

MBTA Deploys Genetec Omnicast Onboard Bus Fleet to Keep Community Safer



On each bus, a monitor displays a live camera feed to passengers on the bus. Image courtesy of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, often referred to as the MBTA, operates a massive fleet of sophisticated vehicles including buses, subways, commuter rails and ferries in the greater area of Boston, Massachusetts, United States. The entire mass transit system accommodates over 1.3 million passengers each weekday, ranking the MBTA as the nation's 5th largest mass transit system.

Recently, the MBTA secured a Department of Homeland Security grant to improve the security on its fleet. The existing video surveillance systems onboard MBTA buses were much older, and offered limited video quality. Accessing video also required analysts to physically retrieve a bus' hard drive and download video, which was described by Kenneth Sprague, Deputy Chief, MBTA Investigative Services Division, to be: "time consuming and inconvenient."

After a detailed request for proposal was submitted for public tender, MBTA chose the Genetec Omnicast video surveillance system proposed by system integrator, Minuteman Security Technologies.

MBTA Agencies Get Quick and Easy Vantage Onboard Buses

The Genetec Omnicast video surveillance solution has been installed on 220 buses. On each bus, a monitor displays a live camera feed to passengers on the bus, acting both as a public advisory of video monitoring as well as an added deterrent against criminal activities.

Two departments within the MBTA have live access to the system from their own control rooms, including OCC operations and the MBTA police dispatch. In the event

of an incident, dispatchers and analysts can view video from the bus through a cellular Verizon 4G LTE connection, facilitating both real-time emergencies and investigations.

A customized video requester tool has simpli-

fied the retrieval of video on-board buses for long-term archiving. Operators send a request to the Omnicast system for a specific instance of video. Once the bus is back at the terminal, the system will automatically offload the video to the central archiver through a wireless network, and email a notification to the end user once the transfer is complete.

"We do a significant amount of forensic video analysis for other agencies such as the Boston Police and State Police, and pull events that happen at intersections, bus stations or anywhere around the buses," continued Jonathan Wing, Video Analyst, Criminal Investigation Unit. "It's really a benefit to the whole metropolitan Boston area."

Real-Time Views Help Customers Feel Safer

From mobile data terminals in police cruisers, officers can tap into a nearby bus's Omnicast system in the event of an emergency. According to Kenneth Sprague, Deputy Chief, MBTA Investigative Services Division, "It's a great safety feature for the officers on the street because they know what they are walking into. They are more prepared to address the situation and also to protect themselves."

Another application was specifically developed to help bus driver's alert OCC operators of distress onboard the bus through integration of a panic button alarm. The long-term objective is to gradually enhance the video surveillance systems on all 1100 buses.

"Omnicast has provided impressive capabilities for MBTA to respond in real-time while providing video to various stakeholders.

Being able to keep people safe by deterring various types of incidents or to extract evidence— it's invaluable." – Adam Peters, Transit Security Projects Administrator at MBTA

Customer and driver feedback shows that they feel safer. Being able to keep people safe by deterring various types of incidents or to extract evidence—it's invaluable," concluded Adam Peters, Transit Security Projects Administrator at MBTA.

Learn more about the Genetec Omnicast Onboard:
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Genetec™

McGee Tyson Airport in Knoxville Finds a Solution for Traffic Flow in a High-Volume Area



Door, drum and special finish were provided by Horton Automatics.

McGee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, Tennessee bills itself as the “Gateway to the Smokies.” And for good reason. With the Smoky Mountain National Park, University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Lab and a thriving business community nearby, this busy regional airport handles 140 flights/day on average and 1.75 million passengers per year.

Because all arriving passengers are funneled through a single door when exiting the terminal concourse, finding a reliable high-security door was critical to streamlining traffic flow in this high-volume area while still maintaining safety. Airport Facilities Manager Ken Eckert and his team selected the Horton Automatics ControlFlow™ One-Way Security Series 9100 revolving door with object detection because they were looking for American made craftsmanship, easy access to parts, local expertise, and a simple, easy-to-maintain design. They were also looking for an unmanned solution to save on labor costs.

“By eliminating the cost of manning the concourse exit lane, the Horton revolver paid for itself in less than two years,” Eckert says. “We have many responsibilities when it comes to security. This automatic security door gives us one less thing to worry about.”

Now almost nine years after installation and a recent computer upgrade, the Horton ControlFlow™ One-Way security revolver is still going strong. The wide berth of the 6-foot wings comfortably accommodates passengers with disabilities, parents pushing strollers, and even small families with luggage.



The door's object detection technology (in floor and overhead) senses undesirable and dangerous objects and prevents reentry, shutting the door down and sounding an alarm if something is detected.



The revolving door's Segmented® drum design, unique to Horton, allows for smooth action while eliminating the need for costly curved glass.



Large enough to accommodate passengers with disabilities.

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