

Project Profile

Alton Mental Health Center Gains Both Security and Freedom with *Infinity* Integration



"When someone asks me what I like about the Infinity system, the word 'freedom' always comes to mind first."

—Stephen Adler
Chief Engineer
Alton Mental Health Center



Alton Mental Health Center, a residential psychiatric treatment center, officially opened in Alton, Illinois in 1917. Known then as Alton State Hospital, this state-run facility located across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, has grown to become a rural 25-building campus. Patient count has fluctuated over the years. In 1955, when commitment of the mentally insane was more commonplace, the population reached 2,100. Today approximately 150 court-ordered "recipients" live at Alton in a facility that prides itself on providing quality mental health treatment in secure surroundings—rather than a *secured facility* that offers treatment. When the decision was made to install a security management system, Alton wanted *discrete* state-of-the-art protection that could be easily adapted to meet the special needs of their psychiatric patients and the hospital staff. Alton chose Andover Controls *Infinity*.

Alton Mental Health Center has been an Andover Controls customer since 1989. Andover Representative, *Eagle Energy* of Maryland Heights, Missouri, installed an Andover AC256 system to replace a previous controls system that proved too inflexible for a facilities staff wanting to do more of their own programming. Today, the majority of the AC256 controllers have been upgraded to *Infinity*, which now controls and monitors the hospital's HVAC system and back up generators. According to *Eagle Energy's* vice-president, Bill Ohlendorf, the cost-savings alone on the boilers has been impressive—*Infinity* saved 200,000 thermal units of gas in the first year of operation!

Eagle Energy brought *Infinity* security management to Alton Mental Health Center in a joint venture with *Access Systems Inc*, a Chicago-based Andover Representative. Today, Alton Mental Health Center's new Forensic Complex, built in 1997, is an impressive showcase of access control, intrusion detection, CCTV, intercom, paging, and alarm monitoring integration utilizing the same Ethernet LAN as their *Infinity* HVAC system.

Central Control

The hub of Alton's security control is the glass-enclosed Control Station in the Forensic lobby. Here two dedicated SX 8000 security workstations monitor more than 200 alarm points—65 perimeter and internal doors secured with ASR prox card readers, "press-to-exit" door locks, and PIN-entry keypads; microwave-based alarm inputs; numerous intercom inputs; and "man-down" personal transmitter alarms.

The Control Station was designed with ease-of-use a top priority. Two 21-inch Microtouch touchscreens built into the console—with a press of a finger, the operator can select a door icon on the building's floor plan graphic to monitor an area or respond to an alarm. When an alarm comes in to the Control Station, each is annunciated with a unique pre-recorded wav file, an alarm message displays across the bottom of the screen, and a blinking icon in the appropriate color appears on the floor plan. The operator simply presses the blinking icon, which in turn switches on the camera and activates the intercom at this location. The operator can view the location, communicate with the area, and unlock the door or take other appropriate action within seconds of receiving the alarm!

A 21-camera Burle-brand CCTV system interfaces to the SX 8000 front-end via an *Infinity Plain English* driver. Six video monitors above the console desk cycle at 10 second intervals as time-lapse videocassette recorders record real-time video from each camera in the system.

Outside the Forensic complex, escape prevention is both high-tech and invisible. Several cameras scan the grounds, which are surrounded by a 15-foot tall curved fence. In addition, a microwave transmitter on the roof of the building sends an infrared beam to sensors located on the fence. Any detected motion around the fence area sends an alarm to the SX 8000 at the Control Station.

Man-Down

Alton's "Man-Down" alarm system provides hospital staff with added, but discrete, personal security. All staff members wear Visonic-brand personal duress transmitters on their waist. If an incident occurs where they feel their safety is in jeopardy, they can either pull the cord or push the button on their transmitter. The device sends an infrared signal to one of many alarm receivers mounted in the ceiling. Using an *Infinity Plain English* interface to the SX 8000 front-end, the Visonic system sends an alarm to the Console Station describing the location of the incident and the employee number. In turn, via a *Plain English* interface to Alton's Motorola-brand paging system, the SX 8000 can page specific staff members to respond to the incident. Staff members wear Motorola alphanumeric pagers that display actual messages, eliminating a public broadcast of a security incident.

Achieving Security...Gaining Freedom

Stephen Adler, Chief Engineer at Alton Mental Health Center, says *Infinity's* "open systems" platform gives his staff the freedom to do some real creative things with other vendors' equipment. "Half of our monitoring points," Adler states, "originate from third-party equipment integration or comm port interfaces using *Infinity Plain English* drivers. We can hook just about anything up to this system. And *Plain English* lets us configure and run the system ourselves . . . we're not dependent on a vendor to come in here every time we want to add another door. When someone asks me what I like about our system here, the word 'freedom' always comes to mind first."



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PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Project Type:
 Integrated (HVAC & Security)

Project Name:
 Alton Mental Health Center

Location:
 Alton, Illinois

Market Segment:
 Health Care

Number Of Buildings:
 25

Total Area:
 750,000 sq. ft. (69,675m²)

Infinity Equipment Installed:
 2 - CX 9200 network controller
 4 - SX 8000 workstation
 13 - ACX 780s
 20 - IDX 800s
 50 - SCX 920s
 10 - LCX 810s
 AC256 Master with
 20 AC-NET devices

Network:
 Fiber Optic backbone between
 each facility utilizing
 TCP/IP protocol

Applications:
 Temperature and humidity control
 Access control
 Security monitoring
 CCTV monitoring and control
 Personal panic devices
 Fire alarm monitoring
 Alpha-numeric paging to personnel

Third-party Equipment and/or Drivers:
 Visonic RF personal panic system
 Motorola people finder
 paging system
 Burle CCTV
 Simplex fire system

Number of Controlled Doors:
 65

Number of Cardholders:
 1000

Total System Points:
 2000 - 2500

Andover Controls Representative:
 Eagle Energy