

Clearly in control

News International

reliable

TECHNOLOGY IS NOW MOVING MUCH FASTER THAN IN THE PAST

News International Ltd is the leading publisher of four of the UK's top national newspapers - The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and News of the World - and four educational periodicals.

News International is the main UK subsidiary of News Corporation.



"The system was delivered on time, to budget and exceeded specifications. We are very pleased".

*Jeff Higgs
Data Centre Services Manager*

secure

CASE STUDY

Challenge

News International IT suite has been evolving and growing over the past few years with PC's and workstations requiring more and more space. These facts plus the need for the IT staff to monitor these mission critical machines to ensure the flow of material and information does not 'hold up the presses' gave a compelling need for an overview display. Harp's task was to deliver the monitoring part of the solution so that the IT team can keep tabs on the key business processes. These include processes running on work stations and the network infrastructure that connects the machines together.

Strategy

The News International IT department is a live environment in which key processes have to be kept going 24/7. News International took on the responsibility of moving the equipment to a new computer room that would house the workstation and servers. Harp's responsibility was to take the old space where both the workstations and their monitors had been based and transform it into a display surface that would present the monitored feeds in a more dynamic manner. This display surface was to be the video wall. Due to the low height of the ceiling the 67" rear projector cube was selected over a two high 50" solution. Also the 67" screen offers more screen surface for your money.



The video wall needed access to the same screen information as the KVM system. This meant that the videowall and KVM solution had to work in parallel.

Solution

Implementation took three days from starting work on site to sign off. Once News International had cleared the area the installation could start in earnest. News International's busy time is mid to late afternoon whilst everything is being prepared for press. Consequently most of Harp's work was conducted from early morning to mid afternoon. After that time only quiet work was undertaken.

The first stage was to set out and then build the base for the projectors. This has to be done with millimeter accuracy to ensure that the projectors to be installed have a flat surface to build on. Any deviation in the base will be amplified as the video wall is constructed. With a flat and level base the projectors can then be loaded and panelling fitted around the system.



With the physical installation concluded the electronics could be wired and configured. As the display wall works in monitor mode only and has to use the same screen images as the KVM system the source workstations had their VGA output split. This was done using a 1 input 2 output distribution amplifier that allowed one feed to go the KVM and one to the video wall. All the images from the workstations are fed into the video wall controller which provides the processing power to digitise these images for tiling onto the display wall screen. Each image can be adjusted from a thumbnail to full screen size depending on the importance of the image.

Result

Using Harp's commandANT touch screen controller different screen scenarios can be constructed and saved. These screen formats can be recalled using the touch panel interface or triggered by alarms. This system has allowed News International to monitor their key processes and interfaces more effectively, ensuring the successful completion of the papers for The Times and The Sun each day.



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