

Case Study: Fresno Yosemite International Airport leads the way in adoption of advanced VideoXpert Platform



The Customer

Located in the Central San Joaquin Valley, Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT) is a regional aviation hub in the heart of California that serves more than 1.2-million passengers annually. The airport is home to eight different airlines that provide non-stop service from FAT to 10 different domestic and international locations. The airport encompasses more than 2,000 acres, and features two runways and associated taxiways that are capable of accommodating most airline fleets. As with any airport, the use of video surveillance is absolutely critical to ensuring the safety and security of both passengers and staff at FAT.

The Challenge

One year ago, as part of what was essentially a never-ending process of evaluating and upgrading surveillance technology where it was needed, the airport's security team, which was led by City of Fresno Airports Chief of Public Safety, Joe Maskovich, reached out to its longtime systems integrator, Angstrom Technology Group, to look at incorporating next-generation surveillance hardware and software into its current infrastructure. Since Angstrom became the airport's integrator of choice nearly 11 years ago, David Lascano, the firm's owner, said the company has made a concerted effort to install surveillance technology only from Pelco by Schneider Electric because of the company's track record of providing reliable, high-quality products. FAT initially began with approximately 50 analog cameras in the early to mid-2000s, but the system has now grown to more than 200 cameras, the majority of which are IP.

Among some of the other surveillance hardware recently installed in FAT include 11 high-definition decoders, one gateway server, one core server, two 48-terabyte and three 36-terabyte video storage servers and one workstation within the airport's communications center. However, in addition to these significant hardware upgrades, the airport's security operators also needed a video management system (VMS) that could simplify some of the most complex day-to-day challenges that the airport faced and provide exceptional situational awareness to help identify and mitigate threats as they are identified.

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The Solution

While the security team at FAT had successfully used the Endura and Digital Sentry video management systems for years, stakeholders wanted to further enhance functionality of the VMS used to provide security professionals with the ability to make fast, effective decisions in the event of a threat. For example, if an incident involving a traveler occurs in the airport, surveillance system managers must piece together clips from individual cameras to be able to retrace that individual's steps through the terminal. However, with VideoXpert, that process has become effortless, allowing operators to export the entire investigation as a single file and share with the proper authorities. "With VideoXpert, you can tailor the investigation and bring all of the cameras into the timeline simultaneously," explained Lascano. For example, if a passenger walks into the terminal at 9 am, and a security event occurs involving that particular passenger, operators can trim footage to include a specific incident at a specific time as that passenger walks through the terminal.



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Joe Maskovich,
Chief of Public Safety, Fresno Airports

Having over 200 cameras – many of which are of the fixed variety – Maskovich added that this capability within VideoXpert also simplifies the entire process for investigators charged with reviewing incidents. "With this operating system, video clips are correlated and it makes it very easy for anyone to see the whole incident even though it involves separate recorded video from different cameras," said Maskovich. At its core, VideoXpert maintains a database of cameras and recording devices that can be managed through a convenient web-based interface where operators can configure and manage the system functionality. VideoXpert's Ops Center supports up to six uniquely configurable monitors, each capable of displaying up to 16 video streams simultaneously. "Having that existing infrastructure in place helped tremendously," said Lascano. "It was very simple. The migration tool worked perfectly and setup was minimal." While the security staff was a bit apprehensive about having to learn a new VMS, having Endura still running in the background provided them with the ability to become more familiar with VideoXpert. "One of the things that simplified the transition for us is that we had both systems running in parallel. They could use either system and we made both workstations available so they could be logged into both systems simultaneously," he said. "We're deploying cameras all the time and expanding surveillance beyond the terminal to cover our entire perimeter," concluded Maskovich. "We're also adding thermal imaging cameras that will help us with intrusion detection. We are constantly examining the solutions we have in place and looking at ways to improve how we conduct investigations, provide operators with a greater amount of situational awareness and streamlining business operations. Our systems are a work in progress, and we're glad to have a partner in Pelco that will help us be successful."

