Keeping students safe on move-in day and beyond

UCLA Housing & Hospitality Services ensures strong on-campus security for thousands of students with self-powered V5 Systems video-surveillance solution.

Business needs
UCLA Housing & Hospitality Services needed to install new security cameras to monitor housing facilities in advance of move-in weekend.

Solutions at a glance
• V5 Portable Power Units

Business results
• Quickly installs video-surveillance solution in time for busy move-in weekend
• Provides surveillance for areas of campus previously not monitored
• Improves life on campus for thousands of students

Catches 15 incidences on video within first month of deployment

Improves life on campus for 1000s of students
The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) is one of the largest universities in California, with nearly 33,000 students. Every year, the university’s Housing & Hospitality Services department prepares for an influx of new and returning students during move-in weekend, the biggest weekend of the year for the department. During this busy weekend, thousands of students, along with parents and other visitors, descend on the campus as students settle into their living spaces.

Because Housing & Hospitality Services is responsible for ensuring security for all students and guests, it needed to install new security cameras to monitor housing facilities across the 419-acre campus in time for move-in weekend. Additionally, the university had recently added 1,500 new living spaces, all of which needed cameras to ensure security.

Although the department had cameras on top of buildings using a tripod or roof mount, those cameras were unable to monitor roadways and walkways because of poor sightlines, distance and obstructions. To solve its challenges, Housing & Hospitality Services sought a wireless camera solution that could be easily installed ahead of move-in weekend.

Implementing a portable, self-powered V5 Systems security solution

The department explored various solar-camera options, but those choices were too large, not easily mobile and difficult to integrate into the existing video-management system. Ultimately, the department addressed its security problem by deploying a portable power unit that transformed their existing cameras into self-powered devices from Dell EMC partner V5 Systems. The V5 Portable Power Units (V5 PPU) were implemented alongside the department’s existing Axis Communications cameras, in areas the university was typically unable to monitor due to lack of power. V5 Systems also gave the department units that can be used for temporary security needs during special events and in construction areas.

The V5 PPU units are wireless and solar-powered, eliminating the need to connect to a power source. Using the V5 PPU units, the Housing & Hospitality Services department has a solution that provides power for video surveillance in blind spots all around campus housing.

Expanding campus surveillance with an easy-to-install solution

The UCLA Housing & Hospitality Services team were able to quickly implement the V5 Systems solution ahead of the school’s busy move-in weekend, because the units were easy to install and the school had existing cameras in place. “We wanted them up for move-in day, and we hit our goal,” says Jon Tran, systems manager of the UCLA Housing Department. “People in the Housing Department were impressed. Cameras are always a big thing for move-in weekend. There are so many people, we need to make sure everything runs smoothly.”
Catching criminals and improving life on campus

UCLA Housing & Hospitality Services has found the benefit of the V5 Systems security solution extends beyond move-in weekend. For example, students sometimes have backpacks stolen in dining areas, because they’re not allowed to bring their backpacks into the dining hall, and there are not enough lockers to store every backpack. “These things affect the quality of life for students,” Tran states. However, within one month of deploying the V5 Systems video surveillance system, the department caught 15 incidences on video, including a backpack thief in action. The department also captured video of vehicle accidents, such as a car hitting a bike.

In addition, because the V5 PPU units are portable and weigh less than 25 pounds, the department decided to use some of the units for temporary security needs. For instance, department employees can easily move the units around to different areas of the campus for special events. Employees can also move the units to new construction areas as needed.

Ultimately, students at UCLA are seeing the biggest benefits of the V5 solution. Because of the enhanced security the department can provide, students have a better overall experience on campus – because they know there are effective, reliable security measures keeping them safe wherever they go.

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