



SYMMETRY

SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLED AT RALPH CARR JUDICIAL CENTER IN COLORADO

The Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center, which opened in December 2012, is a 695,000+ square-foot complex that houses the Colorado Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court Law Library, Office of the State Court Administrator, Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender and the other legally related agencies serving the State of Colorado.

The complex features a four-story courthouse that includes one courtroom for the Colorado Supreme Court, two courtrooms for the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court Law Library and a 3,800 square-foot interactive judicial learning center. A 12-story office building connects to the courthouse and includes an 11,500 square-foot conference center and a 2,000 square-foot data center. In addition to the seven Supreme Court Justices and 22 Court of Appeals Judges, more than 1,400 people work in the courthouse and office building. On any given day an additional 500 people pass through one of two secure entrances to conduct business. Safety and security in the courthouse and office building is of paramount importance.

An effective security design is based on evaluating risks and threats, establishing design parameters, and assessing how these will affect the building, personnel, and operations of the business. Director of Court Security for the Colorado Judicial Branch, Steven R. Steadman, performed the security assessments, established objectives for the new building, and implemented an integrated access control, surveillance, visitor management and duress security system. AMAG Technology's Symmetry™ Security Management System (SMS) provides the access control and backbone of the integrated system. Guarantee Electrical Contracting was chosen to install Symmetry and all of the low voltage systems backbone.

The complex's Symmetry SMS is monitored by the Colorado State Patrol Dispatch in their offsite Communications Center. Onsite, the Colorado State Patrol also oversees the in-house Communications Center, provides the security officers and Troopers for the building and monitors the access control and camera surveillance.

The two main entrances have metal detectors, x-ray machines, and optical turnstiles to ensure employees and visitors are properly screened before entering the building. Optical turnstiles with readers allow employees to enter without going through the metal detectors or having x-ray screening. The employee screening stations at each entrance are closely monitored by the Colorado State Patrol to ensure that the person using the access card is the same person entering the building.

Electronic card readers are installed in the elevators and enable employees to access only the floors where they are authorized. Symmetry SMS allows security staff to schedule automatic locking and unlocking of exterior and some interior doors to provide enhanced security.

"We use the Symmetry SMS access control system to regulate where folks can be in the building," Steadman said. "The building houses the state public defender and prosecutor, and it's important their spaces are kept separate. Access to justices, judges and the courtroom are controlled by Symmetry, as well as all back of house areas like the loading dock and garage. Symmetry effectively and efficiently keeps them separated."

Visitor Management

AMAG's Symmetry SMS integrates with HID Global's EasyLobby® Secure Visitor Management (SVM™) system to register visitors and give them access to predetermined floor levels or areas where they are allowed to go.



EasyLobby SVM™ software was chosen for its easy-to-use, web-enabled registration process. EasyLobby solutions can read the magstripe on a person's driver's license, which pre-populates the input fields and provides the name and address of the person, expediting the badge creation process. Tenants can easily pre-register guests using its web page. Pre-registered visitors show up in the EasyLobby grid view and badges can be pre-printed from the SVM software. A photo is taken when the visitor arrives.

A temporary barcode badge is issued and the visitor is granted access to the designated floor and lobby of where they are visiting. The barcoded visitor badge is activated through EasyLobby's software integration with Symmetry to allow for specified access, such as provisional access in which the badge should remain active. Eight HID Global multi CLASS® readers stationed in the office tower and elevators contain a barcode reader as well. Visitors must swipe their barcoded visitor badge in the designated readers to gain access to the pre-determined areas or floors. Once the visitor enters the lobby of the tenant they are visiting, they are escorted throughout their space.

"There are many unique aspects of integrated security at work in this building," said Guarantee Electrical's Project Manager, Mike Anthony. "Using Symmetry SMS makes it easy to bring all of the functionality together on one single platform."

Video

Cameras are stationed around the full perimeter of the building, in the corridors, entry ways, freight elevator, parking facilities, data center and communications room. AMAG's Symmetry Video Management system integrates with Milestone XProtect® Corporate 5.0 to provide enhanced video management and archiving. Video analysis of recordings provides evidence and valuable review of security issues. Activity is called up via Symmetry Video for live viewing.

Approximately 285 Axis megapixel cameras are stationed throughout the building, and 20 indoor/outdoor cameras have been enhanced by integrating real-time video analytics capabilities provided by Agent Video Intelligence (Agent Vi). On these cameras, Agent Vi's real-time detection software, Vi-System™, detects suspicious objects, unauthorized entry into secure zones and loitering, and generates alerts that are displayed in both the Milestone XProtect Smart Client and in Symmetry. The Colorado State Patrol respond to these alerts in real-time, allowing immediate responses to security breaches, as the event unfolds.

"AMAG's Symmetry SMS was the right choice for the Ralph Carr building," Anthony said.

"The end user is thrilled with all the functionality. Symmetry is state-of-the-art and top of the line, and they are impressed with the workings of their complete integrated system."

High Availability

An NEC Fault Tolerant (FT) server ensures the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center's Symmetry SMS is up and running continuously. The NEC FT Servers are designed to provide extreme availability by using fully redundant system components and can provide continuous availability even in the event of a system failure. Fault tolerant systems can provide up to 99.999% uptime which equates to just a little more than 5 minutes of downtime per year.

The NEC FT Server provides complete redundancy for all of the system components including the motherboard, CPU, RAM and power supplies. It uses a proprietary lockstep technology to keep all of the duplicate system components completely in synch. This lockstep technology ensures that the redundant CPUs are executing exactly the same instructions. Because redundant components are all completely in synch all of the time, there is no interruption in processing even if a component fails. In addition, there is no loss of performance and zero loss of data integrity. If a component failure occurs, the FT Server systems automatically switch over to using the redundant components. The building cannot afford security downtime and a fault-tolerant server allows the security team to reduce their operations cost.

"Without question, this is the most advanced security set-up in any court building in Colorado, perhaps in the country," Steadman said. "We are quite pleased with the functionality provided by the Symmetry SMS integrated system from AMAG."



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