Rowland Water District Uses Video Analytics to Create Virtual Perimeter

Rowland Water District, located in Rowland Heights, Calif., provides potable and recycled water to approximately 58,000 people through 13,500 service connections in southeastern Los Angeles County. The district's use of video analytics to secure its service yard and facilities from theft, illustrating the business value the technology can provide versus traditional perimeter protection systems.

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The Situation

Rowland Water District, located in the foothills of Los Angeles County and bordering a wildlife refuge, found its remote and isolated location attractive to thieves looking to steal vehicle batteries, scrap metal, tools and fuel.

"We found intruders were cutting through the fence around the service yard that surrounded the wildlife refuge, and trying to detect people in that area isn't easy," said Ken Deck, General Manager at Rowland Water District. "The challenge we faced to secure the perimeter was finding a solution that was easy to use, affordable and required few adjustments to our day-to-day procedures."

The district's previous security system supported access control, intrusion and video surveillance, but each of those systems worked independently of each other. There was no collaboration between the intrusion and video surveillance to monitor events, or proactive notification to alert law enforcement an event was taking place.

"There were instances when we wouldn't know if equipment had been damaged or stolen from the service yard for a couple of days," Deck said. "There was no real-time notification when intrusions were occurring in the yard, so there was no way for us to know to look for missing items."

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>
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The Solution

To put a stop to these intrusions, the district worked with Irvine, Calif.-based Secure Site Solutions, Inc. to upgrade its existing disparate security system to a new fully integrated system. The system uses eight high resolution day/night fixed cameras with video analytics embedded inside Honeywell's Rapid Eye™ HD Active Alert®, digital video recorder (DVR), and an additional eight cameras for video verification to construct a virtual perimeter around the facility.

To establish the fully integrated security system, Secure Site Solutions tied the DVR into Honeywell's WIN-PAK® access control platform and Honeywell's VISTA® intrusion system. In configuring the video surveillance system, Security Site Solutions chose fixed cameras to ensure they were always watching their assigned fields of view. "With PTZ cameras there is always a chance the camera will not be parked when it's needed and it misses an event," said Michael Cowell, President at Secure Site Solutions.

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The installation and configuration of the district's video analytics solution took Secure Site Solutions one month to complete. "We found the installation to be quick and straightforward," said Cowell. "The piece that normally takes the longest is configuring the analytical rule, but Honeywell offers great support which makes this process easy."

The Benefits

The district has seen several benefits from the fully integrated security system from its ease of use to a reduction in false alarms. By consolidating the multiple systems onto a single platform, they now work seamlessly together and are managed through a single user interface – increasing operational efficiency.

"It has made everything a lot easier," Deck said. "We can arm the entire security system at once by using our access cards, instead of having to arm each of them individually. This allows our off-hours service personnel to enter the yard while the perimeter protection system is armed without triggering a false alarm."

Compared to using traditional perimeter protection systems, the district also saved money by choosing video analytics.

"By using video analytics we were able to secure the district's full perimeter with only a few cameras," Cowell said. "Compared to a traditional perimeter protection system, we would have had to install dozens of sensors, trench for and install underground conduit and run wire. The money the district saved by choosing video analytics was significant."

Additionally, the district has been able to greatly reduce the number of false alarms for their overall operation and improve law enforcement response times by knowing immediately when an intrusion occurs and if it's a real or false alarm. Video verification of events has also eliminated the need for district staff to verify alarm events in-person – increasing personal safety.

The Products

- **Rapid Eye™ HD Active Alert®**
- **WIN-PAK® Access Control**
- **VISTA Keypad**
- **HD4U High Resolution Day/Night Fixed Cameras**

Rapid Eye™ Monitor

WIN-PAK® Access Control

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