

Taking the lift up the mountain with Axis.

The Town of Vail reacts to frosty conditions and provides safety to its visitors using Axis network cameras.



Organization:

Town of Vail

Location:

Vail, Colorado, USA

Industry segment:

City surveillance

Application:

Anti-theft surveillance,
traffic management

Axis partners:

Siklu, Ruckus Wireless,
Aspen Wireless,
Aimetis, Milestone,
HD Relay

Mission

From ski season to the summertime packed with special events, the Town of Vail in Colorado handles a heavy dose of visitors throughout the year. With people coming and going very frequently, the town's IT department was tasked with combing through ideas and sculpting a best solution in order to meet multiple parties' needs. Those concerns came from multiple angles, including security, traffic control and live streaming demands.

Solution

Implementing a multi-platform over time with the help of a local integrator the town specified Axis cameras covering all of the grounds necessary. In turn, they chose a variety of technology and hardware partners in order to piece together the highest performing and most efficient solution possible that would not give them hiccups in the middle of a busy day. As the roads get congested at times, the town focused on wireless infrastructure as well as bolstering their underground fiber connections.

Result

Fully transitioned from an analog system to one packed with IP cameras, the town has found a high amount of success in providing the police department with proper footage to pursue their leads while also covering multiple other projects, including live streaming and time-lapse creation. The town now captures footage on the Milestone XProtect® platform and even uses the Aimetis People Counter for the purpose of future event planning.

“Every year it seems somebody or some group come to town trying to scam retailers and steal clothing, jewelry and everything else. The Axis cameras are then instrumental in identifying those individuals. During busy times, police use the footage almost daily.”

Ron Braden, Director, IT Department, Town of Vail.

Addressing a wintry mix of security concerns

Known for its popular mountains during the heart of ski season, the Town of Vail in Colorado hosts close to two million visitors annually. On top of that, the town is continuously hosting events such as concerts, music festivals and various sports competitions. With a high turnover in visitors on a daily basis, the town has a need to monitor activity around many areas to keep their space safe.

The town has recognized and determined a vast set of coverage demands that need network cameras on site. From monitoring and controlling traffic in multiple areas to attention downtown in case of theft reports and streaming projects, cameras play a variety of roles in Vail. With help from a local integrator installing and getting each of their cameras on the network quickly, the town is now able to capture the surrounding scenes off of the Milestone VMS platform.

Turning a black diamond into a bunny hill

Among the close to 160 cameras across town, the most popular camera deployed is the AXIS Q6045-E PTZ Dome Network Camera, used to capture numerous different scenes. “We love those PTZ domes,” mentioned Ron Braden, Director of the IT Department in the Town of Vail. “We have those for our traffic cameras, also covering the interstate, parking lots and taxi lanes.”

To handle the bandwidth for transferring video data, wireless connectivity is a crucial component to the town’s network system. Through Aspen Wireless and Ruckus Wireless, the town is able to overcome jammed airwaves for the needs of first responders, volunteers and town officials by applying Siklu wireless radios to enable gigabit wireless signals.

In the shopping district in town, police frequently use footage for investigative purposes to work actively to address any incidents. They have seen theft of skis, clothes and more from many of the retail stores.

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Snowballing camera applications

Perhaps a lesser-known concept is that the Town of Vail sees its busier time during the summer rather than the winter. While it gets rambunctious at times during ski season, the summer session brings on a constant stream of farmer’s markets, parades, special events and sports tournaments.

For special events in two of the pedestrian villages, the town applies the Aimetis People Counter analytic on an AXIS P3367-VE Network Camera to track flow patterns that can help with future planning. “It is not uncommon to see 17 to 23 thousand in one location for a special occasion like an award ceremony or World Cup races,” noted Braden.

Along with streaming multiple cameras from their municipality website, the town also utilizes the time-lapse offering from HD Relay to monitor progress on construction projects, especially on highways. In addition, the town live streams three of its Axis cameras through HD Relay, consistently prevailing as the most clicked link on their website.

As more unique utilizations are discovered, the town continues to plan growth in their reactive security measures. While these cameras monitor many spaces, the town does not necessarily monitor any of the cameras regularly, other than a few for traffic control. Their goal is to implement a system that can simply resolve issues as they arise.

“We’re always growing, always adding cameras,” Braden concluded. “We obviously love IP and moved all of our cameras away from the old analog system and continue to find new uses for them.”

