arteco VEMS solution helps the district address some of its biggest challenges including helping streamline investigations through robust search capabilities and easing system management with its intuitive user interface. The enhanced user experience and robust performance of the VEMS is critical to keeping the organization's focus on student safety because it enables Baird to spend less time interacting with the system.

Technology is a critical part of Huntington's security strategy but

the district's commitment to security is demonstrated in adding a dedicated school resource officer on each campus. "We were the first school in Texas to have a resource officer at our multiple facilities and have Teacher Concealed Carry. This initiative has helped us better address any incidents on site," said Baird, who also serves as the security liaison to the SROs. The SROs also have access to the video system and can log-in via laptops on their respective campus to investigate any incidents, reducing response time. Baird also stressed that it was very simple to educate the officers on how to best leverage the system. When any questions came up, Arteco customer support was easily accessible.

"Everything is working well with the new system and we are now have access to the high-resolution video we wanted," he said. "In addition, the technical support at Arteco is world-class. If I have a question or need clarification on any feature, I can trust them to address it immediately."

Due to Arteco's open platform, Baird see its potential as a platform to support other technologies, such as video analytics, in the near future. "We are looking at new ways to leverage the Arteco video security infrastructure to enhance security and operational processes," he said. "in the future, I expect to be able to demonstrate how it can deliver additional value due to its ability to support other third-party solutions."