
Ontario Provincial Police

Dual head switching and extension for police forces.



The Electronic Crime Section of the Investigation Support Bureau of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is responsible for handling all aspects of computer related crime within the Canadian Province of Ontario. Given the importance of this task, it is crucial that the Electronic Crime Section has the network infrastructure to allow them to operate at peak efficiency.

CHALLENGE

The OPP Electronic Crime Section set out to source 4 new dual video servers for each member of the staff. These servers would be used in conjunction with 2 desktop PCs and 2 notebook computers. "We were very familiar with KVM products, having used them in our previous environment," commented Detective Sergeant Bob Gagnon, "But it quickly became clear that our old switches would not work in this new dual-video implementation."

The new requirements called for an 8-port KVM switch solution that was capable of handling dual video and could be mounted in a standard 19-inch rack. An added challenge was the desire to have the racks of equipment in a centralized server room with control at each investigator's desk.

SOLUTION

Neither the original project integration team nor the existing KVM switch vendor had a solution that would meet the new requirements. The search led Detective Sergeant Gagnon to Adder Corporation where he commented, "We were pleasantly surprised to find a proposal to meet our project needs in an off the shelf solution."

The Adderview Matrix is a simultaneous 2-user KVM switch that is available in configurations of 8 or 16 ports. The Matrix is equipped with a serial connector, which enables two switches to be synchronized together. This means that when user 1 on switch 1 selects a port to be controlled by their keyboard, video and mouse, a command is sent to the second synchronized Matrix to ensure that the correct "video only" port is displayed on the second monitor. Adderview Rackmount Brackets enabled the entire solution to be neatly mounted into only 2U of rack space.

In order to allow for control from each user's desk, Adderlink X-Series KVM extenders were used to extend keyboard, mouse and video from the centralized server room over standard UTP cable. A marriage of X-Series Dual Video Transmitters with X2-Silver Receivers allowed for extension up to 200m/656ft and support of the required 1600 x 1200 video resolution.

RESULT

"The Adder solution was perfect for our situation. It allowed us to implement our new equipment in line with our original plans and did not require us to make any sacrifices in our design," comments Detective Sergeant Gagnon. "The Adder products were affordable, easy to install and worked reliably right out of the box." With the ever-changing nature of e-crime, Gagnon noted that, "Adder gives us a full KVM product line that can continue to grow with us as future needs develop."

Shortly after this solution was installed at the OPP, The Halton Regional Police Service in Oakville, Ontario installed the same Adder View Matrix KVM configuration on the advice of the OPP Electronic Crime Section.

For multiscreen applications with smaller numbers of computers, Adder Smartview Multiscreen desktop switches are also widely used in law enforcement. One such example is the use of the Smartview Multiscreen within The Computer Forensics Unit of the Seminole County Sheriff's office in Sanford, Florida