Customer Profile

California State University Channel Islands (CI) in Camarillo, CA is a student-centered, four-year public university known for its interdisciplinary, multicultural and international perspectives and its emphasis on experiential learning. Students benefit from individual attention, up-to-date technology and classroom instruction augmented by stellar faculty research.

CISCO PARTNER
Gold Certified

Situation

Safety on any college campus is one of the most important factors that parents and students evaluate when choosing a higher education institution. From its inception, CI has placed a high value on campus safety, and has an excellent safety record. However, CI's video surveillance and access control solutions were "home-made," utilizing analog surveillance solutions that were not integrated and access control mechanisms that were outdated. When incidents occurred at the campus, security went through an enormous effort to locate footage, review video and determine the circumstances of the incident. Many times, information was simply unavailable or of poor quality.

CI also struggled with the disparity of networks for safety and security. Since they all utilized proprietary infrastructure, adding security devices meant moving further away from technology convergence. Sometimes this meant running expensive coaxial analog cables to remote locations for video. Other times, solutions simply didn't exist due to building construction.

Lastly, CI desired a "single-card" system for their campus, allowing students, faculty, and staff to use a single control card for a variety of purposes: access control, library use, food services, student ID, etc. Different systems utilized disparate databases and integration was inefficient and costly.

Solution

CI collaborated with NIC Partners and Cisco Systems to deploy a fully integrated physical security solution. NIC Partners acted as the single-point-of-contact for the implementation which included a team of specialists and a suite of product solutions to create a fully integrated system, all running over their existing IP infrastructure. Among the products included were Cisco Systems Access Control and Video Surveillance solutions and Cisco Systems Unified Communications systems (IP Telephony).

"Systems integration was the key factor in choosing NIC Partners as our physical security network integrator," says Herbert Aquino, Manager, IT Infrastructure for CI. Examples of the Emerging Technologies (ET) integration included:

- Motion activation of video surveillance feeds to send video snapshots directly to Cisco color IP Phones.
- Audio and visual notification when access control systems were breached or unauthorized users attempted restricted access.
- LDAP (Active Directory) integration from the University's centralized database to the Cisco physical security solution, providing a single point of user information.
- Wired and wireless video surveillance cameras for deployment where existing cabling could not be deployed (utilizing a standard Wi-Fi network).
- Centralized monitoring, management, recording, and event management from both control locations and remotely via web browsers, anywhere on campus.

Results

"We're beginning to realize an important vision for the University by integrating physical security onto the IP Network. This improves our ability to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe and secure, while greatly enhancing our ability to manage incidents" says Michael Berman, Chief Information Officer. The University can now correlate data between security systems, gaining critical information that was unavailable in the past.

The solution has created a proactive approach to managing physical security for the campus. When access control is challenged the University can immediately see video near the breach, as well as notify them via IP phone, a web browser, a cell phone or in any custom way desired by campus staff.

"As we add additional functionality and grow the solution, our hope is to become a leader in campus safety and security for the entire CSU system and provide this information to our sister campuses," Berman says.