

City of Seal Beach Police Department

Law
Enforcement
Solution



“It’s like giving our officers remote, real-time x-ray vision. Instead of waiting until after the crime takes place and after there are victims, we can see video of the crime actually taking place, allowing us to make better, safer decisions.”

Michael Sellers
—Chief of Police,
Seal Beach Police
Department

An Innovative Wireless IP Video Surveillance solution is enabling police officers to view live video from a crime scene, improving response time and enhancing public safety.

Police officers responding to a bank robbery often have no way of knowing what’s actually transpiring at the crime scene, putting them at a major disadvantage. Now, thanks to powerful wireless IP Video Surveillance solution developed by Cisco and Loronix, officers of the Seal Beach Police Department will be able to use laptops and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to access real-time video of a crime in progress as soon as an alarm is triggered. The solution promises to revolutionize law enforcement response to crimes and other emergencies.

The Challenge—Combining Streaming Video with Broadband Wireless over a Robust, Secure Network Infrastructure

Sergeant Dean Zanone, in charge of support services for the City of Seal Beach Police Department, was looking for a way to combine streaming video with broadband wireless as a dynamic response aid for officers responding to “hot” calls. “I knew you could do this on a local area network, but for it to really sing, you need the Internet,” says Zanone. “It seemed to me all the technologies were in place, but I couldn’t believe no one was doing it.”

At this point, Cisco and Loronix Information Systems, Inc., a Converse Technology company that designs, manufactures and distributes networked digital video management systems, got involved and offered to help turn the idea into reality. “They basically came out and offered to help us develop the network,” says Zanone. “Within moments, they realized the potential for the marriage of the application with networking and realized how it could save lives. Cisco also gave us a secure infrastructure, which is very, very important. Remember, this is law enforcement.”

The Solution—the World’s first Wireless IP Video Surveillance System

Cisco, working in concert with Loronix, turned Sergeant Zanone’s idea into reality by building a wireless IP Video Surveillance solution with Aironet350 wireless access points and Aironet LAN to LAN bridges. Initially, bank branches in the Seal Beach area are being connected, with Washington Mutual Bank serving as the pilot. Eventually, the solution will be rolled out to retail establishments, hospitals and schools.

Sergeant Zanone stresses that the solution is not intrusive nor is it an invasion of privacy. “It’s not like big brother. We can’t see the video feed unless the business sends us the information by triggering an alarm,” he says. “So, it’s really a video call for help.”

With the Cisco wireless IP Video solution, Seal Beach police officers can begin viewing real-time video of the crime scene in their patrol cars on touch-screen laptops as soon as an alarm is triggered, responding according to what they see occurring. Eventually, the video feeds will also be accessible on specially equipped PDAs, providing even greater functionality. "By using the PDA system, officers will be able to take a position of concealment away from our vehicles and still allow us to see what is happening in the bank," says Zanone. "Plain clothes detectives could also maintain their concealment and perhaps get even closer. It will also make building searches, which are very tricky, much easier."

Faster, more Intelligent Response Saves Lives and Resources

Michael Sellers, Chief of Police for the City of Seal Beach, sees enormous benefits from the solution. "It's like giving our officers remote, real-time x-ray vision. Instead of waiting until after the crime takes place and after there are victims, we can see video of the crime actually taking place, allowing us to make better, safer decisions."

With the Cisco wireless IP Video Surveillance solution, officers can better "scale" their response to emergency situations, an important benefit for police departments like Seal Beach's, which employs about 100 officers. "Before, when we got an alarm call from a bank, we would respond with all the officers we could possibly deploy," says Sergeant Zanone. "We didn't know whether it was a false alarm or multiple, heavily armed suspects inside who had taken the entire bank over." Law enforcement personnel will also be able to begin identifying suspects while officers are in the process of responding, reducing the need for eyewitnesses and increasing the likelihood of apprehending criminals.

Sergeant Zanone also sees many other applications for the Cisco wireless IP Video Surveillance solution, including emergencies and schools. "Realize that fire, police, emergency medical services all respond to 911 calls," says Zanone. "Fire personnel could assess a scene before they're there to make sure they get the appropriate number of resources rolling. I think it's absolutely essential to be implemented in schools," he adds. "School violent situations are very similar to workplace violent situations. There are multiple suspects, multiple victims. That you'd be able to have an idea of who your suspect is and what weapons he might have is going to give you a huge tactical advantage."

The Cisco Advantage

Because it operates over local area networks (LANs) instead of an expensive wide area network (WAN) and can be easily integrated with existing video cameras, the Cisco wireless IP Video Surveillance solution is remarkably simple and cost-effective to implement. Sergeant Zanone is also very enthusiastic about the support he's received. "Cisco brought more than just hardware and expertise. They brought enthusiasm. And, they quickly recognized how what we wanted to do could save lives," he says. "They even did drive-alongs to understand how our line officers would use the technology. They've done an absolutely fabulous job in bringing all the pieces together. We're talking middle of the night, first thing in the morning, 7/24, they're out here whenever we need them. I present problems to



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