

Milestone IP video surveillance protects the city of Dublin, Ohio: centralized management and portable cameras help crowd control at major events

“Nobody likes proprietary solutions; Milestone is great because it is an open platform that is beyond easy to use. All my employees are able to use it and it has made training on my end much easier, helping with the efficiency of the city.” –

Jay Somerville, Technical Services Bureau Director, Dublin Ohio Division of Police



The Challenge: The main need was to replace an analog surveillance system that did not provide clear video evidence. Dublin wanted an IP video system to deter and stop theft and protect the citizens and employees of the city.

The Solution: The city of Dublin has installed a wireless IP video system running on Milestone XProtect Enterprise. There are 2 HP Proliant Servers, 14TB HP Storage Arrays, all Cisco network infrastructure, 23 Axis 216 network cameras, 18 Axis 221s, 3 Axis 225s, 3 Axis 211s, 5 Axis 233s, 2 Axis 213s, 3 Axis 215s, 1 Axis 216MFD, and 2 IQeye Sentinel 2 megapixel cameras. The implementation partner is Northwestern Ohio Security Systems.

The Advantages: Milestone software provides centralized management for a city responsibility that covers different buildings, giving Dublin the ability to control the video streams of all the cameras in the buildings from their central server. The amount of cameras managed per server was an upgrade from the analog system they had before. The open architecture running on an IT infrastructure allowed city management and IT to build the entire installation on the unified Milestone platform. The ease of use for employees has reduced operation costs for the city.

City of Dublin protects history and people

Native Americans - Hopewell, Adenas, Delaware, Shawnee and Wyandot - were the first inhabitants of the countryside that was to become Dublin. It was originally part of 2,000 acres of land given to Lieutenant James Holt by the US Government as payment for service in the Revolutionary War. After several real estate transactions John Sells purchased 400 acres of land here in the early 1800s. This area became a village in 1810 that would later develop into one of the most progressive communities in central Ohio.

Today, the site of Sells' original purchase is known as Historic Dublin. Through well-managed growth, Dublin has preserved its historic past, while enriching the quality of life in the



community. Early 19th century architecture and dry limestone fences bordering its roads add to Historic Dublin's heritage. Many of its original buildings are listed in the National Register of Historical Places.



In the 1970s, Dublin was transformed from a rural village into a suburban business center, due largely to the completion of the I-270 outer belt highway and development of the Muirfield Village Golf Club and residential community. The quality of Dublin's commercial construction was established early with the development of Metro Center, the headquarters of Ashland Chemical Company and the Midwestern Volkswagen complex. With rapid business and residential growth, Dublin officially became a city in 1987.

The Dublin Division of Police is committed to working with residents and businesses to improve the quality of life in Dublin. Numerous community-based programs and services are available, designed to ensure added safety and protection to citizens in the City.

Remote cameras for crowd monitoring at events

Dublin, Ohio is the host to many large events that create an influx of people. The Memorial Golf tournament is an annual PGA golf occurrence that features the tour's top field and is a huge draw for the city and people in surrounding areas. The city's previous solution to crowd and parking lot monitoring was dedicated police officers on motorbikes all day, but they realized that police officers could be used in ways that are more efficient. The police shared the same sentiment.

Jay Somerville, Technical Services Bureau Director, Dublin Ohio Division of Police, states, "We are real thrilled with the Milestone product and managing everything on the backend. It is so easy to navigate, easy to use, and it does not require an advanced knowledge of a specific application. The Police are coming to me asking for more of the same - that's how I know they are using it."

The city installed Axis wireless cameras for monitoring at the central station. They found the solution of sending a URL to the police force with the live feed of an incident to be much more efficient.



Somerville says, "We are known in Dublin for innovative thinking and leveraging technology to better the city. Milestone and Northwestern are a perfect match for the entire solution. The Axis cameras have been great, as well; the network mapping and wireless feature allows us to use these cameras portably."



The city has a population of 39,200 and on any given day it can balloon to well over 70,000. Besides the golf tournament, the city is home to many large corporate headquarters such as Wendy's and large events such as the Irish Festival.

Unique and flexible fit for the city

Somerville explains that it was less expensive to install an IP camera system as opposed to 'forklift' upgrading the existing analog system. "It's amazing: I saved a significant amount of money because the system ties in all on one common platform running on an IT infrastructure."

He went on to say that management from the Justice Center, the Police Department and other public facilities all concluded that the open platform format was the most cost effective and future proof solution the city could go with.

"With Milestone we knew that we could build on what we had and we would not have to rip out the entire proprietary solution that was already in place," Adds Somerville.

The Police and other city officials all have access to the Milestone client interface. This has made sharing of information a more streamlined and efficient process.



"Milestone is so flexible...the fact that all my employees can access Milestone's client and put in an IP address to mix and match cameras is great. The operation cost is less because the training is less on my side. 61 police and 17 dispatch personal are using it currently. Milestone cannot make the system any easier...we just hyperlinked the html version to the live feed, and they love the windows GUI," says Somerville.

Technical Manager John Kostelac of Northwestern Ohio Security Systems, who helped implement the new solution, explained that the remote access has been a key feature for the city. "It can only be described as seamless; in fact users at the remote locations do not even realize that the servers are on location."

Kostelac says that the PTZ cameras by Axis did what they wanted them to do, that is, record all the time and archive on motion. He goes on to explain that Milestone was a good fit based on the open platform, ease of use and the ability to scale to unlimited devices.



Value adding partner Northwestern Ohio Security Systems

The folks at Northwestern Ohio Security Systems Inc. brought Milestone to the table during bidding and helped Dublin build the solution with unique thinking and a professional installation.

Somerville explains, "Northwestern (Security) has been a huge plus for us, they have been in the game for a while and they know more than just product, they know networks. They are so valuable because when we asked them to provide a solution ranging from storage to cameras, software, etc. ...they are always asking how can this all tie in together and expand easily for the City of Dublin."

He goes on to say that Northwestern Ohio Security Systems had some of the cleanest cabling and installations he had ever seen. This is important for buildings such as City Hall and the Recreational Center because they wanted it to be as discrete as possible.

What's next?

Currently Dublin has 31 cameras at the Dublin Recreation Center and 29 cameras at the Dublin Police Department. The plan is to convert the rest of the city buildings over the course of the next two years. In the next phase, they are looking to add access control from S2 Corporation. In the same phase they look to deploy fixed incident cameras that they refer to as "traffic cameras" – they plan to send this feed to the local news stations. Somerville explains that the installation with Milestone and Axis has been such a success that the school district is looking at implementing the same solution at key points.



About Northwestern Ohio Security, Inc.

We offer solutions for security, fire, access control, video surveillance. And U.L. listed 24-hour state-of-the-art monitoring station. We can service and support any system. Our factory trained and certified technicians are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Please call us and ask how we can help you protect your family, your business, your home, your valuables, your life. Our #1 goal is to make you happy, secure, & safe, please see our customer testimonials. www.nwoss.com

About Milestone

Milestone is the world market leader for open platform IP video surveillance software, according to IMS Research. The XProtect™ product line supports the widest choice in network video hardware and API integrations with other systems. Reliable, robust and proven in operation at more than 35,000 customer installations, Milestone solutions are sold through a channel of authorized partners in over 90 countries. www.milestonesys.com.

