VCAAMS™
Virtual Cable And Asset Management Services
Case Study

Warsaw High School
Warsaw, Indiana

Client – Warsaw Community School, Warsaw, Indiana

Scope of work – Document, test and label existing communications and network infrastructure and provide manageable electronic floorplans with data associated with each location. And provide rack elevation drawings for every Telecom Room in Warsaw High School

Contacts – Elaine Bultemeier, Chief Technology Officer, Warsaw Community Schools, Terry Engle, Communications Administrator, Warsaw Community Schools, Brad Gutwein Network Administrator, Warsaw Community Schools

Clients Request- We were asked to provide Warsaw Community Schools with a solution that not only finds where every existing active Communication and Network Infrastructure was located, but also qualify each termination to verify capability for current and future use.

Elaine stated:

"Preparing our network demands for the future is always at the forefront of any decision we make. You cannot make decisions about what you need without knowing what you have. Additionally, as more devices and systems appear on our network the demand for those services increase. We have also seen an increase in the expectations of our users that our network resources be available 24x7. Finally, our response to network outage issues must be appropriate for problem. These considerations require us to have the most up to date information about our network devices and resources. The decision to move forward with the VCAAMS project resulted in a desire to get a handle on the condition of our infrastructure and to determine our networking needs."

Brad Hagg States

"One of the greatest challenges that IT groups face is keeping track of network changes and confirming that our documentation truly matches what is installed throughout the enterprise. The VCAAMS process helps us ensure that our documentation stays up-to-date with our rapidly changing environment and that our network assets are performing as anticipated."

Major challenges – Warsaw High School has 8 evolutions of infrastructure and cultures. Each culture had a different theory on what was important, which meant that there was not a consistent pattern to the location, termination or labeling. Many locations were not labeled at all and many locations had both 6 and 8 conductor terminations. The existing documentation and floorplans were not current. Several locations were not notated on any existing data base.

Case Study-Warsaw High School, Warsaw, Indiana-continued

GS DocS Solution- With the lack of existing documentation, the 1st task was to develop electronic floorplans so each location for Communication and Network Infrastructure terminations could be discovered. GS DocS staff had to walk into every room and notate where every faceplate and jack was located on the walls, floors and ceilings. While the discovery was being completed, the staff was also documenting the rack layouts and building the electronic Rack elevation files. After the discovery was completed, the database was built and the data was integrated. GS DocS then began the testing and labeling process. Utilizing state of the art cable certifications methodology and equipment, the staff tested every 8 conductor location and labeled (or relabeled) each port to TIA 606-B standards.

Final Results –Warsaw Community Schools received valuable information from this project. They received fully manageable electronic floorplans so every add, move and change can be documented and any troubleshooting can be quickly addressed since all the Communications and Network Infrastructure ports are at the fingertips of whoever needs the information.
Gs DocS also provided reports on the test results so every location and port is recorded for current and future use. The technology staff now has the tools to update their systems without concerns that the network infrastructure is out of date.

As Elaine Bultemeier states:
 "It (VCAAMS) uncovered our gaps and weaknesses and allowed us to address basic wiring concerns and adjust our network design. We believe this will enable us to meet the greater demands of our users and continuously improve our network services for the future."

A couple other viewpoints worth noting:

"The ability to use VCAAMS has significantly reduced the time it takes to troubleshoot network issues. The time savings alone is cost justification to have VCAAMS. The ability to identify a port that is causing a problem, rebooting that port all from the technician's computer is where time is saved. This is also evident when an IP security camera needs to be "rebooted," all we need to do is go to VCAAMS and identify the port and shut it down then start it back up. VCAAMS help us identify those ports quickly and easily."-Don Chase, Director of Technology, Southwest Allen County Schools, Fort Wayne, IN

"As the Network administrator for Southwest Allen County Schools, we have all of our wire maps in csv or printed copy which is nice, but has its limitations. Since going to the VCAAMS system I now have an interactive Database that I can pull up a map and click on a data drop or access point and see all the relative information including the cable run, IDF, switch port, blade, room number as well as location within the room." -Mark East, Network Administrator, Southwest Allen County Schools, Fort Wayne, IN

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804
260-615-4939