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Marshall Encoders/IP Cameras Help Distribute School Video

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By: Jeff Rich, Senior Technician, Shoemaker Motion Picture Co.

Shoemaker Motion Picture Co. has been in the audio and visual presentation business since 1945. From our Indianapolis headquarters we provide a variety of services including design and installation of custom systems at both large and small venues.

Recently we were asked to look into ways to provide a video view of the stage in a high school auditorium to both behind-stage and classroom venues. Our clients at the school wanted to make sure that visitors could observe stage performances from the green room, as well as from the school's orchestra room and other locations.

We recommended a system that incorporates **Marshall Electronics' VS-571-HDSDI**, a 2.0 megapixel, 20x zoom, vandal-proof IP Speed Dome camera system that includes an IP encoder. The camera/encoder system streams the on-stage action to all of the required viewing locations, allowing more efficient cueing of acts and also remote viewing of presentations anywhere in the school.

We also installed the Marshall VS-571-HDSDI package at another school in the same township. That school wanted on-stage video piped into a number of dressing rooms and also choir, orchestra and band rooms to allow students and faculty there to view stage performances.

Remote Camera Operation Too

In this application, we integrated a joystick remote control similar to that used with a lot of security camera systems, allowing operators to zoom in or out and pan left or right.

We also used Marshall's VS-102-HDI 2.0 megapixel high-resolution encoder/decoder with HDMI, as it allows us to take the IP signal that's been encoded from camera video and decode it into an HDMI signal that we can output to flat-screen TVs and monitors. In addition, we configured the system for multicast operation to allow any of the school's network-connected computers to pull up the video from the multicast stream.

Configuring the units proved to be relatively painless. The few issues that we had were quickly dealt with by Marshall's tech support department and we had the encoder/decoders up and running in a short time.



Marshall Electronics' VS-571-HDSDI 2.0 MP IP Speed Dome camera system

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One issue we had to contend with is the fact that the Marshall encoders and decoders should be used in an unmanaged switch network environment; however, we encountered predictable opposition from the school's IT department. We wound up using a semi-managed switch arrangement that uplinks into a port of the school's managed switch, which allows them to control and manage that uplink port. This workaround satisfied both our needs and those of the school system's IT department.



Jeff Rich

with our choice.

Jeff Rich has been with Shoemaker Motion Picture Co. for nearly 25 years. He may be contacted at jeff@shoemakerav.com. For additional information, visit www.lcdracks.com.

Wise Equipment Choice

Our primary reasons for selecting these products (the encoder, decoder and IP camera) were Marshall's reputation for quality and its equipment's reputation for uncomplicated configuration. Prior to our taking on these school projects, Marshall representatives had given us a demo showing how easy it was to set up the system and make it work. That experience left a very positive impression. When the school requests came up, we were confident we could deliver a workable system with a minimum of headaches and callbacks. Neither our company nor the school district has been disappointed

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