



Pace Perspective

Electrical Construction and Technology News

Pace Systems Voice Data, A/V, Life Safety and Security Applications

Manufacturer's Corner



[Revolutionary SolidDrive Provides Discreet Audio](#)

Recent Installations



Local Village Benefits from [Wireless Audio Installation](#)—Citizens Feedback Enthusiastic!



Upcoming Events

We look forward to seeing you at **The TFM Show at Navy Pier, April 23-24, 2008**. Be sure to stop by **Booth # 600** to see the cutting edge services that **Pace Systems** can provide your facility.

We welcome any comments or questions regarding articles featured in the *Pace Perspective*. Please contact Herb Steininger at hsteininger@pace-systems.com or by phone at 630-395-2212.

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Parking Facility Safety

This month our featured contributor is Gene Prorowicz, Director of **Security and Life Safety Systems** for Pace Systems. Gene has been involved with the installation of security and life safety systems in the Chicagoland area for the past 30 years. In **"Parking Facility Safety"**, Gene shares with us some key points on safety in parking facilities.

Awareness Along With Technology Can Reduce Danger



All of us, I am sure have experienced the trials and tribulations of trying to find parking at malls and office buildings during busy days and holidays. While talking to many friends and business associates at parties and functions during the recent holidays, the topic of conversation often turned to the subject of security.

I think we all can admit to parking at the fringes of civilization when parking just wasn't available and we were late for an appointment or social gathering. The problem is that in some cases we may not get back to our vehicle until late at night. That great parking spot you found doesn't look



so great anymore. This brings me to my main area of interest today: **PARKING FACILITY**
SAFETY.

Crime statistics show that most robberies, abductions and rapes happen when we don't think safety and don't use common sense. The most important thing to remember when returning to your vehicle late at night is to ask for an escort. This goes for males as well as females. Many office buildings and malls provide these services for free. Suburban police can also be summoned to provide these services. Be patient and stay in a safe place until police arrive. Don't be embarrassed to ask. It's better to be safe than an unfortunate statistic.

Just a few key points to remember:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try to stay in well lit areas.
- Be aware of individuals sitting in parked cars.
- Don't stop to talk to strangers.
- Remember to look inside your vehicle prior to entering.
- Have your car keys ready. If you have a remote be ready to press the panic feature.
- Get safely into your car and lock the doors. Bypass putting things in the trunk.
- If a cell phone is available use it to be in contact with a family member or friend as you walk to your vehicle. Give your location. Don't hang up until you are safely in your vehicle and on your way.

Vehicle Access Control

For those of you in facilities management, you should be aware of new technologies and procedures that are helping to make our facilities safer. For instance, security procedures at parking facilities have come a long way. Many parking facilities offer their patrons Access Control Systems which can deny access to unauthorized vehicles. Typically, access is granted only to vehicles having a valid transponder attached to the inside of the windshield. The transponder resembles a Tollway I-Pass device.

When this device is detected, normally within 10 feet of the receiver, access is granted. If the transponder is not detected, access is denied. These events, or transactions, are usually recorded in a computer database.

Unauthorized vehicles can be denied access to the facility even if they have a transponder. Some possible reasons for denial of access might be non-payment of parking facility fees or even termination of employment. The Access Control System can also be a useful tool in determining, at any given time, the number of vehicles within a parking structure. Vehicle access control can be added to existing Access Control Systems that may be in place for pedestrian building access.

Surveillance Cameras

Surveillance cameras are another useful tool which can help the facilities manager deter crime as well as provide crime verification information if a crime has been committed. Gone are the days of large obtrusive cameras and housings. Today's video cameras are compact and aesthetically pleasing. Some may even be mistaken for decorative lighting fixtures.

There are also many features to choose from: Color, Monochrome, Fixed or Panning, Lens variations, Day-Night Operation, Network IP, Wired or Wireless. Camera placement is determined by the level of security to be achieved and the cost of the installation. Usually a compromise is established with favorable results. Monitoring and recording of events can be performed on site as well as remotely.

Central monitoring stations today are capable of providing remote video surveillance services. For example they can provide safety for individuals and patrons at parking facilities that do not have security guards on site. Any suspicious activity can be reported to local authorities for dispatch. Video archives may also be stored at the remote central station. Digital video copies can be made of any recorded event.

These are only a few of the new and improved technologies and procedures that can make trips to your facility a great deal more secure. Don't let complacency get in the way of making visits to your facility safe. In this day and age, one can never be too safe, and with the wide availability of these new technologies, it makes no sense to sit idly by until something unfortunate happens.

Technology Highlights



Revolutionary SolidDrive Provides Discreet Audio

Continuing in its search for products of excellence, Pace Systems was recently authorized to sell a unique and revolutionary new audio driver. This driver, shaped and similar in size to a hockey puck, allows a user to convey an audio signal through almost any solid surface. When attached to



a surface such as glass, wood or wallboard, the driver turns that surface into a high quality loud speaker system. Glass windows, interior walls, and conference tables are all perfect locations for mounting this incredible new product.

“SolidDrive SD1 is a cutting-edge, innovative, powerful sound transducer that transmits acoustical energy through almost any solid surface. The entire surface with which it comes in contact becomes a speaker, delivering high-quality sound and the frequency response of conventional diaphragm speakers. The driver works with rigid surfaces including glass, drywall, wood, ceramics, laminates, composites and metal. Because SolidDrive utilizes existing structures in the room, it is ideal for commercial applications.”

“SolidDrive utilizes patent-pending technology with very high-powered neodymium and dual symmetrically opposed motors to convert audio signals into powerful vibrations. Those vibrations are transferred into solid surfaces through direct contact. High-quality, full-range sound is then radiated from the entire surface with a frequency response of 60 Hz to 15 kHz. SolidDrive delivers excellent sound to problem areas, transforming walls, ceilings, floors, windows, mirrors, counter tops, conference room tables and other furniture into high-quality sound sources. Sound generated from a large surface area immerses the listener in omni directional sound, producing a stunning and impressive experience.”

This technology has been used quite successfully in the United Kingdom to provide concrete sales uplifts to Point of Sales locations. SolidDrives can also be used to retrofit your existing conference rooms and board rooms with high quality, discreet audio sources. Attach SolidDrives to store front windows or displays and give your retail spaces a discreet audio upgrade. Use them to draw attention to any message which needs to be communicated. If you have a need for an invisible or nearly invisible loudspeaker in your facility, talk to Pace Systems about MSE Audio Group’s SolidDrive Technology.

Installation News



Local Village Benefits From Wireless Audio

Pace Systems was recently awarded a contract to provide audio programming to a local village courtyard via wireless transmission. The village had wanted to provide audio programming to this rather remote location for a number of years. The ultimate goal was to make available Christmas music during the holiday season, as well as audio reinforcement for various presentations by local dignitaries throughout the year. However, due to the isolated location of the courtyard, village personnel were just not able to find an economical solution.

One possible approach discussed was the use of fiber-optic cabling over which to route the audio signal. However, the cost of running new fiber alone would have overwhelmed the available budget. Furthermore, the cost of additional equipment needed to perform the analog/digital conversion which allows for transmission over fiber made the final estimated project cost look quite prohibitive.

Adding complexity to an already potentially expensive system, the courtyard was located across a set of busy commuter train tracks from the closest village owned building in which to house equipment. Thus it was not feasible to simply run a new distributed speaker system or fiber network from this building to the courtyard. The village needed a cost effective solution and they needed it quickly since the new holiday season was rapidly approaching.

Enter Pace Systems. After discussing the issues with one of its key suppliers, Starin Marketing, Pace personnel decided the best way to approach the situation was to utilize a wireless transmitter system from Listen Technologies. Sales Engineer Bob Sheffield of Starin had seen the effectiveness of distributing audio over FM wireless firsthand. He was familiar with an installation at a local zoo which had utilized a Listen FM wireless system for the distribution of audio program material to each of the animal exhibits. Utilizing this information, Pace was able to design a Wireless Audio Distribution system utilizing FM transmitters and receivers.

Getting the audio out to the courtyard was only the beginning of the process. The signal was then translated to sound via several Electro-Voice loudspeakers. Electro-Voice was able to supply speaker systems that were weatherproof enough to survive the harsh Chicagoland winters while still providing pristine audio quality. The small 4.2” satellite speakers were also small and unobtrusive when installed. This was an important consideration since village management desired to keep the visual impact of audio equipment to a minimum. Amplifier and wireless receiver were installed in a weatherproof, heated enclosure which kept the audio equipment at a comfortable operating temperature.

Installation of the wireless system turned out to be a breeze. Once power was run to the new enclosure, Pace engineers merely installed amps, transmitter, receivers and speakers, and the would-be complex installation was nearly licked. The only adjustment needed was to lower the power of the remote transmitter residing in the local building since it tended to overpower the mic transmitter used for the village’s holiday celebrations. Once the installation was completed, village employees were quickly able to pipe Christmas music over the tracks to the courtyard speakers. Citizen feedback toward the added audio programming was enthusiastic and positive. The village was so impressed with the solution that talk has even started regarding an expansion of the wireless network out to the local farmers market at some point in the future.

Pace Systems recently participated in the 8th annual BOMA/Suburban Chicago Office and Commercial Real Estate EXPO at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Hundreds of building owners, property managers, building engineers and asset managers were in attendance, along with many suppliers and vendors. It was a tremendous opportunity for facilities and property managers to learn from the many exhibits and demonstrations, as well as the keynote address and seminar training. Many interesting products were also featured by the 77 vendors in attendance.

For its part, Pace Systems presented a number of unique and compelling technologies valuable to property managers. IP Video Surveillance, for instance, was a technology in which many of the passing property professionals showed great interest. Utilizing Pace's IP Video Surveillance, a facility manager or security professional could log into, view and even control security cameras from literally anywhere in the world. Triggering cameras via motion detection, viewing video on a PDA client, and integrating cameras with access control systems are all possible via our IP Video Surveillance technologies.

Pace also demonstrated various Digital Signage products including an eye-catching 3M rear projection screen and a portrait style monitor with integrated PC from Nuaxon. When using Pace's signage software, it is easy for facilities to tailor the content to the time of day or expected demographic of the client, ensuring that content is both timely and pertinent.

Thanks to BOMA personnel for putting together such an informative and comprehensive show in 2008.

About Pace Systems

Pace Systems has been providing turn-key solutions for Security, A/V, Structured Cabling, Wireless and Data network integration in the Northern Illinois region for over 24 years. Services include Video Surveillance, Access Control and Life Safety, as well as A/V Consulting and Integration for Commercial and Gov/ED customers. Please call us at 630-395-2180 or take a look at our website, www.pace-systems.com if you would like more information regarding some of the cutting-edge Safety, Security and Digital Signage products we represent.



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