



Shasta Union School District in California protects students, staff and property with a Milestone IP video surveillance from Ojo Technology.

“We have experienced a 98% reduction in school vandalism and theft—combined with an efficient way to accurately identify responsible parties associated with student conflicts.” - Mike Vincelli, Director of Information Technology at Shasta Union School District



Challenges:

The Shasta Union High School District needed a solution that could track student activity and campus visitors at four high school locations. They wanted to monitor all game fields, cafeterias, hallways, parking lots, main entrances and exits. The goal is to improve school security for the personal safety of students and staff, along with deterring theft and vandalism.

Solution:

Ojo Technology in Fremont, CA, provided a video surveillance solution utilizing Sony and Axis network cameras tailored for the specific environments, all managed by Milestone XProtect Enterprise IP video management software with a user interface for viewing live or recorded images and exporting evidence. The system provides the district with on-demand access to all installed locations—centrally or remotely—with fast search-and-find of video, when needed.

Advantages:

Shasta Union School District reports excellent ease-of-use, on-demand accessibility to the cameras and video, and quick digital format recovery to obtain the video feed needed within minutes. The entire district is installed with a solution that scales to cover all their locations and allows a best-of-breed mix of cameras so the newest technology can be added as it becomes available.

The Shasta Union High School District in California is similar to a large company in that it has several sites, many employees, several divisions within the organization, and employee associations. It includes four high schools in different locations. In total there are more than 6,000 students and over 540 employees. One high school alone has 1,600 pupils.

These present typical environments of overly exuberant teen behavior can include vandalism or fights. External threats can be the source of problems with theft, too. There had been problems such as cars being broken into, broken windows in the buildings, computers stolen and major property damaged—not only by the students but also by contractors doing work on campus. In 2005, they installed a new IP video surveillance system with the goals being to monitor activity in the main gathering areas for student & staff safety, and to minimize vandalism and thefts from external sources.

IP technology for covering wide areas, multi-locations

“Based on the vast areas we needed to monitor, an IP system was the perfect solution: we ran aerial fiber optic cables,” explains Vincelli.

Ojo Technology installed a new security solution based on Milestone XProtect IP video software to manage the numerous Sony and Axis network cameras in all four schools across the district.





This system allows authorized staff to access the system for viewing both live and recorded video—centrally, locally or remotely. The video is easy and fast to search by location, date and time, and images can be exported for evidence to resolve any incidences quickly.

Security officers monitor the video activity on a daily basis, and the video surveillance runs 24 /7. Although automatic alerts are possible with the XProtect, this feature has not been activated as Shasta Union schools do not have on-call staff and this added expense was not within their original budget.

Open platform software allows hardware mix for best-of-breed

Ojo Technology's IPVS Sales Consultant, Bob Bisetti describes the solutions setup: "This was primarily a Sony and Axis installation using fiber links between all four of the schools. Each of the schools archive back to the District's IT department—access to the archive is limited to school administration and security personnel. Most recently I have begun selling them the new Panasonic line of cameras with built-in analytics, which they are primarily using in their busier indoor areas".



Milestone XProtect is open platform software that supports just such a mix of camera brands. The locations where cameras are installed include football fields, hallways, cafeterias, athletic areas and gyms, all main entrances, exits and parking lots. There are up to 20 cameras per High School location.

Measurable return on investment

Vincelli reports: "We have noted that both vandalism and theft activity has being significantly reduced by as much as 98% based on the reported incidents from previous years, prior to the system being installed—we have been able to effectively identify suspects which has resulted in their apprehension by local authorities. We also now have the ability to determine which student(s) are the aggressors in situations of school violence. Prior to the IPVS solution we would suspend both students involved. We are now able to correctly identify the responsible party, which has also helped with parent-to-staff relationships, eliminating finger pointing and blame."

He continues: "Last year, when a theft occurred in our Woodshop classroom, the school video recordings were reviewed. We noticed a particular vehicle entering and exiting the parking lot around the suspected timeframe. After maximizing the image on screen and printing it on a color printer, the local authorities were able to quickly identify a known parolee who owned the vehicle (it had a unique paint job), which was found to contain our stolen objects."

Finding the right partner

"We found the staff at Ojo Technology to be knowledgeable and easy to work with. They efficiently assessed where improvements could be made to our initial plan while still keeping within our designated timeframe and budget," states Vincelli. "Bob Bisetti reviewed the previous system's failed project plan, brought to light certain flaws existing in the initial plan and provided alternative solutions that would best suit our needs but more importantly, that stayed within our approved budget."

Ojo Technology is a Certified Milestone Partner. This means that they have had special training in the XProtect Enterprise IP video management software solution, a fact that ensures greater expertise in surveillance installations and improved customer satisfaction.





Expert advice and understanding of the needs

“Our overall experience with Ojo Technology has been very positive. We appreciated the fact that Bob never over-sold the product. He took the time to explain the pros and cons of the equipment we were considering for purchase while also providing recommendations based on our environment—therefore allowing us to make the final decision based on known facts,” says Vincelli. “He clearly explained the visibility and limitations we could expect based on our choices, without being pushy. The solution fulfilled our expectations, and we are very satisfied.”

Learn more at www.ojotech.com, www.suhsd.net, and www.milestonesys.com.

