How Fast Can You Lockdown?

Occasionally schools have to go on lockdown. What that term means in individual colleges and schools varies as much as the size of the campus or school district. Some define a lockdown as securing all exterior doors, according to Trice Kastein at Detex Corporation.

Others add all classroom doors to the exterior and could throw in the cafeteria, library, and gymnasium. Whatever the term means, one key question remains foremost in the minds of administrators, facility and security directors. What is the safest, fastest, easiest and most cost effective means of locking down the campus?

However, one way that has been overlooked by many security door consultants is the use of panic exit devices with electrified dogging., a low-cost alternative to electric latch retraction. When installed throughout a facility, the use of electrified dogging accomplishes several things. It allows all of the devices to be "energized" by one control switch that can be located in a centralized area of the building or campus.

Four Realities of K-12 Video

Ask most K-12 organizations to define security and they will describe security video. It continues to be the most-used security technology in schools.

Here are four tips from Mike Capulli of SAMSUNG | GVI Security.

One – K-12 environs, with rare exceptions, demand IP/digital video. The network infrastructure is typically already in place and K-12 has less restrictions on bandwidth use than corporate operations. With IP/digital video, administrators find it much easier to zoom in on images, track particular scenes and enhance features. Plus, they can easily cover an entire campus from one or more locations.

Two – When considering cameras, the most important point is vandal resistance. Cameras at K-12 schools have to take a beating, yet keep working. They should also feature IP66 housing, able to take on all types of weather challenges.

Three – Since most schools have no guard or security operator working on a 24/7 basis, many districts want to use megapixal cameras instead of analog PTZ cameras. If there is an incident, the operator can later easily search and zoom in and out for the recorded incident.

Four – The system must be implemented by an installer with considerable experience, using good design practices.

Networking Video at the University of Richmond

The University of Richmond employs video cameras on its 350-acre campus in the dining hall, a dormitory, the bursars' office, in university-owned convenience stores and at other locations. Images go through the university's Ethernet to the data center, where a NetDVMS software system from On-Net Surveillance Systems, Inc. (OnSSI) manages the video and makes it accessible on the network using NetGuard-EVS video client monitoring and investigation interface.

The University of Richmond uses a software system from On-Net Surveillance Systems that manages the video.

In choosing a video management system, the university conducted a review on campus involving OnSSI and several other video suppliers, said Chip Greene, senior network specialist. "We chose OnSSI because of its ease of interoperability and ease of configuration," said Greene.

NetDVMS is a multi-site, multi-server network video recorder and camera management software suite. It offers recording, archiving, event management and intelligent motion detection with on-event Push Live Video. "The ability to browse and search the video is important to our campus police department," said Greene, which uses IP cameras from Axis Communications that incorporate Power-over-Ethernet to simplify installation. The university also uses Axis megapixel cameras in its recreation center – one to watch the swimming pool and another one to watch three basketball courts.

The video system is configured as part of the university's data network and is set up as a virtual local area network inside a firewall where only video data is allowed. The system includes a RAID controller that

provides 12 terabytes of storage to enable the campus police to archive between 30 and 90 days of video.

Emphasis on User Friendly Access Control

Security Magazine asked RS2 Technologies' Gary Staley about primary requirements for an access control system. While there are no "cookie cutter" answers, Staley says that RS2 usu-

RS2 Technologies has placed access control systems in universities and other educational institutions across the U.S.

ally finds that campus security directors and police chiefs list the following:

- The system must be extremely user-friendly, as operators frequently include campus police rather than IT professionals.
- It must be capable of being integrated with other campus security systems.
- It must be completely scalable, with capability for frequent expansion, as many campuses are undergoing construction booms.

A College Boasts IP-managed Access Control

Eastern Nazarene College (ENC), of Quincy, Mass., has installed Brivo ACS WebService in nine of its campus buildings. The Web-enabled solution provides enhanced security for students, staff, and faculty while offering ease of management from any computer on or off the university network.

ENC has about 1,200 students in its traditional residential undergraduate program, adult studies, and graduate program. "Our old access control system had reached a state where it was unreliable and even failed completely during the last week of the semester," commented Charlie Burt, ENC director of information technology. "We did an RFP seeking a system that would serve our needs well into the future. We wanted a solution that would be easy to get up and running; I wanted the maintenance off our hands; and