

CASE STUDY: SCHAUMBURG VIDEO SECURITY SOLUTION



The system was designed with a distributed architecture to minimize the bandwidth requirements while maintaining image quality (frame rate, resolution and compression). Aesthetics were considered as well as technology and usability, with devices being painted to blend in with the surroundings (top right).

Learning as You Go

The advantage of a multiyear project is that you aren't sitting back when it's all over, talking about what you would do differently in the future. You can implement the improvements you would like to make, even going back to earlier phases to make improvements. In some areas, pole-mounted cameras were moved to buildings because of power issues at the poles. Server data drives, initially in a JBOD configuration, are slated to be configured as RAID-5 arrays, both in future phases and retroactively for the Phase 1 servers. Some of the locations with multiple fixed cameras facing different directions on a single pole will be getting multisensor cameras to improve the outward appearance and add camera views. A radio antenna tower that was to be used for a camera mounting platform was replaced, requiring plan modifications to achieve the desired coverage.

The first phase also included several change orders due to unforeseen construction issues. Working closely with Pentegra's Lichter and Brierton, RG&A did a pricing refresh for Phase 2 that incorporated these lessons learned



and should eliminate change orders except for the most extenuating of circumstances. "This refresh gave us an opportunity to make the unpredictable less so," says Lichter. "The project team was very receptive to new ideas and applications of the video system when presented, and we'd be foolish not to take advantage of that," adds Brierton.

As everyone heads into Phase 2, the Phase 1 cameras that had previously been installed were already paying dividends. Without naming specific incidents for confidentiality reasons, Schaak remarked on the comparison of design intent to results. "We may not have gotten everything on our wish list right away — there are always other considerations, and we are just starting down this road. But we got exactly what we were told we would get during the design process," he says. Referring to the



Deploying a Modular System Design

When security consultant R. Grossman and Associates (RG&A) designs IP-based CCTV systems, it likens it to a "Lego" approach, dividing the components into three distinct categories. First and foremost are edge devices, or cameras in the case of CCTV systems. These should conform to industry standards, providing a wide range of compatibility. There can be special features, but they shouldn't require a proprietary client to take advantage of them.

Second are servers and hardware, which includes cabling and infrastructure. Again, adherence to standards is critical, and RG&A tries to stay away from proprietary boxes with embedded operating systems. If a client likes Dell servers, for example, they should be able to use them here, and leverage their service and support expertise.

If these first two areas are done properly, there is some flexibility in selecting a VMS vendor, and it doesn't necessarily have to be done upfront. In the case of the Village of Schaumburg project, RG&A picked a VMS vendor for the specification that used industry-standard servers and integrated with a wide variety of edge devices, and allowed substitutions. VMS submissions that were essentially the offerings of camera companies were not accepted as these rarely integrate with their competitors beyond the feature limited ONVIF standard.

While it was not the specified solution, after an onsite "shoot-out," the Genetec Security Center VMS was selected. It has a strong feature set, the village liked the user interface and felt Genetec made an outstanding foundation for future electronic security efforts. Surrounding communities and other agencies have already committed to this VMS, and it is in use in the local school district as well.

team of client, consultant and integrator, Schaak concluded, "The team has turned our RFP into reality, and we are happy to see that happen." SSI

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