

James River Assembly shows faith in Axis technology. Missouri church creates safe havens for parishioners and guests with Axis network cameras and video encoders.



Organization:
James River Assembly
Church

Location:
Ozark and Springfield,
Missouri, USA

Application:
Community safety

Axis partners:
NetWatch, Inc.
OnSSI

Mission

Even with 2,000 volunteers, James River Assembly Church was finding it difficult to keep watch over its busy campuses in Ozark and Springfield, Missouri. Its multiple standalone analog video systems weren't capable of tracking suspicious individuals as they moved through the buildings. Church administrators sought a multi-campus network-based solution that would help them coordinate surveillance and deter petty theft, vandalism and dangerous activity.

Solution

NetWatch, a Springfield, Missouri-based IP surveillance system provider and Axis partner, integrated 120 existing analog cameras with Axis video encoders. They then augmented the legacy system with more than 200 Axis network cameras to provide more comprehensive surveillance of the two church campuses.

NetWatch also installed a robust video management system (VMS) from OnSSI to help James River Assembly monitor all the cameras from a single, centralized location. Authorized staffers can also use the OnSSI VMS to view cameras and search video remotely using a standard PC.

Result

The Axis cameras have helped staff leverage different network technology to identify a thief and recover stolen property from the game room. They've also helped staff track and locate an individual who brought a weapon into a church service. Since their installation, James River has noticed a significant drop in misuse of fitness equipment and dangerous horseplay on church grounds. Axis network cameras in the classrooms also give parents peace of mind about the safety and security of their children.

"Axis cameras help us safeguard our children, parents and guests as well as church property so that we can continue to be a vibrant and welcoming place for the community."

Kert Parsley, chief operations officer for James River Assembly Church.

Overcoming analog limitations

On Sundays more than 9,000 adults and children attend services and other activities at the two James River Assembly Church campuses. With stadium-sized auditoriums, a wing of classrooms, outdoor playgrounds, retail operations and a fitness center, the church's array of standalone analog systems couldn't provide the coordinated surveillance church officials needed.

NetWatch opted to network-enable the operational legacy analog cameras with AXIS 241Q Video Encoders to monitor the existing camera feeds alongside newly installed, higher-resolution Axis network cameras with an OnSSI video management system.

"The church's Ethernet network makes it easy to add network cameras, move them around if a room is reconfigured, or relocate them to trouble spots as needed," explains Matt Lackrone of NetWatch, Inc. Power over Ethernet (PoE) simplified connection of Axis' fixed and pan/tilt/zoom network cameras and the church also uses a wireless AXIS 211W Network Camera to monitor temporary displays.

Efficient MPEG-4 and advanced H.264 compression allow the church to extend video archiving up to 180 days. "We're archiving more economically with consolidated server storage," claims Kert Parsley, chief operations officer for James River Assembly Church. "Eventually we'll be able to use fewer cameras to cover more area. For instance, a single AXIS M3014 HDTV Network Camera at hallway junctions gives a broader, clearer field of view than two analog cameras mounted in the same location."

Keeping an eye on classroom activity

Despite whimsical names like the Butterfly Room or the Puppy Room, church officials take the safety of parishioners' children seriously. "We do extensive background checks on our teachers, but parents feel more comfortable dropping their kids off when they know we have network video cameras in the classroom," shares Parsley.

The surveillance cameras act both as a deterrent and an eyewitness. "Unlike videotape, network video lets us pinpoint the event in a couple of minutes and determine what really happened," says Parsley.

Converging technology to catch a thief, prevent incidents

When electronic games went missing, staff scanned video to identify anyone who might have been in the game room. They found the culprit and easily identified him because he logged on to his own MySpace page through the church's WiFi network. The police caught the thief and recovered the church's stolen property.

Axis network cameras have also helped avert potentially dangerous problems, like when a soldier came to worship in full uniform, which included a military-issued knife. Using the Axis cameras to track his location, officials quietly approached him and asked that he remove the weapon from the premises.

Facilities managers use the exceptional zoom clarity of the Axis cameras to verify that door alarms have been set properly when locking up for the night. The cameras also help identify and assess fines to anyone carelessly tripping alarms that cause local police to respond to a suspected break-in.

Serving a higher purpose

As the church fully transitions from analog to network surveillance, they plan to use video to enhance the resources they provide the community. Through video analytics, for instance, they'll be able to count the number of people attending services, using classrooms or working out in the fitness center.

"A large facility like James River needs video technology it can trust," shares Matt Lackrone. "Axis' great support and three-year warranty on cameras help us deliver reliable solutions to our customer. So the relationship works on multiple levels."



 JamesRiverAssembly

 NETWATCH
Specializing in network-based surveillance systems.

 OnSSI
IP To The Core