



Safe Away from Home: Turnkey Security Solution Helps UCLA in Time for Move-in Day

Move-in day is a hectic time on any college campus. Thousands of new and returning students bring carloads of personal belongings to settle into their living spaces. There are parents, relatives and extra personnel, all on hand for undoubtedly the biggest day for campus housing departments.

The role of UCLA's Housing & Hospitality Services is to manage all non-scholastic aspects of its students' lives. From the chaos of welcome weeks (including concerts and community events) to the humdrum of dining halls and dorm life, it is no small feat. Parents entrust UCLA Housing & Hospitality with the emotional and physical well-being of their children, and with a limited staff, this is a daunting task.

Aside from check-ins and room assignments, security plays an important role as well. Not only do colleges want new students and their families to feel safe, but they also want to keep an eye

Industry:
Education

Location:
UCLA

Application:
Rapid and Portable
Video Surveillance

Products:
V5 Camera Adaptive
Unit (V5 CAP)
Axis Communications
Camera

on all the activities and personal property sitting around to ensure there are no incidents.

At UCLA, that's a big task. The university has 33,000 undergraduates, and approximately 14,000 live on campus. A major part of the Housing Department's responsibility is providing monitoring via security cameras for the housing facilities, which account for a quarter of the 419-acre campus.

The university recently added 1,500 new living spaces to student housing. All the construction meant that there were new buildings that needed cameras and new pathways that needed to be monitored to ensure safety and maintain the student's quality of life—and the clock was ticking before move-in day.

Lack of Power Source Leaves Department Looking for New Technology Options

The Housing Department had approximately 800 cameras installed, but it needed to add more before the new quarter for the new buildings and influx of visitors for move-in day.

The department had cameras on top of buildings using a tripod or roof mount; however, they weren't able to monitor roadways and walkways because of poor sightlines, distance and obstructions, such as trees.

The department initially installed cameras on light poles that worked off the light pole's power, but that caused issues as well.

"In the areas we wanted to monitor (with light pole power), they only have power during daytime when the lights weren't on," said Jon Tran, Systems Manager of the UCLA Housing Department. "So I knew if they can't give us power easily, we had to use solar."

The solar options they explored weren't ideal because they were too large, not easily mobile, and tough to integrate into their video management system. The department standardized on Axis Communications cameras for campus security and wanted to continue using these cameras as they expanded video surveillance. That's when they turned to V5 Systems.

Self-Powered Security Units Help Housing Expand Surveillance

The Housing Department chose V5 Portable Power Units (V5 PPU) with Axis Communications cameras to monitor their campus through their existing video management system, finding a



V5 CAP with Axis Camera Deployed at UCLA

turnkey solution to easily expand surveillance. The units are wireless and solar-powered, so they don't need to be connected to a power source, which was exactly what they were looking for.

The units were easy to install, which meant there was no problem having them ready in time for move-in day.

"We wanted them up for move-in day, and we hit our goal," Tran said. "People in the Housing Department were impressed. Cameras are always a big thing for move-in weekend. There's so many people, we need to make sure everything runs smoothly."

Added Surveillance Catches Crimes, Improves Campus Life for Students

UCLA has found V5 Systems security solutions indispensable beyond move-in weekend. Some of the typical issues they face are stolen bikes and backpacks in the dining area. Students aren't allowed to bring their backpacks into the dining hall, and there aren't enough lockers for all the students to secure their backpacks, so they just leave them outside, and some get stolen. "These things affect the quality of life for students," Tran said.

The V5 Systems video surveillance has paid off quickly in that area as well. In a month, they already caught about 15 incidents on video, including recording the face of a backpack thief. They also were able to capture video of a car hitting a bike and other vehicle accidents.

The units, weighing less than 25 pounds are also portable, so the department decided to use some of them for temporary security needs that can move around to different areas for special events or in new construction areas.

Thanks to the hard work of the housing department and V5 Systems, UCLA students have a better campus life knowing there are extra security measures in place to keep them safe.

Summary

Organization

As one of the largest universities in California, UCLA's Housing & Hospitality Services supports the school's academic mission by providing a variety of accommodations designed to enrich students' overall college experience. With a growing student body, the university is in the process of adding 1,500 bed spaces and renovating existing residence halls. With more students being housed, the more security is needed. The department is responsible for security monitoring campus housing.

Challenge

The Housing Department was preparing for move-in weekend, the biggest weekend for the department. Thousands of students, parents and visitors are on campus are on hand as students settle into their living spaces. The department wanted to install new security cameras in time for move-in weekend, however, the places they needed the cameras didn't have an available power source and trenching wouldn't be cost-effective. They needed an easy to install, wireless solution that they could implement in time for students' arrival.

Solution

V5 Systems provided a portable solution with its V5 Portable Power Units (V5 PPU) that provide power for video surveillance in blind spots around campus housing. The units were installed with Axis Communications cameras in areas where the university normally was unable to monitor because of the lack of a power source. The company also provided units the university will use for temporary security needs during special events and in construction areas.

Results

With video surveillance in place, UCLA's Housing Department was able to quickly install security solutions in advance of the hectic move-in weekend. The surveillance has also enabled them to catch several incidents in a month, such as theft and vehicular accidents.

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