Pernambuco, Brazil

ISS

Securing an Urban Environment

12,000 cameras protecting an entire state in Brazil.

Key Features

12.000+ Cameras
SecurOS Enterprise
Video Analytics
License Plate Recognition
Distributed Architecture
Centralized Monitoring
Wireless Video Transmission
Central Command and Control

Secretaria Defensa de Seguridad (SDS) is the state run entity providing 24/7 monitoring. Pacto Pela Vida ("Pact for Life") is the Pernambuco state goverment program financing the project.

Background

The city of Recife is the fourth largest metropolitan area in Brazil and the capital of Pernambuco state, has over four million inhabitants. It is a thriving city, with continuous growth in a number of areas: tourism, information technology (with its famous Porto Digital, or Digital Port), education (home to the Federal University of Pernambuco, the largest in the region), medicine (with a wide array of important hospitals) and commerce.

Like many growing cities, Recife has found that as the city has grown, so have security concerns. Recife uses a complex mix of wireless and fiber optics security solutions. The city authorities realized they needed to update the system to include analytics, including Facial Recognition and License Plate Recognition (LPR) but took a cautious approach. They wanted to be able to contain costs, maximize the equipment they already had, while at the same time deploy a comprehensive, citywide system that could be easily accessible to relevant personnel throughout the city. They spoke to numerous vendors, and tested a few solutions but only Intelligent Security Systems (ISS) was able to successfully handle their complex array of wireless and fiber transmissions. The Safe Cites SecurOS solutions of ISS also offered an all-in-one approach and a centralized system suited to their needs.

The Solution

"Urban surveillance presents a security challenge in its very scope," said Captain David Gonzaga of the Pernambuco Government. "To guard Recife against multiple threats, take on policing and citizen assistance roles, and be significantly fail-safe required technology and system architecture that was proven in multiple locations worldwide. ISS urban surveillance incorporates a myriad of intelligent technologies that work independently and in conjunction to envelop Recife within a 'safety blanket'."

The project calls for a comprehensive security solution utilizing over 12000 Samsung Cameras transmitting video via fiber as well as real time wireless transmission. All of this is managed and integrated into an ISS SecurOS™ video server framework.

"Our security needs also included an open platform with built-in analytics. Besides being the only vendor that proved itself robust enough to handle all our needs, the convenience of built-in analytics from ISS cannot be overstated," said Colonel David. "We did not want to have to go through a separate vendor for that as the complexities of adding on such software after the fact can be complicated to the point of nightmarish. We've seen others who have made that mistake, and we wanted to avoid the potential downtime as well as the costs involved in going through another vendor."

*The **city is more secure** because our [ISS] central monitoring station can have a bird's eye view of the city.*

Colonel David Gonzaga

The Benefits

The SecurOS video framework of ISS has allowed the SDS to have centralized management of security operations. "Before ISS, our operations were more diffuse, and this was a definite disadvantage," said Colonel David Gonzaga. "We need to be able to see what's going on around the city at any given time on any given day, and the ISS platform gives us that framework. The city is more secure because our central monitoring station, along with relevant security staff around the city, can have a bird's eye view of the city at large, particularly known points of vulnerability."

He noted that they have been particularly pleased with the LPR feature, which offers distinct, highly intelligent advantages over competitors, like the ability to remember rules, so that, for instance, it can clearly distinguish a "B" from an "8" when it is a case of a license plate that begins with a letter, not a number. SecurOS LPR can also read vertically as well as horizontally and in the most challenging of environmental and lighting conditions. The city has also been very pleased with the Facial Recognition feature, which has proven to have a remarkable level of accuracy and is extremely responsive in sending out alerts.

The city is monitored 24 hours a day by the state entity, Secretaria Defensa de Seguridad (SDS). "Part of what makes ISS a cut above, in addition to their all-in-one approach, is their superior analytics". "The system allows for rapid event management, definition of scenarios, and easy add-on of new functionalities and threat management capabilities. This sort of decision and reaction support system uses and analyzes data from various processes, applications, sensors and imaging devices, and means our system is proactive, not merely an after the fact forensic tool."

Colonel Gonzaga has noted other advantages. "Because the ISS solution is so hands on and provides such an intelligent level of security, we have been able to significantly reduce crime citywide. This in turn is helpful in all areas, including the tourist trade, which can be adversely impacted by high crime rates." He also noted that their wireless IP camera infrastructure reduces capital costs, and that the ability of ISS to effectively handle this system has been of significaqnt value for the city.

The Road Ahead

The project began three years ago with 50 cameras, grew quickly to over 250 cameras, and just recently added another 800 cameras, with ISS involved at every step of the way. "ISS has been an indispensable part of improving our system," said Colonel Gonzaga. "We look forward to a continually expanding relationship with them."

ISS

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