APPLICATION CASE HISTORY

ACCESS MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS

Water One

Officially, it's Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, Kansas, but almost everybody just calls it "WaterOne." Established in 1957, WaterOne serves more than 400,000 people in a 272 square mile service area located in the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, on the Kansas side of the KS-MO state line. It manages 33 facility locations, conducts tens of thousands of water quality tests per year, and provides the "Best Tasting Water in Kansas" (winner of that award in 2014, as certified by the Kansas Section of the American Water Works Association). The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies recognizes WaterOne as a top tier utility, having awarded it their Platinum Award for Utility Excellence in 2014.

When it started in 1957, WaterOne was supplying 5 MGD (that's 5 million gallons per day). Today, this non-profit, quasi-municipal utility has the capacity to supply 200 MGD – a forty-fold increase in capacity. This dramatic expansion, accomplished while consistently winning awards for utility excellence, sustainability, and for having the "best-tasting water in Kansas," was achieved by following a carefully crafted and executed Master Plan. A hallmark of the plan is that it calls for "continual investments in infrastructure at the right time so that a plentiful supply of delicious water" is available to its customers. That investment includes 2,600 miles of infrastructure (roughly the distance from New York to Los Angeles).

WaterOne has invested in 2,600 miles of infrastructure.

WaterOne has the capacity to pump 200 million gallons per day.

Legacy System Problems

Recently, part of that investment in infrastructure has been in WaterOne's physical security system, and that's where RS2 Technologies and its integration partner DH Pace Systems Integration Group come in. As explained by Safety & Security Manager Sean McGraw, WaterOne was using an older "legacy" system that was no longer supported by the manufacturer. Moreover, the manufacturer of the legacy system had been acquired by an access control manufacturer who wanted to charge WaterOne significant yearly fees to maintain the system. McGraw assembled a team to evaluate various integrators' proposals, which were then presented to WaterOne's governing board. One of the key evaluation criteria was the ability to utilize the existing legacy hardware. Integrator DH Pace proposed the use of RS2 Technologies' Step Up℠ System, an easy-to-install hardware retrofit offering a simple swap of boards currently installed in legacy systems. The Step Up℠ System is based on Mercury Security's highly-reliable M5 Bridge, which allows users to perform a simple board swap of every board currently installed in legacy enclosures with a comparable replacement.

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"RS2's open architecture system allowed us to seamlessly integrate our existing card readers with their software," said McGraw. "In some cases, we have old and new card readers side-by-side. Eventually, we'll migrate to all new card readers, but it will be transparent to the end user." The ability to save the vast majority of their investment (in peripheral wiring, reader technology, network wiring, enclosures, and power deployment) was important to WaterOne, which prides itself on delivering water to customers at a very cost-effective price. (For example, a penny will buy two gallons of water from the utility.)

Other factors influencing the decision were the new system's ease of use (for things like creating access levels), the ease of training WaterOne personnel in the use of the system, and, perhaps most importantly, the RS2 system's scalability, a key factor for a utility that is experiencing rapid –and continued– growth. "Our master plan calls for us to continue to grow," said McGraw, "so we need a system that will grow with us. Our next step in the physical security area will be the application of more video integration, which is easily achievable with the RS2 system."

Relationships are Key

McGraw also cited the key role that the relationship between WaterOne, DH Pace, and RS2 played in the successful installation of the system. "Throughout the installation process, we had a great working relationship with our integrator, DH Pace, and with the RS2 guys. The integrator personnel were very accessible and they gave us a lot of personal attention. Any problems we had, which were minimal, were handled quickly and professionally. My advice to security directors at other utilities would include looking for an integrator that is in close local proximity." McGraw rates the entire experience as a positive one and says that everyone at WaterOne is very satisfied with the access control solution provided by DH Pace and RS2.

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About DH Pace Systems Integration

DH Pace Systems Integration, a division of DH Pace Company, based in Olathe, Kansas, provides sales, installation, service, and monitoring for all types of commercial security systems and products in the new construction and existing facility marketplace through its network of 27 company-owned locations. They help facilities choose the right combination of access control, surveillance, and intrusion alarm system products and services.

About RS2 Technologies, LLC

RS2 Technologies, headquartered in Munster, Indiana, is a technology-driven developer of cutting edge access management hardware and software. The company's hardware line includes a wide range of system control processors, input/output modules, multiplexers, card readers and proximity and smart cards. RS2 offers the industry's most advanced, easy-to-use software with its Access It!® line of access control software. RS2 is a Microsoft Certified Partner with ISV (Independent Software Vendor) software solutions competency status.

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