Say goodbye to unwanted guests Thanks to Tyco Integrated Fire & Security video surveillance, the Holiday Inn Berlin City-West hotel is even safer

Requirements

Unfortunately a four-star hotel like the Holiday Inn Berlin City-West (HIBCW), with 336 rooms distributed over four floors, can also attract unwanted guests. However, in this well-known hotel, such guests are no longer able to slip by unnoticed. Following the radical modernisation of the video surveillance system, all areas of the building are now organised so that it is possible to monitor and prevent any potential instances of theft or damage. Having successfully implemented a similar system at the Holiday Inn Berlin City-East, Tyco Integrated Fire & Security, security technology specialist, was called upon to introduce the system at the hotel.

Tyco IFS's ability to identify the specific requirements of each of its individual clients and to cater for them with tailor-made projects certainly influenced the hotel's choice of supplier. Holiday Inn hotels belong to InterContinental Hotels, one of the biggest and most important hotel groups in the world operating 4,600 hotels and 678,000 rooms in nearly 100 countries around the world. The group also comprises a number of other extremely well-known brands such as Crown Plaza and Indigo Hotels. At the present time there are 1,227 Holiday Inn branded hotels in in the world, with numerous others scheduled to open in the near future.

Theft and vandalism have become increasingly serious problems for hotels, particularly the larger ones, with the economic damage suffered often quite substantial. Televisions and towels are stolen, pictures and dressing-gowns go missing, and even furnishings from the rooms and bathrooms are taken: anything that isn’t nailed down or firmly fixed in place risks being stolen. Given that these thefts impact on the service provided to guests, as well as the finances of the hotel, it is no surprise that the entire industry is taking increasingly significant steps to combat theft and vandalism more effectively.

The solution

HIBCW also decided to take action. In collaboration with the hotel’s IT manager, the Tyco IFS specialists carried out an initial analysis of the existing security conditions before moving onto the optimisation project, focusing on the specific requirements of the client. At the same time it was decided that the system would be extended to include video surveillance in order to cover the few areas that remained unmonitored at the time.

Even though there were more economic solutions on the market, the management of the Holiday Inn Berlin City-West decided to implement the Tyco IFS Intellex integrated analogue and digital video management system equipped with American Dynamics video cameras. Some of the old video cameras already present in the hotel were integrated into the new system. HIBCW recognised the Tyco IFS system as the best solution to its specific needs.
This was also due to the direct management of the project by Tyco IFS and the positive experiences of working together that the two companies had enjoyed in the past. The initiative was an immediate and noticeable success: the cases of damage and theft that occurred after the new system was installed were resolved immediately and insurance costs came down sharply.

Intellex IP is Tyco IFS’s most recent video surveillance solution. Thanks to Intellex IP, clients can make use of Double-Frame functionality and a resolution that is two times sharper than that of previous systems. By using IP cameras, video servers and digital video cameras, video data is transmitted on an IP network rather than via the classic coaxial cable.

Any existing analogue video cameras can be integrated into the Intellex IP system without any trouble: a video encoder turns the analogue signal into a digital signal. And that’s not all. An Intellex IP system only occupies a quarter of the space in a rack compared to the previous system but is able to meet the most advanced conditions, such as the requirements of major hotels, casinos, clinics and hospitals, banks and local government offices. The system combines multiplexing, alarm and event recognition functionalities with video, audio and text format indications, with IP apparatus, on which images, audio and video files, both live and recorded, can be reproduced at the same time. There are also numerous remote functions, including archiving and research, and recordings can be made with multiple video cameras.

The advantages

The video surveillance market is moving towards IP solutions that offer better scalability, lower installation costs and a broader sphere of action that embraces other security technology solutions such as access control and anti-intrusion. In short, solutions such as Tyco IFS’s Intellex IP. Intellex IP can be easily integrated into network clients and in existing Intellex systems, and represents the perfect solution for clients that plan to combine a reliable video management system with the flexibility and improved performance that only an IP solution can guarantee.

"The ability to achieve remote redundancy of video data, true ‘plug and play’ installation, remote access to the video, and a lower cost video surveillance system are all factors that will encourage this market to grow”

Thomas Borsbach
General Manager of the Holiday Inn, Berlin City-West

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