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*Aaron Wilson
Multnomah County Electronic Services*

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Type:

Access control upgrade

Location:

Multnomah County, Oregon, USA

Guaranteed Savings:

\$285,305 annually

Number of buildings:

10

Applications:

Access Control

TAC I/NET™ Equipment Installed:

Portland Police Bureau

13 I/Site™ LAN controllers

8 NetPlus™ Routers

73+ door processing units

1 workstation with color graphics

2,700+ I/Disk™ users

500-1,000 transactions each day

Multnomah County Sheriff's Dept.

7 I/Site LAN controllers

3 NetPlus Routers

62 door processing units

3 workstation with color graphics

2,350 I/Disk users

200-500 transactions each day

Multnomah County Justice Center

Two law enforcement agencies sharing a single building access system found a way to leverage existing investments, upgrade system capabilities, and achieve separate control over their individual areas.

THE CHALLENGE

The 16-story Justice Center in downtown Portland houses the Multnomah County Detention Center and the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct and administrative offices. Until 2005, both law enforcement agencies shared a single TAC I/NET™ system for building access control.

Each agency used its own host computer, which was part of a LAN that communicated with 27 separate door processing units (DPU) handling access control at the Justice Center. (Each DPU is capable of controlling two separate entry points.)

There was only one tenant in the access control database, but each agency was assigned 10-20 access control groups. In addition, both agencies had the ability to modify their own access control, as well as those of the other entity.

The Police Bureau's seven outlying precincts used modems to communicate with an older TAC I/NET host computer located beside the Justice Center's TAC I/NET computer. Although this configuration provided access control for the 50 DPUs out in the precincts, personnel had to use two administrative terminals to enter the information into separate databases.

The Sheriff's Department oversaw access control for the Justice Center and a total of 50 DPUs at two other locations – the Wapato Corrections Facility and the Inverness Jail. The Wapato Corrections Facility relied on an early version of the TAC I/NET access control system, while the Inverness Jail operated a more recent version.

Although the Sheriff's Department and Police Bureau enjoyed a long-standing, cooperative relationship, the time had come for each agency to have its own access

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Centralized and remote system access
- User-friendly GUI and reporting
- Interoperability, expandability and reliability
- Ease of use and self-maintenance



control system. So, the county hired Engineered Control Systems (ECS), a TAC® partner, to reconfigure the existing systems and to upgrade the software and hardware to address the specific needs of each agency. In addition, the Police Bureau asked ECS to upgrade the TAC I/NET system, install TAC's NetPlus™ routers in each precinct, and merge the databases from the Justice Center and precincts.

ECS faced a variety of challenges during installation and reconfiguration of the Justice Center's access control capabilities. For instance, escorts and background checks were required for anyone entering the area that housed the detention center. And downtime was not an option in areas with 24x7 operations or those involving prisoner transport or movement.

THE SOLUTION

Portland Police Bureau

The Police Bureau wanted to merge the databases from its seven precincts and the Justice Center and to administer everything from a single terminal. Merging the databases involved combining more than 28 separate groups and more than 2,700 different individual records. This part of the project took place over a four-day period and incurred less than eight hours of downtime.

Today, the Police Bureau uses a single computer located in the Justice Center to issue access cards for that facility and the outlying precincts.

Multnomah County Sheriff's Department

The Sheriff's Department asked ECS to merge its detention center database with those for the Wapato Corrections Facility and Inverness Jail. Although merging the databases involved more than 25 separate groups and 2,350 different individual records, ECS accomplished the task with minimal downtime. ECS also upgraded all the department's facilities to TAC I/NET with NetPlus routers.

Today, the Sheriff's Department issues I/Disks to correctional employees for all three facilities from a centralized location in the Justice Center. Although the Wapato Corrections Facility and Inverness Jail each retained a host computer, ECS used file equalization to allow both sites to view transactions and generate reports about their own facility.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Multnomah County no longer worries about system downtime or lost information. And with separate databases, both law enforcement agencies find the new arrangement less cumbersome to manage.

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GOVERNMENT PROFILE

For government facilities, a building solution that delivers energy efficiency, comfort and security is critical and necessary. TAC's proven solutions and reliable service provide government officials with a controlled, dependable indoor environment backed by savings that help protect the investment of taxpayers.

TAC has proven experience in working with government agencies to take advantage of building management solutions that maximize energy efficiency and performance. This is all part of Building IT solutions for government facilities – designed for economy, operational efficiency and the flexibility to address future needs.

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