

Cutting-edge security 'pops' with Axis.

George Junior Republic embraces integrated IP security solution for at-risk youth facility.



Organization:

George Junior Republic

Location:

Grove City, Pennsylvania, USA

Industry segment:

Education

Application:

Safety and security

Axis partners:

Accent Electronic Systems Integrators, Video Insight

Mission

George Junior Republic is a private nonprofit residential treatment facility dedicated to helping at-risk male youths become successful, well-adjusted adults. The organization's Pennsylvania campus, located on 500 acres in Grove City, PA, is home to 1,000 full time residents in their care throughout the year. Youths are closely monitored at all times, and in order to help provide a safe and secure environment, a state-of-the-art security system was determined to be a high priority.

Solution

Pittsburgh, PA-based Accent Electronic Systems Integrators recommended IP video technology to complement George Junior Republic's fiber optic network. Axis network cameras were selected for their top-level image usability, durability, and flexibility of use. The organization was also interested in the technology integration possibilities offered by the 8-port AXIS P8221 I/O Audio Module.

In 2013, the facility launched a major upgrade to take advantage of the rise of high-definition video installing 140 cameras, including AXIS M3005-V, AXIS M3006-V, and panoramic AXIS M3007-PV Fixed Dome Network Cameras.

Result

George Junior Republic now has an advanced, integrated IP-based security solution that provides a safe environment for youths placed in their care. The wide angle and panoramic cameras provide complete coverage throughout the 50 residential buildings on campus. As the cameras are connected to ultrasonic motion detectors and a 110 dB alert button via the I/O module, staff can quickly respond when necessary. When motion is identified, video is displayed and staff can choose to simply observe the activity or engage the alert button. In the future, George Junior Republic plans to increase the number of technologies integrated through the module, including speakers, fire drill alerts, and panic buttons.

“I really like the image quality of Axis cameras. The number one reason [I would recommend IP cameras] is flexibility. You can put the camera anywhere. Also, I can manage the cameras from anywhere, and with a converged infrastructure, I don't have to worry about running different types of wire. I only have to run one type of wire at my facility.”

Bryan Redfoot, IT Director, George Junior Republic.

Modern treatment, modern security

Founded in 1909, George Junior Republic is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit residential treatment facility for at-risk youths.

During the course of a year, 1,000 youths ages 8-18 call George Junior Republic home. Youths live full-time in over 50 different buildings on the mile-wide campus. Though they may spend their days in class or participating in activities, all youths are required to be in their rooms by 9:00 p.m. In order to provide an extra layer of security, George Junior Republic needed a flexible, reliable, and customizable security solution to monitor the residential buildings at night.

Upgrading to full coverage in high definition

George Junior Republic first invested in Axis network cameras in 2005 after installing a fiber optic network. Axis cameras were chosen for their high quality images, reliability, and network integration capabilities. In 2013, the organization launched a major upgrade with systems integrator and Axis partner Accent Electronic Systems Integrators and replaced the original cameras with 140 new Axis models. Their goal was to achieve complete coverage with the highest image quality inside every residential building on campus.

To reach that goal, they chose the 118° wide-angle, HDTV 1080p-quality AXIS M3005-V and HDTV 1080p 134° AXIS M3006-V Fixed Dome Network Cameras, as well as panoramic AXIS M3007-PV Fixed Dome Network Cameras, which provide a 360° overview of an area. They also installed AXIS M3014 Fixed Dome Network Cameras over entryways.

“We wanted to get complete coverage everywhere, and the 360 cameras and the wide angle lens really helped with that,” said Bryan Redfoot, IT Director for George Junior Republic.

They selected vandal-resistant cameras to protect their investment in an environment filled with numerous staff and youths, and the Power over Ethernet capabilities allowed for easy installation in a variety of different locations. Video is recorded on motion and is stored for 30 days on two 24 TB storage servers. The system is managed with VMS software provided by Video Insight. The archived video is often burned onto DVD by the organization for various uses.

Efficiency through integration

The 8-port AXIS P8221 I/O Audio Module lets the IT Department connect other IP technology to the fiber network to work in concert with the Axis cameras. The cameras were paired with ultrasonic motion detection devices to detect when youths may need to leave their rooms after bedtime. Once the motion detection unit is tripped, video from that camera “pops” on screen in the central command center where staff members can view the live footage. Staff can then determine whether to simply monitor the video or to press a button that will trigger a relay switch in the camera and set off a 110 dB alarm.

Video is not displayed when there is no motion detected, and the motion-triggered live feed helps security staff focus only on actual events that require monitoring.

“If there are 30 [video cells] on the screen, it is impossible to watch them all to see if anyone is moving about. But that pop gives them something to look at, and they can tell what's going on,” Redfoot said.

George Junior Republic hopes to maximize the integration possibilities offered by the AXIS P8221 I/O Audio Module going forward. Plans include installation of speakers for audio notifications, trigger switches for fire drills, and possibly camera-integrated panic buttons.

“[The I/O module and IP network] just gives us a lot of flexibility to grow and customize as we move forward,” Redfoot said.

