



CASE STUDY: ALAMO HEIGHTS ISD



Products Used:

- DEVOS Rack Server
- Hornet Encoder
- SignStick-2
- Captiva MISO
- Streamsie PRO
- Discover Video Educational Video Library
- DEVOS Channel Guide

Background

Alamo Heights ISD, located near San Antonio TX is a small district consisting of 6 schools. The district was looking to implement a digital video system that could be used by all of the schools for live streaming, video on demand, digital signage, and emergency notifications. The Alamo Heights schools are all connected via high-speed fiber for communication.

Challenges

- **Digital Signage:** Alamo Heights ISD needed a system that could display news, live video, and other content on TVs located in lobbies, hallways, cafeterias, and media centers. Each TV would need to display scheduled content automatically. Each school would have the ability to place their own messaging on TVs within the school. The signage system had to be simple to use by the administration team at each school. It also had to be compatible with Google Slides.
- **Video Distribution:** The Alamo Heights schools were implementing a 1:1 initiative allowing every teacher and student to receive information on their personal device. The educational videos on the video distribution system must be accessible from computers and wireless tablets and phones.
- **Video Morning Announcements:** Each school would be doing a daily video newscast that would be available for viewing on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. Each school has a studio using video production equipment (cameras, microphones, green screens, etc). The morning announcements would be streamed live and recorded for on-demand viewing.
- **TV Distribution:** Alamo Heights ISD needed to deliver live TV channels to classrooms. The schools already owned H.264 HD encoders and wanted to reuse the encoders to stream the TV channels. In addition the district wanted to use a TV program guide so that teachers could view the schedule and record TV programs (DVR function) onto a central server. Once recorded the programs should be available for viewing in the classroom, on demand.

Solution

Alamo Heights ISD purchased the Discover Video DEVOS system for the entire district. It included HD video encoders, digital signage media players, set-top boxes, software for recording lessons, TV program guide, and installation/training. The system can be easily managed through a web browser and contains granular permissions for each administrator.

DEVOS Server: The DEVOS on-premises server distributes live and recorded video throughout the entire district. DEVOS also includes a complete digital signage for delivering school content/news/announcements to any TV in any school. One server has the capacity to deliver over 2000 simultaneous video streams to computers and mobile devices, in HD quality.

Signage System: DEVOS allows the school administrators/staff to create digital signs and schedule them for viewing. At each TV Alamo Heights has installed a SignStick media player. The Signstick receives content (video, text, RSS, Google Slides, etc.) and displays it on the TV. All school news and announcements are distributed through the easy to use signage system.

Blended Learning: The district purchased the Discover Video education video library. This content resides on the DEVOS server and is available for students and teachers to view on any device. The library contains over 700 educational videos in the areas of math, science, history, etc. In addition, teachers can create their own video lessons using the award-winning Streamsie software encoder. Streamsie allows the teachers to record video and screen images into a high-quality digital lesson. In DEVOS, teachers can insert questions into the recorded lessons to test students comprehension.

TV Distribution (IPTV): The DEVOS server receives TV channel streams from HD encoders and delivers them over the district IP network to any viewing device – TVs (via Set Top Boxes), computers via browser, and mobile devices. An optional TV Program Guide was purchased to allow teachers to view the TV schedules and record specific programs for supplementing classroom teaching. The Program Guide allows teachers to see one week's schedule and record them to their channel on DEVOS.

Benefits

- Each student and teacher receives high quality educational digital content on their computer or personal device. The latest school information is always available on wired or wireless networks.
- Teachers can create multimedia lessons for students to watch on their personal device. This capability allows any student to review lessons on their own time and location. Any lesson is also available as video podcast.
- Every school has a full signage system notifying visitors, teachers, and students about schedules, school news, emergencies, and more. With Google Slides, information can be updated by just changing the slide.
- Educational videos from television or YouTube can be used to supplement traditional teaching. TV programs can be recorded and played back, while YouTube content can be linked through DEVOS – eliminating many ads and related content.
- Students benefit by creating video news programs. They learn broadcasting techniques and how to create and deliver a live news webcast