Adding Security and Communication to Synagogues

THE SCENARIO

A recent surge of antisemitic attacks has targeted Jewish communities across the US, leaving them grappling with the abrupt violence. On the East coast, a network of four synagogues were led under the same congregation mission. This congregation had become increasingly concerned about the faith-focused assaults and vandalism happening more frequently.

They began locking all the entrances to their synagogues during normal hours, but this made them less welcoming and accessible to the public. Worshipers could not simply walk in since they had to wait for someone from the congregation to unlock the door first. Knocking for access would interrupt important sermons or events taking place.

The congregation wanted a convenient way for personnel to easily access their synagogues. They also wanted a way for the public to call for access–and be identified before unlocking the door–without disturbing sermons or activities. It was especially important to maintain their architectural aesthetic too. Not only did they desire a system with a low profile that would harmonize with each building's façade, but they wanted it to deter criminal activity at the same time.

Emergency stations and towers provided a way to call for help, while the discernible surveillance cameras deterred vandalism.
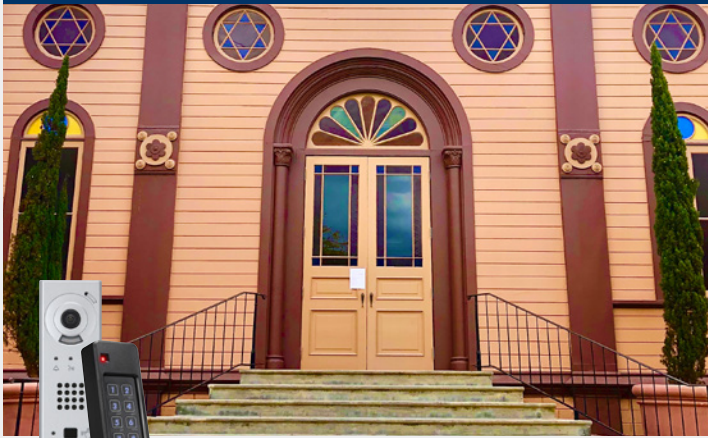
THE SOLUTION

The congregation mission that led all four synagogues chose an IP security intercom with emergency towers and a premium access control system with credentials.

With the flexibility to have unlimited credentials, each rabbi and congregant could easily access their respective synagogue with authorized codes.

A full-time receptionist was hired to answer and screen calls for all four locations, which eliminated sermon disruptions. When the public wanted to worship, they could request access using the door station, which looked polished at each synagogue's entrance. In the parking lots, emergency stations and towers provided a way to call for help, but also discouraged vandalism with highly visible surveillance cameras.

Entrances (Outdoor)

Each rabbi and congregation member could easily access their respective synagogue using authorized credentials, while the public could be screened with the video intercom prior to being allowed inside.

Entrances (Indoor)

Receptionist

THE BENEFITS

• Personnel had an easy way to access the synagogues by entering their credentials into the exterior keypad

• Public worshipers could request access at the door station and be identified on the interior intercom before unlocking the entrance for them

• By hiring a full-time receptionist to monitor and answer calls from all four locations, the congregation eliminated the issue of their sermons being disrupted by the public

• Sleek door station harmonized with the varying façades of each synagogue, maintaining their individual aesthetics

• Emergency towers and stations in the parking lots helped deter vandalism with their highly discernible surveillance cameras

System Configuration Example

Aiphone Components

Aluminum Tower with Third-Party Camera x 4

Mullion-Mount Access Keypad x 4

Mullion-Mount IP Video Door Station x 4

IP Video Emergency Station x 4

PoE Splitter x 4

IP Video Master Station x 1

System Management Software x 1

PoE Two-Door Access Controller x 4

Application was for four synagogues within the same shared network. Diagram represents the synagogue with the dedicated receptionist.

Parking Lots

Third-party surveillance cameras deterred criminals.

Splitters were discreetly mounted inside towers.

Call station allowed the receptionist to quickly differentiate emergency calls from general ones.

Entrances (Outdoor)

Entrances (Indoor)

Controllers were easily installed above interior doorways.

Receptionist

PoE+ Switch

Equipment Room

PC

Explore *more* unique possibilities on our Solution Showcase page.

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