

## Landau Forte College

Following its change of status from a City Technology College to an Academy in 2006, Landau Forte College in Derby built new facilities to accommodate a growing student population and improve learning provision.

As part of a major upgrade of their network infrastructure the College implemented a new IP surveillance system which improved security and made the College a protected environment for Staff and Students.



MONITOR

ALERT



STORE

RETRIEVE

**“The College is now a safe and secure environment - a relaxed atmosphere that is conducive to learning. We’ve achieved this with one product - Soratek.”**

**John Cox, Finance Director**



"The stability and performance of a Linux appliance was a key consideration for us. Soratek not only offered reliability but also helped to reduce our ongoing costs - alternative solutions based on a Microsoft platform were subject to recurring licensing costs whereas Soratek was not. "

Marc Charles, IT Manager

## Situation

The College had suffered an increase in vandalism which had occurred on the periphery of the main campus, out of reach of existing cameras. This together with an increase in bullying made the College determined to improve their surveillance system.

## Requirements

A new extension was planned and security was to be considered along with an upgrade to their existing network infrastructure. The main campus already had an analog surveillance system however this limited their options for expansion.

Their priority was to add cameras which covered 'black-spots'; places which were previously difficult for cameras to be located where vandalism had taken place and to include specific sites throughout the College.

It was essential for the College to be able to broaden the reach of cameras in order to provide clear evidence of incidents. And, given constraints on time, surveillance needed to be easy to manage - a proactive surveillance system which they could rely on to notify staff if an incident occurred, would be ideal.

## Solution

Their traditional analog system could not be extended to incorporate the second building, nor was it feasible to add further cameras to the system; analog cameras were becoming obsolete and could not be installed in areas where they were needed. This lack of flexibility led the College to look for alternative solutions and they discussed their requirements with their IT Provider.

A cost analysis demonstrated that an IP surveillance system could be added to their network infrastructure. This would prove more cost effective and provide the highest ROI.

IP (Internet Protocol) based devices utilise the same network infrastructure as ICT systems. New IP cameras do not need electrical power but are powered by PoE (Power over Ethernet). This meant that the College could add IP cameras to their existing network at low cost, and IP cameras could be located in, what were previously inaccessible places.

**Soratek is an IP Surveillance Appliance** which combines surveillance software, hardware and video image storage in one product. Following demonstrations of both Axis IP cameras and the Soratek appliance, Soratek was chosen as it offered flexibility, expansion capabilities and it could be added to the College network to provide one centralised solution.

## Outcome

The college maximised their original investment by adding video converters most of the original analog cameras were re-used. The College purchased an additional 30 Axis IP cameras including a Fixed Dome Vandal Proof internal cameras and full PTZ external cameras which monitored the car park. Cameras were connected to the network and placed in locations which meant all vulnerable locations plus additional areas would be monitored and secured.

Shortly after the appliance was installed, the College was able to provide evidence of vandalism. They have also experienced a marked reduction in anti-social behaviour.

## Objectives

- Monitor all areas
- Be alerted to incidents
- Identify offenders
- Provide evidence
- Prevent vandalism
- Improve image quality
- Store video images
- Simplify surveillance
- Easily managed, low cost solution



## Benefits

The College quickly realised benefits from the system:

- cost savings were made by implementing an IP system instead of analog
- image quality was vastly improved
- the ability to add cameras to the network enabled all internal and external areas of the College to be monitored
- implementing IP surveillance was simple; everything they needed was combined in the Soratek product; even the storage of video images.
- Soratek enabled Staff to remotely access the system and monitor their own areas for which they were responsible.
- proactive alerts notified Staff if an event occurred.