



CASE STUDY: LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Products Used:

- DEVOS Media Server
- Multi-Channel Encoder
- Sign Stick

Background

Lowell, Massachusetts has one high school, six middle schools, and fourteen elementary schools. All of these schools are connected through a high-speed fiber-based network.

Lowell Schools asked Discover Video to provide a cost-effective, easy-to-use digital video distribution system for the entire school district.

Challenges

- Lowell High School needed a way to replace the way cable channels were distributed to all of the classrooms in the district.
- With TV monitors already installed in hallways, cafeterias, and the media center, Lowell Schools wanted a simple system to create and distribute information such as sports schedules, lunch menus, key events, and recorded video programs to them.
- Lowell Schools had a number of educational videos on video tape and DVD that were used to supplement classroom instruction, and they needed a system that would deliver the videos to the classrooms on demand. The system would allow any teacher to easily search and play the video from their computer.
- Lowell Schools sought to deliver their professional development program "Lowell Teacher Academy" to teachers who couldn't attend, while monitoring viewership and results from in-line questioning.
- The schools wanted to share key events like graduations, school concerts, and sporting events live on the Internet.

Solution

Lowell Schools implemented the Discover Video DEVOS media server along with the Discover Video software encoders. The encoders (software and hardware versions) are being used for:

- Recording Lowell Teacher Academy sessions for viewing on the Internet
- Encoding/recording video and audio from cameras and microphones in the TV studio for the school video news program distribution
- Streaming major school events live on the Internet

The DEVOS system has several functions:

- Delivering live streams from the encoders both internally and on the Internet
- Holding and distributing any recorded video internally and externally
- Delivering the digital signage content to TV monitors
- Sending emergency notifications to classrooms

The DEVOS media server accepts live streams from the Rover and Spirit encoders and delivers them to classroom PCs, Macs, and mobile devices. It also holds all of the schools' educational videos. Teachers can access any video on a PC or Mac by opening their browser, searching, and selecting it on the DEVOS menu. The video can be played in its entirety or specific clips that are bookmarked. With permission, students can also play specific video titles on their devices.

Benefits

- Lowell Teacher Academy can be seen on the Internet by teachers who may have missed the session, as well as testing their aptitude with the new materials learned with inbound questions.
- The Video News program is seen by all of the students; parents can watch it at home on any viewing device
- Video is used more widely in the school to enhance the learning process. Teachers can use local education content or pull videos from YouTube and iTunes through the DEVOS system
- Digital signs provide up-to-date information throughout the schools
- Parents and relatives can watch school graduations, concerts, open houses, and other events live on the Internet