



## Improved Campus Safety with Integrated Security

### Challenges

- Safeguarding students and staff
- Protecting university property
- Large campus, small security team
- Legacy analog video cameras
- Limited system integration
- Multiple campus entry points

### Solution

- IP video surveillance
- Building-access control
- Broadcast and notification system
- Integration with Active Directory

### Results

- Broad visibility for safety team
- Access to live and archived footage
- Enhanced security environment
- Detailed control over building access



Aerial view of Spokane River  
courtesy of Joe Mabel

**2,500**  
Students

**60**  
Degree Programs

**40+**  
Campus Buildings

**200**  
Acre Campus

“We’ve appreciated Ednetics and their expertise and professionalism in guiding us toward cost-effective and appropriate solutions for our environment.”

Whitworth University was established in 1890 in Spokane, Washington, and currently serves more than 2,500 students and employs 300 faculty and staff. Whitworth has been consistently rated as one of the best small liberal arts colleges in the West by: *U.S. News and World Report*, *Forbes*, and *Kiplinger’s*. The campus covers 200 acres and features more than \$110 million in recent improvements including a recreation center, residence halls, and science facilities. As the final phase of the campus upgrade, Whitworth partnered with Ednetics, a specialist in integrations, to implement campus-wide physical security.

### Challenges

Like other colleges and universities, Whitworth faces specific security and safety challenges. Higher education facilities have numerous campus entry points accessible by the public. Hours of operation are often irregular: Students study in libraries well into the evening; faculty use their offices on weekends, holidays, and during off hours; research labs can operate around the clock. Science facilities include costly, difficult-to-replace equipment.

Whitworth security staff monitors 56 buildings and protects 2,800-plus people on campus. Security needed to be addressed in a visible, tangible manner to support confidence in campus safety. Security personnel needed video surveillance and access control that would provide comprehensive visibility and monitoring capabilities campus-wide. Recent investments in residence halls and science facilities strengthened the case for upgrading the security system.

While the university did have a physical security system in place, it lacked integration between video surveillance and access control. Each element of the system – access control, video surveillance, and emergency blue-light poles – used a separate management platform that complicated information-sharing. Analog cameras required separate, stand-alone servers and delivered low-resolution images that were difficult to interpret. The dormitory access control system was labor-intensive and was not integrated with the camera network. Campus IT administrators saw opportunities for a unified system that would be more user-friendly, flexible, and easy to manage.

## Solution

Ednetics, a company specializing in IT integrations, communications and physical security, worked closely with the IT department and other stakeholders to design and implement a unified security solution. Ednetics helped the university develop a prioritized list of upgrades and critical locations that included camera placement, coverage, emergency readerboard visibility, and access-control points. The video surveillance, access-control and notification/broadcast solutions were integrated into a single architecture unifying functions into a powerful physical security solution.

**Access Control:** Whitworth adopted the Avigilon Access Control System to manage building entrances across the campus. Ednetics designed and configured the system to deliver detailed control over building use and access. Access privileges are assigned by role and are based on group membership. The system provides a comprehensive record of building entry and user identity.

The system can send an alert message if a door is held open or compromised. The new solution has streamlined access across user categories so that students, staff, and faculty groups can be managed easily. Ednetics also helped IT and security staff deploy a single-button lockdown system that can instantly secure key facilities in an emergency.

**Video surveillance:** By offering higher resolution and image quality than the older legacy cameras, the new digital cameras help security personnel assess potential safety issues. The cameras deliver high-quality footage even in low-light and inclement weather conditions. The video management system features a web-based interface that lets security officers view camera feeds from laptops and tablets from any location and determine the best response. The footage is stored on virtualized servers that can be accessed from a central location, and cameras can be configured through the video management interface.

**Emergency notification:** Mass notification ensures students and staff have instant access to critical information in the event of an emergency. The security system features a network of emergency notification poles. These poles, equipped with blue lights for high visibility, combine panoramic video cameras with a single-button phone that contacts campus security. Pushing the button activates the pole, and a 360° video feed is transmitted for complete situational visibility. The blue-light poles are equipped with loudspeakers that can transmit live or pre-recorded messages via InformaCast in the event of an emergency.

The mass notification system employs emergency readerboards in large classrooms and key common areas for maximum visibility. The readerboards are integrated with the university's InformaCast notification system and can broadcast information on campus emergencies, inclement weather conditions, temporary building closures, and other critical issues.

Ednetics has taken an active role in empowering university staff to expand and modify the new system as needs evolve. Ednetics has trained customer personnel to install additional cameras and door-access controls so that new equipment can be brought online as needed. This supports the IT and security departments' long-term plans for additional security upgrades.

## Results

The new system has simplified and streamlined each element of the security process – remote visibility, building access, and emergency notification. IT staff reported that the new system is already improving security by helping officers investigate and address safety-related incidents. The higher image quality provided by the digital cameras has helped to provide a safer environment for students and staff. The system has been rigorously tested during campus safety drills and has delivered outstanding performance.

The university's security upgrades send a powerful, positive message to prospective students and their parents. As public awareness of campus security has increased, parents and students have noticed and appreciated the tangible commitment to safety represented by the emergency blue-light poles, message boards, secured buildings, and video cameras. Whitworth's investment in physical security is an investment in the safety and well-being of the university community.

## Conclusion

Ednetics consulted closely with Whitworth's IT and security staff to deliver a powerful physical security solution that provides high visibility, control over building and facilities access, and critical, real-time communication with students, staff, and faculty in the event of an emergency. The solution combines high performance and ease of use. By increasing the level of protection, the new system helps the IT and security departments fulfill their mission: "Providing a safe and secure environment where students can learn and teachers can teach." ♦

*Ednetics was founded in 1997 to bring IT services and solutions to education and public sector communities. Opportunities to improve education and government settings through the use of advanced technologies continue to be our focus. Network based services and solutions with our customer's needs informing our approach has led to an impressive portfolio. Understanding our customer's needs through the eyes of hundreds of tech directors and administrators has informed our products and services every step of the way. Our diverse team includes contractors, specialized engineers, dedicated support, project managers and specialists with an affinity for technology and a desire to be the best at what we do. We are inspired by how technology can help and we love making a difference.*