



## INTEGRATED SECURITY SYSTEMS

### APPLICATION NOTE — COURTHOUSES

#### Summary

Security of a Courthouse is uniquely challenging. A courthouse is a public building, with large numbers of people entering and leaving every day. Stresses and tension runs high in some of the visitor population of a courthouse. Courthouses must provide detention of inmates. Courthouse security must offer special protection for judges and lawyers and courthouse staff. Loss of lighting and power presents significant security concerns within a courthouse, hence building management functions must be tightly integrated with the security infrastructure.

The focus of the security infrastructure within a courthouse is the command and control post which monitors video and status from all security and utilities subsystems, and provides remote control of these subsystems for both normal operation of the

facility, and in response to emergency incidents. Immediate access to video, audio and status information permits quicker and more accurate assessment of situations, and rapid response through remote control mitigates injury and damage during incidents.

With information comes control. With total visibility provided by seeing inputs from multiple sources on one CRT screen, guards get a complete picture of what is happening, and can act quickly in response. With this control, comes reduced stress, improved job satisfaction, resulting in less staff turnover.



#### Courthouse Security Needs

Courthouses contain four separate circulation areas. These circulation areas are expressed in terms of the following "zones".

**Public Zone** – This includes jury assembly areas, attorney/client conference rooms, public corridors, food service areas, as well as spectator seating in courtrooms and waiting areas.

**Private Zone** – This includes judge's chambers, access to judicial parking areas and the courtroom, jury deliberation rooms, staff offices, copier/work rooms, conference rooms and libraries.

**Prisoner Zone** – The prisoner zone requires a holding area adjacent to the courtroom, attorney/detainee conference areas, prisoner circulation (including a secure sally port) to and from the jail, and security officer support areas.

**Interface Zones** – The principle interface zones are courtrooms. These zones also include those spaces where attorneys and the public meet (e.g. public corridor conference rooms), and space where court staff and the public interact. In general, these zones require access from two different kinds of circulation patterns. Courthouses must have an integrated security system that addresses the needs of each of these zones in a unified manner. There needs to be a central command post to monitor and control the activities and communications within the entire building.



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## The APEX Solution

DelcoSecurity has 10 years of Courthouse security automation experience, and understands the unique needs of this building.

The focus of the APEX security infrastructure is the command and control post which monitors video and status from all security and utilities subsystems, in all zones, and provides remote control of these subsystems for both normal operation of the facility, and in response to emergency incidents. Immediate access to video, audio and status information permits quicker and more accurate assessment of situations, and rapid response through remote control mitigates injury and damage during incidents.

The following addresses some of the special features of the APEX courthouse solution within each zone.

### Public Zone

Video surveillance and recording is pervasive in all public areas. APEX includes intercom communications in public areas to address the population at large. The other zones are isolated from the public areas via APEX's Access Control Subsystem on doors into other zones. To enter these doors, individuals need an identity token such as a proximity card, or smart card. Biometric scanners such as fingerprint scans, retinal scans, etc. may be installed where the extra security is warranted.

### Private Zone

Judges, and other officers of the court should be able to access courtrooms, chambers, jury deliberation rooms and staff offices without interacting with the public. Access to the private zone (including the parking garage) is secured by the building wide Access Control System. Direct communication with the security command post from key positions in the private zone is provided by active or passive duress systems, and well and intercoms.

### Prisoner Zone

In the detention area in a courthouse, APEX uses its cell door control and communications subsystem, designed for the use in prisons. This subsystem includes cell door monitoring and control, video surveillance and recording, and intercom and annunciation systems. It also includes prisoner elevator surveillance and control functions.

### Interface Zones

The primary interface zone is the courtroom. The security concerns for each of the entries to the courtroom must be addressed. For example, public entry into the courtroom may accommodate a security checkpoint for spectator identification and metal detection. Direct video, audio and alarm communications to the command post are provided at the security checkpoints.

Similarly, prisoner access via the prisoner elevators and courtroom entrances are control and monitored at the central command post.

Judge's benches in every courtroom are equipped with silent duress alarms connected to the security command post. Duress alarms may also be installed at clerical stations used to collect fees and fines.

All courtrooms have surveillance video cameras installed connected to the building wide security system. These cameras utilize digital technology and hence may be wired into the buildings IP LAN network. The courtroom video is displayed and the command post, and is recorded on digital video recorders. Unlike video tape recording, retrieval of video segments from digital recorders is immediate.

## TECHNICAL FEATURES OF APEX

### CCTV and video surveillance

Video from all cameras may be recorded onto digital video recorders at a pre-determined schedule and under operator control. Video is also displayed on-demand, and in response to alarms on the operator's graphics displays.

Video recordings are made of all cell door operations. In addition, upon receipt of an alarm, for example from a "man-down" duress system, or a perimeter intrusion, or a fire alarm, the video from the cameras closest to the alarm point is automatically displayed at the command/control post and is recorded on digital video recorders.

Digital video technology provides rapid access to recorded video. In post incident reviews, the guard may call up a selected alarm, and view the video associated with that alarm. No longer does he need to search by "time of day", or scan a video tape to find the segment of interest.

Digital video may also be transmitted and viewed over great distances with no loss of picture quality using internet IP technology.

### Secondary Control Post

A redundant, backup control post can be installed to counter the threat of a security breach or damage of the main control center. At the secondary control post, all functions of the primary console can be disabled, and command and control can continue at the secondary center.

### Access Control

The APEX system monitors and controls the door access system used to control access to the different areas and zones in the buildings. Once the schedules, and permissions have been established, and identity tokens (e.g. proximity cards or keyring fobs) have been given to accredited personnel, access to controlled rooms is managed automatically by the system without the need for interaction from the control center guards. Every transaction in the access control system is logged, time-stamped and recorded. The guards, may view these logs at anytime.



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