



OpenEye helps Kentucky public schools upgrade cameras across the district

Kentucky's Corbin Independent Schools is located about 90 minutes south of Lexington and draws its 3,000 students from three counties. The district manages 15 facilities, from schools to its administration building to athletic fields.

Overview

In 1998, the state of Kentucky established the Center for School Safety, whose mission is to serve as a central point for data analysis, research, information and more relating to school safety. It collaborates with other state agencies. Over the past 20 years, the state assembly has appropriated more than \$200 million for school safety. Those funds go toward school resource officers, equipment, intervention and more. Over the past several years, the Corbin Independent School District has upgraded its security system to include OpenEye hardware and OpenEye Web Services (OWS) to manage the system across its buildings.

"In each of our buildings, we have security officers, recorders and cameras," says Kasey Trosper, the district's Network Analyst and Technology Administrator. "We have single points of entry in each building with some type

of audio/visual [surveillance], and we have access control on all exterior doors."

The challenge

"We had an older system before we migrated," Trosper says. "Part of our security plan and technology plan was to upgrade our schools on a schedule. We are upgrading all of our schools, getting away from analog cameras."

When the district decided to upgrade, it wanted to be able to access the system via the cloud and mobile devices. The existing system required users to be in their office and use proprietary software to look at the cameras.

"We were kind of being held hostage by our existing system. We were grandfathered into older licensing and our provider wanted to charge exorbitant [prices] to expand our servers," Trosper says. "One of the big things we wanted was to be able to access the system from the web and have an app for security personnel. They

"One of the big things we wanted was to be able to access the system from the web & have an app for security personnel."

Kasey Trosper,
*Network Analyst and Technology Administrator
Corbin Independent Schools*

didn't want to have to go to their office every time they needed to look at the camera."

Having local support also was a desire. The existing provider didn't have any local representatives, so any maintenance or repairs took time.

The solution

Corbin chose to work with local surveillance system provider, Southeast Banking Systems (SBS), who introduced the district to OpenEye hardware and the OpenEye Web Services (OWS) cloud-managed platform.

"It has worked well for both of us that we can provide a system that is intuitive and, from an ease-of-use standpoint, where they can have multiple people use OpenEye across the variety of locations," says Nick Ellington, Director of Finance for SBS.

SBS, an OpenEye channel partner, was established in 1983 and installs and provides maintenance on alarm and access control systems, as well as CCTV, for businesses throughout Kentucky and the border regions of surrounding states.

The installer offered to provide the district with an OpenEye demo system, through which they were able to show the benefits of the cloud-managed platform. After a successful pilot installation, SBS started installing the district's surveillance system upgrades across the district.

Corbin Independent Schools has about 450 cameras placed throughout its facilities. Over the past several years, the district started upgrading its video surveillance cameras to upgrade existing analog cameras with IP cameras, upgrading each school on a schedule. The new OpenEye system allows them to connect the existing cameras and new upgraded cameras to OpenEye Web Services and manage video surveillance across all district-owned buildings.

"They're managing the security needs for very different types of facilities, from an admin building to an open-air football stadium," Ellington says. "We're happy to provide a system that has the flexibility and the diversity of settings that those different places require."

Since SBS is based nearby, it can provide fast local service, compared to the district's previous vendor who is located out of state.

Says Trosper, "We really like being able to call them as they are just 10 minutes up the road."

Benefits

Tom Greer, Corbin Independent Schools Director of Safety, cites OWS's ease and speed when finding a video event as an advantage over their previous system. "It's easier to find video when you have an issue. With the old system, you may sit and watch it for three hours to find something."

Additional features the district finds useful include being able to view cameras from multiple sites in a single screen, quickly follow an incident from one camera to another using linked cameras, easily save video clips to the cloud and share links, and being able to access the cameras via a web browser and mobile app. About 90% of the district's staff use OWS through the web client.

Another benefit of the OpenEye system is that it allows the district to use its own networks. "To keep [our video] on a secure LAN was important to me, making sure we had control over things," Trosper says.

The district uses OWS to look for incidents ranging from backpack thefts to fender benders in the high school parking lot to loitering.

"If a principal calls and says, 'We had a fight in the gym,' I can find the clip and share it really quickly," Trosper says.

In one recent incident, public transportation provider Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated Inc. (RTEC) parked a vehicle at Corbin's football stadium. At around 3 a.m., someone stole the vehicle's catalytic converter. Greer and Trosper reviewed the video, found images of the thief and shared access to the video on the secure OWS cloud portal with law enforcement. The timeline bar at the bottom of the search screen highlights motion on the camera allowing them to quickly isolate the relevant video.

"Kasey and Tom are like CSI," quips Jason Cogur, Corbin's Chief Information Officer.

The school district provides Corbin Police Department access to the district's cameras so they can immediately access live camera video if an event occurs at a school facility.

Says Trosper, "The administration and board have been awesome about making sure we have everything we need, making sure our coverage is good. There's hardly been a time when we spared an expense for school safety."



FOR MORE INFORMATION
sales@openeye.net
(509) 232-5261

About OpenEye

OpenEye, the cloud video platform company, provides solutions for video security, business intelligence and loss prevention. For over 20 years, it has been committed to developing an easy-to-use, comprehensive video management system backed by Heroic Customer Service® and support. OpenEye's solutions are available globally through a trusted network of certified service providers. Visit openeye.net.

An  ALARM.COM® company