City of Turlock Manages Growing Infrastructure with Honeywell’s Sustainable Access Control and Surveillance

In the heart of California’s Central Valley located 90 miles south of Sacramento, Turlock is the second largest city in Stanislaus County and home of California State University Stanislaus. With nearly 70,000 residents, the city offers relaxed rural living with convenient access to some of California’s most popular tourist destinations in and around its capitol. Due to these attractions, Turlock is rapidly growing.
The Situation:
In order to meet the needs of an increasing population size, Turlock city managers faced the challenge of expanding the city’s overall infrastructure, which recently involved construction of a 55,000 square foot police department, a new transit center for city shuttles and a bus maintenance facility. Other new facilities include a wastewater treatment plant and a large animal shelter. For the past decade, Turlock has kept track of its many city buildings with Honeywell’s WIN-PAK®, a trusted access control system. The city also depended on analog cameras for city-wide surveillance. While these systems were well-supported, it came time for an upgrade to accommodate bigger buildings with more employees, and the need for higher-quality IP surveillance technology. The city’s brand new set of buildings – including the police station completed in 2014 – provided the perfect opportunity to set a larger system upgrade into motion.

Since planners needed to be sensitive to current and future budget constraints, they strived to incorporate technology that protects citizens today but also will retain its functionality and value for years to come. So when planning began on the design of the new police department, they reached out to San Francisco-based security integrator Microbiz for a solution that would secure that building now, but also gain mileage well into the future and across other facilities.

The Solution:
To better meet the needs of Turlock’s sprawling city infrastructure, Microbiz recommended an integrated solution from Honeywell to protect facilities, administer employee badges, and manage visitors in public buildings.

“The existing facilities were happy with Honeywell’s long-standing WIN-PAK access control system, but it was time to add new capabilities,” said David Chritton, Microbiz. “Given the scale to which Turlock is growing, and that each building has its own agenda and needs, we were tasked to come up with a solution that was flexible enough to move at the city’s pace. Honeywell was the logical choice back then, and it’s still the logical choice today.”

The integrated solution included a two-pronged approach:
1. Upgrading from WIN-PAK to Honeywell’s Pro Watch® access control system, and
2. Adding scalable infrastructure to transition gradually from analog to IP cameras.

Pro-Watch issues permanent and temporary access cards for employees and visitors, operates doors, monitors the status of the system, and manages cameras remotely from any workstation. It also offers database partitioning—a unique ability that allows each department to see and manage their own cards and readers. This allows each building, hosting individual departments operating on different systems and agendas, to implement their own procedures without sacrificing the ability to manage everything from a central location. The system currently features more than 80 card readers located throughout public facilities. To offer the highest level of security, the HID® iClass proximity readers installed at each facility use individual access codes that are self-designated by each department.

“We recommended Pro-Watch because of its ability to use single shared-server architecture,” said Norma Schiller, Honeywell. “Every department around the city can use its own client workstations, yet share a single server which is maintained centrally by the city’s IT department.”

Furthermore, Pro-Watch brings a multitude of integration capabilities with other security services. From the 911 dispatch center located in the new public safety facility, MAXPRO® VMS provides an easy way for
operators to manage alarms. In addition, Honeywell VISTA® intrusion alarms are integrated to the system for a cohesive single view that is easy to use and, with its alarm-verification capabilities, saves countless hours when investigations are needed.

As for the surveillance cameras, Turlock is continuing to deploy analog cameras to stay within budget. With the highest quality analog cameras available, the city can still take advantage of pan/tilt/zoom capabilities, presets, camera call-ups and good quality resolution without having to make the immediate investment in IP technology. But with the upgrade project, IP capabilities were also built into the infrastructure for when the time comes to make that transition.

ACUIX® PTZ cameras offer city-wide surveillance, and Honeywell’s encoders and MAXPRO® NVRs support the city’s transition from analog to IP. Since all the components are fully integrated, the system ensures expandability for the future, which is both extremely cost effective and less disruptive to operations.

“Now it’s easy to add IP cameras to the mix as we introduce them to new facilities as they come online,” said Chritton. “IP and analog cameras can exist together on the same system, so we won’t have to rip everything out and replace it all.”

The Benefits:

Today, the new 911 center serves as the central station. When an alarm comes in, PTZ cameras located strategically throughout the city offer immediate visual confirmation and provide details of the scene so officers know what’s happening before they respond—making response more accurate and efficient, but also increasing overall safety. And because the city-wide video surveillance/access control/badging work together to communicate, it’s easy to lock down one or more public areas instantly—with just the touch of a button.

Additionally, the Honeywell system helps staff in the Turlock Human Resources department work more efficiently. Administrators input all information about each city employee at their starting time of employment, and the Pro-Watch database is partitioned to run each department separately—allowing officials to view only the information pertinent to their own employees, increasing privacy and decreasing the time it takes to filter through large piles of information.

“The capabilities are unlimited,” said Chief of Police Nino Amirfar of the City of Turlock Police Department. “The personnel files associated with my officers are locked, so their confidentiality is protected, but I can still easily share information when it’s absolutely needed.”

The robust reporting of Pro-Watch makes it easy to comply with regulations and produce reports sorted by employee badge, door, building, timestamp, etc.

“In a 55,000 square foot building, organization and reporting capabilities are crucial,” Amirfar said.

“I think what made this project unique was that we upgraded the head-end first. Now, when other buildings are added, everything is organized and ready to go,” said Chritton.

“There are lots of pieces to this puzzle but the Honeywell system makes it easy to manage. As we add pieces in the future we know they’ll all work together. The system doesn’t become obsolete—and as the city grows, it will be easy to incorporate new facilities and give the right access to the right people.”

As the upgrade project continues, the integrated surveillance and access control system ultimately ties the individual public buildings together to give officials a more accurate picture of the entire city.
The Products:
- Pro-Watch® Corporate Edition
- VISTA intrusion alarm
- MAXPRO® VMS
- UltraKey joystick controller
- MAXPRO® NVR
- ACUIX™ PTZ cameras
- HD4D3S fixed dome cameras

For more information:
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