

Lone Star College Chooses TEKVOX Monitoring and Video Products to Improve Their Mediated Classrooms and Reduce Energy Cost

Houston, TX – Sept. 22, 2009 – Lone Star College installs 200 energy efficient classrooms with the new TEKVOX TEK CMC 3 Classroom Media Center. This new system allows for the display of VGA, HDMI, Component and Video signals. Included in this system is the TEK 902-HD, TEK 1, a occupancy sensor and two lighting power packs. This system allows the instructor to easily operate the system from an eight button keypad. By incorporating two lighting power packs the TEK 1 is able to automatically control the lights and shutdown the video projector when people leave the room. The lights are split into two zones, a front and a rear zone. When people enter the room, both zones are turned on by the TEK 1. If the video projector is turned on, the front lights are turned off making it easier for the students to see the screen. This feature also nullifies the electrical usage of the projector. Not only does this system save energy, but also increases the life of the video projector.

St. Mary's University Improves Courtroom Law Center System Operation by Incorporating TEKVOX Products and Software

San Antonio, TX – Dec. 18, 2008 - St. Mary's University remodeled their Courtroom Law Center with new podiums, hardware and video projectors supplied and installed by CCS Presentation Systems in San Antonio. The Law Center has four classrooms with three of the rooms combinable. The three combinable classrooms have a unique design that allows their walls to be opened to create a single classroom overlooking a mock courtroom. Each classroom can operate independently or combined with the center classroom. When combined, the center classroom is the main hub and distributes audio, video and control to the other two rooms.

Like other classrooms at St. Mary's, each room is designed to be remotely monitored and managed by the St. Mary's Academic Technology Services group using the TEKVOX TekPatrol™ device management system. The TekPatrol system allows Dr. Chen, Executive Director of Academic Technologies at St. Mary's, the ability to view all classroom operations and to maintain a database of the room and audio video device usage for each classroom. The room usage is managed by an occupancy sensor which is monitored by TekPatrol.

All equipment except for the projectors is installed in the podiums. One issue that was solved by installing the TEKVOX TEK 1 at the projector was distance. RS-232 control data is typically only good for distances less than 50 feet and the distance to the projector was about 100 feet. With the TEK 1 located at the projector, wiring for the screen control and occupancy sensor was run at shorter distances resulting in reduced cable lengths. Other equipment supplied by TEKVOX included the TEK 1301 Presentation Switcher/Scaler and TEK RGB0808-A-HQ switcher.

St. Mary's University adds CMC-1 to their AMX Controlled Classrooms

San Antonio, TX – Sept. 24, 2008 - CCS Presentation Systems installed 7 classrooms with the TEKVOX CMC-1 5DT and AMX control system. The CMC-1 package includes the TEK 1301, TEK 1, TekSecurity, and Small Room Occupancy Sensor. TEKVOX provided the AMX software for these rooms. The TEK 1 is installed at the projector allow for easier software and smaller controllers. A new feature was added to the TEK 1 to provide monitoring of the control system including device selection.

St. Mary's also added TekManager Pro to provide a data management service using SQL server. With TekManager Pro, selected monitored data from the TEK 1s is stored in a database and can be retrieved using a date range and saved in an Excel spreadsheet. An administrator can then use this data to generate usage reports. With the new control system monitoring in the TEK 1, TekManager Pro can now store device usage information from the control system.

Hawkeye Community College Installs 61 TEK 1301 with TekKeypad-8

Waterloo, IA – Sept. 12, 2008 – PRATT Audio Visual delivers 61 of the TEK 1301 presentation switcher/scalers with TekKeypad-8 to Hawkeye Community College. This system provides for a low cost easy to install solution for a classroom podium. With this system an instructor is able to easily select three VGA sources, a DVD and a VCR.

Tenaris installs an Auditorium with Multiple Screens and Videoconferencing

Houston, TX – June 12, 2008 – Cx2.US installed an auditorium and training room at Tenaris using TEK 1s to control video projectors and lifts. The main control system was a Crestron MC2e. The auditorium has three projectors and the training room has one. By using TEK 1s with the TekControl Crestron module, a smaller control system was able to be used. An Occupancy sensor was also installed to automatically control lights and shutdown the system when people walk out of the room.

Valero adds Digital Signage at their Campus

San Antonio, TX, May 29, 2008 – Visual Innovations installed nine LCD displays with TEK 1s for Digital Signage at Valero. The TEK 1s are used to schedule the on and off times, monitor and remotely control their LCD displays.

Golden Nugget adds new State-of-the-Art Event Center

Las Vegas, NV, Feb. 4, 2008 – CTI, Houston installed a new Event Center at the Golden Nugget that includes a ballroom with four divisible rooms. Each room has a Crestron touch panel and when all rooms are opened, a ceiling mounted projector is able to be used. Since the projector is over 100 feet from the controller, a TEK 1 was used to control both the projector and lift.

Lower Colorado River Authority adds TekPatrol to their new Redbud River Operation Center

Austin, TX, April 12, 2008 – Troxell through Cx2.us installed the new LCRA Redbud facility. This building has several conference rooms and a high level Operation Center with multiple video projectors and LCD monitors. Each display device is controlled and monitor by a TEK 1, allowing for an IP based control system to be used. This facility is controlled by Crestron controllers in each conference room. By installing TEK 1s at the display devices, smaller controllers were able to be used and software became standard for all displays allowing for easy change out of a display. This easy change out of a display was proven when two video projectors were changed to a different manufacture for higher lumens.

Soon after the install was completed, videoconferencing was added requiring more serial ports. To simplify the addition of adding more serial ports and software, the new TEKVOX TekPort was added. This device adds eight serial ports in an IP based single rack unit.

North Harris College adds the CMC-2 to their Classrooms

Houston, TX, Nov 05, 2007– Troxell Communications in Houston, TX installed their first 11 classrooms with the new low cost TEKVOX CMC-2 5DT all-in-one package. This package includes the TEK 1301, TEK 1, TekSecurity, Small Room Occupancy Sensor and TekKeypad-8. Using the CMC-2 a user is able to power on and off a video projector, select three VGA sources, a DVD and a VCR. The TEK 1 is used for controlling the projector and remote management. The occupancy sensor automatically shuts down the projector when people leave the room.

University of Texas at San Antonio adds Digital Signage Displays across two campuses

San Antonio, TX, Oct 18, 2007 – UTSA adds 25 digital signage displays to both their main and downtown Campuses. Each display is installed with a TEK 1 to provide scheduling, remote monitoring and theft control. Using TekManager the UTSA staff can remotely control the displays and set daily schedules for on and off times.

Trinity University adds the TekPatrol™ Device Security to their Digital Signage Displays

San Antonio, TX, June 28, 2007 – Like many universities Trinity University is adding digital signage around their campus. One issue with digital signage is the possibility of theft of the LCD or plasma displays. To help prevent theft of their displays, Trinity placed the TEKVOX TekPatrol along with the TekSecurity theft deterrent monitor system on their displays. With TekSecurity a security logo flashes red to warn any would be thief that the display is being monitored. If the display is tampered with, the TekPatrol system instantly sends an email to the Trinity police department.

An extra benefit of the TekPatrol system allows for remote monitoring, control and daily scheduling of their displays. One great feature of the TekPatrol scheduling system synchronized its calendar clock with the PC's clock running the TekManager software. No longer does a technician have to go around and update the clocks on their displays, especially during daylight/standard time changes.

St. Mary's University Updates their Existing AMX NetLinX Classrooms with TekPatrol™

San Antonio, TX, May 29, 2007 – St. Mary's University upgraded their current installed AMX controlled classrooms with easy to use software and touch panel designed by TEKVOX, Inc. A total of nine classrooms were upgraded which also included the addition of the TekPatrol™ monitoring system. One of the unique features of TekPatrol is its ability to monitor control systems using a TekTranslator driver in the TEK 1 and TekTranslator software in the AMX controller.

Dr. Michael Chen, Director Academic Technology Services at St. Mary's, needed to provide a solution for their current classrooms with AMX controllers. Although these rooms are currently operational, Dr. Chen did not have a copy of the source code and video projectors were starting to fail. After an onsite tour of Trinity University's multimedia classrooms, Dr. Chen requested a system from TEKVOX to provide easy operation, remote monitoring and can be maintained by St. Mary's technical staff. One feature Dr. Chen wanted was an easy way to change out a video projector without having to bring in an AMX programmer. The AMX software provided by TEKVOX is written in such a way that it can easily be modified without having to call in a programmer.

The solution TEKVOX provided for St Mary's uses a unique AMX programming method, developed by TEKVOX, allowing one program and touch panel file to operate in many different classrooms. This programming method allows for easy equipment modifications and definitions for each classroom. Using this programming method allows the St. Mary's technical staff to maintain the AMX software without calling in a programmer.

With TekPatrol each room can be monitored and controlled remotely. Information provided by TekPatrol allows St. Mary's to schedule maintenance of the video projectors without having to go to each room and check the projector status. TekPatrol also extends the projector's bulb life by automatically shutting down the system if it is left on.

Video Projector Management for Harris County Department of Education

Houston, TX, March 30, 2007 – The Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) www.hcde-texas.org located in Houston, TX is a nonprofit tax-assisted organization dedicated to educational resources for the Harris County school districts. One of the services HCDE provides is meeting rooms for teacher technology training. Like many other facilities, HCDE required video projectors in all of their meeting rooms. HCDE also required room combining for three of their rooms at two different locations. Adding room combining allows these three rooms to operate separately, as two rooms or one large room. Altogether HCDE has eighteen rooms with video projectors from Hitachi, NEC and Mitsubishi along with four LCDs from Sampo.

To manage all of these rooms HCDE needed a video projector management system that can operate with different projector manufacturers and did not require expensive programming. To provide these solutions Troxell Communications in Houston, TX recently installed a TekPatrol system that allows HCDE to automatically power on and off the video projectors via a schedule or remotely using display management software called TekManager.

When it came to room combining, HCDE required both local and remote room control of the sound system, video projectors and projection screens. The only problem, there was not enough money in the budget to install a control system and pay for programming. To solve this problem TEKVOX engineered a system using the Rane RPM 44 digital audio system with its SR 3 Smart Remotes to control the TEK 1 video projector controllers www.rane.com.

For more information on how to use a Rane RPM to control a TEKVOX TEK 1 go to the following link: <http://www.TEKVOX.com/downloads/CS-RoomCombining.pdf>

In five of the rooms HCDE already has an AMX control system operating the video projectors. These video projectors were several years old and will need to be replaced in the near future. One of the benefits of the TEK 1 is its easy configuration. An installer only needs to select a different display driver to change out a video projector. Although the AMX software was modified to communicate to the TEK 1s for these rooms, any future video projector changes only require a driver selection in the TEK 1. In the future HCDE will not have to pay an AMX programmer to change out a video projector.

University of Texas at San Antonio Remotely Monitors Both AMX Axxess and Extron System 5IP Classrooms

San Antonio, TX, Jan. 2, 2007 – Like many other universities UTSA has a mixture of multimedia controllers like AMX Axxess/NetLinx, Extron System 5IP, Crestron and rooms with only video projectors. Milo Silva Assistant Director of Academic Technology at UTSA had a requirement to update four of their large lecture classrooms. To keep their cost down they decided to use their existing AMX Axxent 3 multimedia controllers. One of the requirements Mr. Silva was looking for was the ability to remotely monitor and control these rooms. To solve these issues UTSA hired TEKVOX, Inc. to write the AMX program and install the TEKVOX TEK 1 with the TekPatrol™ monitoring software.

Along with remotely monitoring and controlling these classrooms with AMX Axxess equipment UTSA is able to remotely monitor classrooms equipped with the Extron System 5IP using the same TekPatrol™ monitoring software. One feature that Mr. Silvia was looking for was the ability to remotely lock the operation of these multimedia systems within the classroom. By locking these systems unauthorized use is avoided. This feature is standard operation of the TekPatrol system.

Trinity University Merges Both AMX NetLinx and Axxess Control Systems into a Network Management System for Multimedia Classrooms

San Antonio, TX, Dec. 12, 2006 – Trinity University is one of the nation's top private undergraduate institutions. Like many other universities Trinity has a mixture of multimedia controller like AMX Axxess/NetLinx, Extron System 5IP and rooms with only video projectors. Driving the requirements for these classrooms is Ronnie Swanner, director the Center for Learning and Technology (CLT) at Trinity. One of the features Mr. Swanner was looking for was a way to provide network monitoring, remote



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support, security, asset management and email reporting from all of their rooms. Since several of their classrooms were already using the old AMX Axxess systems and these systems were working fine, Mr. Swanner was looking for another solution that did not require them to replace all of their existing equipment.

After researching several products Mr. Swanner selected TEKVOX, Inc to provide a solution allowing their existing AMX NetLink and Axxess systems to be monitored by one classroom management system. The TEKVOX solution allows most all control systems to be monitored and controlled by a single asset management system, called TekPatrol™.

Using TekManager the CLT support group at Trinity is able to view all of their classroom's audio video equipment on one screen. From the information displayed by TekManager, the CLT support center is able to view possible problems, remotely assist in the operation of the room, schedule maintenance and be alerted by theft conditions. Even their police department is alerted if someone disconnects a video projector.

According to Robert Miller, the Media Tech. Support Coordinator for Trinity, "Using TekManager allows me to view and control all classrooms from anywhere on campus saving valuable time and resources. TekManager even helps in scheduling filter maintenance and lamp replacement along with synchronizing all of the AMX system clocks. In the past I would have to occasionally go around to all of the classrooms and reset the clocks. Now, TekManager does this for me."

North Harris College Incorporates Projector Management Saving Energy and Increasing Lamp Life

Houston, TX, Nov 30, 2006 – In the fall of 2004 North Harris College began looking for a better way to manage technology in the classroom. According to Link Alander, Dean of Planning and Technology at NHC; "We have the ability to manage the computers but we didn't have a way to monitor the data projectors. I was looking for a solution that monitored security, bulb life, and room utilization and allowed for remote monitoring. My concern was the interruption of instruction when a bulb failed or when an instructor was having problems." In addition, I was looking for a solution that would help to track utilization of these mediated classrooms.

The first solution we used was RoomView by Crestron. The initial system was installed in 21 rooms and on 10 LCD display panels. While the system works well it does require expensive custom programming each time we want to add a new location. The system also has its limitations. It does not offer security or room utilization monitoring and can only send a power off to the projectors based on a fixed time, each night if a projector is on after 10pm we send a power down signal.

In the summer of 2005 we began investigating TekPatrol, working with Troxell Communications and CX2.US, Inc. we evaluated the TEK 1 product to see if it would be better than our current solution. We were very interested in the ease of setup and the additional features. This system allows our technicians to install and setup TEK 1 with an occupancy sensor and the TekPatrol monitoring system without additional training.

The first phase of our installation was 20 rooms with most of these at our two satellite locations. Now we can monitor and control projector functions from our helpdesk improving service delivery. By using projector, bulb life, history we are able to provide proactive support by changing bulbs before they go out during a class. The reporting and monitoring functions along with the occupancy sensors have had a significant financial impact. Since the first installations we have had a \$16,000 reduction in our lamp replacement costs and only 50% of our rooms are currently monitored by TEK 1 devices.

Currently we are working with TEKVOX to expand the utilization reporting functions so we can integrate the reports with our Room Scheduling system (R25/X25). Once this is complete we will be able to provide valuable institutional data concerning not only room utilization but also the technology utilization in these rooms.

In the fall of 2007 we modified our mediated classroom standards to include the TEK 1 system. Being able to provide exceptional service is what it is all about in Information Technology. This product makes this simple from on-screen remotes, centralized monitoring at the helpdesk, to advanced security and reporting functions. The best part still is the fact that the actual installation and setup of the device is quick and simple.

North Harris College has an enrollment of 12,000 students, with three campuses. At the present time 65% of our classrooms are mediated with a goal to have 100% of the classrooms mediated by 2009. TEK 1 devices will be installed in all mediated classrooms by the end of the 2007-2008 school years and is the standard for our new room mediation projects.

Trinity University Incorporates the SMART Technologies DT770 Into Their Multimedia Classrooms

San Antonio, TX, Aug. 2, 2006 – Trinity University is one of the nation's top private undergraduate institutions. Recently Trinity renovated the Ruth Taylor Fine Arts Center to include advanced media resources in both the music and art classrooms. These classrooms are integrated with the needs of the instructor and provide an easy to use touch panel interface along with remote network access and monitoring. To simplify the installation all equipment is installed within the instructor's lectern.

Each lectern includes either a 17" Elo or the SMART Technologies' DT770 touch panel, an AMX NI-3000 with TPI/4, Instructor's computer and VCR/DVD player. To simplify the operation and to clean up the clutter on top of the lectern, the touch panel provides both control of the media resources and the computer's display. Using the DT770 also provides the instructor with computer annotation.

Driving the requirements for these classrooms is Ronnie Swanner, director the Center for Learning and Technology at Trinity. Mr. Swanner wanted these classrooms to be state-of the-art and provide easy operation, remote network access, and email support for theft detection, error conditions and end of month usage reports.

To install these rooms Mr. Swanner enlisted Digital Display Solutions (DDS). For programming and support DDS hired TEKVOX, Inc.

Problem

Since the DT770 is a new product, it was not known if it would work with the AMX TPI/4. According to AMX they could support the DT770 but not through the USB connection to the PC. The AMX solution was to use the serial port on the front of the TPI/4 for the connection to the PC. Unfortunately, this solution did not work well with the PC and was awkward to use a front panel connector. Another problem was poor image quality of the PC image displayed by the TPI/4. When using a serial connection as the communication method between the PC and the DT770, the SMART Board software requires the DT770 to have a serial connection to the PC when one logs onto the PC. Otherwise the software needs to search for the DT770 and displays a message asking the user to allow for a search. In some situations this would be difficult for some users. A USB connection can be connected and disconnected at any time without having to search.

Solution

After reviewing this problem, Mike Slattery president of TEKVOX, Inc. came up with a solution to bypass the TPI/4 and connect the DT770 directly to the PC when a user views the PC in full screen mode. Normally this solution would require custom PC software. Fortunately, TEKVOX just released a new product called TekPatrol™. Normally TekPatrol is used to monitor equipment, but in this application it is able to inform the AMX controller when someone has logged into the PC or when someone wants to switch back to multimedia. For more information see <http://www.TEKVOX.com/downloads/DS-TekTranslator.pdf>.