

Regardless of the utilization of technology, the threat of burglary continues to loom in St. Lucie County. Since December of 2003, burglary attempts have increased, particularly after school hours. However, the difference today is that more burglars are caught and convicted thanks to DVX and DS XPress systems. Of all of the reported incidents, David has caught all but one offender—and he's confident that he will soon close that case as well. "We had one case that took eight months to solve, but we got them," comments Morris. "They weren't from the area, so I e-mailed some still images of the suspects taken from the Integral systems to police departments in the region. Eventually, they had arrested the suspect for an unrelated incident and realized that he matched the image I had sent. With the DVX and DS XPress systems, we just don't have a lot of cases that go unsolved."

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And while DVX and DS XPress systems in The School Board of St. Lucie County have been useful in identifying and prosecuting the guilty, they've also been useful in protecting those who are falsely blamed. "Cameras will prosecute the guilty, but they will also protect the innocent," states Morris. This happens to be one of his favorite sayings. A recent case involved two laptop computers with a combined value of over \$6,000 that were missing and an "eye-witness" to the crime. The witness reported that the alleged thief would have had to come out of a specific door based on the last confirmed location of the computers. David was able to quickly call up the isolated video from the cameras at the determined time. The digital video revealed, much to his surprise, that the eye-witness turned out to be the computer thief. She quickly

admitted to her actions and the computers were returned that same afternoon. In another case, a school secretary accused another secretary of striking her. According to the "victim," she was hit so hard that it knocked her to the ground. Additionally, she claimed to be so disturbed by the physical altercation that she could not return to work. In this case, if the accusations were true, the accused would be guilty of a felony. Not only would the accused face jail time, but would also be removed from their job as required by Florida law. However, once the location of the alleged event was determined, video from the Integral Technologies system revealed that no such incident occurred.

In addition to using the latest in digital video surveillance from Integral Technologies, David has also utilized discreet camera locations and, in many cases, having cameras pointed at other cameras. Many of the surveillance cameras are fitted with 35mm lenses, making it much easier to identify automobile license plates.

Although steeped in tradition and history that pre-dates even the beginning of the United States, The School Board of St. Lucie County, Florida has faced many of its challenges with the latest tools of technology. David Morris, Director of Safety and Security, believes he made the right choice when he first made the decision to purchase his DVX systems from Integral Technologies, when digital video recorders were still new to the industry. After many years and the addition of DS XPress systems from Integral Technologies, he still believes he made the right choice.

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Case Study - Education

In many ways, St. Lucie County represents the old and the new face of Florida. The Western portion of the county supports Florida's rich agricultural tradition with citrus farms and cattle ranches. Ft. Pierce is rich in history while the newer city of Port St. Lucie is the home of ancient Indian burial grounds. The Eastern edge sits on the scenic Treasure Coast of the Atlantic Ocean where a shipwrecked 16th century Spanish Treasure Fleet once spilled its riches into the sea. Today, Coastal Florida's favorable climate brings tourists and new residents.

The School Board of St. Lucie County is made up of 40 schools with a new Middle School under construction to deal with growth in the community. A growing school system brings with it many

challenges for security directors. David Morris, Director of Safety and Security for The School Board of St. Lucie County for the past 14 years, is a man who has met these challenges with new technologies. At a time when digital video recorders were still new to the security industry, David understood the impact they could have on his responsibilities. In June of 2001 he had a chance to see nearly 15 different DVRs up close and made the decision to purchase a DVX system from Integral Technologies.

"The Integral system was easy to use and I could get the video I needed quickly."

"I liked some of the systems I looked at, but they had software issues," notes Morris. "They had way too many drop-down menus, which are time consuming when you simply want to view live or recorded video. The Integral system was easy to use and I could get the video I needed quickly."

At-A-Glance

Project Type:
Digital Video Management
Systems

Project Name:
St. Lucie Public Schools

Location:
St. Lucie County, FL

Market Segment:
Education

Equipment:
DVX, RemoteView,
DS XPress

Network:
WAN

Applications:
Digital CCTV
Video Storage
SyncTRAK Playback
Remote System Management



Impressed with the initial investment, David added more DVX units to the school system. Another feature he appreciated was the RemoteView software included with the system. RemoteView allows users to view and administrate multiple digital video systems from Integral Technologies (DVX 500, DVX 1000, DVXi, DVXe, DS XPress and DS Enterprise) over a network or Internet connection.

“With RemoteView I can view and adjust any of the systems from anywhere,” states Morris. “And I like the easy playback feature. Other systems I looked at didn’t allow me to easily and quickly pick out just the segments I wanted to see and export. Plus, with RemoteView you can have video from all of your systems on a single screen. We deal with a lot of vending machine theft in our schools. With RemoteView, I can monitor all of our vending machines located at different schools in the county on a single page.

Morris has also been impressed with the SmartSearch feature available in RemoteView. In particular, he recalls a car burglary that occurred during a school day. “We could only narrow the incident down to a six hour period. If we were using a VCR, it would have taken forever to get through that video. But with the Integral system, it took me only 15 minutes to find the three suspects. They were in custody by the end of the day.”

Surprisingly, David removed his DVX systems

from the high schools...to move them into some of the elementary schools while making way for eight new 64-camera DS XPress systems. DS XPress uses the DigitalSENTRY software which is also available with DS Enterprise systems. DS Enterprise and DS XPress digital video management systems are complete surveillance

systems accommodating a virtually unlimited amount of cameras in multiple networked locations. Both products are combination database servers and video acquisition units (VAUs) capable of up to 480 images per second in NTSC with up to 128 camera inputs per VAU. David can monitor and administrate his DS XPress systems along with his DVX systems, regardless of their location, side by side from the same

RemoteView software.

However, before making his second investment, David once again invited several dealers to demonstrate systems from a myriad of manufacturers. “As with the last time, I liked some of the systems,” notes Mr. Morris. “But once again many of them had too many drop-down menus which made it difficult to get to live and recorded video. These are two of the most important features in any system and they should be easy to get to. Also, I didn’t think any of the competitors could match the features of the DS XPress.” Looking back on his initial investment with the purchase of the DVX systems, David notes, “I think we made the right choice then, and after another review of the products in the market, I still think we made the right choice.”

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David Morris gets the most out of his systems. He is what one might call a “power user.” He recently participated in the DigitalSENTRY Certification course. This challenging course is designed for system integrators to make sure they can properly install systems and support end-users. David, an end-user, passed the course with flying colors.

The School Board has well over 300 cameras installed on DVX and DS XPress systems already and is in the process of retrofitting all of their time-lapse VCR CCTV systems with digital video management systems. Currently, there are five more 64-camera DS XPress systems waiting to be installed—on hold only due to the restoration associated with a record-breaking hurricane season. With the installation of these new systems, all of the five high schools will be equipped with at least one 64-camera DS XPress system. Two of the six middle schools are also utilizing DS XPress systems and plans for the new middle school include a 64-camera DS XPress. The largest installation is Centennial High School in Port St. Lucie with 72 cameras distributed around the campus.

One of the features David appreciates about the DS XPress system is the ability to invert video. “There have been times when we couldn’t even see under normal lighting and camera conditions, but we’ve been able to enhance the video or use inverted video to pick out suspects and suspicious objects. The inverted video feature is fantastic to use when trying to locate and identify metal objects in a crowd. A gun really sticks out. It’s pure white. It’s easier to determine the outline of it or may be. Plus, with what the item the DS XPress we zoom into the video.”

David has also made great use of the SyncTRAK feature on his DS XPress systems. With SyncTRAK, users can simultaneously view video from up to 16 cameras located anywhere on the system, all synchronized to the same time and/or event. This allows users to view events from multiple angles and locations as they progress. This multi-camera view can also be exported and played back on any computer. With one case, a school thief was caught in the act on sixteen different cameras and the exported SyncTRAK video, showing all 16 cameras at the same time, was used in the courtroom.

