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## Bentonville High School Graduates from Analog to Network Video



As a self-professed early adopter of new technologies, Bentonville High School (BHS) recognized the need to evolve its video security surveillance system from an analog solution to network IP technologies. By switching to network video, BHS experienced several key advantages and ultimately, the ability to respond quicker and more effectively to security threats on the campus.

### **Doing the Math on Network Video**

Bentonville High School is growing by leaps and bounds. As a result, they are continually adding facilities, resources, and technology. Keith Line, Network Administrator for the district at BHS, views the IT network as his lifeline and has worked hard to establish a robust, secure IT environment that gives administrators, teachers and students access to cutting edge technologies.

As an educational facility, BHS has challenges similar to other schools—limited resources coupled with growing needs. The high school alone has two campuses that are continuously expanding in size. Securing the dual BHS campuses is yet one more demand placed on the administration.

To accomplish the task previously, the school used analog cameras and DVRs, but this legacy surveillance system presented some challenges. First, the system had

to be physically accessed from one room with limited personnel having the required knowledge to use the system. Additionally, the system was not conducive to scaling as more cameras were added. A DVR can support a limited number of cameras, so each time the school exceeded the number of cameras a DVR could accommodate, they had to invest in another DVR and coaxial cable infrastructure. Finally, and most importantly for BHS, administering the system was a non-core competency of the BHS staff and required outside contractors to be engaged. When transitioning to the next phase of the school's security system, Line knew investing in IP video made sense.

### Grading the System

When Line decided to transition to network video, he tapped into Wren's expertise for advice on which products to put on the network. Line learned that the company offered a complete IP solution along with enterprise-grade Wren VMS Software that would enable the school to easily capture, review and manage video across multiple buildings or campuses.

Impressed with the usability of the software and Wren's range of IP camera solutions with integrated housings, the implementation team at BHS decided to go with Wren's Network Video Solutions in a newly constructed BHS building. They installed a total of 190 cameras throughout the building, covering key areas from entrances and exits, to hallways and gymnasiums. Additionally, Wren offered BHS an upgrade path to leverage their investment in the legacy analog cameras. Using Wren encoders, Wren allowed BHS to give their analog cameras digital functionality and put them up on the network, just like their new Wren IP cameras. This helped them maximize their investment in existing equipment and make it function seamlessly with new network video solutions and Wren VMS Software, without having to purchase all new equipment immediately. Wren VMS Software would manage all of the school's video and distribute the data to different categories of school and district users.



### Passing the Ultimate Test: Effectiveness

The ultimate test for Wren Video Solutions was how effectively it enhanced security.

BHS has seen a decrease in negligent student behavior since the network video system was installed. In addition, the BHS SRO has identified and responded to security incidences from smoking to gang activity. Network video has also allowed BHS to connect with the local police department in a way that could potentially save lives. BHS has given local law enforcement access to view video so that in case of an emergency, police officers and first responders can log on from the station to see live video. If an incident occurs, access to video enables police to prepare ahead of time and to share information with officers on site based on what is actively happening on campus. The police department is also positioned to more effectively deploy resources and more accurately respond to the incident.

Line, the security team, and administrators at BHS foresee many other areas where video will be of use. The initial implementation of network video has been so successful that they are trying to raise money to install network video in all 14 schools in the district. As Line says, "The bottom line is that in a school of 11,000 students, there is always something going on."

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