How Cisco IT Controls Building Security over the Enterprise WAN

Centrally managed IP-based building security system saves costs and improves safety and responsiveness.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Highly-reliable security
- Database driven, up-to-the-minute personnel information
- Elimination of on-site security staff
- Significant cost savings from consolidation
- Reduction of false alarms

"We saved Cisco millions of dollars while providing very high quality security and safety services for Cisco."

– Bill Jacobs, Cisco Corporate Security Manager

At Cisco Systems, the corporate Security, Technology & Systems (STS) team manages physical security for more than 271 Cisco facilities in 50 countries worldwide. Their job is crucial -- to make sure that only people authorized to have access to these Cisco facilities gain entry, and to detect and respond to all unauthorized entries. Additional the STS team must do their job, like all other departments, cost-effectively, an increasingly difficult task considering the growing complexity of asset security.

Not surprisingly, keeping every door, cabinet, storage room, and elevator secure is a massive – and often problematic – undertaking. Several years ago, faced with security systems that were deployed with minimal or no managerial oversight, Cisco began searching for a way to address the need to centralize and improve physical security management. The solution had to address global integration and service and support issues for all these disparate system, as well provisions for universal building access cards unique to each user.

Cisco STS developed a centralized server architecture based on a single set of equipment standards, supported by regional security servers worldwide. Cisco also standardized the access-control and alarm systems at every site, and supports them with a single set of software tools. These standard systems are maintained by a global software and services vendor that provides technology compatible with the current security database system, and installs and supports the systems globally at a competitive price. Together, Cisco STS and the vendor developed the first true enterprise system solution.

This integrated solution allows the STS team to immediately add or remove people from its database, or update their permissions, and have that information spread to all its locations around the world in a matter of minutes. Employees are free to travel and work at any location without needing to get checked in at each site first. The system has saved Cisco millions of dollars annually by eliminating 300 security officers and replacing them with three people working from each region's centralized security center. The STS department is exploring the possibility of linking local police departments to its closed-circuit video systems to allow police to view each site before sending officers into an unknown situation.

Intrusion detection goes hi-tech with cost-effective, centralized security access control.

Case Study: http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ciscoitatwork/case_studies/security_dl5.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the entire case study or for additional Cisco IT case studies on a variety of business solutions, visit Cisco on Cisco: Inside Cisco IT www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit

NOTE

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