

International Port video Security relies on the Linux-based Wavestore System

The Royal Portbury and Avonmouth Docks occupy 2,500 acres just off the M5 and is home to the Bristol Port Company. Among the fixtures at the site are 100ft cranes and an 800-metre underground coal conveyor belt running under the river.

The Port management needed a reliable recording system that met several specific demands. The Linux operating system addressed the first problem of reliability. Linux is intrinsically safe from viral attack and does not need anti-virus and firewalls, as do most other recording systems.

It was important for monitoring by the port police that a joystick for PTZ could be used at any of the PC machines that were located on staff desks, and the WAVESTORE was the only equipment that was established to be capable of the task.

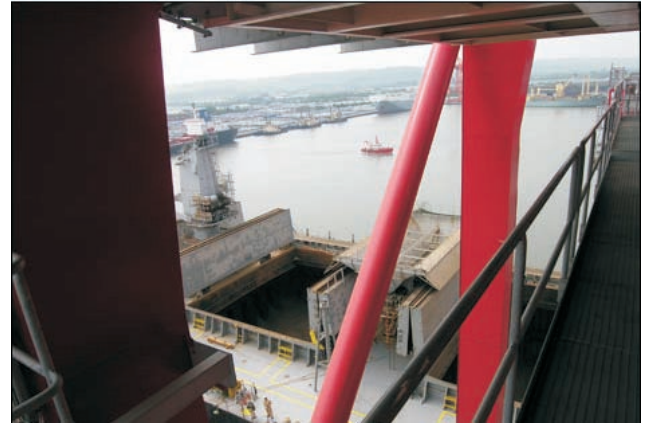
It was envisaged that management of the cameras would be done using a large pictorial layout of the port, with camera positions shown. A mouse click would bring a camera's image into view. Again, Wavestore presented the simplest most cost effective way of achieving this.

Many gates and doors need to be linked to the CCTV system, and the Extended Video Interface within the Wavestore software permits an easy connection for these alarms.

Four large servers are now installed, and monitors and controls a large number of cameras in and around the port. The system has been in operation for more than 3 years, and has demonstrated its power and reliability.

The port police are now considering the addition of megapixel cameras; which is an easy upgrade with the latest software version. Wavestore hardware and software is fully forward and backward compatible, so obsolescence is not a problem that concerns the port.

The Wavestore recorders at Bristol Port are set up as a server group, which enables the police and other authorised personnel to view any camera instantly, whether triggered by an alarm, motion detection or as part of the security monitoring regime.



Background

The huge car parks at Royal Portbury Dock on the western side of the Avon can accommodate thousands of vehicles that are imported and exported.

Opposite lies Avonmouth Dock - one of the UK's major ports for chilled foods, particularly fruit and vegetables.

Between them, they employ 5,000 workers and deal with 12 million tonnes of cargo a year.

Key Application Benefits of Wavestore

- The ability to network the recorders into a server group, providing access to view any camera instantly.
- The ability to upgrade the analogue system and add Megapixel cameras.
- High reliability Linux based system, combined with redundant hardware and RAID storage.
- The ability to copy video data to CD or DVD backup easily.

Footnote

The flexibility and performance of the Wavestore system has been very successful on this very large site, which although subject to various environmental challenges has to maintain a 24/7 security programme.