

Terror on the run

At the first Critical National Infrastructure security seminar, hosted by IBM, speakers tackled the tricky issue of how companies, charged with protecting the nation's critical assets, face threats and challenges from terrorists and political activists

TERRORISTS AND POLITICAL activists will target vulnerable parts of our critical national infrastructure such as transport links and hubs, the generation and distribution of gas and electricity and food production and distribution.

That's according to experts who spoke at the first-ever Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) Security Seminar organised by CCTV Media Ltd – publishers of CCTV Image, SecureView, CCTVINFO.com and VideoAnalytics.info.

The conference was hosted by IBM – at its Bedfont offices near Heathrow Airport – with the support of Axis Communications, CNL and Guide Security Services.

The event provided delegates with an overview of the threats and challenges faced by those charged with protecting the nation's critical assets, as well as outlining possible solutions.

In the morning sessions, Dr David Claridge from Janusian Security Risk Management warned delegates that it was only a matter of time before terrorists and certain types of political activists began targeting networked infrastructure.

Networked services – whether they were telecoms, transport or



Technology: Can it help in the fight against terror?

power – offer resiliency because they can be reconfigured to adjust for the loss of certain parts of it.

But as they become busier, parts of the network become more vulnerable to attack. These junctions or nodes become focal points for network traffic and therefore take on a greater criticality than before.

Resiliency can be built into the networks by adding capacity but,

THE PERFECT STORM

PHYSICAL SECURITY and surveillance is changing fast. A “perfect storm” is emerging as the threat from terrorism/activism and the reliance on CNI networks grows and coincides with sophisticated security technology.

Organisations are adopting security technology to protect against a range of sophisticated threats, but in doing so, they risk overloading security teams with too much information from too many systems.

Organisation can convert these challenges into a real business advantage by adopting technology based on open standards, high definition video, advanced video analytics and intelligent command and control environments.

IBM, Axis, CNL and GSS have come together to aid these organisations by:

- Providing expertise in defining an integrated, cost-effective and future-ready physical security solution
- Defining security strategy and policy to focus investment on areas that will provide the greatest business benefit
- Designing a standards-based security infrastructure that focuses on video as an enterprise resource, not just CCTV
- Exploiting intelligent digital solutions that deliver information

Organisations adopt security technology

precisely when it is needed to ensure the most cost-effective response

Edward P. Cusack, managing director at GSS said, “Technology is a key element in the delivery of security within a CNI environment. When used in combination with intelligence, risk analysis and response planning, a truly effective solution can be achieved.”

Richard Evans, sales executive at IBM UK, said, “In a rapidly changing industry, we are really pleased to see customers and suppliers coming together with a shared interest in exploiting IT technology to deliver more value to security.”

Phil Doyle, managing director at Axis Communications UK, commented: “To meet the demands of a changing security landscape, deploying network video surveillance offers enhanced flexibility, scalability and performance, serving to mitigate the risks faced by critical national infrastructure.”

Keith Bloodworth, CEO at CNL, said, “Our work with major police forces and CNI facilities around the world has been key to producing the right technology to tackle national security issues. Together with our partners we are raising the power and intelligence within the control room environment.”

• **For further information please contact cni@cctvmedia.co.uk.**



Thom Williamson, head of security for IBM UK

as Dr Claridge pointed out, that can be difficult because of costs or other factors.

Or they can try to reduce the levels of demand on the systems but, again, it can be difficult to control consumption levels. Absent the ability to do either of these things, the only alternative is to identify these critical nodes and establish multiple layers of security around them.

The IBM story

Thom Williamson, head of security for IBM in the UK and Ireland, described the needs of his organisation that led him and his colleagues to specify a CCTV management software solution from CNL called IPSecurityCenter.

The business case for it included the need for a central control room, the ability to efficiently follow pre-defined procedures for a given crisis, the integration of systems from multiple manufacturers and suppliers, and the need to optimise the security operations workflow.

Business benefits included enforced compliance to policies so that every security operative follows procedures. In addition, it provided a strong return on investment by enabling the organisation to reduce manpower.

Match point

Rounding off the morning's presentations, Richard Oxborrow from the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club – better known as Wimbledon – said his most important objective was protecting 45,000 people who were on-site each day during the Wimbledon fortnight.

At 14 days, Wimbledon is the longest single event in the world except for the Olympics so the security systems have to be robust.

In 2012 Wimbledon will host the tennis for the UK Olympics which, combined with the usual Championship, will entail back-to-back event organisation.

It would be a huge challenge for any organisation but Mr Oxborrow is confident the Club will rise to the challenge.

In preparation for 2012, and as part of a general upgrade of systems at the club, a new CCTV system is being installed at Wimbledon which will incorporate IBM S3 analytics and Axis network cameras and encoders.

• For more information about the CNI Security Seminar, watch the video report at www.cctvmedia.co.uk.