

Public Venue

Commonwealth Games 2006

The first Commonwealth Games (then known as the British Empire Games) were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Ontario, with eleven nations and a total of 400 athletes participating. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 independent sovereign states comprising 1.7 billion people—almost one third of the world's population. The Games are staged every four years, and at the 18th Commonwealth Games, held in early 2006 in Melbourne, approximately 6000 athletes and team officials competed in 16 sports.

The Challenge

Networked surveillance systems can be as complex as they are effective, and the video surveillance system needed for the Commonwealth Games was highly ambitious. The system would link not only several remote sites in Melbourne, it also incorporated existing infrastructure and video surveillance solutions owned and managed by a number of different corporations and government departments. The final networked solution would comprise many hundreds of cameras at more than a dozen main sites to do the essential work of securing venues, athletes and visitors. It had to combine new CCTV installations with existing surveillance systems to give organizers and security personnel unprecedented views and control during 12 days of events. Not only were there technical and organizational challenges, this installation from inception to commissioning had to be completed in just three months.



The Solution

The centralized location of key venues and the many parallel cultural events turned the whole Melbourne Central Business District into a celebration – wonderful for those attending but the sheer size of the coverage area and the many venues made planning and executing an effective security system a major challenge. The eventual system combined a number of key remote elements controlled by a single user interface and a management solution running on multiple workstations in a central location.

The DVTel intelligent Security Operations Center (iSOC), with its network video management component, served as the command and control solution. The iSOC integrated camera surveillance of key sites including the 50-acre Athletes Village; the “Public Domain” area with the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MSG), which hosted the opening and closing ceremonies; and coverage for Vic Roads (the highway authority) and the Victoria Police Center. All video was fed into a central location called the Games Operations Center, where cameras were monitored and in some cases, recorded.

The heart of the DVTel offering is the Latitude Network Video Management System, an operating system that enabled users to view, capture, record, analyze and report video and audio. Central to the operation of the NVMS are the virtual matrix, distributed computing, recording, and failover and redundancy capabilities. The NVMS has a rules-based architecture that allows



The Highlights

Every company that submitted bids for the Games specified the DVTel iSOC as their management software.

Not only did the DVTel solution have to be installed quickly and effectively, but three separate design and integration companies would install and manage it, and at least four major entities with their own CCTV and management systems would be integrated into the overall system.

Ultimately, the DVTel system would access and manage video data from many hundreds of cameras covering the Melbourne Central Business District, the Melbourne Cricket Grounds, site of opening and closing ceremonies; the Public Domain made up of all other game venues, and the Athletes' Village.

Over 12 days of the Games, due to a highly robust network, excellent system design, and the superior DVTel management software, connectivity between sites and the Games Operations Center experienced not a minute of downtime.

At the Athlete's Village, the 6000 athletes and officials had to be protected by the highest possible security, including access control and a strong manpower presence of security officers and police. PTZ and fixed cameras and all related infrastructure were installed and also integrated with the perimeter intrusion detection system. Alarm triggers went into the iSOC where macro-programmed presets linked events to PTZ cameras, so when an alarm went off a camera would pop video to the screen and display the preset related to that alarm event.

At the Melbourne Cricket Ground, site of the opening and closing ceremonies, there were more than 70,000 people, along with thousands of performers, and around 600 security staff. The iSOC managed the 350-camera system for on-site monitoring and response and transmission back to the Games Operations Center for secondary monitoring and back-up.

The DVTel iSOC also enabled Games organizers to run a live offsite Disaster Recovery Center to provide complete failover in the event of an incident at the Village's control center. Along with the DVTel iSOC, the system used HP servers and Telstra's Cisco servers, and allowed everyone with authorization to "see" the system.

Another vital aspect of the system was the DVTel integration with iOmniscient video analysis software, which was used to monitor the Village's four access points for things like unattended baggage, loitering, and other activities. With redundancy of control, DVTel management and integration with the perimeter security systems, and video analysis, this was complete end-to-end solution capable of meeting any security challenge.

DVTel's integrator partners were impressed, "We don't think anyone else has done a system like this one," said Simon Langdon, of Landmark Security. "Our installation used all the capabilities of the DVTel system in terms of remote management, alarm interface, and presets.

Langdon also commented that one of the iSOC's obvious strengths is its ability to leverage both the existing IT infrastructure, which is the core of every modern business, and the legacy security equipment such as analog cameras and monitors. "The DVTel system gives great flexibility and allows users to be proactive, not reactive."



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