

Looking Back:

Our current closed circuit video security system was installed when the HS was first built and, on the K8 campus, during the remodel in that same era. These systems rely heavily on technologies that are changing extremely quickly and bring with them some great enhancements. Our current system has four controllers - each of which can host up to 16 analog cameras.

The peripheral equipment in this system (cameras, power supplies, cabling, mounting) are all showing signs of age. While this system still does capture useful information, the quality of that information and the ease with which it can be accessed often come up when accessing the system.

The system controllers (made by Bosch) are “stand alone” and require a proprietary app to be installed on any system wishing to access the recordings. That software (called “Bosch Divar Control Center”) was written in 2004 and is supported only on Windows XP. We are able to work with this system but its age has made upgrades to that system untenable.

What’s Current

Our recent cabling upgrades have been installed with an eye toward supporting a variety of technologies such as wireless and security systems. Our eRate monies can only be spent on a specifically identified and limited number of communication systems - and security is not one of them. The current task at hand is to build the specifications for a new security system that is flexible, built for upgradability, and is able to take advantage of newer, better, faster, and shinier equipment.

This security project will be able to leverage some grant support to help take the edge off the cost but I will be, as I’m sure the board is as well, extremely anxious to see how much such a system would set us back financially. I know that Mark has been very supportive of the work in this area and is aware of the approximate associated cost... but until we see a formally solicited bid proposal, we won’t have that number. As the RFP is being built, I am trying to write the specifications such that a bidding vendor can go with their strongest, most aggressively priced, hardware solution.

Looking Forward

The coming months are going to be quite busy in the area of technology. We have eRate work that needs to be channeled properly through the federal eRate process, a video security system mentioned above, state reporting is due, and the Smarter Balanced Assessment is coming very soon and where we will have hundreds(?) more simultaneous tests going at a single time than we have ever previously attempted.

Each of these opportunities will need some periods of careful attention to be paid so that we can rest assured that we are moving forward in a way that is affordable, well targeted, compatible with our current systems, and are effective in the short term as well as being scalable/upgradable for the future. It will be exciting (though no doubt freighted with stress) and interesting process which I look forward to completing in the coming months.

Trivia/Learning Challenge - Wait wait don’t tell me...

Google officially changed its corporate name a few months ago. Can you (without googling it) come up with this new company name?