

Case Study: Treasure Island Casino

Las Vegas TI Casino + Finds Treasures in Pelco's VideoXpert VMS

Ease of Use, Increased
Operator Efficiencies
and Easy Transition
from Endura



In the early 1990s, Las Vegas was evolving from a gambling-focused destination to include world-class recreation and entertainment. The opening of the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino in 1993 was a big part of the city's game-changing renaissance. Combining nearly 3,000 rooms, 90,000 square feet of gaming floor, and a swashbuckling pirate show that packed the Strip sidewalk with spectators for every performance, it was an impressive symbol of the new Las Vegas.

Today, the renamed TI Casino is riding high again, thanks a major renovation in the past few years and a significantly upgraded digital video surveillance and security system. The newly upgraded property has been refashioned with retail and interactive exhibits based on superheroes as its main attraction, so the pirates are gone but the excitement is greater than ever.

"We needed a world-class security system suitable for our newly renovated, world-class destination," said Surveillance Director of TI, Kim Smith. "SSI, our security integrator, worked with us to deliver a system that would meet our needs today and into the future. As the critical operator interface and management tool, Pelco's VideoXpert VMS was a big part of that success."

Casino Takes First Step Toward Digital Video Management

Technology advances and the need for improved head end control were the driving force behind the first major overhaul to TI's video surveillance system in 2010. The original closed circuit television system was installed when Treasure Island opened in 1993, and consisted of several hundred analog cameras, each with a dedicated VCR, and a control room with hundreds of monitors and a matrix switcher for head end control. Gaming regulations at the time required that video be recorded at a full 30 frames per second, which meant that tapes in the VCRs had to be changed approximately every eight hours – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If an event occurred or there was indication of some impropriety, either the table/slot machine had to be shut down or transmission of images from that particular camera had to be rerouted to another VCR so the incident could be investigated.

The 2010 upgrade was designed and built by SSI, a nationally recognized systems integrator. SSI replaced the legacy head end analog VCR and matrix system with a Pelco Endura 2.0 video management system, with digital recording and a virtual matrix to monitor and record up to 1,400 channels of video. A server-based platform, which retained all video for a minimum of seven days, eliminated the need for racks of VCRs and freed up the space they had occupied.

"We were the only integrator that laid out a plan that increased both the security and surveillance department's workspace and placed them on the cutting edge of the latest security technology," said Todd Flowers, President of SSI. "In fact, when the 2010 upgrade was finished, TI had the only fully functional virtual matrix switch on the Strip."

The new system provided room for infrastructure expansion, created by eliminating almost 50 percent of the existing racks and removing considerable amounts of cabling.



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New VMS Functionality Improves Efficiency

The 2010 upgrade to the Endura 2.0 VMS, along with the related infrastructure improvements, paved the way for further improvements in 2017, when SSI installed VideoXpert™ to further unify the user interface and prepare for the changeover to digital cameras.

“VideoXpert was designed to leverage existing system investments, bringing together the information needed for real-time event and incident management,” says Miki Manjal, Vertical Market Manager – Casinos & Gaming. “TI immediately experienced the benefits of an intuitive, unified user interface, while also enabling the phased upgrade of their cameras when budget permits.”

The changeover was simplified for TI because Endura components map nearly one to one with VideoXpert and SSI could install the new VMS in parallel with TI’s existing network to eliminate downtime. As an example, the new system utilizes the Endura encoders to support existing analog cameras. Pelco’s simple migration process transferred user names, roles, permissions and the associations from Endura to VideoXpert so that all user data would be maintained in the new system. The migration process also transfers all existing camera names, numbers, groups, and locations to VideoXpert.

Not only did the new VMS make the changeover easy, the system also quickly improved operator efficiency and speed of use. One example cited by Mr. Flowers illustrates why VideoXpert’s tag-based organization feature has been extremely popular with both operators and technicians who need to view footage or locate specific scenes from thousands of video streams.

“In the past, if a technician tagged elevator cameras as ‘elevator,’ when an operator called up that name the system would pull up every elevator camera. From there they would have to drill down to the specific elevator camera or group of elevator cameras they were looking for. It was time consuming and not terribly efficient.”

“The new VMS really allows operators to expand the tagging capability. On a table game for instance, they can tag it with multiple names which allows for a more specific and dedicated search. They can also customize for each operator which also improves efficiencies,” he said.

Flowers also pointed out that system operation and event interaction are made easier and more functional with VideoXpert’s browser-like interface that utilizes tab views for a single source experience. Views can be shared with other users when additional “eyes” are needed and can be called up via sequencing, alarm tabs and event viewer features. Operators can quickly review bookmarked footage with a feature that captures scenes from multiple angles and then synchronizes the video, utilizing the powerful investigative engine that quickly locates and collates the video.

SSI is understandably proud of the work they have done with TI in modernizing the video surveillance and security system with the Pelco VideoXpert VMS. What pleased them even more was TI’s immediate satisfaction with the new system.

“Any changes to the routine are usually not welcome by our staff, but the VideoXpert’s ease of use made the switchover very easy and our operators were pretty much up to speed in two or three days,” said Surveillance Director of TI, Kim Smith. “The system has been rock solid since its installation and it’s a very convincing testimonial for Pelco and SSI.”



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