



Huntington Manor Fire Department



dial-up lines, which proved too slow for video data," he said. "Our staff and the fire department's local computer representative used a combination of cable TV modems, DSL lines and fiber modems in each area to create a dependable and highly functioning network. This solution was both cost effective and productive. It also added value by allowing all offices to see the network as well as have internet privileges and access to a variety of televised educational stations."

the district will continue to upgrade when the need arises. "We went with a system that was not overkill for us to start with but could be easily added to. When we started we were more concerned with our interior coverage of our buildings, but we did this with the knowledge that we could easily add the exterior, should we opt to add a few cameras in a year without major cost."

By Marleah Blades
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The system is also redundant. "Our cameras at each substation are recording by themselves but also transmitting up to headquarters and recorded. So if something happened, my transmission line or cable in between buildings is still secure and still taping at my other houses," said Bifano.

Continued Expansion
Huntington Manor is quite pleased with the installed system. The administrator can easily set access levels and add and delete permissions. The cameras keep an eye on the unmanned buildings, providing several angles particularly around the trucks. The dispatcher can keep track of it all through the user-friendly monitoring system. Bifano said



Protecting Those Who Protect Us

Case Study - Municipal

First responders, such as law enforcement personnel and firefighters, make a living risking their lives to improve or save the lives of others. The service they provide to their local and expanded communities is invaluable – you'd think anyone would agree with that. Yet firehouses and police headquarters are not immune to break-ins, theft or vandalism.

valuable assets that may attract more serious offenders – the engines and the breathing equipment, for instance. A fire station could

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Firehouses in particular contain many items attractive to would-be criminals, since they often have break rooms stocked with food, drink and amusements to pass the time on slow shifts. They also contain more

be a prime target for terrorists, because if they eliminate the first responders in an area, that area will be more vulnerable to mayhem and will take much longer to recover from it. Vincent Bifano, District Manager for the Huntington Manor Fire District, saw these potential threats in his own area and recognized something had to be done.



Buildings with Nobody Inside

Huntington Manor Fire Department, a 100-year old volunteer department, protects 17,000 residences and 2,000 businesses in Huntington Station on Long Island. Its 130 volunteers account for the lives of nearly 60,000 people. The district maintains three firehouses and one annex building with six utility vehicles and three chief's cars.

A few years ago none of these could be said to be secure. "Our problem basically came from the fact that we had buildings that were unmanned. In the volunteer fire service, substations are unmanned. You just don't know what's going down there," said Bifano. "So that's why our concern here was access control – who's going in our buildings and when they are going in – as well as cameras to protect our interests. We have a lot of equipment. We don't have a problem with break-ins, but it could happen.

In 2002, Bifano began hunting for a solution. "I would say after we did all our research, and we spent probably over a year researching and talking with different companies, we

went with the system where we felt we were getting the most for our dollar." The district decided on a system proposed by Paul Berger of Installer Issco Corp.

"When the fire department personnel first approached us regarding a new security and access control system, they were primarily interested in having an advanced technology with highly dependable equipment, with proven software to monitor various locations. It needed to be network capable and easily integrated among four separate building sites," said Berger.

"At the time of the initial inspection, the existing readers were non-functioning and the existing camera technology was severely outdated," he continued. "They required a time controlled system that would monitor all stations' and members' activities. They required locked storage doors to protect high-value equipment that is used on site calls, the ability to control entrance/exit doors and have all the monitoring centrally located."

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Added Electronic Eyes

The district ultimately decided to upgrade the access control, cameras and recorders, simultaneously integrating the systems so that one operator could have easy access to a variety of access information. "We felt the Continuum System, manufactured by Integral Technologies was our best choice," said Berger. "We were working with field proven hardware that was network capable, reliable and user-friendly."

Issco also decided on the DVX recorder system from Integral Technologies and HID's Prox Readers. "Both the DVX and Continuum can be used with a standard off-the-shelf computer, the software is field upgradeable and any and all technical support and assistance is local," said Berger. This ease-of use factor was extremely important, since there would be only one person monitoring the system. "Our dispatcher does the monitoring of the access control and the cameras right in the dispatchers' office, so now we know if somebody's coming into one of our other buildings," explained Bifano. "Basically if the access screen tells them Charlie Brown has entered this door, the camera comes up and shows, yep, that's Charlie Brown."

Instead of traditional prox access cards, Issco suggested firefighters quick and easy emergencies, attached to a ring would be less likely to get lost. In addition, fobs tend to cause less delay at the access point. One generally has to dig through a wallet or purse to retrieve a card for access, but if a firefighter is in a hurry, he or she can keep the key ring in hand after exiting the car for almost immediate access.

According to Berger, the most difficult part of the installation was networking the sites. "We had to deal with antiquated

At-A-Glance

Project Type:
Digital Video Management Systems

Project Name:
Huntington Manor Fire Dept.

Location:
Huntington Manor, New York (Long Island)

Market Segment:
Municipal

Equipment:
- 3 DVX Systems
- 62 Security Cameras
- 32 Card Readers

Network:
WAN

Applications:
Digital CCTV
Video Storage
SyncTRAK Playback
Remote System Management
Multiple Locations
Remote Access
Security Monitoring

